



# Prestwick St Nicholas Golf Club

## Guidance for Members on the Re-opening of the Golf Course.

The following procedures have been put in place due to the current Coronavirus pandemic and are intended for the safety of Club members, staff and any other individuals with access to the course.

### 1. Course Set-up

#### General

As the majority of the greenkeepers have been on furlough for some length of time members should be aware of and make allowances for the fact that initially:

- (a) The greens may not run as consistent as usual due to the infrequent cutting and top-dressing suppliers being closed. The height of the cut will be reduced over time to minimise stress.
- (b) The grass on the fairways and other finely cut areas will be slightly longer than usual.
- (c) The rough-cut areas will also be slightly longer and thicker and
- (d) The appearance and condition of the bunkers may not be as good as normal due to less maintenance work having been carried out while staff were, and may continue to be, furloughed.

#### On-Course Items

- All bunker rakes have been removed.
- Ball washers and drinking fountains have been covered up and must not be used under any circumstances.
- All benches and bins have been removed, covered up or sign-posted to indicate they should not be touched. Please carry home all litter/empty bottles etc for onward disposal.
- The bell strikers on the bells at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> fairways have been removed however the bells may be struck by a golf club to advise any following golfers that it is safe to play.
- All other removable items have been removed, except any stakes defining areas of the course (with the exception of white OOB stakes) which can be treated as immovable obstructions.
- The viewing steps at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> holes have been taped off must not be used.
- The on-course toilets have been removed

- The hole markers on the putting green have been removed.

### **Hole and Flagstick**

- On-course flagsticks have been retained but must not to be held or touched under any circumstances.
- An insert has been affixed to the base of the flagstick so that the ball does not fall below the surface of the putting green and can be easily retrieved by handling the ball only.

### **Practice Areas**

- The practice hole and bays are not to be used unless members are accompanied by Club Professional Gareth Hardy.
- The practice nets are out of use until further notice.
- The practice putting green will be available for use but only by the group next due on the tee. Members must use their own balls and remove them when they leave. Members must also observe the rules on staying two metres apart whilst using the putting green.

## **2. Before the Round**

### **Bookings**

- In the spirit of fairness, members will initially only be allowed to play a maximum of **three times per week** whether they have booked a tee time or are playing with someone else who has booked a tee time. This will be reviewed by Committee on a weekly basis.
- All tee time bookings must be made using the BRS on-line booking system or through the Professional's shop with tee times starting from 6.00am.
- Members making the booking through BRS or the Pro-shop **must** include the name(s) of their playing partner(s) when making the booking and confirm the names of all their playing partners to the starter before teeing off.
- Members **must** play at the time they have booked. Interchanging of times with other members is strictly not allowed.
- Members booking times and not using them or cancelling at short notice may be barred from subsequently booking times at the discretion of Committee.
- Members will be allowed to sign on and pay for a maximum of one visitor per round or more if all golfers in the party are from the same household.
- There will be no play allowed whatsoever before 6.00am.
- The tee time interval will be every 10 minutes.

- The maximum number of golfers in a group per tee time will be confirmed by the Managing Secretary once the Scottish Government has published its guidance on the re-opening of sports clubs etc.

### **Arrival and Waiting to Play**

All persons arriving at the course are expected to observe the rules on social distancing at all times.

- The clubhouse and locker room facilities will be closed meaning there will be no access to toilet facilities.
- Changing of shoes in the car park or outside the clubhouse will be permitted whilst the clubhouse remains closed.
- Do not arrive at the Club any earlier than 10 minutes before your scheduled tee time.
- Members arriving by car should remain in their car until shortly before their tee time.
- Please observe any social distancing measures on display eg if queuing outside the Pro shop or waiting to tee off.
- Trolleys and golf buggies will be available for hire as they will be sanitised by the pro shop staff before and after use.
- Golf buggies will be single user only ie no passenger allowed and priority of booking will be given to members with a medical condition.

### **3. During the Round**

- Play at the first hole will commence from the red (forward) tee to minimise contact with players approaching or coming off the 18<sup>th</sup> green.
- Golfers must keep at least 2 metres apart from each other during the round.
- Golfers should not touch or share other golfers' equipment.
- Golfers should not touch or pick up other golfers lost balls or balls currently being used by their fellow golfers.
- Golfers must stay more than 2 metres apart when walking to their balls, searching for a ball and playing shots.
- Golfers should avoid catching up with the game ahead.

### **Teeing Areas**

- Golfers must remember to keep 2 metres apart at teeing areas.
- As no bins or other receptacles will be in evidence members are asked to pick up broken tees etc for onward disposal.

## Bunkers

- Due to staffing issues bunkers may not be raked on a daily basis. As no rakes will be positioned on the course, golfers should make their very best efforts to smooth the sand, after playing out of a bunker, using their club and/or their feet.

## 4. After the Round

- Social distancing is as important after a round as it is during the round so when you have finished your round you must leave the course and the area of the club immediately so that there are no gatherings around the clubhouse area.

## 5. Rules of Golf Related Matter

Until further notice, the following provisions will prevail on a temporary basis:

### Forms of Play and Scoring

- Until advised otherwise all golf will be social golf ie all competitive golf has been cancelled until further notice.
- If keeping scores for social golf a method of scoring needs to be used that does not require the exchanging of scorecards.

### Preferred Lies in Bunkers

- If a ball comes to rest in an area of disturbed sand or a footprint for example members may take a preferred lie inside the bunker **without penalty**. The correct method would be 'lift and place'. To avoid unnecessary divot marks, members should not under any circumstance take the preferred lie outside the bunker.

E D Prentice  
Managing Secretary

19 May 2020