

FROST POLICY

It is the intention of Queens Park Golf Course to open for play every day of the year, however the course, or parts of it, may be closed on the authority of the Course Manager, Senior Green Keeper, when damage to the Course would result if play were permitted and / or if conditions are deemed to be dangerous.

POLICY

When there is **any** frost the flags will be taken off the main greens and placed on the temporary greens until the frost is gone from the ground to a depth considered safe by the Course Manager or one of the Green Keeping staff. In addition the 2nd hole may be closed as balls hitting the solid frozen green can rebound onto Queens Park Avenue Road, causing a hazard to passing traffic.

The use of caddy cars, personal buggies and trolleys may be prohibited depending on the condition of the course. A guideline to as and when these may be prohibited is as follows:

- If there is a white frost then the use of caddy cars and trolleys will be prohibited.
- If there is a hard frost but no visible sign of frost then the use of caddy cars, personal buggies and trolleys will be permitted.
- In addition the use of personal buggies may be prohibited if the conditions dictate that their use may be dangerous to the user or damaging to the course

Staff will inform the booking office of the ground conditions for the day as early as 07 30 hrs, and will review the condition of the course at 11 00hrs when a final decision for the days conditions will be made

It is therefore strongly advised that users of caddy cars, personal buggies and trolleys ring the booking office before arriving at the course, if frost is visible on the day or a period of sustained frost has been experienced.

REASONS

When there is a frost, the water contained within the leaf of a grass plant turns into frozen crystals. The cells within the leaf can become bruised, punctured or even snap with the passage of footprints or vehicles over their surface. This damage is frequently seen as black footprints or trolley lines across the course. This in due time will put the plant under stress, particularly at a time of slow growth, make it more susceptible to disease and when coming in to the growing season the energy of the plant goes towards repair before turning to growth.

When there has been a heavy frost, which has gone deep in to the ground, the most dangerous situation occurs during the period of thaw, when no surface evidence of frost may be apparent.

This is where the ground below the surface remains frozen whilst the top surface is soft and often extremely wet. Foot traffic, vehicle movement and trolleys on the surface may cause the top surface to move whilst the ground below remains in place thus causing the roots to shear away. This root break causes severe damage to the plant and the deep rooting needed for healthy turf development, thus again causing stress, susceptibility to disease and protracted early season development.

Damage to grass can occur anywhere on the course, from tee to green, but is more pronounced in areas subjected to frequent traffic or pinch points i.e. greens, tees, aprons and fairway