



**Document Title:** Playing Golf in Inclement Weather (Fog)

**Document Number:** YMOHS-008

**Revision Date:** This policy shall be reviewed as required

**Issue Date:** June 2024

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**Purpose:** As part of Yering Meadows Golf Club's commitment to providing a safe environment for members, guests, visitors, other persons, and staff, playing golf with restricted visibility due to foggy conditions is not permitted. Any member of the Pro Shop staff, in conjunction with the procedure outlined below, will decide when safety is compromised and take the necessary action to suspend play.

### 1.0 Definitions

- **Golfer:** A person playing golf.
- **Other Persons:** Golf club employees, guests, visitors, contractors, and members of the general public.
- **Fog:** Vapour suspended at or near the earth's surface (ground). Fog is caused by light winds and moist air. As the air near the ground cools overnight, billions of tiny water droplets form and turn into fog. As the sun rises, it heats the air and burns away the fog. Fog can be a thick mist.

### 2.0 Standards

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Collins Dictionary

### 3.0 Procedure

**3.1** Golfers will receive an email advising of weather conditions as soon as practicable with advanced notice that weather conditions may prevent tee times.

**3.2** Where fog is present, a warning sign located outside the Pro Shop will state, "Any Player who does not abide by the conditions of play during fog becomes wholly responsible for any damage or injuries resulting as a consequence of their actions" and may be subject to disciplinary action.

**3.3** When fog is present, it may be necessary to suspend play and/or not permit any player to commence their round. As a guide, a white sign marker will be placed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> holes on a tree approximately 200m from the rear tee. However, as fog can be present in different areas of the course and at different times, this will be used as a guide only. The cessation of play will be signalled with a single blast of the siren. For remote areas of the course, a verbal message may need to be conveyed. (Note: if visibility reduces in other areas of the course, it may also be necessary to suspend play.) The Pro Shop staff member's decision on this will be final.

**3.4** If play is suspended due to fog before it commences, players will be given a maximum delay of 30 minutes. If play does not resume within this time, players may rebook into other available time slots or choose not to play. Once the field has fully or partially started, those players yet to commence their rounds will also be given a maximum delay of 30 minutes. If play does not resume within this time, they must rebook into other available time slots or

choose not to play. Players who have already started their rounds may continue once play resumes, but if the suspension causes significant delays preventing them from reaching the 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> tees before the afternoon field hits off, they must give way, wait for a break in the field, or cease their round.

**3.5** Once cessation of play has been signalled: The Pro Shop Staff must ensure any golfers arriving at the course are prevented from hitting off until play is resumed and any players on the course have ceased playing.

**3.6** They must also ensure all course staff and all players on the course are informed that play is suspended due to fog. Work on the course may continue while play is suspended if the course supervisor determines it is safe to do so.

**3.7** Once the fog has lifted and visibility has returned to the level stated above, The Pro Shop Staff may direct that play be resumed. The resumption of play will be signalled with two blasts of the air horn. Course work (if suspended) may also be resumed under the direction of the course superintendent.

**3.8** If public bookings are cancelled due to fog, a voucher of equal value to the current booking will be issued. This voucher can be redeemed online for future bookings and must be used within 90 days.

### **3.9 Notifications Safety Siren**

- **One long blast:** Play suspended, all players MUST return to the clubhouse immediately. In the case of lightning, make their way back to the clubhouse and exercise caution while doing so. If unable to do so, find a low area, trench, or group of shrubs of uniform height.
- **Two long blasts:** Players can return to play.
- **Three short blasts:** Play abandoned for the day.

### **3.10 Trigger Point to Suspend Play:**

- Play will not commence or will be suspended if the first green is not visible from the first tee (blue tee). Play may recommence when it is visible.

## **4.0 Responsibility**

Pro Shop staff will have full authority to determine when play is suspended/resumes in the event of inclement weather.

## **5.0 Records and References**

The Golf Club's local Rules of Golf and the Club's overarching OH&S policy.

## **6.0 Procedure Owner**

Pro Shop Staff, Operations Manager, and General Manager have the responsibility for the implementation, management, annual review, and updating of this procedure.

Name: James Veitch, Operations Manager

Signed: 