

CHESTER-LE-STREET GOLF CLUB

Buggy Policy – Revised January 2022

Introduction

Chester-Le-Street Golf Club (CLSGC) permits the use of buggies on the course by members and visitors. The club reserves the right to impose restrictions on the use of buggies under certain circumstances.

The club offer for hire a limited number of buggies, subject to availability. It is advisable to book these in advance as there is no guarantee of availability. Use of hire buggies is subject to the conditions contained within this policy.

Priority of use for available buggy hire will be allocated as follows:

- Disabled members (registered with CLSGC and who meet the terms of disability under the Equality Act 2010)
- Disabled visitors (with a valid medical certificate and/or Blue Badge)
- Members with a temporary medical certificate
- Other members
- Other visiting players

The club also permits the use of members and visitors own personal buggies. Use of personal buggies is also subject to the conditions contained within this policy. **It is recommended that members receive advice from the club prior to purchasing their own transportation.**

The purpose of this document is to:

- Establish the criteria for safe buggy use by disabled golfers
- Establish a standard for the safe operation of all buggies operated at CLSGC

Disabled Golfers

Due to disability (as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010), CLSGC acknowledges that some members or visitors may not be able to play golf without the use of a motorised buggy. In order to enable these golfers to have maximum access to the course at CLSGC, the club has introduced this policy to address the issue of making “reasonable adjustments” to enable them to do so wherever reasonably practicable.

If the general use of buggies is prohibited specifically for the purposes of “course protection” due to adverse weather or terrain conditions e.g. water logging, surface water, frost, ice etc. (not an all- inclusive list) the club may permit disabled players (providing they have registered their disability with the club) to use a personal, individual motorised buggy on some or all of the course *providing it is safe to do so*. Prior to this concession being granted, an individual risk assessment will to be carried out for the

relevant member and their buggy. It is expected that all private buggies will be in good working order and maintained according to the manufacture's guidance.

However, if the use of buggies is prohibited for safety reasons, whereby the use of any type of buggy on the course may present a significant risk to either the driver or other people e.g., overturning, becoming bogged down, risk of impaired vehicle control including slipping or sliding then the judgement will apply equally to all players, regardless of status as disabled.

Buggy restrictions may be applied to the whole or parts of the course at the Course Keeper's (or his representative) discretion based upon a course inspection which will be carried out *at least once daily*. In some circumstances, if general buggy use is prohibited, but concession use is permitted, only parts of the course may be accessible. Course restrictions will be communicated via a telephone answer phone message, the Intelligent Golf app and by appropriate signage at the club itself.

There are four possible options:

- Buggies are permitted on the whole course
- General buggy use is prohibited but concession use for players with disabilities is permitted
- General buggy use is prohibited but concession use for players with disabilities is permitted on part of the course only
- No buggies are permitted

A course 'route' guide for disabled users of buggies during periods of general buggy prohibition will be available at the Pro Shop (see Appendix 3) and the designated route must be followed and not be deviated from.

Registering a Disability with Chester-Le-Street Golf Club

In order for CLSGC to permit a disabled person to use a buggy on the course at times of buggy prohibition (other than for safety reasons), the member must have previously registered their disability with the club by submitting the appropriate medical certification from their GP (see appendix 1) which confirms that they qualify as "disabled" under the terms of the Equality Act 2010.

Members who have a medical condition, injury or impairment which temporarily or permanently prevents them from playing golf without the use of a ride on motorised buggy, but who are NOT covered by the Equality Act 2010 (disability) must also have produced a valid medical certificate to this effect (see appendix 1). However, the concessions for using a buggy during periods of general buggy prohibition will not apply in their case.

In the case of disabled visiting players, they must produce, no less than two days before play, a medical certificate (letterheaded) completed and signed by their registered medical practitioner (GP or Consultant). This must state that they are unable to play golf without the use of a motorised buggy, the period of time this will be required and any medication they take which may impair their ability to operate a buggy.

If the relevant certification has not been produced or the required medical criteria has not been met, the club reserves the right to refuse permission to allow the use of a personal ride on motorised buggy during times of prohibition.

The club reserves the right to withdraw authorisation if the disability, medical condition, injury, or impairment necessitating the use of a ride on motorised buggy ceases, or if the conditions of its use are not complied with.

Golf Buggy Safety

The club has a duty of care to all users of the course. The topography of some areas of the course is such that caution, and prudence must be demonstrated by the user of a ride on buggy, particularly in some challenging weather or course conditions. It is also necessary for the club to provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers, including those using buggies. Additionally, the club has to ensure the safety of golfers who are not using buggies, but who may be at risk from a mechanically defective ride on buggy, its careless use, or any incident involving the use of a ride on buggy e.g., slipping, sliding, overturning, or bogging down. This duty of care also extends to members of the public using any rights of way.

