



DONAGHADEE GOLF CLUB

Return to Golf – 1st – 11th April 2021

1. The current COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge which Donaghadee Golf Club continues to deal with in the most professional, efficient and diligent manner possible. On behalf of all involved in the management of the Club we express our sincere appreciation to you for the patience and understanding you have shown during the period the Club has been closed. We know that everyone is keen to get back out on the course and envisage that when lockdown is lifted on 1st April demand for tee-times will be very high and we have therefore introduced a series of measures to give as many members as possible an opportunity to play while keeping themselves and other members safe.
2. The latest protocol for return to golf agreed between Golf Ireland and the Government sets out the arrangements to apply up to and including 11th April. You can view the document on the Golf Ireland website on social media or click here <https://www.golfireland.ie/news-detail?newsarticleid=116&tags=Covid-19;Golf%20Ireland%20HQ>. The arrangements to apply from 12th April will be the subject of a separate document. Key points to note during the period 1-11 April are:-
 - Only 2 households may play in any group;
 - The clubhouse including the locker rooms are closed and only the toilet facilities will be open; and
 - The Pro-Shop can be open
3. Having discussed the matter in some detail the Club Combined Match & Handicap Team has made three key decisions for this initial period, in order to give everyone an opportunity to play:-
 - a) Play will be restricted to 9 holes, teeing off from the 1st and the 10th. All players must book a time on the timesheet. Members cannot simply turn up and play;
 - b) The permitted timesheet gap as set out by Golf Ireland is 8 minutes for two-balls and 10 minutes for fourballs. This poses a significant problem for the operation of the timesheet as we would have to block off certain times for fourballs and run the risk of these not being used. It has been decided therefore to keep the operation as simple and straightforward as possible and all play will therefore be as two-balls;
 - c) There will be no official competitions during this period.
4. The arrangements will be as follows:-
 - **All** members must check in with the Pro-shop or Starters Hut before commencing play. It is not sufficient to simply wave to the person behind the counter. Failure to check in properly undermines the Track and Trace System and potentially jeopardises the health of your fellow members. Members playing in the morning before the Pro Shop opens should report in when crossing from the 4th to the 5th (if playing the first nine) or at the conclusion of their round.;
 - The first two names on the tee sheet will tee off the 1st hole and the 3rd and 4th will tee off at the 10th (members need not therefore be concerned about not knowing the members in the two columns completed);

- Groups completing their 9 holes and wishing to play additional holes may check in with the Pro-shop or Starter who will indicate if there is a timeslot available. But members can only do this on completion of their 9 holes
5. The timesheet will open on-line for booking at 7pm on Thursday 25th March and this will cover the full period up to 11th April. Some tee-times will be reserved for telephone bookings and these can be made to the Pro-shop from 12noon – 2pm on Friday 26th. Taking account of the pressure on tee-times, we would encourage all members to play their part in making times available by only pre-booking 3 times per week. Similarly anyone having booked a time but finding they are unable to play should remove their name from the timesheet either on-line or by phoning the Pro-Shop.
 6. There will be no visitors permitted and no pre-booking of times by in-house societies or groups. Ladies should feel free to book a time at any time on a Saturday and likewise men on a Tuesday. Council has agreed to set aside the current bye-law dealing with this issue.
 7. It is important to note that access to the toilets will be from 8am each morning. The toilets will be closed at 4.30pm Monday – Friday and once the last group has teed off on Saturday and Sunday. In accordance with Government instructions, the locker rooms should not be used and there will be no access to the electronic trolley store.
 8. The Pro-Shop will be open as follows:-

Monday – Friday	8.30am – 5pm
Saturday	6.30am – 4pm
Sunday	8.00am – 4pm

 Anyone commencing play outside of these hours must register their presence at the Starters Hut (early morning players may register when moving from the 4th to the 5th or at the conclusion of their round).
 9. The Practice Academy will be open from the first tee time to the last tee time. Access is limited to persons from two households (one at each end). Slots must be booked with the Pro-shop and as with playing golf, users must check in before proceeding.
 10. The Starters Hut will need to be manned from when the Pro-Shop closes for the day until the last group tees off and, as before, we are appealing for volunteers to assist in registering players. If you can spare an hour or two on an afternoon or evening please contact the office with details.
 11. Finally the appendix lists the various arrangements to ensure everyone's safety. Please read this carefully and comply fully with these safeguards. These arrangements will apply for the eleven days preceding 12th April at which stage it is hoped fourball play will be permitted. We would appeal for all members to show patience and understanding during this period. A further document will issue setting out the arrangements for play from 12th April.
 12. This document has been agreed with the Club Combined Match & Handicap Team and any queries or concerns should be directed to them via the Club Office.

Appendix

General Arrangements to Ensure Everyone's Safety

Access to the Course

To be able to commence play a player must:

- Not be displaying any symptoms of COVID 19;
- Not be in self-isolation;
- Not have been around anyone with the illness for 14 days (to the best of your knowledge);
- Be a member of Donaghadee Golf Club;
- Have a pre booked tee time;
- Observe social distancing rules at all times in the car park, clubhouse and on the course.

Before Your Round

- Access to the Locker rooms will only be permitted for use of the Toilet. The Showers will be out of use for the foreseeable future. There is to be no congregating in the locker rooms and shoes must be changed in the car park;
- The electronic trolley store is closed;
- If allowed on the course, buggies are restricted to one household;
- All groups will start from the 1st Tee and 10th Tee;
- There is to be no queuing on the 1st and 10th tee - only those teeing off and the next group should be present;
- A maximum of Four players will be allowed on the putting green and priority given to those next to tee off. Putting time will be limited to 10 minutes;
- Scorecards may not be necessary but if used should not be swapped with partners;
- No caddies are permitted;
- Players should use the sanitiser before and after their round.

On The Course

- Social Distancing observed throughout. 2-metre rule applies;
- Please do not pick up stray balls on the course. Only handle your ball when playing your round;
- Bunkers are in play and a player can place their ball. Bunker rakes have been removed. Please use your club or feet to rake bunkers after use;
- Flagstick to remain in holes and not to be touched. If the location of the hole is not changed, sanitiser will be applied as part of the daily course set up;
- Hole cups have been adapted for contact free ball retrieval; these will be sanitised as part of the daily course set up;
- Once a hole is completed the group in front must have exited the tee box before players can progress to the next hole;
- Equipment, food or drink must not be exchanged between players;
- Players must not pick up another players equipment or ball;
- Players must refrain from handshakes and high fives.

After Your Round and Getting Home Safely

- Hands must be washed and sanitised after your round;
- Members must call or email the club with any post round health issues relating to COVID 19 symptoms.