

Transportation Policy | Use of Golf Buggies

1. Aim of Policy

- 1.1. This Policy is the Transportation Policy in force at all Championships and International Matches run by Scottish Golf and sets out the circumstances in which golf buggies may be used.
- 1.2. Scottish Golf wishes to encourage the participation in golf of all players regardless of disabilities. This Policy is in accordance with any obligations which Scottish Golf has under the Equality Act 2010.
- 1.3. This Policy has been drafted specifically for Scottish Golf. Other associations and golf clubs should take separate legal advice in the event that they wish to put in place a Transportation Policy different to this policy or appropriate for their specific needs.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. “Disability” shall have the same meaning as section 6 of the Equality Act 2010. A person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
- 2.2. Any reference to “golf buggy” shall include any vehicle deemed to be a golf buggy by the Scottish Golf.
- 2.3. Any reference to “Committee” shall refer to any member of the Scottish Golf Events Department who has the responsibility for taking a decision on the use of a golf buggy and “member of the Committee” shall be construed accordingly.
- 2.4. “Valid medical confirmation of disability” shall mean a valid medical certificate from a registered general practitioner or consultant registered with the Health Professions Council that the player, caddie or other third party is suffering from a disability.

3. Persons who may use a golf buggy

- 3.1. It shall be a condition of any competition organised by Scottish Golf that players must walk at all times during a stipulated round, unless permitted to use a golf buggy by a member of the Committee, in accordance with this Policy. The penalty for a breach of this condition is detailed under the specimen Condition on pages 159 - 160 of the English edition Effective January 2016 Rules of Golf as published by R&A Rules Limited.
- 3.2. A golf buggy may be used by a player or in certain events a caddie or other third party who:
 - (a) Can provide a valid current medical certificate of disability in accordance with this Policy;
 - (b) Has requested permission to use a golf buggy by the closing date for any competition they seek to enter or in which they seek to caddie. Where the disability prevents the player from driving the buggy, he/she may nominate a third party to drive the buggy for them who must be approved by the Committee in the event that permission is granted; and
 - (c) Has obtained written permission to use a golf buggy from Scottish Golf at least 14 days in advance of play or, if this advance permission is not possible, on the day of proposed play.
- 3.3. The Committee may not without good reasons refuse a request for permission to use a golf buggy if the criteria in paragraph 3.2, above are met.
- 3.4. Where a player is under the age of eighteen years and has met the criteria in paragraph 3.2, above, a member of the Committee shall reserve the right to specify that the golf buggy is driven by another person of the Committee’s choice, in the event that a person having parental responsibility for the player is unable or not competent or qualified to do so.
- 3.5. In cases where a member of the Committee refuses to permit the use of a golf buggy then they shall inform the player of the decision, the reasons for it, and the right to appeal this refusal to the Appeals Committee in accordance with this policy.

4. Conditions in which use of a golf buggy may be permitted

- 4.1. Where a determination is made that the use of a buggy may be permitted by a player or where appropriate a caddie or other third party a member of the Committee shall have regard to the following additional health and safety considerations before granting approval for the use of a buggy at any particular time:
 - a) Any relevant weather conditions;
 - b) The topography and ground conditions;

- c) The condition of and suitability of the golf buggy; and
 - d) Any other relevant considerations which could impede the safe use of a golf buggy or impact on the safety of others.
- 4.2. In the event that a member of the Committee believes that for reasons of health and safety a golf buggy should not be used by players, caddies or third parties at a particular time they may:
- a) Refuse to grant permission for the use of a golf buggy;
 - b) Revoke any such permission in the event of new health and safety considerations having come to light since the granting of the initial permission to use a golf buggy; and shall inform the player, caddie or other third party of this decision, the reasons for it and any right to appeal this decision under this Policy.
- 4.3. It will in any event be a requirement of any player, caddie or other third party granted permission to use a buggy to read the conditions of use and sign the authorised drivers list prior to use.

5. Conditions for use of golf buggies

- 5.1. A player, caddie or other third party permitted to use a golf buggy must agree to the following terms and conditions of use as well as read the specific conditions of use and sign the authorised drivers list onsite before use:
- a) Any person operating a golf buggy must do so with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of others and in accordance with any relevant golf buggy operating guidelines;
 - (b) The Committee may require that a golf buggy must not exceed walking pace.
 - (c) A golf buggy shall be for the sole use of the player and his/her equipment, or where appropriate the caddie unless a member of the Committee has deemed that for reason of age or disability an other third party is required to drive the golf buggy;
 - (d) A golf buggy must not impede or interfere with normal pedestrians or vehicular traffic flow on roadways, ramps and pavements;
 - (e) A player, caddie or other third party who has been granted permission to use and/or drive a golf buggy must remain seated in the golf buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion;
 - (f) Drivers of golf buggies must comply with directional signs and not used prohibited areas including public highways and pavements;
 - (g) A player, caddie or other third party who has been granted permission to use and/or drive a golf buggy must accept responsibility for any losses or injury sustained as a result of his or her fault whilst using a golf buggy; and
 - (h) A player, caddie or other third party who has been granted permission to use and/or drive a golf buggy must have adequate personal and other third party insurance and must provide a copy of the certificate of insurance to Scottish Golf prior to use.
- 5.2. Failure to agree to the terms and conditions contained in clause 5.1 by signing the authorised drivers list may result in the player, caddie or other third party being denied permission to use a golf buggy.

6. Appeals Procedure

- 6.1. Any decision by the Committee refusing a player, caddie or other third party permission to use a golf buggy may be appealed by the player, caddie or other third party to the Appeals Committee which shall comprise of three members of the Committee.
- 6.2. An appeal shall be made in writing to the Appeals Committee within 5 working days of the date of the initial decision. Any written appeal request shall also include a statement by the player or caddie or other third party of the reasons why he/she is seeking to appeal the decision.
- 6.3. The Appeals Committee shall make a decision on an appeal and communicate it to the player, caddie or other third party within 10 working days of the initial appeal.

7. Urgent Appeals Procedure

- 7.1. In exceptional circumstances where a player has appealed against a decision on the day of a competition, then an Urgent Appeals Committee comprising of 2 members of the Committee and the Chief Referee present on the day of the competition will be required to take any decision regarding use of the player, caddie or other third party for a golf buggy.
- 7.2. The Urgent Appeals Committee will be required to reach a prompt decision to enable the player's use of a golf buggy where appropriate.