

Closure of the Course – Including Lightning and Fog Policy

12.1 The only reason for course closure should be adverse weather conditions.

12.2 The Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Golf Operations Manager have authority to close the course. First assistant and Assistants will assess and only be responsible for advising the Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and/or Golf Operations Manager. If course closure has been advised it must be authorised and confirmed by the Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and/or Golf Operations Manager.

12.3 In the absence of an authorised member of staff the advice as to whether to close or re-open the course will be shared with the Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper or Golf Operations Manager by member of Range & Academy staff. Ideally with advice from a nominated Committee Member also. As in 12.2 if course closure has been advised it must be authorised by the Head Greenkeeper, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and/or Golf Operations Manager.

12.4 In the event of closure, V1 notifications should be sent where possible, indicating the time of the next course inspection.

12.5 In the event the front 9 is closed and the back 9 open a re-inspection time for the front 9 will be posted.

12.6 A log should be kept by the Golf Operations Manager noting course closure dates and the reason.

12.7 The primary reason for course closure will likely be temporary water on general playing areas and greens, or fog.

The course will be assessed, and/or reinspected in line with the R&A's rule 6E (Suspensions and Resumptions) and 16.1 (Abnormal Course Condition). These are described in more detail below. A summary of their application for course assessments here at Hagley GC is:

When the course is assessed and/or reinspected after heavy rain; if there is water that cannot be removed from greens these will be considered unplayable and temporary greens used instead. If there are accumulations of water in General Areas that fall within the definition of Temporary Water in Rule 16.1 on most of the 1st, 2nd, and 9th fairways the front 9 holes will be assessed as unplayable. As players will not be able play within the rule 16b as points of full relief within the General Area are assessed as being unavailable at that time. The fairways of 10th, 18th and 16th holes will be similarly assessed to determine the back 9's status.

Detail of R&A rules for reference:

6E Suspensions and Resumptions

- Water - If all the area around a hole is covered in temporary water and it cannot be removed, in stroke play the course should be considered unplayable and the Committee should suspend play under [Rule 5.7](#).

Rule 16.1 Abnormal Course Condition

- Temporary Water - Any temporary accumulation of water on the surface of the ground (such as puddles from rain or irrigation or an overflow from a body of water) that:

Can be seen before or after the player takes a stance (without pressing down excessively with his or her feet). It is not enough for the ground to be merely wet, muddy or soft or for the water to be momentarily visible as the player steps on the ground; an accumulation of water must remain present either before or after the stance is taken.

General Area - The area of the course that covers all of the course **except** for the other four defined areas: (1) the teeing area the player must play from in starting the hole he or she is playing, (2) all penalty areas, (3) all bunkers, and (4) the putting green of the hole the player is playing.

16b Relief for Ball in General Area - If a player's ball is in the general area and there is interference by an abnormal course condition on the course, the player may take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see [Rule 14.3](#)):

- There must be complete relief from all interference by the abnormal course condition.

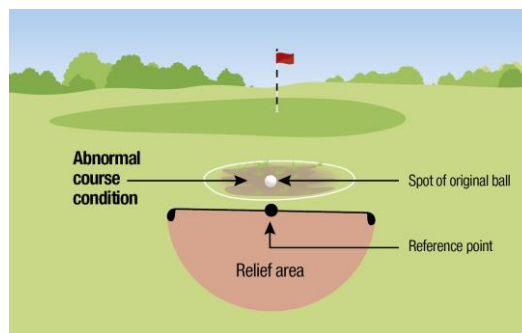


DIAGRAM 16.1b: FREE RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION IN GENERAL AREA

Free relief is allowed when the ball is in the general area and there is interference by an abnormal course condition. The nearest point of complete relief should be identified and a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area. The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and must be in the general area. When taking relief, the player must take complete relief from all interference by the abnormal course condition.

- Visibility

It is recommended that, if landing areas are no longer visible to players (for example, due to fog or darkness), play should be suspended. Similarly, if players are unable to read the line of play on a putting green due to a lack of visibility, play should be suspended. This will be judged using the marker on oak on left side of 1st tee. However, greenkeepers on other parts of the course where fog may be hazardous as landing areas are no longer visible can advise the Pro staff who will sound the horn to close the course until visibility has improved to allow play to restart safely.

12.8 Lightning Policy

Hagley Golf Club prioritises the safety of golfers during inclement weather. Weather reports and local conditions are monitored during storm warnings. Monitoring will include Initial observation of general conditions and the use of storm tracking device, weather apps and websites. If it is decided

that it is unsafe to continue to play golf as a storm approach, the Professional Shop will sound a klaxon to call all golfers off the course and into the clubhouse. If there is a risk of lightning play MUST be discontinued. Hagley Golf club is not responsible for the safety of any golfer on the course, and it is therefore your responsibility to remove yourself from any situation which you deem dangerous. If you see lightning or hear the klaxon the following will apply:

Proceed immediately to the clubhouse this is the safest places on the course.

- Do not continue to play golf and do not seek shelter under trees. Trees do not protect you from lightning.
- During competitions, if there is a lightning risk, play will be suspended and players must leave the course.
- Where play is automatically suspended on the sound of the klaxon, a player may not override the Policy decision to evacuate the course.
- Players should stop play and seek shelter any time they believe lightning threatens them, even if the klaxon has not been sounded.

Although the Club will take every precaution to ensure the safety of players during a thunderstorm, it is a player's own responsibility to discontinue play when in his/her opinion lightning is a threat. It is not always possible to monitor conditions on the entire course and players have a duty of care to themselves. They should therefore familiarise themselves with both the Club policy and the Rules of Golf.