



The Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington Golf Club Ltd

BUGGY POLICY

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies used at Westgate and Birchington Golf Club. The document includes details of the reasonable adjustments necessary for golfers with a relevant disability, which will be introduced at times when use of ride-on buggies is otherwise prohibited. Also included are details of the conditions to be met when the Club considers applications to use a ride-on buggy from members.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Ride-on buggies are available for hire from the Club. Alternatively, members and visitors will be permitted to use their own ride-on buggy (**as long as they meet the minimum specifications as specified by the Club**), but they will be required to provide details of suitable insurance covering their use of the buggy on the course and within Club grounds. Members, with or without a disability, wishing to use a privately owned ride-on buggy on the course, should apply in writing to the Club General Manager and will be required to sign a Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form, which forms part of this policy document.

In order to satisfy the Club's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, it is necessary to consider and make reasonable adjustments, if possible, that permit golfers with a disability (as described within section 6 of the Equality Act) to use their privately owned ride-on buggies when ride-on buggies might otherwise be prohibited for members without a disability.

The Club has determined that reasonable adjustment for golfers with a relevant disability requires permission to drive privately owned ride-on buggies on a special designated buggy route that keeps buggies on the rough away from fairways, tees and greens. Golfers who are profoundly impaired, and require getting closer to their ball before play, may only deviate from this route with the agreement of the Course Director. This special designated route will be available for disabled golfers only and may be used when buggy restrictions for non-disabled golfers are in force.

N.B. It is not deemed reasonable to permit this adjustment when extremely wet conditions prevail. At these times, all ride-on buggies and all trolleys will be prohibited. Members with a disability who are seeking special permission to use their ride on buggies during wet conditions will be required to provide a certificate from their registered medical practitioner annually, stating that they are unable to walk the 18 holes of Westgate and Birchington Golf Club.

Any person who accepts the privilege of operating a ride-on buggy on the golf course is deemed by doing so, to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate their vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof. The safe operation of ride-on buggies on the course requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Ride-on buggies must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the following documents:

- *Golf Buggy Safety Policy*
- *Golf Buggy Safe Operating Practice*
- *Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form.*

In order that these conditions can be met in practice, the Club must be given written, prior notice of a requirement by a member or visitor to use a private ride-on buggy. The Club reserves the right to refuse permission if a member fails to comply with all conditions required.

Individuals must notify the Club as soon as the medical justification for the use of a ride-on buggy is no longer applicable at which time authorisation will be withdrawn. The Club also reserves the right to withdraw any buggy authorisation, if it believes the medical condition or disability necessitating the use of a ride-on buggy ceases. In the interest of safety or the condition of the course, the Club may impose restrictions governing the use of the ride-on buggy on the course whenever, in its absolute discretion, it deems it appropriate to do so. This might apply to the whole or just part of the course when potentially unsuitable conditions are prevalent e.g. waterlogging, frost, etc.



The Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington Golf Club Ltd

GOLF BUGGY SAFETY POLICY

The Club has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. The topography of certain areas of the course is such that all users of ride-on buggies must show caution and care. It is also necessary for the Club to provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers including those given permission to use buggies. Moreover, the Club has to ensure the safety of golfers who do not wish to use ride-on buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective ride-on buggy or its careless use. This duty of care also applies to members of the public using the roads and especially the bridge that players need to use to access parts of the course.

To assist the safe employment of ride-on buggies, all potential users (members and visitors) shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Ride-on buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times.
2. In the interest of safety, and an associated risk assessment for each hole, it has been necessary to limit the ride-on buggy access to some areas. The Club will provide a map showing what access is available, the routes that must be used and highlighting any obvious dangers on the course. Ride-on buggy users should refer to this map whenever they are using a ride-on buggy on the course.
3. **All buggies and trolleys must be kept a minimum of three yards away from all tees, greens, bunkers and close cut approaches to the greens (whether yellow lined or not)**, irrespective of any disability exemptions; the only exception to this rule is if there is a constructed pathway closer. Golfers who are profoundly impaired, and require getting closer to their ball before play, may only gain exemption from this rule with the agreement of the Course Director.
4. Ride-on buggies must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular flow on roadways or pavements.
5. Ride-on buggy operators will be responsible for the security of the vehicle whilst in use on the course. They must prevent unauthorised use.
6. Westgate and Birchington Golf Club is responsible for providing buggies that are fit for use and correctly maintained. It is the responsibility of approved users to notify the Office/Pro Shop of any problems with a buggy owned by the Club.
7. Westgate and Birchington Golf Club has no responsibility for the maintenance of buggies owned and operated by individuals on or beyond the confines of the course and the Club car parks. Members and visitors who are operating their own buggies are responsible for ensuring that their buggy is fit for use and correctly maintained.
8. The Club will accept no responsibility for any loss, damage or injury caused other than that arising from the negligent use of a ride-on buggy by the club's servants or agents.
9. Maximum speed limit for ride-on buggies will be 8km/5 miles per hour on the course.
10. Ride-on buggies shall be used only between dawn and dusk.
11. Ride-on buggies must be operated in compliance with the common "rules of the road" regardless of whether ride-on buggies are operated on pavements or roadways.

