



Westgate and Birchington Golf Club Ltd  
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## **LOCAL RULE – TRANSPORTATION - THE USE OF GOLF BUGGIES (SINGLE AND TWO-SEATER)**

### **1. POLICY CONTEXT**

R&A Rules 2-14 states: The use of golf buggies (i.e. ride-on motorised vehicles) during a competition is permitted in the conditions of the competition.

Westgate and Birchington Golf Club supports the policy of the R&A to encourage golfers with physical difficulties to play the game if at all possible, and recognise that the use of a buggy can greatly assist many in doing so.

### **2. LOCAL RULE:**

In considering all of the issues surrounding the use of a buggy, the Board of Directors has decided that golf buggies, including privately-owned golf buggies, may be used in club competitions at Westgate and Birchington Golf Club, subject to the following competition conditions:

#### **1. The major competitions (\*\*see below for the designated competitions)**

- 1.1. It shall be a condition of any competition listed below that players must walk at all times during a stipulated round, unless permitted to use a golf buggy by the Rules, Membership and Handicap Committee. In accordance with this policy.
- 1.2. A golf buggy shall be for the sole use of the player and his/her equipment, unless a member of the Rules, Membership and Handicap Committee has deemed that for reason of age or disability a third party is required to drive the golf buggy.
- 1.3. The use of golf buggies, including privately owned golf buggies, will only be permitted for competitors in these competitions with a Medical Exemption Certificate (MEC) provided by a suitably qualified clinician at the personal cost to the competitor. The request for permission to use a buggy during a competition must be received by the closing date for any competition they wish to enter.
- 1.4. A copy of the MEC should be held on file for as long as it is in effect. NOTE: A competitor may obtain a MEC for either a permanent or time-limiting clinical condition or due to their physical limitations associated with the ageing process.
- 1.5. A player who has been granted permission to use a golf buggy (or any caddie or other third person who has been permitted to drive the golf buggy) must have adequate personal and third party insurance and must provide a copy of the certificate of insurance to the Handicap and Rules Committee prior to use.

### **3. EXCEPTIONS:**

The only occasions whereby a golfer will be refused permission to use a buggy in such a club competition is when, after assessment of ground conditions, the Club staff may determine that the state of the course or the weather is such that safety of the condition of the course may be unacceptably compromised if a ride-on buggy is used by anyone. This might apply to the whole or just part of the course. Potentially unsuitable conditions include waterlogging, frost, etc. Where such conditions arise, the Club will review the situation on at least a daily basis.

#### **4. APPEALS PROCEDURE:**

- 4.1 Any decision by the Rules, Membership and Handicap Committee refusing a player permission to use a golf buggy may be appealed to the Appeals Committee, which shall comprise three members of the Board of Directors who are NOT on the Rules, Membership and Handicap Committee.
- 4.2 An appeal shall be made in writing to the Appeals Committee within five working days of the date of the original decision. Any written appeal request shall also include a statement by the player of the reasons why s/he is seeking to appeal the decision.
- 4.3 The Appeals Committee shall make a decision on an appeal and communicate it to the players within 10 working days of the initial appeal.

#### **\*\* Major competitions:**

36-Hole; Club Championship; Daniel Court; Greig; Hengrove; Inaugural Cup; Ivor Read; Minnis Bay; Roger Game; Tony Robins and Val Setterfield.

The policy does **NOT** apply to any other WBGC competitions including Men's, Ladies', Evergreens' and Spring Greens' competitions unless any of these groups wish to adopt it.



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## MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

### To be completed by the player:

I, (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

of (Address) \_\_\_\_\_

request the use of a golf buggy during Westgate and Birchington Golf Club's major competitions.

I am requesting use of a buggy because I am medically unable to walk 18 holes without transportation (a golf buggy).

I agree that this form, when completed, can be retained securely by the Club Manager.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

### To be completed by the player's medical representative:

Please could you complete the following in order to confirm that the above named player is physically unable to walk Westgate and Birchington Golf course and play golf without transportation (a golf buggy)?

I, Dr (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

of Address / practice stamp  
\_\_\_\_\_

certify that I have assessed the above named person and that I am of the opinion that the player needs the use of transportation (a golf buggy) to be able to play golf at Westgate and Birchington Golf Club.

### Likely duration of condition:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note any expense incurred for completion of this form by a doctor is the responsibility of the player.**

This Medical Certificate constitutes a medical confirmation of disability (temporary or permanent) and is to be read in conjunction with the Westgate and Birchington Golf Club Transportation Policy.

The information provided may be reviewed by Westgate and Birchington Golf Club's Manager to assess the validity of the request.