



A Practical Guide to Golf at Chobham Golf Club during COVID -19

UPDATED 21ST MAY 2021

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ It will be essential that golf continues to operate in a responsible and safe way and that government advice and policy are always adhered to. See the links here for the current guidance: - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- ▶ This practical guide, prepared by our team in consultation with the R&A, England Golf and other industry and medical experts, outlines the robust, monitored measures Chobham Golf Club has taken to help safeguard our staff, members and visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guide covers a golfer's journey from home to 1st tee and back home again.
- ▶ Our measures are in place from dawn until dusk, seven days a week
- ▶ Our measures and procedures are under constant review, updated as advice from government, health authorities and governing bodies evolves in line with the frequent changes to social restrictions.
- ▶ Failure to follow this guidance may leave our club open to enforcement action from local authorities and/or police, or subject to disciplinary procedures from England Golf.

Safe every step of the way

- ▶ 1. Course Access
- ▶ 2. Booking & Arrival
- ▶ 3. Check-in
- ▶ 4. Pro Shop Protocol
- ▶ 5. Clubhouse facilities
- ▶ 6. Arriving at the First Tee
- ▶ 7. On the Course
- ▶ 8. Getting home safely



Course Access

- ▶ Access to the course will be strictly managed by the Staff.

To access the course, a player must:

- ▶ Be an active paid-up playing member of Chobham Golf Club
- ▶ Paid a Green Fee in Advance
- ▶ Not be in a period of self-isolation
- ▶ Not be displaying any symptoms of COVID-19
- ▶ Have a pre-booked tee time on our tee booking system

Booking and Arrival

- ▶ Booking a tee time in advance is compulsory – via website, app or phonenumber
- ▶ There will be no restrictions on the number of tee times a Member can book over a 7-day period. However, Members can only book one tee time a day for themselves and all playing partners names need to be entered at time of booking, where possible.
- ▶ Tee Time bookings by Members can be made 7 days in advance from 7am.
- ▶ Monday to Sunday tee times will be available for up to 4 players at 8-minute intervals.
- ▶ Tee times can be booked for 18 holes off the 1st tee and 9 holes from the 10th tee for the first hour and 15 minutes.
- ▶ All Members and Visitors who enter the clubhouse or sit outside on the patio are required by law to register their arrival – either via the QR code or via the Pro Shop register
- ▶ Member's may bring guests to play with them but must be booked on the tee sheet in advance.
- ▶ Casual visitors may book tee times 48 hours in advance. They will be able to play anytime Monday – Friday, subject to availability and only after 2pm at weekends. All green fees and names of players must be given and paid at time of booking via 01276 855584 or online.
- ▶ We require all non-member players to provide a phone number to enable contact tracing and all details will be held securely under GDPR regulations.
- ▶ All golfers will be made aware of our measures prior to playing.
- ▶ Golf equipment should be washed before a player leaves home.
- ▶ If you are parked next to another car please make sure when you get out of your car you are applying social distancing measures
- ▶ Observe social distancing at all times

Check in

- ▶ Mandatory check in at the Pro Shop for all golfers. Only those named on the tee sheet will be permitted to play.
- ▶ Please arrive at the 1st tee 10 minutes before your tee time
- ▶ Sanitised Buggies are available for hire and sharing of buggies is now permitted but users should exercise caution and consider risks associated with Covid-19.
- ▶ Buggy keys can be collected from the Pro Shop.
- ▶ Buggies will not be hired out for 18 holes after 1pm any day of the week due to clubhouse closure. Please liaise with Pro shop.
- ▶ The Putting green is open. The Flags have been removed and Player's practicing must observe social distancing measures.

