

## MILE END GOLF CLUB POLICY FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER & SUSPENSION OF PLAY

The aim of this Policy is to have procedures in place to cope with inclement weather & other situations where play may need to be halted during competitions. This is clearly required so that players and those involved in running a competition (this includes members of the Golf Club's staff) are able to recognise the signal that means play has been suspended. The situation where players do not know whether play has been suspended or not, or some players know and others don't should be avoided.

For the purposes of this policy it is assumed that the "person responsible for the competition" is a member of the Golf Professional staff. When appropriate the Member of Staff can liaise with the Proprietor, Member of Greenkeeping Staff or a Member's Committee representative should any of these people be available.

It is possible that Committee Members may be playing in a competition when conditions start to deteriorate so early information communicated by them from on the golf course may assist the member of Golf Professional staff in making any decision.

Our hand held klaxon is stored in the small office room in the clubhouse foyer.

### SUSPENSION OF PLAY

Players have a duty to protect themselves in Health and Safety matters especially should there be a danger from lightning when play must stop immediately. Rule 6-8 of the Rules of Golf makes it quite clear that a player is entitled to discontinue play if the player believes there is a danger from lightning.

All players **must** adhere to the following Suspension of Play procedures:

#### **Dangerous Circumstances**

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation (e.g. lightning) **will be signalled by the klaxon being sounded**. During a Competition a member of the Golf Professional's staff will be on duty and it will be their responsibility (having gathered any information deemed necessary) to make the decision to have the klaxon sounded.

However, even if the klaxon is not sounded and the players believe there is a real risk of, or danger from, lightning then the player is entitled to proceed under the provision of Rule 6-8 and discontinue play.

If the klaxon has been sounded, then a player is not entitled to override that decision and continue play. When the klaxon has been sounded for play to be suspended, players must discontinue play immediately. Every effort will be made to ensure the warning is sounded with sufficient time to allow for all competitors, caddies and spectators to evacuate the course prior to an electric storm striking the course.

Upon the signal being given, all players, caddies and spectators must comply with these conditions.

**PENALTY** for breach of this condition is **DISQUALIFICATION**.

As soon as the players have returned to the clubhouse it is vital to keep them informed of what is happening.

It will be the responsibility of the person responsible for the competition to inform the players that the situation will be reviewed and as soon as the lightning has dispersed (as a general rule of thumb if there has been no thunder and lightning after a period of 30 minutes) play will be allowed to continue. If the storm is continuous the situation will be reviewed every (30) minutes up to a maximum period of one hour.

After one hours delay and with no improvement in the situation the person responsible for the competition should declare the competition abandoned and the players notified accordingly. Those players who have not completed their round will be considered as having not entered the competition and their cards will not be classed as "No returns" (NR's). If more than half the scheduled field has completed a full round then the competition will stand; failing that it will be recorded as abandoned in full. Players will be entitled to a full refund of the entry money, sweepstake and 2's entries (usually by way of a credit to their Member's Account).

Although we should endeavour not to suspend play unless absolutely necessary, it is the responsibility of the Golf Club's Management to do everything possible to protect players from lightning and, therefore care must be taken in this respect to give early warning.

### **Non-Dangerous circumstances**

A competition should not generally be suspended simply on account of rain, unless the rain is so heavy that it would be unfair to require players to continue. Generally, play should only be suspended when the course has become unplayable. For example, balls are moving frequently on the putting greens due to wind or holes are full of, or **TOTALLY** surrounded by, casual water. In any event, if rain is of sufficient intensity to present an unfair condition, normally it would take little time for casual water to accumulate around the hole on at least one putting green. When this occurs, it would be remiss of the person responsible for the competition if he/she did not consider the course unplayable and suspend play. Accordingly, play cannot be resumed until the casual water problem is resolved.

Having taken everything into consideration the next action is to suspend play and call all players off the course. **This will be signalled by the klaxon being sounded.** If the klaxon has been sounded, then a player is not entitled to override that decision and continue play. When the klaxon has been sounded for play to be suspended, players must discontinue play immediately.

Upon the signal being given, all players, caddies and spectators must comply with these conditions. **PENALTY** for breach of this condition is **DISQUALIFICATION.**

Again, as with a dangerous situation, as soon as the players have returned to the clubhouse it is vital to keep them informed of what is happening. The person responsible for the competition will be expected to inform the players that the situation will be reviewed as soon as the rain has eased. The whole of the course should be inspected to ensure that the casual water which has accumulated around the holes on the green(s) has dispersed and if so play will be allowed to continue. If the storm is continuous the situation will be reviewed every (30) minutes up to a maximum period of one hour.

After a period of one hours delay and with no improvement in the situation, the person responsible for the competition should declare the competition abandoned and the players notified accordingly. Those players who have not completed their round will be recorded as having not entered the competition and their cards will not be classed as "No returns" (NR's). If more than half the scheduled field has completed a full round then the competition will stand; failing that it will be declared as abandoned and all scores will be null and void. Players will be entitled to a full refund of the entry money, sweepstake and 2's entries (usually by way of a credit to their Member's Account).

### **Fog**

Should play need to be suspended due to fog then the same procedure will be followed as for lightning.

It is considered that play is only safe when the 150 yard board can be clearly seen from the driving range bays. When the 150 yard board can be clearly seen then the 200 yard board should, itself, also be visible.

### **Suspension from the Start of A Competition**

If conditions are such that any competition can not be started on time for any reason then it is assumed that the "suspension of play" starts from the time of the first planned tee-time. As such the procedure for "re-starting play" will be followed and therefore if there is no improvement in conditions after a period of one hour then the competition will be abandoned.