12. Operators must stop the buggy at blind intersections and proceed with caution.
13. The consumption of alcohol and/or the improper use of drugs are not permitted when using the Ride-on Buggy.
14. There may be occasional times relating to course conditions or weather, when the use of buggies may be suspended on the grounds of course protection or health and safety.



The Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington Golf Club Ltd

BUGGY SAFE OPERATING PRACTICE

- Ride-on buggy users must not operate buggies when under the influence of alcoholic drinks or drugs
- Children are not permitted to use a member's private buggy or the Club's hire buggies. Children travelling as passengers on/in a buggy are the responsibility of the accompanying adult and **MUST** remain in/on the buggy at all times on the course - with the exception of alighting at the Halfway House.

BEFORE USE

- All operators of ride-on buggies must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement form before they are allowed to drive their buggy on the course.
- The Club's buggies are available for rental from the Office/Pro Shop and can be booked in advance.
- Club buggies are available on a first come, first served basis
- Buggies should only be used by the individual authorised to use them and they should not in any circumstances offer a lift to any other individual unless the buggy is designed to carry more than one person.
- A privately owned ride-on buggy, whether or not approved for use by a member with a disability, may only be used by the owner of that vehicle.

DURING USE

- Do not move off until you are seated.
- Always remain seated and hold on while the vehicle is in motion.
- Hands, feet and head must be kept inside the buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion.
- Always carry and refer to the map of routes and hazards that will be issued when you have permission to use a ride-on buggy.
- Ride-on buggies must be used to progress the game and must not be driven off approved routes to look for golf balls.
- Ride-on buggies must not be driven in prohibited areas.
- **All buggies and trolleys must be kept a minimum of three yards away from all tees, greens, bunkers and close cut approaches to the greens (whether yellow lined or not)**, irrespective of any disability exemptions; the only exception to this rule is if there is a constructed pathway closer. Golfers who are profoundly impaired, and require getting closer to their ball before play, may only gain exemption from this rule with the agreement of the Course Director.
- The vehicle should not be used close to bunkers or banked areas that have steep slopes.
- Check the area behind the buggies 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.
- Maximum speed is 8Km/5 miles per hour - drive more slowly than this when terrain and safety considerations require a slower speed.
- Slow down before corners.

- Execute all turns at reduced speed.
- Avoid sharp turns when on the course
- Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction that may result in loss of control.
- Be extra careful in wet conditions and check whether any buggy restrictions are in place.
- Avoid driving in any way likely to result in damage to grass/turf.

AFTER USE:

Club buggies are to be returned to the buggy parking area and keys should be handed into the Pro Shop or to the bar if Pro Shop is closed.



The Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington Golf Club Ltd

BUGGY SAFETY POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

All Golfers must complete this form prior to operating a Golf Buggy,
Any person who operates a ride-on buggy at Westgate and Birchington Golf Club premises is deemed to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate the vehicle and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof.
The safe operation of ride-on buggies requires adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by the policy.

Name of User: _____

Address: _____

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- I have read the Westgate and Birchington Golf Club Buggy Safety Policy.
- I am competent to drive a golf buggy.
- I understand the terms and conditions of the Westgate and Birchington Golf Club Golf Buggy Safety Policy.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Policy.
- I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a ride-on buggy.
- I will ensure that the buggy will be maintained and operated in accordance with The Westgate and Birchington Golf Club Golf Buggy Safety Policy.
- I agree to indemnify Westgate and Birchington Golf Club against all claims, costs and demands made against Westgate and Birchington Golf Club arising out of, or in connection with, the use of the golf buggy.

Signature of User: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Club Official: _____ Date: _____