

# PROTOCOL FOR THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF GOLF AT GALGORM CASTLE

## VISITING GOLFERS V1 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

- It is imperative that golfers with any symptoms of COVID-19 stay away from the golf course and follow government guidance on self-isolation.
- Anyone who has been out of the UK & Ireland in the previous 14 days should not visit Galgorm Castle Golf Club.
- Physical distancing rules must be observed by all golfers at all times in the car parks, clubhouse and on the golf course.

### COURSE ACCESS & BOOKING

- All tee times must be booked via the BRS system either online or by ringing the Pro Shop.
- The only golfers permitted on the course will be those on the timesheet. **Absolutely no 'cutting in' is allowed.** This is to assist with contact tracing if required and also to allow the greenkeeping team to work ahead of members. **Any player on the golf course whose name is not on the timesheet will be asked to leave the estate.**

### ARRIVING AT THE GOLF COURSE

- **Pre-booking your tee time in advance is compulsory.**
- We recommend golf equipment and hands are sanitised before leaving home, while we also encourage you to use the toilet before leaving home.
- We encourage you to bring your own hand sanitiser to the course and use it regularly during your round.
- Golfers should travel to the golf course alone, or with a member of the same household only.
- Please park in a manner so as to facilitate physical distancing and ensure physical distancing throughout your time on the estate.
- Do not mingle before or after golf.
- Change shoes in the car park (please note the water hose behind the 18<sup>th</sup> green and air hose in the top car park will both be out of use).
- **All golfers must check in via the Pro Shop prior to play. This is to ensure compliance with the timesheet for contact tracing purposes.**
- If you require golf balls, accessories, equipment etc. these will be available to purchase in the Pro Shop. Do not exchange equipment with others.
- Holes have been removed from the practice putting green and short game area. If you wish, practice to your own tee peg instead but please remove this once you have finished practising.

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- No more than three persons on the practice putting green at any one time, do not use the putting green until **10 minutes** prior to your tee time.
- No more than three persons on the short game area at any one time, do not use the short game area until **15 minutes** prior to your tee time. Mats in-situ must be used.

## DRIVING RANGE

The Driving Range is open with measures in place to ensure social distancing and safety for users and staff.

## CLUBHOUSE & PRO SHOP

- The Castle Kitchen + Bar will reopen on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.
- The bottom floor of the clubhouse is open.
- The Pro Shop is open for check-in and for all your needs. The Pro Shop door is the only door in use to access the bottom floor of the clubhouse.
- Please ensure physical distancing at all times in the clubhouse.
- **Absolutely no loitering in the Clubhouse, Pro Shop or car parks.**
- Our staff will continue routine cleaning, sanitisation and disinfection of all locations, especially all common and high traffic areas, and frequently touched surfaces. Doors will be wedged open.
- Hand sanitiser is located at the Pro Shop entrances and outside the toilets.
- Entry to the Pro Shop is restricted in line with government guidance.
- **Card or account payments are the preferred method of payment.**
- Protective screening is in-situ in the Pro Shop and PPE is available to staff.

## TO THE TEE

- Do not enter the teeing ground until all members of the group in front have played their tee-shots and exited the teeing ground.
- **Do not tee off until your allocated time** - clocks will be placed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tees to facilitate this.
- **Hand sanitiser units** are located at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> teeing areas.
- Observe **physical distancing** at all times on the golf course.

## COURSE RANGERS

- Course Rangers are on hand to monitor adherence with physical distancing protocols and the protocols set out in this document.
- Course Rangers will also ensure only members and visitors whose names are on the timesheet are on the golf course.

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- Course Rangers have the authority to suspend members and visitors from the facility should they not adhere to the protocols set out in this document. Such members may then be subject to Club disciplinary procedures.

## ON THE COURSE

- Holes must be played in order starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> tee (or 10<sup>th</sup> for 9-holes only)
- **Do not touch the flag or flagstick. We have invested in a 'Putt Buddy' for every hole. [Putt Buddy](#) is a mechanism designed to provide a simple and effective solution to retrieving golf balls from the hole without placing hands near the hole or flagpole.**
- Ball washing stations and course furniture will be out of use.
- There are a reduced number of bins in place on the golf course, these bins have a circular hole in the lids so do not require opening. However, we would prefer it if you keep your litter in your golf bag and dispose of your litter at home.
- **All rakes have been removed from the course and a local rule will be in place that permits placing your golf ball in any bunker on the course:**

**"When a player's ball lies in a bunker, the player may prefer the lie within six inches"  
(Local Rule E-3)**

**Please note that smoothing the sand before placing the ball is not allowed.**

- After play, please smooth the sand using your feet or a club out of courtesy to your fellow members and greenkeepers.
- **All hazard stakes are deemed immovable obstructions** and should not be touched.
- Golf buggies are only available to golfers who require a buggy for an underlying medical issue. Where a golf buggy must be used, it must only be used by one person. Buggy surfaces can be wiped down by staff prior to and following use.
- Hire trolleys are available and will be sanitised before and after every use.
- Caddies are not permitted except where the group of golfers and the caddies are from the same household.
- If your ball is lost, unplayable, or in a penalty area, don't take an option under the rules that involves doubling back on your position on the course. Instead, use an option that allows you to keep your position on the course.
- Keep your place on the golf course, you should not catch up with the group in front nor be caught by the group behind.
- On the course we may have groups of one, two, three or four players at any one time. Therefore, please adopt a common sense approach and should you be playing in a fourball and the group behind is made up of one, two or three players, please call the group behind through at an appropriate time and place should it be clear that they are playing at a faster pace. However, if you are playing in a group of less than four persons please do not rush around the golf course as we must remain conscious of social distancing and ensure groups

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do not gather on the golf course.

- If you feel the group in front of you is holding your group up, please remain patient and wait to be called through. **DO NOT** hit shots that risk the safety of your fellow members, this is simply not acceptable.
- The toilet at the 10<sup>th</sup> tee is available for golfers to use. Our staff will continue routine cleaning but please make use of the anti-bacterial wipes in place to clean the toilet area before and after use. Soap will be available in the toilet while a hand sanitiser unit will be in place on the wall of McQuillans halfway hut.
- **Observe physical distancing at all times on the course.** Do not enter the next teeing ground until all members of the group in front have played their tee-shots and exited the teeing ground.
- Do not exchange or share equipment, food or drink with other players during your round. Do not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball.

## HEADING HOME

- Members must call the Pro Shop (02825646161) or email [golf@galgormcastle.com](mailto:golf@galgormcastle.com) with any post-round health issues (symptoms) or Covid-19 related queries.

## COURSE ETIQUETTE

- Please repair your pitch marks and replace divots.
- Play is strictly from tee markers in place.
- Play is strictly with one ball only.
- There is no protective hooping/roping in-situ on green aprons in the areas between the putting surfaces and bunkers for hygiene reasons. **Golfers must not walk trolleys in the areas between putting surfaces and bunkers.**
- **Greenkeepers will have right of way but will be wary as to not disrupt pace of play.** Please follow guidance from greenkeepers should they be working on the hole you are playing. **Wait for the greenkeeper to move to the side and only play when instructed to by the greenkeeper.**
- **It is of paramount importance that members do not approach our greenkeeping team on the golf course for your safety and theirs.**

Please enjoy your golf and stay safe.

Kind regards  
Gary

**Gary Henry**  
**Managing Director**  
**Galgorm Castle**