



# Abergele Golf Club Buggy Policy & Procedure

## Contents

	Buggy Policy
<b>1</b>	Introduction & Background
<b>2</b>	Ownership
<b>3</b>	Buggy Use and Availability
<b>4</b>	Course Topography, risk assessment, duty of care
<b>5</b>	Hired Buggies
<b>6</b>	Document Revision Status
<b>7</b>	Abergele Golf Club Hired Buggy User Declaration form

# BUGGY POLICY

The aims and objectives of Abergele Golf club in regard to Buggy use on the course are outlined below.

**Abergele Golf Club aim to;**

- Comply with legislation.
- Show positive action to members and visitors regarding the safe use of buggies.
- Reduce risk and liability to users and others using the clubs' outdoor facilities.
- Increase membership opportunities to play.
- Maintain the golfing requirements of disabled and older golfers.
- Offer golf to members and visitors of all abilities.

**Abergele Golf Club objectives are;**

- That all buggy users will adhere to the Abergele Buggy procedure when using buggies.
- That the course, when open, is available for use by all, though restrictions on routes from tee to green may be imposed.

Issued by the Chair of the Green, Competition and Handicap committee – May 2024

## 1. Introduction & Background

This document defines the requirements and responsibilities of Abergele Golf Club and members/visitors regarding the use of ride on Buggies.

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all **Club and Privately** owned ride on buggies on the course at Abergele Golf Club. The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when the Club considers applications for their use, including with due regard to the Equality Act 2010.

A copy of this Buggy Policy is available to all Members and Visitors on the Club website at [www.abergelegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.abergelegolfclub.co.uk).

## 2. Ownership

The Chair of the Greens, Competition and Handicap (GCH) Committee following consultation with the GCH is responsible for the review, up-date and amendment of the Buggy Policy and Procedure.

## 3. Buggy Use and Availability

During normal weather conditions the use of Club, and privately owned ride on buggies will be permitted for casual and competition golf as authorised by GCH. However, there will be times described by the Traffic Light System (Amber, Amber Plus see section 4) where buggies will be permitted in the rough only.

At certain times the Course Manager may determine that the general condition of the Course or the weather is such that the condition of the Course may be unacceptably compromised if a ride on buggy is used (see section 4). This might apply to the whole or just part of the Course. Potentially unsuitable conditions include water logging, frost, snow etc. The Club recognises that some golfers may be unable to play, without a buggy, therefore players will be allowed to use their ride on buggy but may be required to use a specific route. Where such conditions arise, the Club will review the situation on at least a daily basis.

### **Permanent essential users and temporary buggy users**

There are members and visitors who are permanently in need of a buggy when they play golf due to various health aspects. Such players may provide evidence such as a blue badge or medical certificate, when amber or amber plus conditions are in force, this is not mandatory. This is to prevent those physical able-bodied persons denying essential users the opportunity to hire a buggy. There are occasions when players may become a temporary essential user, through injury or illness and self-declaration of such an incapacity will be acceptable prior to booking a round, when amber or amber plus conditions are in force.

Note it is permissible if an essential buggy user to share a buggy with any one other person.

Information on Course & buggy usage will be available at the Club shop/First Tee and also by reference to the club's website, or by calling 01745 824034, option 5. The Club will endeavour to ensure that restrictions placed on buggy users will be kept to a minimum.

## Privately owned Buggies

- The Club will offer a limited storage area for privately owned buggies. Application for a space within the storage area must be made to Club Office. When the storage area is full a waiting list will be maintained by the Club office.
- If a member no longer requires the buggy space, ownership will return to the Club for allocation to the next Member on the waiting list.
- Petrol containers belonging to owners of private buggies must not be left unattended in the buggy compound as per current legislation.
- Privately owned single seat buggies should be fitted with wide wheels/tyres wherever possible, in order to reduce its footprint.
- Members, guests, and visitors may bring their own single seat golf buggies provided they are insured, and must provide a copy in the insurance, as it will be driven in the AGC car park. The Club reserves the right to refuse the use of a buggy that it deems unsafe, and/or that its use would too great a risk to the long-term condition of the course or when only essential buggy users are permitted on the course.

## 4. Course Topography, risk assessment and duty of care

Abergele Golf Club does not have a buggy path and there are some areas of the course that can become dangerous during inclement weather or just after. Other areas are prone to waterlogging or excessive wear.

The Course Manager ,or staff or the Professional are responsible for determining the condition of the course in respect of use when conditions challenge safety or would be to the detriment of the golf course. To this effect and to recognise the need to provide the maximum course availability for all users, Abergele Golf Club will operate a traffic light system. The course will be reviewed daily using the criteria below.

### Key

GREEN : Normal use of buggies, driving in the rough is encouraged.

AMBER : Buggies only allowed in the rough.

AMBER PLUS Essential buggy users only in the rough.

RED : Course Closed.

