

# **Pumpherstons Competition Bad Weather Procedure (Nov 2025)**

**(applies to Club and Open competitions)**

The following procedures should be read in conjunction with our fog delay protocols.

Generally, our Greens Staff attend from 6.00am to prepare the course and their decision to open or close the course will be taken relevant to course and playing conditions at the proposed start time for each competition (*also see Note 1*).

The criteria for assessment of playability will be dependent on 2 main criteria.

Criteria one: Is the course playable?

Criteria two: Does playing the course constitute any form of risk to players (e.g. strong winds that could topple trees or lightning risk)

If the greens staff close the course first thing in the morning then the competition start time may be delayed.

If the course conditions, current weather and ongoing forecast are bad, the competition can be cancelled before the scheduled start of play. A communication / announcement via the club website will be published as soon as practically possible.

## **Delayed Start or Suspension of Play**

1. If the course is opened, the competition will begin with the same order as on the start sheet. After three hours delay, if no start time has been decided the competition may be cancelled in order to save players hanging around indefinitely.

2. The Pro Shop can re-allocate slots as required to run the competition efficiently in the event of call off's from early starters.

3. Generally, entry fees / \* sweep money will not be refunded unless the competition is cancelled. Players who withdraw on the day due to bad weather conditions will not have entry fees / \* sweep money refunded if the competition proceeds, the course is deemed playable and the competition is deemed completed.

4. If after starting a competition, the course becomes unplayable due to the weather, the Head Greenkeeper (or their Deputy), The Greens Convener, The Match Secretary, and two or more Committee members may suspend play (normally via use of a fog horn).

5. On suspension of play, the player should if possible, complete the hole they are playing at the time of suspension. Failing that, they should clearly mark the position of their ball to enable continuation of play when conditions allow.

The Pro Shop will indicate when play is to resume (normally via the use of a fog horn)

## **Relief from Flooding**

1. If the greens start to flood and are you unable to get relief, if a squeegee has been made available please use it. No other tool / implement should be used as you risk damaging the greens.
2. A player who believes the green to be unplayable and with no relief available should telephone the Professional Shop (01506 433337 option 1) and report their findings. If the Pro Shop is not available a player may call a suspension in play if relief as above is not possible.
3. If possible take a picture of the flooded green.

## **Completing a Competition**

1. After a delay or suspension and the player runs out of daylight before finishing their round their scorecard will still count for handicap purposes, unless the competition has been cancelled.
2. If more than 50% of the field complete their round (18 holes) prior to any suspension of play or closure of the course, the scores will be deemed to stand and an outcome published for the competition.
3. If the majority (a majority being more than 50%) of the field are not able to complete their round due to the course becoming unplayable or insufficient light following a suspension, then the competition will be cancelled and entry fees / \* sweep money will be returned.

***NOTE 1: the course maybe closed due to adverse weather conditions and opened when fit for play by any of the following: The Course Manager (or their Deputy), The Greens Convener, The Match Secretary, The Captain, The Vice Captain, The Starter (Pro Shop) and one Committee Member or two or more Committee Members.***