Weather Policy 2026–27

Brampton Park Golf Club · Buckden Road, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 4NF

Approved: 20 October 2026 **Effective from:** 20 October 2026

Applies to: members, visitors, societies and competitions

1. Purpose

This policy explains how Brampton Park Golf Club manages play in bad weather, to keep golfers, visitors and staff safe and to protect the course.

Every golfer is responsible for their own safety. If you think conditions are dangerous, stop playing, even if play has not been suspended.

2. Who decides

- **General play:** the Senior Greenkeeper on duty and the Pro Shop team, or the Manager, depending on the time of day and who is on site.
- **Members' competitions:** the Competitions Committee, or the person running the competition.
- **Open Competitions and club events:** club staff (the Pro Shop team, the Manager or the Greenkeepers). A suspended Open Competition or club event will be rescheduled.
- **Society days and organised events:** the event organiser, working with the Pro Shop.

3. Course updates

Course conditions are updated in this order each morning, and whenever they change:

1. **The club phone line** (01480 434700, course status option), set by the greenkeeper first thing.
2. **The website**, on the Course Status page (bramptonparkgc.co.uk/course-updates).
3. **The ClubV1 app.**

Golfers signing in at the Pro Shop are told about the day's conditions, so they can make their own decisions about safety.

4. Lightning

> **There is no safe place on an open golf course during a thunderstorm. The clubhouse, or a car with a metal roof, are the only safe shelters at Brampton Park.**

When to stop

- Stop play and head back to the clubhouse as soon as you hear thunder or see lightning. Do not wait for the klaxon.
- Count the seconds between the flash and the bang. If it is 30 seconds or less, the storm is close enough to strike you.
- Play must not restart until **30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning**.

Klaxon signals (R&A Model Local Rule J-1)

Signal	Meaning
One long note	Stop play immediately: lightning or danger. Leave the course.
Three notes	Normal suspension of play
Two short notes	Play can resume

If you cannot get back in time

- Do not shelter under a tree, especially a single or tall tree, and keep away from the edges of woodland.
- Keep away from high ground, open water, fences and metal objects.
- Let go of your clubs, trolley and umbrella, and get out of the buggy. Buggy roofs give no protection.
- Do not use your mobile phone while the storm is overhead, except in an emergency.
- Spread out from your group by several metres, and crouch low on the balls of your feet with your feet together, until the storm has passed.

Competitions

When one long note sounds, players must stop immediately and must not restart until two short notes sound. Under Rule 5.7 of the Rules of Golf, a player who does not stop immediately may be disqualified.

General play

When staff are not on site to sound the klaxon, golfers play at their own risk and must stop as soon as they hear thunder or see lightning.

5. Fog

- In severe fog, all play is suspended until the fairway bunker on the 1st hole can be seen from the yellow tee.
- Even when the bunker is visible, the greenkeepers and Pro Shop may suspend play if fog remains elsewhere on the course.
- Golfers must not play a shot unless they can see that the landing area is clear.
- Tee times are not moved back because of fog.

6. Heavy rain, high winds and flooding

- **Met Office red warning:** if a red weather warning for wind or rain covers our area, the course is closed.
- **Other days:** the Senior Greenkeeper checks the course and the forecast, and with the Pro Shop decides whether to restrict or suspend play, and when to review the decision.
- Play is suspended when greens flood and become unplayable, when the ground is slippery enough to be a safety risk, or when continued play would cause serious damage to the course.
- Strong winds and heavy rain can bring down branches. Keep away from trees in high winds.

7. Frost, ice and snow

- Playing on frozen grass causes lasting damage to the greens. When there is frost, play is delayed until the thaw is under way.
- The Senior Greenkeeper decides whether temporary greens or tees are used. The club aims to keep the main greens open through winter wherever it can.
- In extreme frost, ice, or frost followed by rain and a thaw, the course may close to protect the grass roots.
- **Snow:** the course is closed when it is covered in snow.
- Take care on icy paths, slopes and steps. The club will keep the car park and clubhouse paths clear of ice as far as reasonably possible, and put up slip warning signs.

8. Buggies in bad weather

Buggy use may be suspended for all or part of the course because of waterlogging, frost, snow or poor visibility. The Buggy Policy 2027 explains how this works, including priority for players on the medical list.

Exemptions for the medical list

- Players on the medical list may use a buggy once management judges the course safe for them, even when buggies are suspended for other golfers.
- This exemption does not apply when bad weather makes buggy use on the course unsafe, for example frozen or icy slopes, standing water or waterlogged ground, or when buggy use would cause serious damage to the course.
- Any suspension of all buggies for early morning frost is reviewed again later that same day, and lifted as soon as the thaw makes buggy use safe.
- Each day's decision, and the reason for it, is recorded by the greenkeeping team.

9. Sun, heat and first aid

Hot, sunny or humid weather increases the risk of dehydration and heatstroke, especially between 11am and 3pm. Players with medical conditions should think about how heat and their medication may affect them.

- Bring plenty of water or soft drinks, avoiding alcohol and caffeine.
- Wear a hat, use sunscreen, and cover up with sleeves and trousers.
- Use a buggy, if one is available, when you cannot avoid long exposure to the sun.

Drinking water is available from the clubhouse bar and the Pro Shop, and on very hot days the club may provide extra water or cold drinks on the course.

Signs of heat exhaustion: headache, dizziness, feeling sick, heavy sweating, cramps, a fast pulse and great thirst. Move the person into the shade, help them lie down, and give them water to sip.

> **Call 999 if they do not feel better within 30 minutes, or if they become confused, stop sweating while still hot, have a fit or lose consciousness. These are signs of heatstroke, which is an emergency.**

The club's defibrillator is in the clubhouse bar. For first aid, contact the Pro Shop on 01480 434705 or any member of clubhouse staff.

10. Green fees and rain checks

This applies to visitors and societies who have paid a green fee.

- **Fewer than 9 holes played:** if the club suspends play or closes the course because of the weather, you will be given a rain check voucher for a future round.
- **9 holes or more played:** no refund or voucher is given.
- **Choosing to stop:** if you decide to stop when play has not been suspended, no refund or voucher is given.
- **Open Competitions:** if a competition is suspended after it has started, entry fees are given as vouchers and the competition will be rescheduled.

11. Review and approval

This policy is reviewed every year, and after any serious incident.

Approved by	Greg Tack, Golf Operations Manager
Signature	GT
Date approved	20 October 2026

Questions about this policy: Pro Shop, 01480 434705, proshop@bramptonparkgc.co.uk · Brampton Park Golf Club · bramptonparkgc.co.uk