



# BOWOOD

## **BOWOOD HOTEL, SPA AND GOLF RESORT**

### **ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Bowood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort (the Club) is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our members, guests and employees. This Policy applies to all areas of the Golf Course, the Driving Range and Practice areas and the Academy Course. The Policy details the protocols in place to provide protection against personal injury to members, guests or employees and / or damage to the Golf Course and our other facilities during adverse weather conditions.

It remains the individual's responsibility to make themselves aware of the Club's Policy as set out below relating to adverse weather conditions. This Policy applies during both general play and competitions. Members, guests and employees are expected to take reasonable steps to protect themselves and others during adverse weather conditions.

#### **2. MONITORING OF CONDITIONS**

The Club undertakes to monitor conditions whenever the Golf Course, the Driving Range and Practice areas and / or the Academy Course are open as follows:

- The Club will monitor local weather reports; and will
- Monitor local conditions during "adverse weather warnings".

When such monitoring establishes that adverse weather conditions exist, risk control through a "tiered response" will be applied.

#### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The following weather conditions are considered to be adverse weather conditions that are likely to result in steps being taken to protect players, whether members or guests, employees and the course and its other facilities: a) Lightning

- b) Fog
- c) Ice (including heavy frost) and snow
- d) Storm conditions including dangerously high winds and / or flooding
- e) Extreme heat (including humidity).

An appointed person will take responsibility for enacting the Adverse Weather Policy. The decision to act rests with the Director of Golf and designated members of his Team. In his absence, the person set out in the following Table.

<b>Adverse weather condition</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>
Lightning	Director of Golf	Golf Operations' Manager
Fog	Director of Golf	Golf Operations' Manager
Ice (including heavy frost) and snow	Director of Golf	Golf Operations' Manager
Storm conditions including dangerously high winds and / or flooding	Director of Golf	Golf Operations' Manager
Extreme heat	Director of Golf	Golf Operations' Manager

#### **4. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

In the event of adverse weather conditions, monitoring of the weather outlook will determine whether the course (and associated facilities) can be opened. The decision made will take into account the forecast and the likelihood of deterioration in conditions and the risks to players, guests, and / or employees or of damage to the course (and associated facilities). If the course and associated facilities are closed, relevant Notices will be displayed and will also be posted on the Bowood website.

If, after opening the course and facilities, conditions deteriorate such that the risk level is deemed to have become unacceptable, a decision to **suspend play** or to **close the course for the remainder of the day** may be taken by the person on site with the authority to make that decision. In the event of a sudden deterioration, players are expected to use their own judgement and are asked to stop playing immediately, rather than awaiting formal notification.

The Club's response to adverse weather conditions may include mitigation of the risks of damage to the course by adjusting permissions for the use of buggies and / or trollies, thereby allowing some play to proceed safely.

#### **a) LIGHTNING**

The course and our other golf facilities are likely to be closed in the event that a lightning storm is overhead or close by, or when the forecast indicates that an existing storm is approaching. An audible alarm (a klaxon) will be used for confirmation. One short blast on the klaxon is an indication that play has been suspended. Once that indication has been given players must cease play immediately and should not complete the hole that they are playing. In addition, employees (including the Course Ranger's Team) may be used to inform players in person.

If the course and facilities are closed due to lightning, all players should seek shelter in the club house immediately, or as quickly as is practical. If the forecast indicates that a return to play during the day is unlikely, this will be confirmed by the Director of Golf or designated deputy and the course status will be updated on the website.

#### **b) FOG**

The risk assessment relating to fog will be based on visibility from known positions. If visibility deteriorates during the day to such a point that the risk to players, guests and / or employees is deemed unacceptable, the course and facilities will be **CLOSED**. This will be confirmed by an audible alarm (a klaxon). In addition, employees (including the Course Rangers Team) may be used to inform players in person.

If it has been decided to close the course, all players **MUST** return to the clubhouse immediately. If conditions improve during the day, a review may be undertaken and where appropriate a decision to re-open the Course will be made.

