

TITLE: Golf Buggy Safety Policy

Ride-on Golf Buggy Safety Policy – BALNAGASK GOLF COURSE

1. Document Control Sheet

File Directory	
File Name	Golf Buggy Use Safety Policy
Issue Date	March 2026
Planned Review Date	March 2027

Issue / Amendment / Review	Date	Pages Amended	Author
			Approved By
1	01/05/2023	New Document	A Allan / G Ritchie
2	01/04/2024	Review	A Allan / G Ritchie
3	01/04/2025	Review	A Allan / G Ritchie
4	30/03/2026	Review	A Allan / G Ritchie

Ref	Detail	Page Number
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	
1	Introduction	2
1.1	Authorisation for Ride-on Buggies	2
1.2	Capability to operate a ride-on buggy	3
1.3	Golf Aberdeen Hire Ride-on buggies	3
1.4	Privately Owned Ride-on Buggies	3
	Appendices	
1	Appendix 1 – Sport Aberdeen Ride-on Buggy Conditions of Use	4
2	Appendix 2 – Ride-on Buggy Safe Operation Practices	5
3	Appendix 3 – Sport Aberdeen Hire Ride-on Golf Buggy Acknowledgement and Acceptance Form	6
4	Appendix 4 – Sport Aberdeen Privately Owned Ride-on Golf Buggy Acknowledgement and Acceptance Form	7
5	Appendix 5 – Golf Aberdeen Ride-on Buggy Guidance Route	8

1. Introduction

This Policy sets out the circumstances in which ride-on golf buggies may be used on golf courses managed by Golf Aberdeen.

A copy of this policy is available to members and visitors and is available on our webpages:

<https://www.sportaberdeen.co.uk/activities/golf> FAQ Can I hire a buggy?

Golf Aberdeen wishes to encourage the participants in golf of all players regardless of disabilities. This Policy is in accordance with any obligations which Golf Aberdeen has under the Equality Act 2010.

Disability shall have the same meaning as in Section 6 of the Act – A person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

1.1 Authorisation for Ride-on Buggies

The safety of everyone using one of Sport Aberdeen’s Golf Courses is paramount. Members and visitors will only be authorised to use a ride-on buggy on the course if they can demonstrate that they can use it safely.

A privately-owned ride-on golf buggy may only be used by customers who have been granted approval on medical/disability grounds.

1.2 Capability to operate a ride-on buggy

Any person operating a ride-on buggy must demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skills to safely operate the vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof.

The safe operation of ride-on buggies on the course requires adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed in this policy document. Ride-on buggies must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the following sections of this policy:

Appendix 1 Sport Aberdeen Ride-on Golf Buggy Conditions of Use

Appendix 2 Ride-on Buggy Safe Operating Practice

Appendix 3 Golf Buggy - User consent form

Appendix 4 Private Golf Buggy – User consent form

Appendix 5 Golf Aberdeen Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance

A copy of these appendices are available to each authorised ride-on buggy user on our Golf / FAQ webpages. **It is the duty of the buggy user to check with the Golf Starter that they understand the current and up-to-date appendices before they take a ride-on buggy on the golf course.**

Sport Aberdeen reserves the right to withdraw authorisation for use of a ride-on buggy on any Golf Aberdeen Golf Course if these requirements are not fully complied with.

1.3 Golf Aberdeen Hire Ride-on buggies

The use of Sport Aberdeen owned ride-on buggies:

- Required formal authorisation by Golf Starters who will approve the use of buggies by a member/visitor.
- Will require completion of a Sport Aberdeen Ride-on Golf Buggy Acknowledgement and Acceptance Form (**Appendix 3**).

1.4 Privately Owned Ride-on Buggies

The use of all privately owned ride-on buggies may be granted provided that adequate medical evidence has been provided by the applicant and the type of golf buggy is approved by Golf Aberdeen:

- Required formal authorisation by Sport Aberdeen who will issue written approval for the use of a privately-owned buggy by the owner due to medical reasons.
- Will be restricted to members and visitors genuinely require vehicular assistance to enable them to play golf.
- Will require completion of a Sport Aberdeen Privately-owned Ride-on Golf Buggy Acknowledgement and Acceptance Form (**Appendix 4**).

