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## Carnalea Golf Club - Re-Opening Protocols

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### Introduction

On behalf of myself, the Club Council and staff we are delighted to welcome you all back to the golf club.

The announcements today (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May) now need to be passed into law at Stormont. We hope that this will be achieved later tonight. Our Greens' team will return to full strength tomorrow by welcoming back those who were on furlough. They will spend Tuesday making the final preparations on the course. **Thus, we are planning to re-launch golf from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.**

We are fortunate that golf is one of the first sports to return to some degree of normality and all the stake-holders who brought this to fruition have our thanks. We would also like to place on record our thanks to Stuart Glover & Stevie Kane for carrying out the permitted essential maintenance during the period of closure - this has allowed us to return to our course in a great condition. Also, a thank you to Paul Nelson who provided a patrol on the course every day and also for the painting of the fence at 1<sup>st</sup>.

Given the current circumstances, the pent up demand for golf from members and the fact a good number of members may be furloughed we have decided to re-start on a nine hole basis in three balls to give as much access to as many golfers as possible including those who may be essential workers. We will monitor this day by day to make any positive adjustments possible towards getting back to 18 holes as soon as is possible.

It is important to say that in this phase 1 of return to golf we have decided that Saturday, Ladies, Society and Junior bookings will be set aside in order to create as much opportunity as possible for all given reduced flows of golfers.

Paramount in our thoughts now is allowing you, our members, to enjoy your game in a safe environment. This practical guide has been prepared to inform everyone of how golf will operate during **Phase 1** of our re-opening. The measures are, we believe, robust and will be monitored by all staff in the coming weeks. For you, the golfers, the guide covers each step of the journey from home to the appointed tee box and back home again. These measures are in place from start to end of play seven days a week until further updated. The measures and protocols are under constant review and refinement and will be updated as we learn more and as we progress through the levels as set out by GUI/ ILGU Ulster and the NI Executive. We will update this guidance as the need arises or in line with government, health authority or governing body updates.

**All Members are reminded of the current Government Health Policy Guidelines which can be found at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>**

We ask for your complete co-operation with the measures listed herein as no doubt golf courses will be under extreme scrutiny in the coming weeks. Please remember that in today's social media environment it would take only one passer-by to take a photograph of golfers not socially distancing to have significant negative impact. We hope that through our adherence to these protocols we will work successfully toward the gradual lifting of the current restrictions and a return to as close to normal operations as possible in due course.

Please enjoy your golf and stay safe.

Glenn Lindsay on behalf of the Council  
General Manager

## Course Access

- In the initial phase the Club will be open to Members only and for casual golf only. We hope to allow non-members to visit in due course, initially at the invitation of members - this will only happen in line with further lifting of the current restrictions.
- Bookings will be facilitated through the BRS system and this will go live 3 days in advance of the day of play. **Given play will start within the normal 3-day period - the first timesheet for Wednesday 20th May will go live at 9pm today (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May)**. Thus, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May will also go live at 9pm today (Monday 18<sup>th</sup>) – this being the normal 3 day ‘window’ for booking. Only playing Members will have access to each daily timesheet.
- One person will be able to book up to three players on the time sheet given it is casual golf. If you are booking for others you must select the member's name from a drop-

down list of members so that we have full traceability of members should records be required to show that members only have played or in the case of any health issue related to Covid.

- Members are initially asked to play a maximum of 4 times per week. This is to facilitate as many members as possible getting some golf and this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. We will review daily anyone not respecting this in a 7-day period.

- We only have one time-sheet available for the club so the following will apply:

**If your Tee Time ends in the following minutes you will play the front nine:**

**00 / 15 / 30 / 45**

**If Your Tee Time ends in the following minutes you will play the back nine:**

**08 / 23 / 38 / 53**

- Initially tee times will commence as follows

Front Nine - Mon to Friday 8am - to allow the Greens' team the access to the course they need prior to play

Back Nine – Mon to Friday 6.30am to 8.30am and then a gap in tee times until 10am to allow Greens' team access to the course

At weekends 1<sup>st</sup> tee times on both nines will commence at 6.30am

- Playing Arrangements will initially be as follows:
- 3-balls per above on each nine
- Members who have been out of the country in the previous 14 days should not visit the Club.
- Members should not visit the Club if doing so puts them in contravention of government restrictions.
- Members should not visit the Club if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

- The usual reserved tee times for Men, Ladies, Society & Junior Competitions are suspended until further notice.
- If you are a single player please try to fill any slots with other 2-balls rather than starting a new time-slot.
- Due to the expected volume of play / the current dry spell and the necessity for staff to maintain the physical distancing protocols there will be times when the timesheet will be reserved for essential course maintenance.
- **Absolutely no “cutting-in” or play before official tee times is permissible at any time**
- **You may only play in a time previously booked via BRS** – Bookings must be made via the BRS app or online
- Given office & Pro Shop constraints there will be very little capacity to accept bookings via the telephone – if you need help with your BRS sign in credentials then please email the office (manager@carnaleagolfclub.com) — they will reset any passwords / credentials.
- **Juniors Members** – Under 18 must play in the company of a family member or adult as approved by their family.

## Booking & Arrival

- Pre-booking your tee time in advance is compulsory in Phase 1. You can book via BRS only. Pre-booking is required to facilitate contact tracing should a member be affected with Covid-19
- Please note that golfers who do not use booked tee times may be restricted from making further bookings. Should you be unable to fulfil your tee time then please cancel your booking asap.
- We recommend golf equipment be cleaned & sanitised before leaving home.

