



Frequently Asked Questions regarding the re-opening of Golf in Wales

Q: Can I play golf with somebody outside my household, even if we play at a social distance?

A: Under the current Welsh Government Restrictions, you either have to play as a 1 ball or with another person from the same household. Golfers in the car park, around the club and out on the course must stay in their one-ball or household two-ball to ensure there is **no congregating** which is an offence under the regulations.

This may or may not change the next time the Welsh Government considers making changes to the lockdown restrictions. Wales Golf stresses that these regulations are those imposed by the Welsh Government and not by Wales Golf.

As one of the first sports to be allowed to resume, there is a **major responsibility for golf clubs and golfers** to ensure that our sport is conducted **safely and responsibly**. **Full adherence** to the provisions of this Protocol is essential. It should be noted that the Government continues to monitor the situation closely and retains the right to reintroduce restrictions **which could see golf clubs closed** if the **Protocol is not followed**.

Q: Can professional shops, driving ranges and toilets be opened at the golf club?

A: Clubs should contact their **Local Trading Standards, Environmental Health Agency** regarding **professional shops and opening toilet facilities**. It is also recommended that clubs **check** everything with **their insurance companies**.

An area may be required to register players and monitor the first tee. However, safe practice must be guaranteed. Some clubs have opted to put a marquee/ shelter on the first tee to ensure maximum safety to register and start players. Others have put a barrier at the professional shop's door to ensure social distance for booking and prevent access to the shop at this stage.

Driving ranges must remain closed to ensure maximum safety.

Q: Can you drive to play golf?

A: The clear implication in the official government guidance issued about golf clubs on Monday is that you can drive short distances but this must be local. See below in bold for what is deemed 'local' travel.

Q: What is classed as 'local' travel?

A: As advised by the Welsh Government '*exercise should be local to people's homes.*'

People should not travel a significant distance from their home to exercise. We have deliberately not defined this more precisely as it could be seen to be arbitrary and it will also depend on the circumstances – what people perceive to be "local" in Cardiff on the one hand, and in Mid Wales on the other, could be quite different.

*'People are asked to exercise good judgement and common sense. If you live in Cardiff and have **driven** to Porthcawl to exercise on the beach, you haven't stayed local.'*

Further information from the Welsh Government can be found here: <https://gov.wales/leaving-home-exercise-guidance>

Q: Can juniors play on the course?

A: Yes, junior golfers can play on the course but should be accompanied by an adult from the same household at this phase.

Q: Why can't Welsh golfers play in 2 balls like in England?

A: The Welsh Government restrictions state that:

'People also cannot exercise with anyone other than a member of their own household. More than two people congregating in a public place is regarded as a gathering, which is an offence under the regulations.'

Wales Golf stresses that these regulations are those imposed by the Welsh Government and not by Wales Golf.

Q: Can the club accept visitors?

A: This is at the club's discretion whether they allow visitors. All visitors will have to abide by the current protocol on the golf course.

Q: Can 2 people from the same household share a buggy?

A: When entering a golf club, best practice and social distancing should remain at all times, even if 2 people live in the same household.

Q: If a junior is 16 or over, do they need to be accompanied by an adult from the same household?

This is up to the club to decide in the initial phase. There are 2 possible options.

U18's (in this first phase) must be accompanied by an adult from the same household, even if the other person is not playing (they can supervise) because they will be alone on the course and will also need to adhere to the guidelines.

Alternately for those aged 16 and 17, the club could gain signed consent from parent/ guardian and ensure the junior has the number of the person based in the club-house in case of an emergency on the course. The club must ensure that all the safety rules and guidelines have been understood.

Q: What is Wales Golf's position on non-golfers from the same household walking on the course with golfers?

A: Wales Golf would encourage non-golfers from the same household to accompany golfers walking around the course and see it is as a massive opportunity to inspire people into taking up the game.

Our main advice to clubs would be to ensure that they can supervise the situation and ensure that all non-golfers stick to the rules the club have set out. The club also need to ensure that their insurance policy covers this.