



Neath Golf Club Ltd.

Buggy Policy February 2025

INTRODUCTION

Neath Golf Club Ltd. (NGC) wishes everyone to be safe and enjoy themselves on and off the course but has a duty of care to all users of the golf course including members, staff and visitors. The topography of certain areas of the course is such that caution and prudence must be shown by all golfers and in particular users of a buggy.

We hold a zero tolerance towards any abuse of the course as all golfers benefit from playing on well maintained and cherished fairways and greens.

CURRENT POSITION

NGC can accommodate:

Buggies owned by NGC which can be booked by members and visitors through the Pro shop or office. The responsibility for maintaining these buggies in good working order lies with the Club.

Limited spaces are available for member owned buggies many of who have current medical exemption certificates. The responsibility for maintaining these buggies in good working order and providing proof of insurance cover lies with the owners.

MEMBER OWNED BUGGIES

Members who wish to secure a parking space/charging point must make a request in writing to the Board **prior** to being added to the waiting list which is held in the office.

Priority will be given to members holding a medical certificate. (see attached)

Every member who owns a buggy, whether it is kept at the Club or transported to the club, must produce a valid insurance policy annually to cover liability for risk to third parties. A copy will be retained in the secretary's office.

Only those **named** on the insurance policy are allowed to drive member owned buggies.

The responsibility for maintaining these buggies in good working order lies with the owner.

NGC holds the right to purchase members electric buggies when they are offered for sale and the parking spaces are **NOT** transferable to other members.

GENERAL SAFE USE

It is therefore recognised that all buggies used at NGC must be maintained and serviced and driven according to the safety rules listed below.

NGC must provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers including those given permission to use buggies. In addition, the Club has to ensure the safety of golfers who do not wish to use buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective buggy or its careless use.

To ensure the safe employment of buggies all users (members, visitors and guests) must comply with the following:

- Buggies must always be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety of the driver and convenience of other golfers, and pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times.
- The signs and instructions displayed on the course to warn buggy users of potential danger areas or areas forbidden to buggies because of concerns about danger or, the potential to cause unacceptable wear and tear to the course, must be followed at all times.
- Buggies must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not interfere or impede other golfers on the course.
- Buggies must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicles in the carpark.
- Buggy users will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy is on the property owned by the Club.

- NGC will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property arising from the negligent use of a buggy.
- Buggies must not be operated at a speed considered excessive especially on steep parts of the course e.g. the path down from the 15th tee, slope down to the ditch on the 7th and the slope on the 4th fairway.
- Buggies shall be used only when the course is open for play and when no buggy prohibition is in force during inclement weather for safety reasons.
- Operators must stop the buggy at blind intersections and proceed with caution.
- The Directors, Club Captain, Head Green Keeper and Professional have the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a buggy. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made in writing to the Board of Directors.
- Buggy operators must not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Children under the age of 18 are not allowed to drive a buggy.
- A buggy shall only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and only by people who are authorised to use one.
- In particular, standing on the back of a buggy is expressly forbidden.

BEFORE USE:

- All operators of buggies must sign the NGC Buggy Safety Policy Agreement Form before they are allowed to drive a buggy on the course (attached).
- Member owned buggy users must sign the policy annually and produce a valid insurance document on payment of their membership fees.

DURING USE:

- Hands, feet and head must be kept inside the buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion.
- The vehicle must only be used to progress the game and must not be driven up and down excessively, e.g., when looking for golf balls.
- The vehicle must **absolutely not** be used within close proximity of any tees, greens or the slopes leading up to them.
- The vehicle may not be driven into heather or regeneration areas.
- The vehicle must not be used within 5 metres of any bunkers, ditches or ponds or slopes leading to them.
- Check the area behind the vehicle before reversing.
- Set the parking brake before leaving the vehicle.

- Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic conditions as well as environmental factors that may affect your ability to operate the vehicle safely.
- Drive the vehicle only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow.
- To avoid tipping over, drive the buggy straight up and down severe slopes.
- Slow down before corners and all turns must be executed at reduced speed.
- Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction that may result in loss of control.
- Be extra careful when the course is wet and muddy.

AFTER USE:

- When returning the buggy, turn the operating key to the off position, engage the parking brake, attach the security clamp and padlock.
- For battery operated buggies plug in the charging cable.
- Return the key to NGC owned buggies to the Professional Shop.

COURSE CONDITIONS

It is impossible to promise that the course at NGC will be accessible to all golfers for 365 days a year.

During severe weather such as heavy rainfall, snow, ice, fog, storms with thunder and lightening the course may be fully closed or allow restricted use for health and safety concerns and to protect the course from extreme damage.

COURSE STATUS

All golfers including those eligible under medical exemption to use a buggy must adhere to the course status as follows:

1. Course fully open with no restrictions.
2. Trolleys allowed with buggies for those with medical exemption certificates only on the full or partial buggy loop only.
3. Trolleys allowed but no buggy loop in play.
4. Carry only.
5. Course closed to all golfers.

To help reduce damage through the Winter months NGC encourage all golfers to carry their clubs if they are physically able.

BUGGY LOOP

The route for the buggy loop which should only be used by golfers holding current medical exemption certificates is:

Hole 1 → Hole 2 → Hole 12 → Hole 13 → Hole 14 → Hole 2 → Hole 12 →

Hole 13 → Hole 14 (Nine holes)

Buggy users playing the loop should slot in with other golfers on the 12th and 2nd. Tees.

For safety reasons the buggy loop is not operational on weekends.

COMMUNICATING COURSE STATUS

The decision regarding the course status will be made by the Head Greenkeeper based on safety of golfers, staff and public and to ensure that the course does not suffer any long-term agronomic damage.

Course inspection by the Head Greenkeeper takes place every day by 7a.m.

The status of the course is then posted on the hotline and communicated to the office staff and pro shop.

N.B. This could be updated at 8:30 subject to changes in the weather.

Golfers can access this decision by:

- Telephoning the hotline
- Telephoning the pro shop
- Golf course information boards situated at the main entrance to the carpark and on the notice board on the approach to the first hole.

If the forecast shows that the weather that day may improve then the status of the course may change and members or visitors may wish to check later in the day for further information.

ENABLING GOLFERS WITH A DISABILITY TO PLAY

NGC recognises that it has a legal responsibility to make sure that everyone can access the course and seeks to fulfil its requirements to comply with health and safety legislation as well as that of the Equality Act 2010. It is fully acknowledged that some members and visiting players may not be able to play golf without the use of a buggy. This policy sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when Directors consider applications for buggy users with a valid medical certificate.

A valid medical confirmation of disability means a valid medical certificate from a registered general practitioner or consultant registered with the Health Professions Council stating that the player or caddie is suffering from a disability.

Drivers of golf buggies with medical exemption certificates **must** comply with the general rules.

Failure to agree to the terms and conditions above by signing a Buggy Policy Consent Form may result in the player or other third party being denied permission to use a golf buggy at NGC.

NGC has put in place measures to include disabled golfers which include:

- Buggy paths on parts of the course.
- A buggy loop for poor weather conditions.
- Installed electric points for charging electric buggies.
- Designated car parking spaces.
- Designated buggy parking spaces.
- Priority for medical exemption certificate holders to acquire buggy parking spaces at the club become vacant.

The Directors are committed to making further adjustments and would welcome suggestions from all members regarding improvements that can be made to the course and club facilities to promote further inclusion for all.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and amended as necessary.