

Golf at Tarland Golf Club Under COVID-19 Restrictions

Sunday 17th May 2020.

Introduction

As most golfers will know their beloved sport has, as a consequence of the Coronavirus, been suspended. The Government announcement of 10th May however has loosened some of the restriction.

Hopefully the courses in Scotland will be open soon. When the course is declared open, we will be subjected to the restrictions listed below.

Restrictions

- **Members only.**
- **Play must be alone or with one other member.**

The Club, in preparing for the easing of the regulations has, after consideration of documents created by the R & A, EGU and others created a document which summarises it`s approach. This takes accounts of the particular issues facing Tarland and the way it is set up.

We are conscious that this is a step change to what you are used to. The reality is we have little choice. We will strive to soften the rigidity of the rules when we see them working and as Government allow us to do so. Keeping golfers and the greenkeeper safe during these difficult times is our main priority. Second and very close behind, is doing what we can, so that you can enjoy the Golf Club.

Golf

The proposed approach, for **playing golf** covers five main areas: course set-up, before, during and after the round and Rules of Golf related matters. This guidance is subject to announcements from the government and may change.

These procedures will include all aspects of the golfing experience, from arrival in the car park shortly before the round to departure straight away on completion of the round. Golfers will be required to comply with the Government guidance relating to the virus throughout.

If you are showing any signs of illness you should not attend the Club.

If you, or any member of your household has come into contact with a suspected case of COVID 19 you should self-isolate and not attend the Club for a minimum of 14 days,

Whilst at the Club maintain a minimum distance of 2 metres from anyone on the property.

If you are covered by one of the definitions at risk you should decide whether visiting the club is appropriate.

In addition, play is restricted **to current members** only and may only take place with a pre-booked time.

Some temporary provisions in relation to the Rules of Golf will also be necessary to ensure safe play (see below).

The procedures cover the following aspects of the golfer experience, divided into the five following categories:

- Course Set Up
- Before the Round
- During the Round
- After the Round
- Rules of Golf Related Matters

Course Set Up

The greenkeeper is working hard to ensure the facilities are kept open and presented to the best possible standard. Golfers should not approach the greenkeeper. Please refer any comments or queries to secretary@tarlandgolfclub.co.uk

On-Course Items

All rakes, ball washers, benches and bins have been removed.

All other removable items, except stakes defining areas of the course can be treated as immovable obstructions, have been removed.

Hole and Flagstick

Flagsticks have been retained, but should not be touched or removed.

An insert has been placed in the hole so that the ball can be removed without touching the flag.

Practice Area is available.

Trolleys, buggies & shoe cleaning facility are unavailable at this time.

Before the Round

Members are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitiser and consider Government guidance regarding the use of masks.

Bookings

All golfers must book a tee time in advance via the BRS system, either through their own device or by ringing the secretary on 07790 444730. Specific names must be supplied.

You may book one time per day.

If you know you can't make your time you must cancel your booking thus allowing others the opportunity to play.

Play on the course is restricted to members only until otherwise specified. They may play on their own or with one other member.

The maximum number of golfers in a group per tee time is two,

10-minute intervals will be in place.

The tee is only available between 8am and 7pm.

Arrival and Waiting to Play

The clubhouse will be closed. Use of toilets is permitted.

Golfers must not arrive more than fifteen minutes in advance of their tee time and should travel independently. Cars must be parked in such a way as to guarantee two metres distance between users.

Be ready to play five minutes in advance of your tee time. Do not encroach into the space of the people on the tee in the group ahead.

Please allow other users of the course, dog walkers, to pass by with sufficient space.

During the Round

Guidance and reminders will be provided to golfers is to ensure that they keep at least 2 metres apart during the round.

Teeing Areas

Golfers are to keep 2 metres apart at teeing areas.

General

Golfers are required to stay more than 2 metres apart when walking to the ball, searching for a ball and playing shots.

Please play a provisional ball if required. Do not return to the tee to play another ball.

Bunkers

With no rakes allowed on the course, golfers are required to make their very best efforts to smooth the sand using their club and/or their feet.

Pace of play

Keep up, around ten minutes behind, the group in front. If you lose ground, allow the group behind to pass with sufficient social distancing.

After the Round

Social distancing is as important after a round as it is during the round, so when the round is over all golfers must not shake hands, hug or otherwise get within 2 metres of each other and leave the course and the club/facility immediately so that there are no gatherings around the clubhouse area.

Rules of Golf Related Matters

Until further notice, the following provisions are considered acceptable on a temporary basis:

Forms of Play and Scoring

Until further notice only non-competition play is permitted.

Scoring for the purposes of handicapping is not permitted.

Score cards will not be provided, stroke indexes are shown on tee signage.

Bunkers

Golfers must take due care when smoothing bunkers,

Flagstick

Golfers are required to leave the flagstick in the hole at all times and not to touch it.

Hole and Holed

The hole is to be set up in a way that means that all of the ball cannot be fully below the surface of the putting green, so the ball is considered holed if any part of it is below said surface.

Conclusion

It is with a heavy heart that Tarland Golf Club impose these rules. It is our view that without such strict control the course would have to stay closed for longer.

We will rely, in the short term, on members and later when regulations allow guests and visitors to follow the new rules. We sincerely hope that everyone does.

It remains our hope that we can return to some kind of "normal" as soon as possible. In the meantime, stay safe, enjoy your golf and the beauty that surrounds us all at Tarland.

This guidance will be subject to regular review. Members, for whom the Club has an email address will be updated when appropriate. Other members and visitors will find the relevant information on the Club website.

Please note that the Clubhouse during the coming weeks, remains closed. All queries should be sent by email to secretary@tarlandgolfclub.co.uk