- Ensure that you have sufficient numbers of golf balls, markers, tees to avoid having to exchange equipment with others – note in phase 1 the pro-shop will not be open for retail / purchases
- **Please bring with you any snack and drinks required for the day as well as your own sanitizer supply**
- Golfers should travel to the Club alone, or with a member of the same household only.
- Please park in a manner so as to facilitate physical distancing.
- Arrive at the Clubhouse no more than 15 mins. before your reserved tee time.
- Resist the temptation to mingle prior to tee off (or after golf).
- Change shoes in the car park.
- On your first visit you should retrieve your clubs and anything needed from your locker as well as your trolley and chargers. After your first round these must be taken home with you and brought to the course with you on each occasion – this is to minimize cross contamination from touch surfaces in Phase 1 as directed by the Govt.
- No more than 3 persons on the practice putting green at any one time – please ensure social distancing at all times. Pitching around this green is NOT permitted

### **Clubhouse, Locker-rooms & Pro Shop**

- The Clubhouse remains closed for now as per government policy.
- The Ladies' and Gents' toilets in the locker rooms will be available and must be accessed through the main doors only. The Gents lockers will operate a one-way policy to aid social distancing – please follow the arrows on the floor and do not enter via the side locker room door – this will be for exit only. Doors will be wedged open to minimize touching surfaces.
- Lockers will open at 7 am and close at last tee off time of the day – If you have an earlier tee time then you must have your clubs etc in your car already.
- Per the protocols please try to avoid using club toilet facilities if at all possible – please always use the toilet at home before travelling for your game.
- The pro Shop will be open for checking in and hire of trollies and buggies

- Staff will continue routine cleaning, sanitization and disinfection of all open locations, especially all common and high traffic areas, and frequently touched surfaces.
- Please observe the 2m social distancing at all times

## To the Tee

- Groups are restricted to 3 balls in this initial phase.
- **All players must check in with the Pro Shop / Marshal before commencing play.**
- Do not arrive at the first tee more than 5 minutes before your allotted tee time.
- Do not enter the teeing ground until the all members of the group in front have played their tee-shots and exited the teeing ground.

## On the Course

- Club personnel will be on the golf course to monitor adherence with physical distancing protocols and the protocols set out in this document. Please adhere to all signage outlining the social distancing guidelines in place.
- Holes must be played in order
- All Bunkers will be out of play initially as GUR
- Buggy usage will be limited to one person (unless from the same household in which case 2 people may share)
- Club Rental Buggies in this initial phase will only be available to those who have a registered disability / medial need – evidence of which should be provided to the office
- Club Hire Buggy surfaces will be disinfected by staff prior to use. If you must use a golf buggy, it must only be used by you and cannot be shared with or used by another player.
- Ball washing stations will be out of use and course furniture will be taken out of use where possible.
- Golfers are requested to personally dispose of any rubbish in the large bins at the clubhouse carpark

- Family members should play together where possible
- Observe physical distancing at all times on the course. Do not enter the next teeing ground until the all members of the group in front have played their tee-shots and exited the teeing ground. Do not exchange or share equipment, food or drink with other players during your round. Do not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball.
- If your ball is lost, unplayable, or in a penalty area, don't take an option under the rules that involves doubling back on your position on the course. Instead, use an option that allows you to keep your position on the course.
- When putting each player should putt until he / she has holed out – furthest from pin should not apply
- Golfers are directed to leave the pin in the cup at all times and to avoid touching same. – use the cup raisers to retrieve your ball.
- It is imperative that members adhere to pace of play guide lines to prevent any backups on the course. There will be volunteer marshals on duty to help with the pace of play and to ensure proper social distancing, please follow their instructions.

## Home Safe

- The Shoe cleaning air-gun and area will not be operational.
- If using the toilet area hands should be washed thoroughly as per govt guidelines
- Hand sanitizer will be available outside the locker rooms and pro-shop.
- Return directly to your car and leave the club
- Members must call or email the Club Manager with any post-round health issues or Covid-19 related queries.

## Staff Safety

- The General Manager, Pro & First Tee Marshals will manage all customer facing aspects of the Club as follows:
  - *Staff have been provided with appropriate PPE for their use.*
  - *Staff are aware and recognise the importance of regular hand washing and cough / sneeze etiquette*
  - *Hand sanitisers are available to staff and players*
  - *Service Desk protection screens will be installed where appropriate*
  - *All works areas are sanitised regularly*
  
- The **Green-Keepers** are isolated on the course for much of the time and with steps taken to minimise risk of cross contamination during their shifts
  - *Morning Briefings adhere to physical distancing protocols.*
  - *Breaks are being staggered and taken alone in their vehicles.*
  - *Hand sanitisers are provided.*
  - *Gloves are provided where required*
  - *Staff have been provided with appropriate PPE for their use.*
  - *Staff are aware and recognise the importance of regular hand washing and cough / sneeze etiquette*
  - *Machinery is fully washed down & sanitised after use.*

## Finally

It is everyone's wish that the above measures can be relaxed on a regular and on-going basis so that we get back to some semblance of normality, including competitions. We will review our progress daily and advise of any improvements we can make as we learn more. This can only happen if members have regard for the above protocols/their fellow members, and comply with what is asked of them.

This document will be updated and forwarded to members as and when changes are made by the Club, the GUI or the relevant government bodies.

Thank you and enjoy the Golf Course!

Glenn Lindsay on behalf of Council