The required forms can be obtained from the golf starter who reserves the right to withdraw authorisation if the conditions for its use are not fully complied with.

APPENDIX 1

Sport Aberdeen Ride-on Golf Buggy Conditions of Use

1. Golf Buggies may only be used by those authorised by Sport Aberdeen to do so.
2. Golf Buggies may not be used beyond the confines of the Golf Course.
3. Sport Aberdeen will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property other than that arising from the negligent use of a ride-on buggy by their employees.
4. Users of a privately-owned ride-on buggy must have adequate personal and third-party insurance.
5. Golf Aberdeen shall, where a determination is made, have regard to the following additional health and safety considerations before granting approval for the use of a buggy at any time:
 - a. Any relevant weather conditions;
 - b. The surface and ground conditions
 - c. The condition of and suitability of the buggy
 - d. Any other relevant considerations which could impede the safe use of a golf buggy or impact the safety of others.
6. If Golf Aberdeen believes that for reasons of health and safety a golf buggy should not be used by customers at a particular time, Golf Aberdeen may refuse to grant permission for use.

Buggy Safe Working Practices

Ride-on buggy users should, at all times:

1. **Demonstrate the utmost common sense, courtesy, care and consideration for the safe operation of the golf buggy and convenience of other course users.**
2. Afford pedestrians the right-of-way at all times.

During Use the user should:

1. **Not drive the buggy in prohibited areas – Do not drive across Tees or Greens or areas of Ground Under repair. Golf buggies must not be driven within 3 metres of any Green.**
2. Ensure the buggy is used only for the number of occupants it was designed to carry.
3. Not move off until occupants are seated and keep hands on controls at all times.
4. Keep hands and feet inside the buggy at all times while the buggy is in motion.
5. Not drive or park the buggy within two metres of bunkers or slopes.
6. Adhere to mandatory routes defined in the **Golf Aberdeen Ride-on Buggy Guidance Route (Appendix 5)** and course signage.
7. Use the buggy to progress the game by driving it in the direction of play. Avoid driving the buggy up and down excessively, e.g. when looking for golf balls.
8. Check behind the buggy before reversing.
9. Operate and park the buggy in such a manner that it does not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian flow on paths or tracks.
10. Ensure the buggy is stationary before leaving the buggy. Apply parking brake, turn operating key to off position and remove key when buggy is left unattended for a period of time.
11. Consider the terrain and pedestrian traffic and environment factors/conditions that might affect their ability to operate the buggy safely.
12. **Slow down and drive with caution at potential hazards such as dropped kerbs, corners, junctions, bridges and changes of terrain.**
13. Stop the buggy where paths cross the course and always proceed with caution.
14. Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction to prevent loss of control or damage to grass.

APPENDIX 2

Ride-on Buggy Safe Operation Practices

It is the duty of the user to adhere to restrictions and route guidance (**Appendix 5**) at all times.

2.1 Drivers' Competence

No person under the age of 18 years old is permitted to drive a ride-on buggy.

All ride-on buggy drivers must demonstrate that they can competently operate:

- Ignition switch
- Accelerator
- Footbrake
- Reserving control

2.2. Storage and Maintenance

1. All Golf Aberdeen ride-on buggies must be maintained in a clean and tidy state.
2. All users of ride-on buggies must sign a Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form (Appendix 3 or 4) before they are allowed to operate a ride-on buggy on a Golf Aberdeen Golf Course.
3. A ride-on buggy should only be operated by those authorised to do so.
4. Ride-on buggy users are responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy is used.
5. When the buggy is finally parked, the parking brake must be engaged and the operating key turned to the off position, removed and return to the Starters box.

APPENDIX 3

Sport Aberdeen Hire Ride-on Golf Buggy

Acknowledgement and Acceptance Form

All golfers must complete this form prior to using a Golf Buggy.

