

Ashbury Golf Course Winter Policy

'To provide the highest quality, driest and most playable parkland courses in the South West'

The following policy is to:

- Provide golf all year round-our courses never closes
- Protect the golf courses during the winter months
- Improve overall playability of the courses throughout the year
- Ensure safety of our golfers and staff at all times
- Limit damage caused by buggies, trolleys and golfers during wet and frosty weather.

The best possible winter golf will be achieved by employing the following procedures:

Winter Courses

We use specifically designed winter courses for the winter period. We boast 99 holes and therefore in quieter times we can re-arrange the standard layouts. As such we concentrate our drainage efforts through the year on the holes we will be using during this period. Thus we are providing our golfing guests with the best, driest and most free draining holes we have available.

Greens

Most of our main greens are large and many are undulating. As such the careful selection of pin placement will mean that green can be used, even after the heaviest of rainfall. These will be monitored through the day by the green keeping staff.

On days of inclement weather, folders will be available in the shop showing our action plan of pin placement in the driest areas. We do not use fairway cut temporary greens ever.

Use of winter tee mats.

The use of winter tee mats will be limited as much as possible however when they are in operation they are purpose built artificial surfaces with sleeper surrounds and a sand and rubber crumb base which allows tees will go into the area with ease. They have the "feel" of hitting off grass rather than the old style solid mats.

We will endeavour to keep the tees on the main grass tees for as long as possible in the winter months.

Buggies

All holes on all courses have buggy paths which are used at all times of year. This enables the fairways, aprons and rough to remain in the best possible playing condition throughout the year.

We may delay buggy usage on frosty mornings while the greens staff grit and salt them; this will be reviewed by the golf course manager who will decide when it is safe to proceed with buggies.

We have over 400 buggies and 100 of these are provided fully enclosed with polycarbonate screens and doors. These are available to prebook or on a first come first served basis. These we have specially invested in to improve the golfers experience in the winter period as they give shelter from the wind between holes and offer cover during rain showers.

Drainage improvements

Work is on-going throughout the year we use the latest highest spec machinery including sand bander & sand slitter for fairways, aprons and tees and our 'drill & fill' machine for our greens.

Concrete channels are in operation alongside the paths to take excess water away from the course. (This is an on-going maintenance programme)

Artificial walk on areas

These have been employed on our high traffic areas from buggy paths to greens. This is an on-going project which will be used for safety and to reduce wear.

Golfer safety and comfort

Please ensure you are wearing good quality golf shoes with well-maintained spikes. If you need new spikes we can help you change these in the golf shop. The shop also sells a good range of winter wear, waterproofs, spiked boots, gaiters etc. all at prices well below the usual RRP.

Our Course Marshalls carry tea/coffee, soft drinks, chocolate bars and biscuits for purchase.

We have around 400 heated lockers on site at Ashbury. These are FOC and will help dry out clothing and equipment before your following days round.

We will always encourage golfers to use the courses and we leave it as your decision whether to go out or not. However, if you decide not to go out or leave the golf until later – we have an 8 bay covered practice facility and a golf simulator to enjoy indoors, as well as our full range of indoor activities and facilities.

Sand bunkers

We endeavour to maintain bunkers to a high standard however in periods of poor winter weather some may need to be taken out of play. Those that are out of play are denoted by blue stakes and should be treated as GUR (Ground under repair) please take relief under Rule 25-1 (b).

Snow

In the event of snow we will endeavour to have golf available as soon as physically possible. Tee mats and greens will be cleared with shovels and blowers to allow for golf to be played. Then buggy roads will be cleared and gritted to provide safe use. In heavier conditions we will open holes on the Willows course for walkers to enjoy some target golf as our first priority, then a couple of holes on a long course, then provide a 9 hole course, then an 18....and so on as conditions allow.

Course Information will be available throughout the day 7am-6pm via the golf shop or call 01837 55453.