



## **WINTER POLICY**

This document provides information about the club's policy regarding the introduction of temporary greens, why the decisions are made to introduce temporary greens, and in extreme circumstances, closing the course.

- The document will provide clear information in the decision making as to when temporary greens are brought into action and why they are required.
- The document defines who is responsible for bringing a temporary green into use.
- How temporary greens are prepared.
- How members are informed on the status of a green.
- How normal greens should be brought back into play with the objective of allowing play on normal greens when possible.
- Players responsibility during adverse weather conditions

### **Reasons to bring Temporary Greens into play**

In order to prevent long term damage to the green, it may be necessary to bring temporary greens into play. The reasons for this are as follows:-

- The green is too soft / wet for use i.e. use would result in damage.
- The green has frost on it.
- The green is frozen to a depth greater than 1"- 2".
- The green is damaged due to vandalism.
- The green is undergoing maintenance work.

### **What damage can be caused?**

White frost on the leaf of green will cause bruising to the leaf. This will affect and stress the plant and can cause long term problems like root sheer; this is where the roots snap and open up to disease and cause poor growth. It also causes unsightly black footprints if walked over whilst white frost is present.

### **Who decides to bring Temporary Greens into Play**

Each and every green is inspected each day to determine their health and condition. If it is decided to bring temporary greens into play, it is the responsibility of the Head Green Keeper or his designated deputy to use their knowledge and professional judgment as to when a green is taken out of play and to bring a temporary green into play.



### **The Practise Green**

The practise putting green is also affected by the same conditions as the main greens and will on most occasions be closed if Temporary Greens are in operation. The same policy applies to the practise putting green whereby damage can be caused if walked on when closed.

**Temporary greens will be prepared as follows.**

### **Long-term**

In the lead up to winter, the Head Green Keeper will identify areas that will be used for temporary greens.

- The areas will be marked Ground Under Repair (GUR).
- When budgets and resource allow, top dressing will be applied to provide a smooth surface
- The green at the bottom of the practice facility will be the temporary green for the 17<sup>th</sup> hole. Signs will be displayed on the practice matts explaining that clubs that go over a certain distance should not be used. Any range/practice balls will be removed from this green prior to the allocation of temporary green status.

### **Short-term** (during the temporary green likely period)

Greens Staff aim to provide the best putting conditions possible that the current weather permits.

This includes:-

- Cutting of the temporary greens to a lower height.
- Applying a Greens Iron (Roller) to the temporary greens
- Swishing the temporary green to remove worm casts and high spots.
- Treating the temporary greens to prevent worm casts. Budget and resource permitting.
- The diameter of the temporary green cup / hole will be the same as the normal green hole
- The cup / hole will be moved on a regular basis or if the cup / hole is damaged.



### **On the day** (when a temporary green is implemented)

- Swishing the temporary green to remove worm cast and early frost
- The green at the bottom of the practice facility will be the temporary green for the 17<sup>th</sup> hole. Signs will be displayed on the practice matts explaining that clubs that go over a certain distance should not be used. Any range/practice balls will be removed from this green prior to the allocation of temporary green status.

### **Temporary green current status**

The club will provide a status of any temporary green that is operation. The status information will include the reason why temporary greens are in use. An opinion as to when play will be back on the Greens or when the next decision will be made.

The status will be provided in the following places: -

- Green Keepers will provide the Pro Shop with temporary green information.
- oxfordgolfclub.net (home page) kept up to date as soon as practically possible
- Twitter (@oxford\_golfclub) which also feeds into the home page of the website

### **Length of time temporary greens will be in play (Frosty conditions)**

When frozen, each temporary green will remain in play until such time as the person/s (defined in paragraph "*Who decides the implementation of temporary greens*") determines. However, this person/s will continually monitor conditions to ensure greens are brought back in to play as soon as it is safe to do so. This monitoring will only continue until 11:00 on any given day. If a temporary green is deemed necessary at 11:00 it will be assumed that it will remain temporary for the day.

### **Player's responsibility**

When a temporary green is in operation and his/her ball is lying on the normal green, the player must take the shortest route possible to retrieve the ball. The ball must be dropped at the nearest point of full relief but no nearer the temporary hole.

When a temporary green is not in use, but is marked GUR, any ball lying in this area must be dropped at the nearest point of relief but no nearer the normal green hole. Full relief must be taken i.e. you cannot stand in GUR to play a shot.

### **Safe to Play**

When weather has been adverse, the course will be reopened by the Head Green Keeper or his deputy. In other weather conditions that descend without warning i.e. heavy fog, it is the players responsibility to only play if they are sure it is safe to do so.



### **Closing the Course**

On the rare occasion the course needs to be closed, it will only be done so as a last resort and/or there is no reasonable timeframe where conditions will improve sufficiently to allow play to resume safely that day. This includes, but is not limited to, excessively strong winds, heavy rain and its effects, fog, lightning, and snow/ice. The course will be reopened when it is safe to do so by the Head Green Keeper or his deputies which include the General Manager and the Head Professional.