



‘Safe Golf’ Re-Opening Guide

Firstly, we wish to express our appreciation to you, as a Member of Bedfordshire Golf Club for the patience and understanding that you’ve shown during the period that the Club has been closed.

Wednesday 13th May has been confirmed as the date that golf clubs can re-open for play. This, however, comes initially with restrictions to play and only allows for golf where you are playing with members of your own household or with one other person.

The policy below, which has been approved by the Management Board, has been prepared to advise you of the Club’s approach following our return to golf. Our policy & guidance are based on advice from government, health authorities and golf’s governing bodies and is in line with the gradual lifting of social restrictions. It will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

A word of warning though, before you read on. Golf will look very different to what was considered ‘normal’ in the past. All golf will be booked online. The various measures / restrictions that we have put in place seek to ensure that members are as safe as possible. For the time being, there will be no **no-roll-ups** and we will be playing **SOCIAL GOLF ONLY** until **5th July** when **competitions are reintroduced**.

Throughout your time at the Club, please comply with the social distancing measures that we’re now all very familiar with.

Golf Courses - Booking & Arrival

- Booking
 - All golf must be pre-booked online via the new tee booking system (detailed guide to follow)

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- Members can only book themselves and immediate playing partners in for a single start time. Bookings can be subsequently cancelled or amended
 - If you are unable to make a booked tee-time, you must cancel it preferably giving at least 24hrs notice
 - If you are having difficulty booking online, please call the office on 01234 822555 ext 2
 - Sanitised Buggies (for single use only) and Trolleys are available for hire – please reserve by phone with the Pro-Shop on 01234 822555 ext 3
- 18 Hole Stagsden Course
 - 1st Tee reservations commence at 7.00am and run at 8 minute intervals through to 7.30pm
 - Additionally, 10th tee reservations are available for 9 holes only from 7.00am to 8.30am
 - Maximum 4 balls - 1 balls are discouraged, but if a golfer does book a slot alone, another golfer won't be allowed to book themselves in alongside. To book two people in one slot, both names must be put into the booking at the same time
 - Visitors will be welcomed, but their access is restricted. Members will receive priority in the following ways:
 - For the first 7 days, members and their guests only allowed
 - After that:
 - Members can book in 14 days in advance, visitors can only book in 7 days in advance
 - Members and their guests have exclusivity from 7.00am to 1.00pm
 - Members, guests and visitors allowed after 2.00pm
 - These arrangements will be regularly reviewed in the light of experience
- Par 3 Academy Course
 - Tee reservations commence at 8.00am and run at 8 minute intervals through to 7.30pm
 - Members and visitors have equal priority
- Arrival at the Club
 - Arrive at the Club no more than 20 minutes prior to tee time
 - Arrive in golf attire and change footwear in the car park
 - From the car park, please approach the 18 Hole Stagsden course via the road to the putting green (which is open for use)

- The trolley store will be open, but please be careful re hard surfaces

Pro-Shop, Driving Range & Check-in Arrangements

- The Pro-Shop & Driving Range are both open
- In the Shop:
 - Please respect & follow instructions provided
 - Please use the hand-sanitiser provided on entry to the Shop
 - A one-way circulation is in operation
 - Remember that the Shop will also have visitors arriving for the Academy course and customers for the driving range - please observe 2 meter queue etiquette/distancing
 - Card payment only, no cash
- On the Driving range:
 - Please buy multi-use digi-cards rather than tokens
 - Range baskets will be supplied by Shop (we will sanitise the handles)
 - Passage from Shop to range is one-way - leave at either end of range
 - A hand-sanitiser is positioned near the ball dispenser
 - Strictly, one person per bay, no sharing of clubs

Clubhouse Facilities

- The Clubhouse will be open for access to Toilets and Lockers only.
- All bar and catering facilities will remain closed until further notice.

To the First Tee

- Arrive at the 1st tee no more than 5 minutes prior to reserved tee time
- Tee-off times are at 8 minute intervals and are to be strictly observed
- Before commencing play, mark your ball distinctively to aid identification. Do not touch stray balls or other items that others may have been in contact with.

On the Course (see also Local Rules below)

- Physical distancing to be observed at all times
- Ball washers and drinking fountains have been covered and rubbish bins have been removed, so please take all rubbish home
- Bunker rakes have been removed. Please smooth sand with your feet or club after your shot.

- Once a hole is completed, the player(s) in front must have exited the tee box before you can progress to the next hole
- Avoid slow play and keep up with the player(s) in front
- Do not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball
- You must refrain from handshakes

Please remember that since the lockdown we have been operating with a reduced number of green keepers. We are still not up to full strength and therefore golfers will notice some reduction in our usual very high standards. Examples include:

- Bunkers will not be prepared to the usual standard (see new local rules below)
- Divot boxes have been removed from the tees - please repair your divots
- There may be members of the public still walking/exercising across the course, please take extra care

Local Rules

- Bedfordshire Golf Club has introduced a number of temporary local rules to be followed during the "initial social play" period.
 - Putting with the flagstick in is compulsory - flagsticks must not be touched under any circumstances.
 - Hole-liners will be in use and a ball is considered "holed" if any part is below ground level.
 - A ball within 12 inches of the hole will be considered holed with the next stroke (a 'Gimme'). As a general rule a standard putter grip is approximately 12 inches long.
 - Pick and place within 6 inches no nearer the hole in all bunkers.

After Your Round - social distancing remains important

- When your round is over, please do not shake hands
- The Shoe Cleaner has been turned off, so may not be used
- Return Hire Trolleys and Buggies to the Pro-Shop
- Unless you plan to use the Driving Range or visit the Shop, please leave the Club immediately.

These are unprecedented times, which have warranted unprecedented measures and will be seen at golf clubs across the UK.

Finally, as the UK golf world was taken by surprise with the Government's announcement that golf courses could reopen earlier than expected this Wednesday, you should be aware that our plans to finish the Car Park Refurbishment before Members arrive to play golf, have not been achieved. With the Car Park works still active, members are asked to drive carefully within the car park area. Some areas will be roped off during the remainder of May. You may therefore also park on the grass verges leading to the car park.

Thanks for your understanding and cooperation. We are really looking forward to your return!

Best wishes and '***Play Safe, Stay Safe!***'

Bedfordshire Golf Club Board