

NORFOLK LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION



POLICY ON THE USE OF GOLF BUGGIES (TRANSPORTATION POLICY)

1. Aim of Policy

- 1.1 This Policy is the Transportation Policy referred to in the Terms of Competition for all NLCGA competitions. It sets out the circumstances in which golf buggies may be used in events organised and managed by the NLCGA.
- 1.2 The NLCGA wishes to encourage participation in golf of all players regardless of disabilities. The Policy is in accordance with the NLCGA's obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 'Disability' shall have the same meaning as Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010. **A person has a disability if she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on her ability to carry out normal day to day activities;** or any other condition supported by a medical certificate (see Clause 2.5).
- 2.2 Any reference to 'golf buggy' shall include any vehicle deemed to be a golf buggy by the NLCGA.
- 2.3 Any reference to 'Committee' shall refer to the NLCGA Committee, or their authorised representative, which has responsibility for taking a decision on the use of a golf buggy and 'member of the Committee' shall be construed accordingly.
- 2.4 NLCGA shall refer to the Norfolk Ladies' County Golf Association.
- 2.5 'Valid medical confirmation of disability' shall mean a valid medical certificate from a registered general practitioner or consultant registered with the Health Professions' Council that the player or caddie is suffering from a disability as defined in Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010, or as referred to in Clause 2.1.

3. Persons who may use a Golf Buggy

- 3.1 Unless otherwise stated in the Terms of Competition, players must walk at all times during the stipulated round of any NLCGA competition, unless permitted to use a golf buggy by a member of 'the Committee' or their authorised representative, in accordance with this Policy. The Penalty for a breach of this condition is detailed under Model Local Rule G-6 in The Official Guide to the Rules of Golf produced by the R&A and the USGA. The penalty shall apply to the team score in any stroke play team event. The Committee may, in the Terms of Competition, prohibit the use of caddies or restrict a player in her choice of caddie (Model Local Rule H-1 in The Official Guide to the Rules of Golf produced by the R&A and the USGA).
- 3.2 A golf buggy may be used by a player or caddie who can provide a valid current medical certificate (as defined in Clause 2.5 above) in accordance with the Policy and has requested permission to use a golf buggy prior to commencing the stipulated round. Where the disability prevents the player from driving the golf buggy for which they seek permission, she may nominate a third party to drive the buggy for her who must be approved by the Committee in the event that permission is granted.

- 3.3 Should the permission to use a buggy be granted only to the player's caddie, the player must walk at all times during the stipulated round in accordance with any Conditions of Competition.
- 3.4 The Committee may not, without good reason, refuse a request for permission to use a golf buggy if the criteria in paragraph 3.2 above are met.
- 3.5 Where a player is under 18 years of age and has met the criteria in paragraph 3.2 above, a member of the Committee shall reserve the right to specify that the golf buggy is driven by another person of that Committee member's choice, in the event that a person having parental responsibility for the player is unable or not competent or qualified to do so.
- 3.6. In cases where a member of the Committee refuses to permit the use of a golf buggy, they shall inform the player/caddie/third party of the decision, the reason for it, and the right to appeal this refusal to the Appeal Committee in accordance with this Policy.

4. Conditions in which the use of a Golf Buggy may be Permitted

- 4.1 Where a determination is made that the use of a buggy may be permitted by a player, or where appropriate a caddie or third party, to use a golf buggy, a member of the Committee shall have regard to the following health and safety considerations before granting approval:
 - a. any relevant weather conditions;
 - b. the topography and ground conditions;
 - c. the condition of and suitability of the golf buggy;
 - d. the host venue allows their use (conditions may apply); and
 - e. any other relevant considerations which could impede the safe use of a golf buggy or impact on the safety of others.
- 4.2 In the event that a member of the Committee believes that for reasons of health and safety a golf buggy should not be used by players, caddies or third parties at a particular time she/they may:
 - a. refuse to grant permission for the use of a golf buggy, and shall inform the player, caddie or third party of this decision; or
 - b. revoke any such permission in the event of new health and safety considerations having come to light since the granting of the initial permission to use a golf buggy.

5. Conditions for use of Golf Buggies

- 5.1 A player, caddie or other third party permitted to use a golf buggy must agree to the following terms and conditions of use:
 - a. any person operating a golf buggy must do so with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of others and in accordance with any relevant golf buggy operating guidelines;
 - b. the Committee may require that a golf buggy must not exceed walking pace;

- c. a golf buggy shall be for the sole use of the player and her equipment (or any caddie or third party who has been permitted to drive the buggy) unless a member of the Committee has deemed that for reason of age or disability a third party is required to drive the golf buggy (note: the provisions of 3.1 apply);
 - d. a golf buggy must not impede or interfere with normal pedestrians or vehicular traffic flow on roadways, ramps and pavements;
 - e. a player who has been granted permission to use a golf buggy (or any caddie or other third party who has been granted permission to drive the golf buggy) must remain seated in the golf buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion;
 - f. drivers of golf buggies must comply with directional signs and not use prohibited areas including public highways or pavements;
 - g. any person granted permission to use a golf buggy in accordance with this Policy must accept responsibility for any losses or injury sustained as a result of her fault whilst using a golf buggy; and
 - h. any person who has been granted permission in accordance with this Policy must have adequate personal and third party insurance. Note: see Clause 4.3.
- 5.2 Failure to agree to the terms and conditions in Clause 5.1 will result in the player, caddie or other third party being denied permission to use a golf buggy.

6. Appeals Procedure

- 6.1 Any decision by a Committee member refusing a player or caddie permission to use a golf buggy may be appealed by the player or caddie to the NLCGA Appeals' Committee, which shall comprise three members of the NLCGA Appeals' Panel.
- 6.2 An appeal shall be made in writing to the Appeals' Committee within five working days of the date of the initial decision. Any written appeal request shall also include a statement by the appellant giving reasons for the appeal.
- 6.3 The Appeals' Committee shall make a decision on an appeal and communicate it to the appellant within 10 working days of the initial appeal.