Any person/s who accepts the privilege of operating a buggy on a Golf Aberdeen Course must demonstrate the utmost common sense, courtesy, care and consideration for the safe operation of the golf buggy and convenience of other course users and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof. The safe operation of buggies requires responsible application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Name of User:	
Address:	
Contact Number:	

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

I have read and understand Sport Aberdeen's Ride-on Golf Buggy Conditions of Use (Appendix 1)	
I have read and understand Sport Aberdeen's Ride-on Buggy Safe Operating Practices (Appendix 2)	
I have read and understand the Golf Aberdeen Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance (Appendix 5)	
I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to Sport Aberdeen's Ride-on Buggy Safety Policy and have received answers to clarify these.	
I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a buggy. Do not drive on Greens or Tees	
I confirm that I am a competent driver and will operate the buggy in a safe and responsible manner at all times.	
I agree to indemnify Sport Aberdeen against all claims costs and demands made against Sport Aberdeen arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy.	

Signature of User:		Date:
Signature of Golf Starter:		Date:

Users of golf buggies do so at their own risk. Sport Aberdeen will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to property caused by users.

APPENDIX 4 Sport Aberdeen Privately Owned Ride-on Golf Buggy Acknowledgement and Acceptance Form

All golfers must complete this form prior to being permitted to use a privately owned Golf Buggy. The use of all privately owned ride-on buggies may be granted provided that adequate medical evidence has been provided by the applicant. Requests should be made to: customerhub@sportaberdeen.co.uk

Any person/s who accepts the privilege of operating a buggy on a Golf Aberdeen Course must demonstrate the utmost common sense, courtesy, care and consideration for the safe operation of the golf buggy and convenience of other course users and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof. The safe operation of buggies requires responsible application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Name of User:	
Address:	
Contact Number:	

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

I have read and understand Sport Aberdeen's Ride-on Golf Buggy Conditions of Use (Appendix 1)	
I have read and understand Sport Aberdeen's Ride-on Buggy Safe Operating Practices (Appendix 2)	
I have read and understand the Golf Aberdeen Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance (Appendix 5)	
I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to Sport Aberdeen's Ride-on Buggy Safety Policy and have received answers to clarify these.	
I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a buggy. Do not drive on Greens or Tees	
I confirm that I have a current and valid insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties. I confirm that I am a competent driver and will operate the buggy in a safe and responsible manner at all times.	
I agree to indemnify Sport Aberdeen against all claims costs and demands made against Sport Aberdeen arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy.	

Signature of User:		Date:
Signature of Golf Starter:		Date:

Users of golf buggies do so at their own risk. Sport Aberdeen will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to your buggy or any other property caused by users.

APPENDIX 5

Sport Aberdeen Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance

Sport Aberdeen has a duty of care to all golfers using the course as well as members of the public on the course. Caution must be shown by users of ride-on golf buggies with regards to pedestrians on the course.

5.1 Course Conditions

Throughout daily operations, Golf Aberdeen staff make decisions on a daily basis concerning the safety of the course for ride-on buggy users. There will be times where conditions restrict access for ride-on buggies. Users must ensure they comply with any restrictions and with relevant course signage.

Information about short-term restrictions placed on buggy users can be conveyed verbally by Golf Aberdeen staff or may be displayed on:

- Starters box notice boards
- Signage on the course

5.2 Consideration for Course

In dry conditions, when the ground is firm, Golf Aberdeen staff will permit ride-on buggies to use the fairways.

In wet conditions, when the ground is wet, it is preferable for ride-on buggies to be driven at the edge of the fairway (avoiding deep rough). In these circumstances the ride-on buggy should be stopped and parked at the side of the fairway and the user should walk to the fairway to play their shot.

In very wet conditions, no buggies will be permitted onto the course to help prevent damage to fairways and other areas of the golf course.