Pro Shop

- ▶ Entry to the Pro Shop is via the front door of the clubhouse, a one-way system is in operation and you leave through the Pro Shop door, social distancing to be observed if queueing.
- ▶ Face Coverings for customers are required to be worn when in the Pro shop as per Government legislation.
- ▶ Two-metre queue markers from the front door are in operation
- ▶ Sanitising stations as you enter and leave the Pro Shop are available and should be used
- ▶ Service from the Pro Shop desk will be from behind Perspex protective screen
- ▶ Preferred method of payment is by Credit, Debit or Levy card and contactless if possible
- ▶ Returned goods will be stored separately for 72 hours before going back onto the shop floor
- ▶ A 'Click and Collect' service will remain in place for outside shop hours and for those customers not wanting to come into the shop
- ▶ Sanitised trollies and buggies are available for hire. No hire clubs available.
- ▶ Club repair service available via Michael Harrison

Clubhouse Facilities

- ▶ The Office is open for any member queries
- ▶ The Patio will be open for Food and Drink from 12th April – Table service only and rule of 6 applies.
- ▶ No access indoors to the Bar
- ▶ Face coverings must be worn by Staff, Members, and Visitors in all indoor areas of the clubhouse.
- ▶ Access to all facilities will be operated as a one-way system – please follow signage
- ▶ Toilets will have open entrance doors and will be cleaned regularly
- ▶ Hand dryers have been disabled, with disposable paper towels provided
- ▶ The members buggy storage facility will remain in use. Only 1 person at a time may retrieve their equipment. A hand sanitise station is located by the entrance for use before and after entry.
- ▶ From 12th April Members and Visitors may now use the locker/changing rooms but the use of these facilities should be minimised, and social distancing maintained at all times. The shower areas will remain closed until 17th May. Please note clubhouse opening hours are 7am to 6pm.

Clubhouse Facilities

- ▶ The bar is open daily 10am – 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm at weekends (These timings will be reviewed weekly depending on demand and communicated to the membership of any changes)
- ▶ To access the bar, office and toilets please follow the one way system by entering through the main entrance of the building.
- ▶ Please socially distance from people not in your golfing or social group at all times
- ▶ Table service only – please remain seated at all times unless entering or exiting the area
- ▶ Inside - maximum of 6 people or 2 families per table
- ▶ Inside – please do not move any furniture without authorisation from a member of the team
- ▶ Please sit in your golfing or social group - do not join any other groups
- ▶ Only food and drink purchased from the Club can be consumed on the premises – including the patio and car park

- ▶ Face coverings must be worn by Staff, Members, and Visitors in all indoor areas of the clubhouse, as well as in Pro's Shops. Coverings may only be removed when seated in the bar and restaurant area.
- ▶ Toilets will have open entrance doors and will be cleaned regularly
- ▶ Hand dryers have been disabled, with disposable paper towels provided
- ▶ The members buggy storage facility will remain in use. A hand sanitise station is located by the entrance for use before and after entry.
- ▶ Members may now use the locker rooms and shower facilities to change

Arriving at the first tee

- ▶ Both practice nets are open but please note that if the two nets are in use by a left-handed and right-handed player, they should select their side to ensure they face away from each other and players should not exchange balls.
- ▶ The Practice ground is open, and members must use and pick up their own balls and use the sanitise stations provided. The covered area of the practice ground must be given priority to booked lessons with Michael Harrison.
- ▶ Please observe the two-meter rule on social distancing when queuing on any tee boxes
- ▶ Arrive at the first tee 10 minutes before your tee time
- ▶ Social spacing signage identifies the 1st tee waiting areas
- ▶ Any player(s) not following the measures will be asked to leave the course
- ▶ Tee off times must be strictly observed to ensure group spacing

On the Course

- ▶ Social distancing to be observed throughout, particularly on tees and greens
- ▶ Ball washers are out of use and covered over
- ▶ Bunker rakes have been removed, players to smooth sand with feet or club after your shot
- ▶ Players may bring their own personal rakes which should only be handled by that player and taken away at the end of their round
- ▶ Flagsticks to remain in the hole and must not be touched by hand – Special flagsticks will be in use which allows the player to lift them with a golf club
- ▶ Equipment, food, and drink must not be exchanged between players
- ▶ Players must not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball
- ▶ Players must refrain from handshakes or high fives
- ▶ Divot bins have been taken in
- ▶ Water Fountains will be out of use.
- ▶ The on-course toilet at the 14th and 6th Holes is Open
- ▶ The shoe cleaner has been switched off so is not in use
- ▶ Please ring the Bells on the course with a Golf Club