BLACK Practice areas closed due to extreme weather conditions

GOLF COURSE	GREEN	AMBER	AMBER PLUS	RED
Buggy usage	Holes 1 – 18 Buggies allowed on the course	Holes 1 – 18 buggies allowed in rough only	Holes 1 – 18 Essential buggy users only in rough only*	Course closed No golf permitted
<b>PRACTICE GROUND &amp; SHORT GAME AREA</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>BLACK</b>
OPEN or CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED

\* It is possible that a short course may only be open.

## **(a.) Considerations and Restrictions**

Due to the layout of Abergele Golf Club consideration has and will continue to be given to the potentially hazardous nature of parts of the Golf Course.

During the year, ride-on buggies should, preferably, only be driven in the “cut rough.” In the WINTER period buggies should remain in the rough, or in very wet conditions driven through the trees, using the 90-degree rule to cross fairways. Ride-on buggies are not permitted within 10 metres of any green, between green and greenside bunkers, bunkers, water hazard or tee except when using a pathway, which should be used wherever possible.

During wet weather, amber, amber plus conditions, and the ground is sodden, essential buggy users must drive in the rough and /or through the trees and carefully negotiate slopes and wet terrain.

## **(b.) Course Risk Assessment for Each Hole**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Hole – Medium**

Players are to avoid entering the ditch in front of the first tee, buggies should be kept 5 metres from the ditch edge and care taken when using the bridge to cross the bridge.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Hole - Low**

The rear of the green has a steep slope, all buggies are to be 10 metres from the green at all times.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Hole – Low**

The green apron and sides are steep. Buggy users should keep more than 10 metres from the green and avoid driving to the south of the green, the left side when playing from tee to green.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low**

Buggies should be stabled/parked behind the 3<sup>rd</sup> green and not driven close to the slope by the third tee.

Players should call on the group behind if they show intent to drive the fourth green whilst players are on the green.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low**

Buggy users should remain on the right-hand side of the fairway to avoid balls from the fourth tee.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low**

Buggy users should avoid the left-hand side of the fairway and rough due to potential conflict with those players driving off the seventh tee,

### **7<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low**

Buggy users should be aware of players driving from the fourteenth tee and keep to the left rough.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low

This green has steep slopes to the sides and the rear; buggies must be kept 10 metres from all greens. There is a ditch to the left of the fairway and buggies should be kept 5 metres from the ditch.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low

There is a long mound to the left of the fairway buggy users are prohibited from driving on the mound.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Hole - Medium

There are three areas of water on this hole buggy users are to remain 10 metres away from all watercourses

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Hole – Low

This green has steep slopes to the front and the right of the green. Buggy users are to remain more than 10 metres away from the green.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Hole - Medium

The white tee and surrounds are steep, there is water to the left of the green and the rear of the green has a steep slope. All buggy users are to remain more than 10 metres away from all such hazards.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Hole – Low

A steep sided green all buggy users to remain 10 metres away from such slopes.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low

Buggy users need to be aware of players driving from the seventh tee.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low

Tee and green has steep slopes, all buggy users to remain 10 metres away from such slopes.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Hole - Low

The left-hand side of the green has a steep slope, all buggy users to remain 10 metres away from such slopes.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> Hole - Medium

There are very steep slopes to the sides and rear of this green; these can be wet and slippery. Buggy users must use the designated buggy path to the right and rear of the green which goes through the woods.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> Hole - Medium

Access to the 18<sup>th</sup> tee is via the designated path to the right of the 17<sup>th</sup> green only. To the left of the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway and past the oak tree to the right of the fairway are very steep slopes. Buggy users must avoid these slopes and use the designated buggy path to the rear of the right-hand oak tree. There is a ditch short of the green, there are three possible bridge points, care must be taken using these crossing points.

#### Practice Ground – Medium

Access to the practice ground is via concrete bridge in front of the first tee and the main driveway used by customers of the Castle. Care must be taken to avoid motorists and buggies driven as per rules of the road contained in the Highway Code.

#### Short Game Area & Practice Nets – Low

Situated to the west of the ditch in front of the first tee, there is a concrete bridge with sufficient width to gain access to the facility.

#### Duty of Care

The Club and buggy users have a duty of care to all on the golf course. The topography of certain areas of the course is such that caution and prudence must be shown by the user of a ride on buggy. It is also necessary for the Club to provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers including those given permission to use buggies.

All potential users of ride-on buggies (members and visitors) shall comply with the following conditions:

- 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 always.
- 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 laneways or paved areas.
- Ride on buggy operators will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy is hired or on the property owned by the Club.
- Ride on buggies shall be used only between course opening hours and dusk, or when deemed allowable by an AGC official. (i.e. Course Manager ,or staff or the Professional, or Chair GCH, or General Manager or AGC Director, this list is not exhaustive)
- Operators must stop the buggy at blind intersections and proceed with caution.
- Drive slowly downhill and set brake when stopped.
- No person under the age of seventeen (17) to operate a buggy.
- Club buggies must be driven within the boundaries of Abergele Golf Club and Users will be responsible at all times for the security of the ignition keys to buggies, supplied to them by Abergele Golf Club. Users are not allowed to remove the buggy from Abergele Golf Club property.
- Abergele Golf Club has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of ride on private or hired buggies beyond the confines of the course and the club car-parks other than those operated by their servants or agents.

