



## FLAGSTAFF HILL GOLF CLUB INC.

# EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

MARCH 2015

### BACKGROUND

This policy is developed in accordance with the Club's duty of care towards players and staff and is to be enforced in any of the extreme weather situations detailed below:

### POLICY

#### 1. Extreme temperature (heat)

The club administration RECOMMENDS that members and visitors DO NOT play under conditions of high temperatures.

Any person who plays in high temperatures does so at their own risk.

It is generally not the policy of the club to close the course due to extreme heat, however **in the event that the temperature recorded on the thermometer outside the clubhouse is in excess of 38°C, the following will apply:**

- 1.1. The competition of the day will be terminated and all players entered, who have not completed their round, will be entitled to a refund of their competition fee. Refer to the "Cancelled or Suspended Play Policy" for handling of the competition for those having completed their rounds.
- 1.2. Those players who commenced their round prior to the temperature reaching 38°C, and who continue at their own risk, will still be eligible for inclusion in the competition of the day.
- 1.3. **Ride on buggies and carts will NOT be permitted to tee off after 8.30am on any day that the forecasted temperature is 39°C or more, for Noarlunga per the Bureau of Meteorology at 7am on the morning of play.** In hot, dry conditions, ride on buggies are to be driven in the rough only.

#### 2. Lightning – Discontinuance of play

The following people are authorised to determine if the competition is to be cancelled or suspended for a determined period of time, providing that those persons are located at the clubhouse at the time of the decision.

Club Manager, Club Professional, Professional Shop Staff, any member of the Match & Greens Committee or Board of Management.

If lightning in the area of the Golf Course presents as a danger then the rules of golf concerning lightning will be enforced (refer to the "Cancelled or Suspended Play Policy"). The authorised person will refer to the 30/30 rule as per the recommendations detailed below:

#### **Recommendations for Lightning Protection**

(from Michael Makdissi and Peter Brukner, Medical Journal of Aust 2002; 177 (1); 35-37)

The "30 / 30" rule is recommended for lightning safety and serves as a guide for the suspension and subsequent resumption of activity.



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The first part of this rule (a flash to bang count of 30 seconds) is a guide to the *suspension* of activity. The flash-to-bang count is one of the most practical techniques for estimating the distance to lightning activity. Given that sound travels at a speed of about one kilometre every three seconds, the time elapsed between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder can be divided by three to give a measure of how far away the storm is in kilometres. For example, if the time elapsed between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder is 30 seconds, then the lightning is approximately 10 kilometres away and activity should be suspended.

The second part of the 30/30 rule provides criteria for *resumption* of play. Here it is recommended that people wait 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning or sound of thunder. This figure is based on the observation that a typical storm moves at about 40 kph, thus waiting 30 minutes allows the thunderstorm to pass and travel 10 – 20km away, minimizing the probability of a nearby strike. It is important to emphasise that blue skies and lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 30 minute return to play rule.

Only those listed as a Club authorised personnel, present at the clubhouse, and having applied the 30/30 rule adequately, may direct the resumption of play.

### **Notification of Decision:**

Players are to be notified of the state of play by way of the following sirens:

- **One 10 second long blast** will be sounded on the siren to SUSPEND play. Players to cease play, mark & lift your ball & briskly return to the Clubhouse or a point of safety.
- **Two 3 second short blasts** on the siren to RESUME play. Refer procedure under rule 6-8 (d).
- **Three 3 second short blasts**, will be sounded on the siren to indicate that play has been CANCELLED.

**Any player who continues to play once play has been suspended or cancelled will be DISQUALIFIED, per Rule 6-8(b).**

### **INFORMATION FOR PLAYERS IF CAUGHT IN A LIGHTNING STORM**

- 50% of people struck by lightning in the world are golfers
- Do not put up an umbrella, because it will be a possible conductor
- Do not shelter under a tree
- Get down low, Crouch on the balls of your feet (reduces your contact with the ground)  
OR
- Sit on an insulating material, this could be your Golf Bag
- Hands should be kept on your knees rather than touching the ground
- Head to the Clubhouse as a priority, if considered safe
- Do Not use your mobile

### **3. Course Unplayable**

Refer Rule 33-2 (d)

If any of the Club's authorized persons present considers that for any reason the course is not in a playable condition or that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the game impossible, they may, in stroke play or match play, order a temporary suspension of play or, in stroke play (including par, stableford & social competitions), declare play null and void and cancel all scores for the round in question. (Refer to the "Cancelled or Suspended Play Policy").



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