



TRANSPORTATION POLICY

This policy is the Transportation Policy and will be referred to as such in all events organised and managed by Northern Counties Golf Union. It sets out the circumstances in which golf buggies may be used in Northern Counties Golf Union events.

1. Aim Of This Policy

Northern Counties Golf Union wishes to encourage participation in golf by all players regardless of any disabilities that they live with, as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

2. General

2.1. The basic rule is set out in Model Local Rule G-6 'Prohibiting Use of Motorised Transportation' of The Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2019. This states that during a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised transportation except as authorised or later approved by the Committee.

2.2. The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

3. Persons Who May Use a Buggy

3.1. It shall be a Local Rule of any competition organised by Northern Counties Golf Union that players must walk at all times during a stipulated round unless permitted to use a golf buggy by a member of the Committee in accordance with this policy.

3.2. A golf buggy may be used by a player or a caddie who can provide:
i. a current medical certificate of disability (or copy of the same); or
ii. a revalidation form of an existing medical certificate of disability in accordance with this policy and who has requested permission to use a golf buggy by the closing date for any competition which they seek to enter or caddie.

3.3. The Committee may not without good reasons refuse a request for permission to use a golf buggy if the criteria at 3.2 is met.

3.4. A revalidation form shall constitute evidence that a player's existing medical certificate from an earlier date remains a true and accurate reflection of a player's medical circumstances.

3.5. If a player wrongly submits a revalidation form which contains misleading or untrue information, or if a player fails to update Northern Counties Golf Union regarding their medical circumstances, and subsequently uses a buggy where they otherwise would not be entitled to do so, Northern Counties Golf Union reserves the right to disqualify that player from any relevant competition or take disciplinary action where appropriate.

3.6. Where a player is under the age of 18 years and has met the criteria in paragraph 3.2 above, a member of the Committee shall reserve the right to specify that the golf buggy is driven by another person of that Committee member's choice in the event that the person having parental responsibility for the player is unable or not competent or qualified to do so.

3.7. Where the disability prevents the player from driving the buggy, they may nominate a third party to drive the buggy for them, they must be approved by the Committee in the event that permission is granted.

3.8. In cases where a Committee refuses to permit the use of a golf buggy, the player shall be informed of the decision, the reasons for it and the right to appeal this refusal to the Appeals Committee in accordance with this policy.

4. Insurance

4.1. Where a determination has been made that the use of a buggy may be permitted, there must be in force, an appropriate policy of insurance covering liability for all personal and third party claims and the driver must provide a copy of the certificate of insurance on demand to Northern Counties Golf Union.

4.2. If the buggy is owned by the person using it, there must be in force an appropriate policy of insurance covering liability for all third party liabilities. In the event that the buggy is provided by a Club, it is incumbent upon the Club to ensure that there is in force an appropriate policy of insurance covering third party liabilities and the terms of use have been communicated to the user of the buggy.

5. Health and Safety Considerations

5.1. Where determination is made that the use of a buggy may be permitted by a player or where appropriate, a caddie or third party, a member of the Committee shall have regard to the following additional Health & Safety considerations before granting approval: -

- i. any relevant weather conditions
- ii. the topography and ground conditions
- iii. the condition and suitability of the golf buggy
- iv. any other relevant considerations which could impede the safety of the golf buggy or impact on the safety of others.

5.2. In the event that a member of the Committee believes that for reasons of Health & Safety a golf buggy should not be used by players, caddie or third parties at a particular time, he/ she may:-

- i. refuse to grant permission for the use of a golf buggy and shall inform a player, caddie or third party of this decision, or
- ii. revoke any such permission in the event of new Health & Safety considerations come to light since the grant of the initial permission to use a golf buggy.

5.3. It will be a requirement for any player, caddie or third party granted permission to use a buggy to complete and sign this Transport Policy prior to use.

6. Usage of Golf Buggies

6.1. A player, caddie or third party permitted to use a golf buggy does so under the following terms and conditions:-

the buggy must be driven in a reasonable and safe manner. In considering what is 'reasonable and safe' the driver will have regard to:-

- i. the ground condition.
- ii. the safety of others.
- iii. that a buggy will give way to pedestrians.
- iv. that a buggy will not impede any other user on the course.
- v. that the speed of the buggy will be limited to 15 mph.

6.2. A golf buggy shall be for the sole use of the player and his/ her equipment unless a member of the Committee has deemed that for reason of age or disability a third party is required to drive the golf buggy.

6.3. The driver must comply with all directional signs and not use prohibited areas, including public highways and pavements.

6.4. The driver will certify that they are competent to drive a golf buggy.

6.5. The driver is solely responsible for the safe usage of the buggy on the course and surrounding areas.

6.6. Liability for any injury or damage caused is the liability of the driver.

7. Appeals Procedure

7.1. Any decision by a Committee member refusing a player or caddie permission to use a golf buggy may be appealed by the player or caddie to the Appeals Committee which shall comprise of three members of Northern Counties Golf Union Committee.

7.2. An appeal should be made in writing to the Appeals Committee within 5 working days of the date of the initial decision.

7.3. Any written appeal requests shall include a statement where the player or caddie give the reasons why he/ she is seeking to appeal a decision.

7.4. The Appeals Committee shall make a decision on an appeal and communicate it to the player or caddie within 10 working days of the initial appeal.

7.5. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

8. Definitions

8.1. 'Disability' shall have the same definition as that contained in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010. A person has a disability if they have either a physical or mental impairment and that impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect of their ability to carry out normal day to day activities and/or play golf.

8.2. Any reference to 'Golf Buggy' shall include any vehicle deemed to be a golf buggy by the Northern Counties Golf Union Championship Committee.

8.3. Any reference to Committee shall refer to the Northern Counties Golf Union Championship Committee who were responsible for taking the decision on the use of a golf buggy and 'member of the committee' shall be construed accordingly.

Signature of Buggy User _____

Date _____