- Abergele Golf Club officials ((i.e. Course Manager ,or staff or the Professional, or Chair GCH, or General Manager or AGC Director, this list is not exhaustive) have the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a ride on buggy. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the GCH.

## 5. Hired buggies

### **During or after inclement weather buggies may be restricted to essential users only.**

#### **Before use**

Users must:

- Sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form (appended to this document) before they are allowed to drive a buggy at Abergele Golf Club.
- Ensure that they are familiar with the buggy controls and the constraints of buggy use and report any faults or issues as and when they become known.

#### **During use**

Users must:

- Not exceed the maximum number of people the buggy is designed to carry; all must be authorised by Abergele Golf Club.
- Not remove the buggy from the course or Club car Park.
- Always remain seated with hands, feet and head kept inside the buggy whilst the buggy is in motion.
- Buggies shall be kept a minimum of 10 metres from tees, bunkers and greens wherever possible.
- When course status is Amber, Amber Plus, keep to the conditions of Section 4.
- Adhere to any additional restrictions that may be in place on the day.
- Not drive the buggy in tight circles anywhere on the golf course or into the deep rough.
- Check the area behind the buggy before reversing.
- Apply the parking brake before leaving the buggy.
- Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic as well as environmental factors that may affect their ability to operate the buggy safely.
- Drive the buggy no faster than the terrain and safety considerations allow.
- Not drive the buggy directly up, down, or across sharp slopes to avoid the risk of it tipping over.
- Execute all turns at reduced speeds.
- Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction to prevent loss of control or damage to grass.
- Take extra care in strong winds and/or when the course is wet or frosted.
- Whilst looking for golf balls park the buggy and dismount. Under no circumstances shall the buggy be driven up and down, around and around in an attempt to look for golf balls.
- When the vehicle is left unattended, switch off ignition and engage the parking brake.



## 6. Document Revision Status

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
1.0 Draft	27.9.23	Draft issue for group discussion.
1.1 Draft	21.10.23	Author, general updates.
1.2 Draft	13.11.23	Author & GCH (IL & MC) comments incorporated.
1.3 Draft	16.11.23	Author & GCH (I. Lawlor) comments incorporated.
1.4 Draft	23.11.23	Author & Directors (TC) comments incorporated.
1.5 Draft	8.12.23	GCH & Directors (KH) comments incorporated.
1.6 Draft	10.1.24	GCH (NE) comments incorporated.
1.7 Draft	13.2.24	Author, Seniors & GCH (SR) comments incorporated.
1.8 Draft	21.2.24	GCH (NE) comments incorporated.
1.9 Draft	28.04.24	GCH amendments
1.10 Draft	26.05.24	GCH amendments, Director amendments
Issue 1 Final	28.05.24	Issued to Members

## 7. Form

### Abergele Golf Club Hired Buggy User Declaration form

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I understand AGC will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property by buggy usage other than that arising from the negligent use of a ride on buggy by their employees or agents.</li> <li>2. I agree that I am the sole driver of the buggy (unless two people sign) and no-one under the age of 17 may use the buggy.</li> <li>3. I agree to use the buggy in a responsible and safe manner at all times and declare I will remain drug and alcohol free for the duration of my round.</li> <li>4. I agree to operate the buggy with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians and to grant their right-of-way always.</li> <li>5. I agree to keep to paths where available and to abide by all buggy signage on the course and any temporary routings as advised by the Pro Shop.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. I agree to STOP and check it is safe to cross the road when driving from the 1<sup>st</sup> green to the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee.</li> <li>7. When conditions are wet/as advised by the Pro Shop, I agree to NOT drive on the fairway and to keep the buggy in the rough and to walk 90 degrees to/from my ball.</li> <li>8. I agree to keep at least 10 metres from all greens, bunkers, tee-boxes and ditches/ponds unless there is a designated path, and agree to maintain maximum possible distance from all such features where 10 metres is not feasible due to topography.</li> <li>9. I agree NOT to drive on any steep slopes, such as above the 17<sup>th</sup> green, the left-hand side of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and to use the buggy path down the 18<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>10. I understand that any improper usage may result in buggy use suspension and future buggy use would be at the discretion of AGC.</li> </ol>
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#### Declaration:

I confirm I have read, understood and agree to comply with all the above conditions at all times. I agree to return the buggy, undamaged, and litter-free, and that I am responsible for it's safe-keeping until returning the key to the Pro Shop.

Name .....	Name .....
Date .....Buggy No.      Key No.....	Date .....Buggy No.      Key No.....
Name .....	Name .....
Date .....Buggy No.      Key No.....	Date .....Buggy No.      Key No.....
Name .....	Name .....
Date .....Buggy No.      Key No.....	Date .....Buggy No.      Key No.....
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