



## Goonawarra Golf Club – Extreme Weather Policy

The Goonawarra Golf Club (GGC) Extreme Weather policy reflects the duty of care it maintains for our members and guests. The policy has been constructed to provide guidance to minimise the risk of harm occurring due to extreme weather events, both expected and unforeseen.

The GGC will initiate action and alerts to make players aware of the potential dangers associated with extreme weather.

**However, players must take responsibility for their own safety when threatened by extreme weather.**

Any player in a group can choose to stop playing and seek shelter if they believe an extreme situation exists or is imminent in accordance with the R&A Rules of Golf: Rule 5.7a – When players may or must stop play.

### **1. EXTREME HEAT**

1. Should the forecast (BOM.GOV.AU) Sunbury Temperature at 6pm on the evening before the day of competition be 40 degrees or more, any more competition may be transferred to another date or possibly cancelled. This includes any / all board / trophy type events and medal rounds.
2. GGC is cognisant of purely guidance information provided by Golf Australia and Sport Medicine Australia as expressed in Golf Australia Hot Weather Heat Policy – Version – January 2013.
3. Matchplay events can be played with the agreement of both parties, if delayed the match must be complete before the next scheduled round.
4. The course will remain open.
5. The Golf / Pro Shop should continue to monitor the forecast, actual and relative temperatures every hour on very hot days to see if play can proceed as normal.
6. Should Sunbury temperature reach 43 degrees or more the course will be closed until the temperature reaches safe levels as determined by the Director of Golf / Match Committee, General Manager or Golf / Pro Shop staff on the day.
7. The Director of Golf / Match Committee has discretion to reschedule a competition if the integrity of the competition is affected, such as for Honour Board and Major events.
8. Members are advised that on days of extreme heat, course staff may be involved in additional watering of greens and other areas susceptible to heat stress.

## **NOTE:**

The Director of Golf / Match Committee, General Manager or Golf / Pro Shop staff on the day can close the course or suspend competition play during extreme heat, however providing the Player has been informed of this decision. It is the Players responsibility whether they play *socially*. The Director of Golf / Match Committee, General Manager or Golf / Pro Shop staff will not be held responsible for Players that ignore this notice and elect to play.

Players are also advised to take precautions in the heat, including but not limited to:

- Wearing appropriate sun protection clothing e.g. hat
- Applying other sun protection measures e.g. applying sunscreen
- Maintaining appropriate levels of hydration e.g. Drinking water or other hydrating drinks

## **Responsibilities:**

### **Match Committee:**

- A member of the Match Committee (normally the Director of Golf) or General Manager must be consulted prior to any suspension or cancellation of play due to heat
- Match Committee to decide if it is safe to continue to play
- Provide notifications to inform players the course is closed due to heat
- Reschedule competition if appropriate

### **Pro Shop**

- To monitor temperatures and report to a Match Committee member or General Manager if temperatures are forecast to, or reach 40 degrees
- Manage Time Sheet Bookings accordingly with cancellations

## **2. INCLEMENT WEATHER**

1. All competitions and social play on the course will cease immediately if dangerous weather conditions exist. This may include but it not limited to the following:
  - Lightning seen in the nearby vicinity
  - Fog
  - Frost
  - Rain (e.g. Greens unplayable)
  - Extreme wind
  - Other abnormal natural phenomena
2. A siren will sound calling a suspension of play by the Director of Golf, Match Committee, Golf / Pro Shop (or their representative) and/or General Manager; causes may include any weather-related safety condition.
3. At the sound of the siren all players must mark the position of their golf ball at rest and return to the clubhouse immediately, a resumption of play will be decided as soon as the condition allows.
4. If a resumption of play is not possible, the following will apply: If less than 70% have returned a score, the competition will be, if possible, rescheduled to another date or abandoned. If more than 70% have returned a score, the competition will be complete. All players must play at that time and return a score, or they will be deemed to have "not returned their card" (NCR) If the weather improves and play can be continued, the siren will again be sounded.

5. Should the resumption of play not be possible, the daily competition will be abandoned. All entry fees will carry on to the next week (Match Committee discretion)
6. If fog or frost encompasses the course prior to any play commencing, the Match Committee and/or Pro Shop staff will decide if and when, it is safe to commence play. Any delay in commencing play may result in the Match Committee and/or Golf / Pro Shop staff re-scheduling or abandoning tee times.
7. If play has commenced when fog/frost encompasses the golf course, the Match Committee and/or Pro Shop staff will determine if it is safe for play to continue. If it is deemed unsafe, the siren will sound, and the procedure referred to in point 4 above will be implemented.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Match Committee**

- To be consulted, along with Golf / Pro Shop staff, if inclement weather threatens to cause a stoppage or effects commencement of play

### **Golf / Pro Shop**

- To be consulted, along with Match Committee staff, if inclement weather threatens to cause a stoppage or effects commencement of play
- Timesheet may need to be adjusted if play is suspended