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

- Ride on buggies are only to be used by members, green fee-paying visitors, competition entrants or other persons authorised by the Secretary or Professional.
- Any member or visitor hiring a course buggy from CLSGC must sign the Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form (see Appendix 2) available from the Club Professional.
- Any member or visitor wishing to use their own personal ride on motorised buggy on the course at CLSGC must produce a valid certificate of Indemnity Insurance for the use of that vehicle. Members must lodge the certificate with the Club Secretary. Visitors must show the certificate to the Club professional or Club Secretary before using the buggy on the course.
- At times of buggy prohibition, only players authorised to use a ride on buggy by virtue of valid medical certification will be permitted to do so, providing the prohibition is not on the grounds of safety when all buggy use will be prohibited regardless of medical status. On these occasions the buggy user must adhere to the designated route (appendix 3) available from the Pro Shop.
- At times of buggy prohibition, use is granted to aid in travelling the course, walking from the allocated route of travel to where your ball lies is **still** required.
- Ride on buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians and other buggy users. Pedestrians must be afforded right of way at all times.
- The signs and instructions employed on the course to warn buggy riders of potential hazards, danger areas or areas forbidden to ride on buggies because of concerns about safety or the potential to cause unacceptable damage to the course, must be followed at all times.

- 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, ramps, bridges, or pavements.
- Ride on buggy operators will be responsible for the security of the ignition keys for the period that the buggy is on Golf Club owned property.
- CLSGC has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of ride on buggies on or beyond the confines of the course and the club car parks, other than those operated by their servants or agents. The club will therefore accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to property or person, other than that arising from the negligent use of a ride on buggy by their servants or agents.
- The buggy must never be operated at what could be construed as an excessive speed. Any specific speed limits must be observed.
- Ride on buggies shall only be used during daylight hours or, if in the car park area, when full street light illumination is turned on. During the winter a personal buggy is used not be before sunrise.
- Buggies must not be operated in any prohibited areas.
- Operators must observe all signage, comply with common "rules of the road" and proceed with caution at intersections and corners.
- The Secretary, Course Manager, Greenkeeping staff and Professional has the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a ride on buggy. Application for reinstatement must be made to the club before future buggy operation can recommence.
- Ride on buggy operators must not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and the consumption of alcohol or improper use of drugs is not permitted whilst using a ride on buggy.

APPENDIX 1

Medical Certificate



Chester-Le-Street Golf Club

Medical Certificate for completion by the applicant's General Practitioner (GP) in respect of an application for special dispensation to use a Motorised Buggy on the Golf Course.

Name of Applicant.....

Address.....

Date of Birth.....

Notes to GP:

The above-named person has applied to the Golf Club for special dispensation (for reasons of disability) to use a ride on motorised buggy on the Golf Course, including at times when the use of motorised buggies on the course are generally prohibited. The Golf Club will make this allowance only for persons who are considered to be disabled *specifically* under the terms of The Equality Act 2010 (disability), previously known as the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The general criteria for qualification under the Act are that the person has a physical or mental impairment that has a "*substantial*" and "*long term*" adverse *negative effect* on their ability to carry out *normal daily activities of living*. This may *include* difficulty in participating in recreational activities, but the inability to participate in recreational activities should not be considered in isolation when assessing whether a person is disabled under the terms of the Act.

Could you please assess the above-named person and indicate your findings by ticking the box next to the appropriate statement:

- In my opinion, the above-named person has a disability that *would* be recognised under the terms of The Equality Act 2010 (Disability) and is either unable, or would have great difficulty, in playing Golf without the use of a Ride-On Motorised Buggy.
- In my opinion, the above-named person has an injury, impairment or illness that is temporary / permanent and is either unable, or would have great difficulty, in playing Golf without the use of a Ride-On Motorised Buggy. However, this *would not* qualify them as "disabled" under the terms of the Equality Act 2010 (disabled) at the present time.

Name of Doctor

Doctor's Signature

Date

Practice Stamp

APPENDIX 2 Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement

All golfers must complete this form prior to operating a buggy

Any person who operates a ride-on buggy on The Chester-Le-Street Golf Club premises is deemed, by so doing, 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 conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed in this policy.

Name of User:

Address:

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- I have read the **Chester-Le-Street** Golf Club Buggy Policy
- I understand the terms and conditions of The Golf Club Golf Buggy 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 Chester-Le-Street Golf Club Buggy Policy
- If appropriate, I confirm I possess and have produced a copy of certified evidence that I have a disability within the meaning of Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 which disables me from playing golf without the use of a ride-on buggy
- I agree to indemnify The Chester-Le-Street Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against Chester-Le-Street Golf Club arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy.

Users of golf buggies do so at their own risk. The Chester-Le-Street Golf Club will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to the golf buggy or any other property arising from the negligence of the club or any of its servants or agents.

Signature of User..... Date.....

Signature of Professional/Club Official..... Date.....

APPENDIX 3 Chester-Le-Street Golf Club Buggy Route

1st Hole

Give way to traffic on the castle drive.

