



Covid-19 – Return to Golf Protocols

Phase 1 – 18th May to 8th June

The purpose of this document is to ensure that the Club has taken all reasonable measures to follow the guidelines as laid out by Government and the GUI/ILGU with a view to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all our members and staff on the club premises and the golf course. We are concentrating at this point only on the measures required for **opening Phase 1 which will come in to effect on 18th May. See Appendix 1.**

- On reopening we will initially offer **9-hole casual golf** only, on an open-timesheet basis, with the option of moving to non-qualifying competitions when we move to **Phase 2** from June 8th.
- **Sutton Golf Club fully supports adherence to the guidelines issued by the public health authorities. Compliance with the various advices from the public health authorities in relation to distance travelled, cocooning and/or self- isolating, personal protection, etc are matters of personal responsibility for each member.**
- The Clubhouse, including locker rooms, will remain closed until further notice.

The following playing arrangements have been agreed by the Management Committee and will apply until further notice;

- In Phase 1 all golf will be confined to casual golf on a 9-hole basis only with a maximum of 3 players per booked line.
- For traceability and insurance purposes all play **must be booked on via the BRS system**. This includes later (after 6.30pm) evening practice play. BRS access will only be available to those members who have paid their subscription.
- It is expected that there will be heightened demand for golf at the re-start. For fairness, members will be restricted to 1 booking per day and 3 per week. Using “guest” or “reserved” is not permitted. A named member must be entered.
- Visitors and Green fees are not permitted.
- Juniors can play only if they are accompanied by an adult and wherever possible with another member of their own household
- All Pro-shop, Clubhouse and Course staff are taking appropriate precautions as per the Health Guidelines. A separate protocol document has been prepared for them.
- Staff members have been authorised to support members in the following key areas;
 - Act as starter for casual and competitive golf
 - Act as Social Distancing Marshal in the car park and on the course
 - Act as Course Ranger and Security (particularly in the evenings)

A roster of Club Members will also be introduced to discharge these roles and players should co-operate with their instructions and advice.

The following procedures will take effect from May 18th and will remain under continuous review based on advice from the public health authorities and the golf governing bodies.

1. Prior to Arrival

- Members should ensure that they have :
 - Washed their hands before they leave home,
 - Cleaned their golf clubs and equipment,
 - Travelled alone if they are not from the same family / household,

2. Accessing the Course

- Members should not play if they have Covid-19 symptoms or are required to be in self isolation (<https://www.gov.ie/covid-19-coronavirus-guidance-and-advice/>)
- Members should arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before their tee time,
- When on site social distancing guidelines should be observed at all times avoiding the temptation to mingle, on the course or in the car park:
 - No shaking hands
 - Keep 2 Meters away
 - Small Groups, no more than 4 people
 - Do not arrange to meet other groups
 - Avoid busy areas

3. What to do upon arrival

- Be dressed for and ready to play golf with only a need to put on your golf shoes.
- One member must check-in the group with the Pro-Shop.
- Access to the Pro-Shop will be through the main entrance. The number of people in the Pro-Shop will be strictly controlled. Please observe notices in this regard,
- Where possible, park away from other cars and leave a parking space between your car and others.

4. Pro-Shop Protocols

- Only one member should enter the Pro-Shop at any time,
- Keep all payments contactless (either member's accounts or Credit /debit card),
- Trolleys will **not** be available for hire.

5. Clubhouse Facilities

- Hand sanitisation station will be located at the main entrance,
- Limited toilet facilities will be available, disposable paper towels only – hand driers will be disabled,
- Upstairs access will be **NOT** be permitted ,
- The main entrance doors will be left opened during opening hours to avoid the need to use keypads or handle door handles and for access to the Pro-Shop,
- The Clubhouse will close at 6.30pm each day and will be alarmed.

6. The First Tee, Putting Green and Playing of Golf

- Tee times will be at **15 minute intervals, starting at 8.00am**. This will be strictly enforced to ensure appropriate spacing.

