



The Machrihanish Golf Club

Dear Member,

Following the First Ministers update on Thursday 21st May, I am writing to provide the guidance we have been given to re-introduce golf as part of the Government's Phase 1 relaxed restrictions. These guidelines have been prepared in consultation with Scottish Golf, the Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland. We urge everyone to be respectful of the preliminary guidelines and to apply good individual judgement, to ensure that in time we can move to a fully phased reintroduction of the game as we all know and love.

Although the course will be open from Friday 29th May, with the Professional there to act as starter only, to ensure the tee times/social distancing guidelines are adhered to, the shop will remain closed and there will be no other facilities open at the club. We cannot stress enough how important it is that tee times must be booked in advance to ensure the safety of our members and staff in the Pro shop.

While the club has been closed, we have had all of the portacabins, ladies locker room and Pro shop professionally disinfected. We have also adapted the holes so that the ball is retrieved using your club. I would also like to remind you that at this time there have only been 2 greenkeepers out on the course with one other coming off of furlough last week to keep the course maintained, the others are still on furlough for the time being.

For those people that did not get the chance to collect their clubs or trollies before the lockdown, the locker rooms will be open for next week only on Monday - Friday between 9-3pm. Please note that while collecting clubs/trollies the physical distancing measures will still be in place and it will be on a one in one out basis.

The course will be open for Membes only. You will be able to play as an individual or as a 2-ball, with household members or with a non-household member so long as they adhere to the Government's physical distancing rules. During phase 1 there will be no competitions.

Also a reminder to ensure the social distancing in the car park there is the car park at the rear of the portacabins, with access through the village. Willie Ross has also received permission for us to use the car park behind the Ugadale Hotel.

To ensure the safe return to golf in Scotland, golfers should adhere to the guidelines:

Before your round:

- Travel to the golf course from your home must be in line with Scottish Government guidelines – in phase 1 local travel is noted as broadly 5 miles from home.
- If you are in the highest risk (shielding) group outlined by the Government, then you should stay at home.

- If you are ill or have any symptoms of COVID19 then stay at home.

- Tee times MUST be booked in advance. Under no circumstances should you arrive at the club without booking in advance.

- Ensure you have enough golf balls, tees etc. as the facilities at the Golf Club will be closed

On the course:

- Do not arrive at the first tee more than 5 minutes before your allotted tee time.

- Always observe social distancing rules on the course.

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

- Following play of a hole, do not enter the next teeing area until the all members of the

and you should not exchange equipment with other members.

- Aim to arrive at the Club no more than 15 minutes prior to play.

- Park your car in such a way as to facilitate physical distancing.

- Change your shoes in the car park

group in front have played their tee- shots and exited the teeing area.

- Do not share equipment, food or drink with other players during your round.

- Do not use on-course water fountains, ball cleaners etc.

- Do not touch the flag or flagstick. Putt with the flagstick in and remove your own ball from the hole. Remember not every putt needs to be holed out in casual golf.

After your round:

- Return directly to your car, change your shoes, put your equipment in your car and leave. Do not store your equipment in your locker.

In addition, following guidelines should be observed:

- Use toilet facilities at home before you leave.

- Bring your own hydration / food to the course.

- Bring your own hand sanitiser to the course and use regularly during the round

I hope you are all safe and well and I would like to thank you all for your continued support and patience at the time.

Kind regards,

Willie Livingstone

Willie Livingstone
Captain