

Saffron Walden Golf Club

An Updated Guide to Returning to Golf During the Coronavirus (Covid 19) Restrictions.

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Playing Golf During Covid-19

Introduction

This guide has been prepared in consultation with national governing bodies and outline the robust, monitored measures Saffron Walden Golf Club will put in place to manage and maintain a safe environment for our staff and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. For golfers, the measures cover each step of the journey from home to 1st tee and back home again. At the golf courses, these measures are in place from dawn until dusk, seven days a week.

Golfers are responsible for their own health and must continue to practice social distancing as laid down by government guidelines. By obeying the social distancing rules, you should keep you, fellow golfers, family, friends safe, protecting the NHS and saving lives.

We believe that we can do this and allow golfers to enjoy the game in a safe environment which will provide mental and physical health benefits to improve the wellbeing of our members.

Our measures and procedures are under constant review, updated as advice from government, health authorities and governing bodies evolves in line with the gradual lifting of social restrictions.

1. Course Access

In the initial period following a club's re-opening, access to the course was limited to our staff and club members. With more availability members guest and visitors have been permitted at certain times.

- Not be displaying Covid-19 symptoms
- Have a pre-reserved tee time
- Not be in self-isolation
- Players in vulnerable groups, shielding or over the age of 70 should take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household
- Green Keepers will have priority on the course at all time to allow the reduces staff to prepare the course. Golfers need to be patient with our staff throughout the day to limited staff numbers

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2. Booking and Arrivals

- Booking a tee time in advance is compulsory and will only be possible as a named player, with no guest function – via website, BRS app, or phone
- Members may use the ‘Reserved’ function for the purpose of medical shielding ONLY and may not use to reserve tee times for other members.
- Bookable tee times will be available from 7:30am until two hours before sunset
- Members can book 9 holes golf between 8:00 and 8:30am from the 10th Tee by calling the golf shop.
- Members can book tee times 7 days a week at 8:00pm eight days in advance (Friday for the next Saturday)
- Playing groups may include individuals from different households as long as they remain 2 metres apart.
- Guests: Are permitted after 11:00am (£27.50 Monday to Friday, £37.50 on the Weekends)
- Visitors: Are permitted after 1:00pm (Monday to Friday only)
- Golf equipment should be washed before a player leaves home
- Golfers should travel to the club alone, or with a member of the same household
- Arrival at the course no more than 20 minutes prior to reserved tee time (or can arrive 10 minutes earlier for the chipping area.
- Observe social distancing always and resist the temptation to mingle
- Changing rooms are closed. Arrange golf attire and change footwear at the car
- Golfers must observe the one-way system to enter and exit the course to reduce the contact with other golfers.
- Report straight to the Pro Shop upon arrival to check-in please wear face coverings when using the shop

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Check-in and the Pro Shop

- All golfers to go to the Pro Shop Prior to play.
- Two-metre queue markers at the Pro Shop entrance
- Only three customers permitted inside the Pro-Shop
- A two-metre exclusion zone at the Pro-Shop Counter
- The Pro Shop is open however, golfers must follow government guidance on the wearing of face coverings.
- Card payment only, no cash accepted at the till
- Supplementary Scores will be allowed. Members must register their intention to submit a supplementary score prior to play and must post the card in the club's post box or in the pro shop after play
- Competitive golf will commence from 1st July however, this will be for medal and stableford competitions only
- The Practice Ground is open for pre-reserved sessions bookable by calling the pro shop. The putting green and nets will be open limited to three people per area. The chipping green can be used before checking in at the Pro Shop before your round
- The practice chipping green is open to golfers before their round and for member practice. Golfers must ensure they always follow government guidance on social distancing .



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3. Clubhouse Facilities

- Clubhouse access is limited to the Pro Shop and toilets in the clubhouse entrance hall
- The office is open however, please knock on the door and wait to be seen
- Toilets will have open entrance doors and will be cleaned regularly
- No towels will be provided
- Changing rooms will remain closed
- Access to the Bar and Patios will be restricted to golfers after their round and pre booked tables only
- Sanitised trollies and buggies are available for hire, single person use only
- Players to arrive in golf attire and change shoes at the car



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Bar and Catering

- For tee times between 7:30am and 2:00pm pre-orders of food and drink can be placed via the Pro Shop when you arrive before your round, the menu will be on display in there.
- You can also order by emailing during your round from the course to catering@swgc.com, giving your tee time and swipe card details, (and you may want to photo the menu before you start off)
- Once you have finished playing golf please leave the course in the one-way system as usual back to the car park
- To get to the patio then follow the one-way system through the entrance foyer and straight out of the back door. This will be clearly marked.
- Please wait to be seated by a member of staff or when your table is clearly ready for you and please stay at your table, as the bar area is restricted to staff and it is table service only
- Six tables have been allocated based on tee time (ie 00, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50). Your table will become available 4 hours after your tee time and will be accessible for the next 50 minutes after that. This will allow staff time to clean it before the next group. (For example, if your tee time is 10:00, your table 00 would be available at 14:00 – 14:50).
- Members may be permitted to stay longer if a table is available on the patio or in the clubhouse. This will be at the discretion of the Bar and Catering team if it is safe to do so.
- Additional tables are bookable by calling to catering department
- A reduced food and drink menu will be available throughout the day.
- Additional orders will be taken at your table with the food and drink delivered to the table.
- We are aiming to be cashless and ask members to top up their swipe cards in advance or using contactless payment methods.
- After you finish Golfers will then leave the patio following the one-way system around the top end of the clubhouse back into the car park.