- Players should present at the 1st tee no earlier than 5 minutes before their allocated tee time,
- The putting green, chipping area, and other practice areas will be limited to a maximum of 3 people at any one time ,
- Divot bags will be made available to each member – these bags should be kept by you and used each time you play. Members will be required to fill their own divot bags (**See notice at the first tee**)
- If your ball is lost or unplayable do not double back on your position.
- Caddies are not allowed,
- Any member who does not obey social distancing guidelines may be asked to leave the course by the Social Distancing Marshall.

7. What you can expect when on the Course

- Observe and obey all social distancing guidelines at all times,
- Leave at least two metres distance between you and your playing partners when waiting on tees – do not wait together. Leave at least two metres distance when walking – do not walk side by side,
- Players need to take precautions when opening/closing pedestrian gates at the 6th tee and Connors Field. It is recommended that suitable protection is used when handling the pin pads and handles and members carry and use a small hand sanitizer with them.
- Course furniture is not in use – bins, rakes and ball washers are decommissioned.
- As bunker rakes have been removed, preferred lies apply in bunkers and a player can lift and place within 6 inches no nearer the hole. Sand can be smoothed over using foot or a club before/after playing your shot.
- Course posts e.g. OB, Hazards are now immovable obstructions and should not be touched.
- Do **NOT** approach a tee box, or green, before the previous players vacate.
- Flag poles will remain in place – the PUTTBUDDY system is installed and should be the only method used for retrieving balls from the cup. Do not touch flagpoles <https://www.puttbuddy.ie/>
- Do not share food and drink items with your playing partners. Do NOT pick up others player’s golf balls or handle golf equipment belonging to other players such as clubs, trolleys etc.

After your game

- Members should return to their cars and go home without delay,
- The Clubhouse will close at 6.30pm daily.

APPENDIX 1

PHASE	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5
DATE	18th May	8th June	29th June	20th July	10th August
Group sizes and tee-time intervals	Either: 3-balls at 14-minute intervals, or 2-balls at 12-minute intervals or Individual players at 10-minute intervals	Either: 3-balls at 13-minute intervals, or 2-balls at 11-minute intervals or Individual players at 9-minute intervals	Either: 4-balls at 14-minute intervals, or 3-balls at 12-minute intervals, or 2-balls at 10-minute intervals	Either: 4-balls at 13-minute intervals, or 3-balls at 11-minute intervals, or 2-balls at 9-minute intervals	Either: 4-balls at 12-minute intervals, or 3-balls at 10-minute intervals or 2-balls at 8-minute intervals
Booking	In advance, online or by telephone	In advance, online or by telephone	In advance, online or by telephone	In advance, online or by telephone	In advance, online or by telephone
Type of Play	Casual golf only (no competitions)	Casual golf, closed club competitions	Casual golf & closed & open competitions	Casual golf & closed & open competitions	Casual golf & closed & open competitions
Who may play?	Members only, (under 18's must play with an adult)	Members & members guests, (under 18's must play with an adult)	Members, members guests & visitors (under 18's may play together)	Members, members guests & visitors (under 18's may play together)	Members, members guests & visitors (under 18's may play together)
Clubhouse	Closed except for pro-shop (for check-in only), toilet facilities and locker room (for retrieval of golf equipment)	Closed except for pro-shop, toilet facilities and locker room (for retrieval of golf equipment)	Pro-shop, toilet facilities, locker room, club restaurant may open (subject to strict guidelines)	Pro-shop, toilet facilities, locker room, club restaurant may open (subject to strict guidelines)	Pro-shop, toilet facilities, locker room, club restaurant & bar may open (subject to strict guidelines)

SEE FULL GUI/ILGU GUIDELINES AT <https://www.golfnet.ie/news/golfnet/4661/unions-publish-protocol-for-golfs-safe-return>