Getting Home Safely

- ▶ The Shoe cleaner will remain out of use
- ▶ Hands may be washed and sanitised in the toilets between 07.00 & 18.00
- ▶ Ensure clubs and equipment are cleaned thoroughly before arrival for your next round
- ▶ Players must call or email the General Manager sarah@chobhamgolfclub.co.uk with any post-round health issues or COVID-19 related queries, at the earliest possible opportunity

Thunder and Lightning and Fog procedure during COVID -19

- ▶ The Claxon from the clubhouse will be sounded if there is a sighting of lightning.
- ▶ All members should leave the Golf Course and return to their own cars. Please always maintain appropriate social distancing.
- ▶ A member of staff will inform you when it is safe for play to be resumed and direct you back to the appropriate hole again.
- ▶ If of course you wish to not continue then this is fine and if you could make a member of staff aware of this.

Rules of Golf

The following temporary Local Rules will be in force;

- ▶ Bunkers: When a player's ball lies in a bunker the player may take free relief by placing the original ball or using another ball and playing it from this relief area. Once the ball has been placed it cannot be replaced as it is now deemed to be in play:
 - ▶ • Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.
 - ▶ • Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: 6 inches from
- ▶ the reference point, but with these limits: Limits on Location of Relief Area, must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and must be in the bunker.
- ▶ In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.
- ▶ The area where the ball is to be placed must not be smoothed before placing. If a player fails to get out of the bunker then they are entitled to free relief again, provided the ball is in a poor lie due to the bunker not being raked.
- ▶ Flagstick: The flags are being left in the hole purely to identify the position of the hole on the putting green. Golfers must always leave the flagstick in the hole and not touch it deliberately.
- ▶ Ball Holed: The ball lifters fitted to the flagsticks do not form part of the normal challenge of playing the game and, at certain angles, the wires joining the upper and lower parts may lie on the player's line to the hole, potentially deflecting the ball and preventing it from being holed. In this situation, the lifter may be treated as a Movable Obstruction (Rule 15.2) and rotated but not lifted WITH A CLUB prior to making a stroke to obtain Maximum Available Relief.
- ▶ The player must not deliberately touch the flagstick - Penalty for breach of Local Rule; General Penalty. You can also use Rule 13.2c, if the ball is resting against the flag stick and any part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green, the ball is deemed to be holed.
- ▶ Immovable Obstructions (Rule 16): Stakes that define either an area of the course (such as penalty areas) or distances (such as distance markers) are deemed to be Immovable Obstructions and as such must not be removed. This does not apply to OOB posts which are Boundary Objects from which no relief is available other than during play of 5th and 10th holes as per scorecard. Penalty for breach of Temporary Local Rule: General Penalty
- ▶ Bird Damage: In the general area, areas of damage caused by birds are to be treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under rule 16.1b"
- ▶ Note: Smoothing of bunkers with feet or a club is permitted under Rule 12.2b(2) after the stroke is made.

Competitions

- ▶ All Competitive golf will commence from 12th April. Please refer to email communication from the Competitions committees for competition entry.
- ▶ All club matches and dinners can commence from 17th May.
- ▶ Casual scores can be submitted either online through the Clubv1 app or by emailing a card to sarah@chobhamgolfclub.co.uk

Golf Coaching

- ▶ Michael Harrison our head Professional has the following guidance in place to ensure safety of both customers and staff
- ▶ All lessons must be pre booked via the Pro Shop or Michael Harrison
- ▶ Coaching and playing lessons can take place outdoors and social distancing observed at all times
- ▶ One to One coaching is allowed in the indoor studio from 12th April
- ▶ There will be a 2-meter exclusion zone around the lesson tee/golfer that no one enters
- ▶ Michael will use an alignment stick to move a player into position, which is easy to wipe down with a sanitising wipe before and after the lesson
- ▶ Short game coaching sessions will be carried out using the golfers own golf balls