#### **c) ICE (including heavy frost) & SNOW**

In the event of a significant snow fall, the Course and facilities are likely to be closed and to remain closed until the snow clears. At times of freezing weather, reasonable steps will be taken to prevent the build-up of ice on the paths and hard standings around the clubhouse and on the tarmac areas of the car parks. The potential for damage to the playing surfaces of the course and facilities due to footfall and traffic over frozen ground (including ground subject to a heavy frost), and / or standing ice where the risks to the course and facilities as well as to personnel cannot be effectively controlled, there may be a range of responses from:

- A change to temporary greens.
- A suspension of the use of buggies or trollies.
- A decision being taken to close the Course and facilities completely.

Where practical, a moderated response will be adopted so that, if possible, the Course and / or other facilities are kept open (even if only to a limited degree).

#### **d) STORM CONDITIONS INCLUDING DANGEROUSLY HIGH WINDS and/or FLOODING**

If prolonged heavy rainfall and / or high winds are anticipated ahead of the start of play, a decision will be made as to what restrictions are deemed necessary and a decision to close the Course may be taken. A review during the day may be scheduled depending on the weather forecast. The status of the Course will be advised by way of Notices and the Club website will be updated.

If restricted use of the Course, by way of a switch to temporary greens and / or the suspension of the use of buggies or trollies are required, this too will be advised by way of Notices and updates on the Club website.

If the weather conditions deteriorate during the day to the point that there is a likelihood of play becoming unsafe, or there is potential for the Course to suffer damage, a decision to close the Course may be taken. In such an event closure will be notified to players on the course by way of an audible alarm (the Klaxon). In these circumstances Players should leave the Course immediately and return to the clubhouse. They should not complete the hole that they are then playing unless given permission by an authorised member of the Course Rangers Team or the Competition Team. In such circumstances, closure Notices will be displayed and the Club's website will be updated.

#### **e) SUN, HEAT & HUMIDITY**

Prolonged periods of extreme heat, whilst infrequent, may result in heat exhaustion and dehydration in addition to the risks of UV exposure. Closure of the course and facilities during periods of sustained hot weather and / or humidity is unlikely but measures to protect players, the course and employees working on the course and facilities may be made including the following:

- All golfers and employees working on the courses and facilities will be asked and are expected to carry sufficient drinking water with them and also to apply appropriate UV protection measures (e.g. Factor 50 sunscreen, wearing long sleeved shirts and trousers, hats and caps)
- An on-course smoking ban may be introduced. If it is applied **ALL** players and employees **MUST** comply with the ban.

Players, guests and employees are all expected to consider the implications of prolonged heat and humidity on any pre-existing medical conditions that they may have and are expected to take all necessary steps to mitigate the risks to them personally.

## 5. GENERAL PLAY

If closure due to adverse weather conditions results in golfers missing their allotted tee times, every effort will be made to reschedule the booking at the soonest mutually convenient opportunity.

If a visiting golfer has started a round and the course is then closed, and a mutually acceptable tee time cannot be rescheduled for that day, a voucher for a free round may be offered.

## 6. COMPETITIONS

Adverse weather conditions will be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of Golf. Further details can be found on the R&A website (currently under Rule 5.7).

During the play of a formal competition when there is a significant risk of adverse weather conditions occurring, the following are likely to be applied:

- Suspension of play and / or abandonment of the competition.
- Suspension will be confirmed by an audible alarm (a klaxon) and / or oncourse notifications.
- If appropriate, play may be resumed, if not the decision to abandon play will be made in accordance with the Rules of Golf and by the person designated in the Table at Section 3 above.
- In some circumstances, competitors may be allowed to conclude the hole they are currently playing, if they so wish but this may only happen with the express permission of a member of the Competitions Team or the Course Rangers Team.
- In other circumstances, competitors are required to stop play **immediately** and proceed to the clubhouse. If players have stopped play during a hole, they must, in accordance with the Rules of Golf, mark the position of their ball, lift the ball, then leave the course and return to the clubhouse.
- Any player continuing to play after being instructed to cease play and leave the course immediately, or any player commencing play on the next hole (if allowed to complete the hole they were on when the audible alarm was sounded) will be disqualified from the competition.
- A competition will only be resumed as and when it is safe for that decision to be made.

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### Version Control

Date	Version number	Comments
02/02/25	Draft version 1	To be reviewed by Director of Golf and Golf Operations' Manager

Bowood Policies – Adverse Weather

(Final, approved February 2025 – Review to be undertaken in April 2025)

11/02/2025	Final version	Adopted by Director of Golf