To ensure all golfers can get a drink at the end of their round the pace of play on the golf course is extremely important. Therefore, we aim to have all golfers complete their round in four hours. To do this, golfers MUST follow the ready golf rules below.



Welcome Back!

We are serving on the patio only



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4. To the First Tee

- Groups restricted to 3-balls at 10-minute intervals, equating to 12 golfers per hour
- Chipping green, Putting green and practice net are open to booked golfers only and just prior to tee off, limited to 3 players, with holes turned upside down to reduce contact with them or players to use tee pegs as targets. Players practicing must observe physical distancing
- Arrive at the 1st tee no more than 5 minutes prior to the reserved tee time
- Players must observe 'Social Distancing' and must not gather in groups.
- Social spacing signage identifies the 1st tee waiting areas
- Any player(s) not following 'Social Distancing' will be asked to leave the course
- Tee off times must be observed to ensure minimum 10-minute spacing



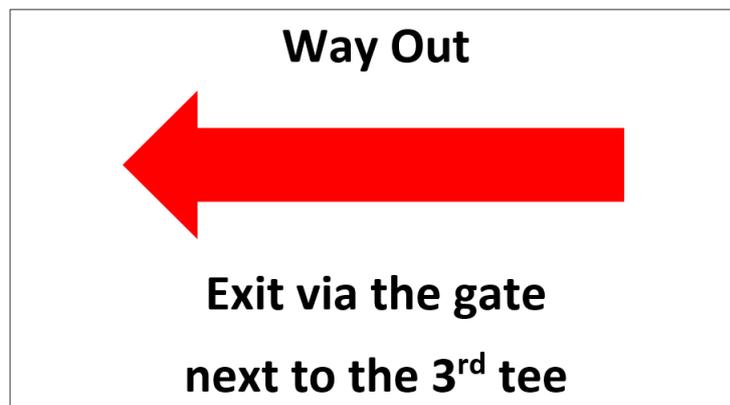
5. On the Course

- Physical distancing observed throughout, particularly on tees and greens
- Social spacing signage identifies waiting areas on tee box approaches
- Rubbish bins are available at the Halfway house however please take all your litter home with you
- Divot bins all removed
- Ball washers removed or covered over
- Bunker rakes removed, players may use preferred lies in the bunkers as per the local rule posted on the Pro Shop Entrance.
- Par three holes are optional call up holes to avoid player congestion on the tee
- Flagsticks to remain in the hole and must not be touched
- Once a hole is completed, the group in front must have exited the tee box before players can progress to the next hole
- Do not double back to play again if a ball is lost, unplayable, or in a penalty area
- Equipment, food, and drink must not be exchanged between players
- Players must not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball
- Players must refrain from handshakes and high fives
- All golfers must walk in from the course 30 minutes prior to sunset



6. Getting Home Safely

- After your round all players using the bar must return straight to their cars via the one-way system from the 18th green to the carpark by the gate next to the 3rd tee.
- Changing Rooms cannot be accessed to store belongings
- Hands may be washed and sanitised in the toilets
- A staff member will be on-site until 8:00pm each day
- Shoe and Trolley cleaning areas will be closed, golfers should ensure clubs and equipment are cleaned thoroughly after use
- Players must call or email gm@swgc.com with any post-round health issues or COVID-19 related queries, at the earliest possible opportunity



7. Staff Safety

Pro Shop Team

The front of house Pro Shop team manage all customer-facing aspects of the golf club. Our extensive measures ensure their safety, along with club members, guests, and visitors.

- One staff member present in the Pro Shop at any one time
- Staff provided with PPE, masks, and gloves, to wear on-site
- Staff trained in importance of hand hygiene and cough etiquette
- Hand sanitiser and cleaning solutions provided at the service desk
- Staff to always remain at least two metres from customers
- Work areas and contact points are cleaned and sanitised regularly
- please wear face coverings when using the shop

Course Maintenance Team

Green Keepers are isolated on the course for much of the time, with steps taken to minimise the risk of cross-contamination during their shift.

- Staggered start and break times to avoid social gathering
- Morning briefings completed observing social distancing
- Hand sanitisers provided for regular use
- Disposable protective gloves are worn where applicable
- Utility vehicles limited to single person use
- Staff to avoid gathering in the machinery compound and sheds
- Machinery fully washed after use, including the disinfecting of controls



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Office and Clubhouse Team

The office team are now fully back to work, and the office is open. However, to reduced face to face contact, members are requested to email or call to office to discuss issues. If you do need to visit the office, please wear face masks and remain two meters away from staff and only come into the office when instructed to.