

Bad weather protocol

If conditions are too dangerous for play to continue

One single blast on a hooter will be sounded and all players must leave the course immediately (or take safe shelter as they think appropriate) and play is suspended. Examples of dangerous conditions include: lightning or strong winds with potential for falling trees and/or branches.

When leaving the course players must mark the position of their balls to enable them to restart their round should conditions improve sufficiently for the competition to be restarted.

Players are responsible for their own safety and there may be instances when the hooter may not be heard or when conditions change very quickly, in which case players may need to make a judgement themselves, informing the the Pro, Club Manager or Competitions team.

If course is not playable, but not dangerous (eg flooded greens)

Two blasts of the hooter will be sounded to signify a normal suspension. Players can decide to complete the hole they have started or immediately stop play and mark their ball.

In instances where conditions change quickly, before the hooter has been sounded players may exceptionally need to make their own judgement that the course has become unplayable,. (eg there is no route to the hole due to standing water on the green). In this instance players should make every attempt to contact the Competitions team, Pro or Club Manager, ideally proving photo evidence of the poor conditions to confirm that the competition should be suspended. In any event, players must note the reason for not completing the round on their scorecard, and must ALWAYS post the card in the box, completed to the point at which they stopped playing.

Resumption of play following suspension of play

Once a competition is suspended, the Competitions Committee, Club Manager or Pro will make a decision to either resume play if conditions improve or to abandon the competition. Any resumption of play will be marked by three blasts of the hooter. Should the competitions subcommittee decide that play is to resume the next day those affected will be contacted by the comps team.

Every effort will be made to provide communication updates to players on the start sheet via email; updates on the club website and Club V1 notifications.

For board competitions

If suspension leaves a significant number of players unable to complete their round on the day, the competition will be cancelled and rearranged.

For non- board competitions

If suspension leaves a significant number of players unable to complete their round on the day, the competition team will decide whether to cancel the competition depending on the numbers impacted.

Start of play is delayed (eg for rain or frost)

In cases where the start of play is delayed, but conditions improve to enable play later on (eg when a frost thaws out or greens dry out):

For board competitions

Competition will be postponed and rearranged. Although for drawn events, such as the Club Championship, a delay in play will be considered.

For non- board competitions

Non Board competitions may begin late, should circumstances allow, and the start time gives 'a significant' number of players the opportunity to complete their round.

Impact of suspensions on scores being included for WHS handicap purposes

Scores will still count for handicap purposes if sufficient holes have been played.