

RETURN TO GOLF - LEAGUE MATCHES

In response to questions raised with regard to playing scratch, silver and bronze league matches following the return of golf from March 29th the County Executive wished to offer some guidance to match organisers especially for any matches scheduled to take place between 1st April and 17th May.

Most importantly the County wishes to stress that the health and well-being of all players is paramount and that the protocols set out by England Golf in its "Play Safe Stay Safe Golf's Return to Play Protocols" document must be strictly observed. <https://www.Englandgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Play-Safe-Timeline-29-March.pdf>

Protocols and rules for playing the game are detailed at <https://www.Englandgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/A-Framework-for-Playing-Golf-29-Mar.pdf> and these should also be strictly observed.

The County do not wish to stop early season matches taking place subject to the above protocols and individual club decisions. Therefore, the season dates of April 1st to September 30th will remain as published in the County Rules and Regulations: <http://www.nclga.org.uk/index.php/about-us/rules-and-regulations>.

Whilst there is no restriction on the return of competitive golf as there was in May 2020, club managers and committees will be making decisions on how they will manage the return to golf on an operational basis, particularly during the first few weeks of golf's return. These individual club decisions may mean that some matches will need to be rearranged for later in the season.

For matches between 1st April and 16th May

From 29th March nationally restrictions on travel are lifted and the rule of six outdoors applies. However match organisers may need to consider implications for away teams as car sharing is not advised. On the course rules with regard to bunkers and flagsticks remain as they were in 2020 and will not be reviewed until at least June 21st.

Up to 11th April - pre-match and post match administration/hospitality will be affected as clubhouses, including locker room, changing facilities and pros-shops will be closed. If matches are taking place match organisers/team captains will need to organise and communicate playing orders, handicap allowances, provision of scorecards before players arrive at the club. Players will need to arrive for their designated tee time and leave the course as soon as their match has been completed and not wait for other matches to be completed. Game results could be texted/emailed to team captains and agreement on the overall match result confirmed by email between the match organisers. We would suggest that the home team captain complete and email a draft match result form to the away team captain before emailing the agreed match result to the County.

12th April to 16th May - clubhouses remain closed but locker rooms and changing facilities may re-open. This may allow for pre and post match administration to take place indoors or outdoors by two designated team officials. Outdoor social areas may re-open and food/drink can be served outdoors but the rule of six applies and should be observed by both teams. Under these circumstances it is suggested that no formal post match refreshments are arranged and that other formalities, such as speeches, do not take place.

17th May - indoor social areas reopen allowing for pre and post match administration and socialising to take place subject to the Rule of 6.

June 21st - subject to the outcome of the government review no limits on numbers and social distancing. England Golf will review use of rakes, divot boxes, ball washers and removal of flagsticks.