5.3 Balnagask Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance

Always maintain a slow steady pace in the golf buggy

Always park the buggy behind your golf shot

Always ensure the vehicle is stationary before exiting the buggy

Buggies must never be driven across the tees or within 2 metres of greens

Any inappropriate use will result in buggies being forfeited

HOLE	ROUTE GUIDANCE
Front of House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow grass path to left of tee and park next to tee. For medal tee, drive slowly around front of tee parking on concrete path between tees.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep to left of the fairway to avoid balls from 18th hole. Stick to grass path and park buggy to Left of green at least 3 metres from the green apron
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the second tee via grass path. Park to right of tee. Keep to left of the fairway to avoid balls from 6th hole. Be aware of uneven surface. Be aware of blind summit on fairway Be aware of bunker on right hand side of fairway. Park buggy to left of green at least 3 metres from the green apron.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow path to 3rd tee. Park buggy to right of tee. Drive to the left of the fairway avoiding bunkers on right. Be aware of greenside bunkers in front of green, Park buggy right of the green – next to 4th tee.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park buggy to right of tee. Be aware of steep downwards slope from tee to fairway. Approach slowly. Keep to the centre of the fairway. Approach green from Right across the path and park behind the green, left of 5th tee.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow path up middle of fairway Approach green on Right hand side avoiding bunker. Park buggy to Right of Green then turn right to go back to 6th tee.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park buggy between 5th and 6th tee. Keep to centre of the fairway. Be aware of blind summit on fairway. Stay to the left of the green with buggy – avoiding bunker. Drive around left of front Left greenside bunker and park to left of green.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park to left of tee. Follow path up the centre of the fairway. Beware of the fairway bunkers on the right and left. Keep to the Left of the Left bunker. Park to the right of the green at least 3 meters away from the green apron
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow next tee signage along stone path to 8th tee. Beware of steep drop from tee to fairway. Approach with caution. Keep to the centre of the fairway. Beware of uneven surface and blind summit. Park buggy to the left of the green next to the 9th tee.

HOLE	ROUTE GUIDANCE
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep to the centre of the fairway. • Avoid greenside bunkers both Left and Right • Be aware of uneven ground and steep slope up to green. • Park to the Right of green at least 3 metres away from the green apron.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow path to left of the fairway. • Be aware of steep incline – avoid steeper sections. • Beware of the fairway bunkers both left and right – drive through the centre. • Park buggy to the left of the green next to 11th tee.
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep to the centre of the fairway. • Please keep to the right on approach to green. • Beware of the Right green side bunker. • Park buggy on the right of green.
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT take the buggy up to the tee. Please park between 11th green and tee. • Keep to right of the fairway to avoid balls from 13th hole. • Be aware of blind summit on fairway. • Park to the left of the green at least 3 meters away from the green apron Use path to access 13th.
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please keep to the centre of the fairway. • Beware of uneven fairway surface. • Park to the right of the green. Do not park on the green apron
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT take the buggy up to the tee. Please park between 13th green and tee. • Keep to centre of the fairway. • Beware of the bunkers at green side both left and right. • Approach green on Left and park behind the green.
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT take the buggy up to the tee. Please park in between tee and 16th green. • Be aware of uneven surface/inclines on fairway. • Keep to left on approach to green. Follow path far left up to green. • Keep at least 3 metres away from the green apron • Park the buggy on left next to the 16th tee
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of steep incline from tee to fairway. • Keep to left as you leave tee. • Be aware of uneven surface and blind summit on fairway. • Park buggy on left of green.
Transition to 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive to the right across public footpath to access 17th.
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park to left of tee on footpath • Follow path keeping to centre of fairway. • Be aware of blind summit on fairway. • Be aware of fairway bunkers in centre. Approach at the left. • Park buggy to right of the green close to Right greenside bunker.
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park to right of tee • Keep to left of fairway to avoid balls from the 1st hole. • Be aware of fairway bunkers both left and right • Park buggy to rear of green
Transition to front of house (starters box)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beware of pedestrian, green staff, golf Aberdeen staff, and other users • Drive carefully at all times. • Park buggy on hard standing area and return key to the starter whom will inspect buggy.