Drive down tarmac path to 1st tee.

Keep to the rough on the left of fairway to green.

Drive around back of green.

Park at 2nd tee on astro path.

If route behind green is restricted, do not take buggy past the fairway bunkers.

Exit the hole in front of the Ladies tee, park at the winter tee and walk to the tee area in use.



2nd Hole

Keep to the rough to the left of the fairway.

Do not take the buggy past the fairway bunker.

Exit the hole by driving at a 90-degree angle and walking to the 3rd tee.



3rd Hole

Keep to the rough to the left of the fairway.

Exit the hole via the gap in the fence to the left of the green.



4th Hole

Follow gravel path over bridge.

Keep buggy tight to the right hedge line and walk to tee area in use.

Keep buggy to the rough to the left of the fairway.

Exit the hole to teeing area in use.

If access is prohibited, exit the hole in front of the green to cart path behind 5th tee.



5th Hole

Keep to the rough to the left of the fairway.

Do not take the buggy past the approach bunker.

Exit the hole at a 90-degree angle.



6th Hole

Keep to the rough to the left of the fairway.

Do not take the buggy past the approach bunker.

If the 7th winter mat is in play, exit the hole in front of the approach bunker and keep to the rough to the right of the approach and green.



7th Hole

Keep to the rough on the left of the hole.

Walk to the green and exit the hole to the left.



8th Hole

Keep to the rough to the left of the fairway.

Exit the hole around the back of the green, keeping to the rough.



9th Hole

Keep to the rough to the left of the fairway.
Exit the hole to the left and use the cart path.



10th Hole

The buggy must be kept on the cart path at all times.
Walk to your ball to play your shot and return to the buggy.
Exit the hole by following the cart path to the 11th tee box.

11th Hole

Keep to the rough to the left of the fairway.
Park at the exit to the 12th tee, walk to play your shot.
Give way to traffic on the castle drive.



12th Hole

Buggy must not leave the cart path on the left side of the hole.

13th Hole

After teeing off, drive buggy behind the 12th green.

If access is prohibited, drive in front of 12th approach and over bridge to the right of the Ladies 13th tee.

No prohibited access until the approach, park to the right of the approach and exit hole.



14th Hole

Do not take buggy past the winter tee, walk to tee area in use.

No prohibited access until the approach.

Do not take buggy past the 15th winter tee, walk to tee area in use.



15th Hole

No prohibited access until the fairway bunker.

Keep to the rough right of the fairway bunker and green.

Exit the hole to the right.



16th Hole

Follow the tracks the front bunker and walk to the green.

Exit the hole to the right.



17th Hole

Keep to the rough to the right of the fairway.

Use the cart path and walk to the green.



18th Hole

Keep to the cart path and then keep to the flat area down the centre of the hole.

Park at the front left bunker and walk to the green.

Exit the course via the top exit to the members car park.



General Note

Please keep all buggies away from any greens, green surrounds, tees, and tee banks.

During winter do not drive past any blue ground ropes and walk to greens.

SAFE USE APPENDIX 1 Prior To Using A Buggy

Ensure you have been given and read:

Appendix 1 Safe Use, retained by Buggy driver

Appendix 2 Safety Policy Acknowledgement, each driver to complete a form retained by the Professional

Appendix 3 Buggy Route, retained by Buggy operator

When using a hired buggy, the following rules **MUST** be observed:

- No person under the age of SEVENTEEN may operate a buggy and no person under the age of SEVEN may be a passenger.
- No more than TWO persons and TWO sets of clubs are to be carried on the buggy.
- The driver must be familiar with the buggy controls and should apply the brakes gently to avoid skidding. The parking brake **MUST** be applied when leaving the buggy. Hands and feet **MUST** be kept inside the buggy and standing is not allowed whilst the buggy is in motion.
- Disabled members using buggies must conform to the Club's policy on restriction of play when access to the course is limited (carry bags only).
- Extra caution **MUST** be exercised when reversing, crossing bridges, or travelling on slopes and inclines. (This is of particular importance on the TENTH hole, where, as far as possible, the road should be used.)
- Buggies must be driven at an appropriate speed, using brakes, and turning the buggy in a responsible manner.
- Buggies **MUST** be kept clear of Tees, Bunkers, Green Surrounds, Greens, Wet areas, and Ground under Repair (signed GUR). They must always give way to any vehicular traffic.
- On completion of the round the buggy **MUST** be parked correctly and reconnected to the charger. The key should be returned to the Professional's shop (or Bar staff when shop is closed) and all rubbish removed to the nearest waste bin.
- Members using their own buggies **MUST** do so in a safe manner and **MUST** have the relevant insurance cover, a copy of which must be lodged with the Secretary.
- The secretary, course manager and professional have the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from operating or being carried on a ride on buggy.
- Buggy operators must not be under the influence of alcohol or improper use of drugs.
- The latest copy of the Buggy Policy is available on the Club Website.