



FROST POLICY

It is the intention of Hickleton Golf Club, to be open for play every day of the year, however the course, or parts of it, may be closed on the authority of the Course Manager, Senior Greenkeepers and General Manager/Professional, when damage to the Course would result if play were permitted and / or if conditions are deemed to be dangerous.

POLICY

When it is deemed safe for the Golfer and the Golf Green, play will be permitted on greens when the Greens are frozen solid, with no signs of a thaw.

When a frost begins to thaw, the grass plant and root structure of the greens, can be damaged. At this point, the Flags will be taken off the main greens and placed on the temporary greens until the frost is gone from the ground, to a depth considered safe by the Course Manager and the Greenkeeping team.

If a competition has started, the holes on the temporary Greens, will remain throughout the day, for consistency, and will be reassessed the following morning. Competitions may be cancelled for the day, if the intention is to place the Flags back on to main greens at some point in the day.

TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

The frost policy for the use of Buggies, Trikes and Trolleys is as follows:

- If there is a white frost, then the use of Buggies, Trikes and all Trolleys will be **RED** (Paths only), until notified otherwise.

These daily notifications will be updated via the Club Website or Membership App.

REASONS

When there is a frost, the water contained within the leaf of a grass plant turns into frozen crystals. The cells within the leaf can become bruised, punctured, or even snap with the passage of footprints or vehicles over their surface. This damage is frequently seen as black footprints or trolley lines across the course. This in due time will put the plant under stress, particularly at a time of slow growth, make it more susceptible to disease and when coming into the growing season the energy of the plant goes towards repair before turning to growth.

When there has been a heavy frost, which has gone deep into the ground, the most dangerous situation occurs during the period of thaw, when no surface evidence of frost may be apparent.

This is where the ground below the surface remains frozen whilst the top surface is soft and often extremely wet. Foot traffic, vehicle movement and trolleys on the surface may cause the top surface to move whilst the ground below remains in place thus causing the roots to shear away. This root break causes severe damage to the plant and the deep rooting needed for healthy turf development, thus again causing stress, susceptibility to disease and protracted early season development.

Damage to grass can occur anywhere on the course, from tee to green, but is more pronounced in areas subjected to frequent traffic or pinch points i.e. greens, tees, aprons and fairways.