**Procedures for Isle of Skye Golf Club**

The following safe golf procedures set out the basis on how golf clubs can open and provide a safe environment for golfers as outlined by the Scottish Government’s Phase 1 relaxation of restrictions. Procedures are subject to change, and we would ask all members to regularly check for updates.

**For the Golf Club to open we must firstly ensure that:**

All activity should be consistent with current guidance on health, physical distancing and hygiene – facilities members should understand we should also make sure they we adapt to changes in guidance at short notice.

**General Guidelines:**

* Physical distancing rules outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to.
* Members who are in the highest risk (shielding) group outlined by the Government should stay away from the golf club.
* Members with colds or any symptoms of COVID-19 should not be allowed on the premises of the golf club/ golf course.

**Preparing the Golf Course:**

* As a Club we have been permitted to carry out essential maintenance during the period of course closure. As Golf Clubs prepare to open, routine maintenance practices will be restored, with the primary consideration being to ensure staff safety.

**Tee Times and Access to Course:**

* Until advised otherwise, tee-times must be managed and booked in advance – no turn up and play is allowed. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT AS A MEMBER YOU HAVE SIGNED UP FOR THE ONLINE FACILITY – NON-MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PLAY UNTIL ADVISED.**

The following groupings will be permitted on resumption of play:

* Individual golfers
* Two ball games, with household members or with a non-household member so long as they adhere to the Government’s physical distancing rules and those individuals are agreed to playing together. **Please respect members who wish to play alone**.
* At the discretion of the golf club family groups are permitted in 3 or 4 balls, **provided they are** **from the same household** - though two names only should be recorded on the Club V1 Booking system.
* **Please ask before deciding to join a single golfer, that person may want to play alone.**

In phase 1 the booking sheet has been set up to allow

* A safe return to golf
* A return to golf with gaps to accommodate the course layout
* 38 possible players playing each day
* The sheet will be revised at anytime as advice changes and/or matters arise.

**Competitive Golf**

**Competition play is not recommended in phase 1 of re-introduction. Phase1 is for members only.**

Tee booking sheets will require be kept for a period of at least 6 weeks to assist with contact tracing should the need arise.

**Clubhouse and Course set up**

* All clubhouse facilities must remain closed. Only ladies have access to the internal toilet facility. Gents have been allocated use of the normal visitors toilet on the gable end.
* The locker rooms and shop are closed
* Risk assessment – this has been carried out and is being documented.
* Physical distancing – the 2m rule applies to all these settings. The top car park should be used for parking to help prevent groups gathering near the clubhouse, with the exception of Seniors who may use the main car park.
* Workforce – please ensure that the Green-keeper has priority. Heed his instructions, allow him to work and do not approach him or ignore his requests.
* Cleaning – hand and respiratory hygiene are core measures and provision are available.
* There are to be no social gatherings.
* Pull trolleys are not be available for hire.
* Holes should are partially filled in with up the cup slightly raised to facilitate easy retrieval of golf balls.
* In general always allow priority to the 10th Tee, however if first 9 holes are played faster than allowed please use common sense to allow those waiting to start their round to tee off. In all cases wait until first green is clear before tee
* Do not arrive sooner than 15 minutes before your tee time and leave immediately after your round.
* Read all signs made available especially around the clubhouse
* Hand sanitisers are available
* Rakes are removed from the course at the 9th bunker
* Members are instructed not to touch the flag / flagstick.

**To ensure the safe return golfers should adhere to the guidelines:**

**In advance of play:**

* Travel to the golf course from your 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 COVID- 19 then stay at home.
* Schedule your tee-time in the manner prescribed. Under no circumstances should you arrive at the club without booking in advance.
* Tee group sizes are in ones or two balls except family groups from the same household
* Ensure you have enough golf balls, tees etc. as the shop will be closed - 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. Two Car parks are provided
* Change your shoes in the car park

**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 group in front have played their tee- shots and exited the teeing area. Do not tee off at the first or tenth until the group ahead of you have cleared the 1st Green
* Do not share equipment, food or drink with other players during your round.
* Do not use on-course 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.

**R&A - Rules of Golf Related Matter**

**Until further notice, R&A have released the following provisions as acceptable on a temporary basis**

**Forms of Play and Scoring**

It is recommended that non-competition play is used during the initial period of golf being played, and that stroke play competitions involving players in different groups are avoided.

**Bunkers**

Preferred lies in bunkers and provide that a player may place a ball in the bunker within one club-length of the original spot and not nearer to the hole than that spot

**Flagstick**

Golfers are always required to leave the flagstick in the hole and not to touch it

As a temporary provision, the depths have been shallowed to assist ball retrieval.

In social golf, putts can always be conceded

Final notes

* The Committee reserve the right to close the course at any time with immediate effect
* Members are encouraged to report individuals who they feel have jeopardised their safety or the safety of others and beached club guidelines
* Please report any individuals playing not booked on
* Avoid warm up on the practice area
* Respect other members and friends when booking tee times in advance
* No more than two balls except family groups from the same household. Tee times MUST be booked online
* Respect speed of play norms

**We would like to thank Head Green-keeper John Cunningham for his hard work which has allowed a safe and welcomed return to golf. Without his commitment this would not have been possible.**

* + **Hole and Holed**
  + The hole liner (sometimes referred to as the hole ‘cup’) is to be set in a way that means that all of the ball cannot be below the surface of the putting green, so the ball is considered holed if any part of it is below the surface of the putting green.
  + To minimise the need to lift the ball from the hole, it is recommended that the Committee provides that a ball is holed with the next stroke if it is within 12 inches of the hole (which is just over the length of a standard putter grip). This does not prevent a player in match play conceding a stroke that is outside this length.
  + The Committee may decide to have the hole liner sitting above the surface of the green and treat a ball as holed if it strikes the liner.