



South Shields Golf Club Course Policy Document

This policy is laid down to demonstrate the Executive Committees, Club Manager and Head Green Keeper desire to provide a first-class playing facility the mission is that: -

SOUTH SHIELDS GOLF CLUB will be a well-maintained golf course in South Tyneside.

GREENS

The underlying objectives of putting surface management are to:

- Produce a good level of usability all year-round, weather permitting.
- Provide a good standard of putting surface outside of the main summer golf season, weather permitting.
- Provide a remarkably high standard of putting surface for the main summer golf season.
- Promote a good level of consistency between putting greens daily.
- Identify and achieve the club's desired grass species composition.

The above will be achieved by promoting firm and dry surfaces. Where design, drainage, size, shape or situation limits maintenance solutions then re-construction will be considered.

- Greens will be mown between a height of cut 3mm to 6mm depending on the season and weather condition, mowing followed by ironing in as many occasions as the ground permits.
- Top dressing and aeration programmes will be formulated to improve root growth and prevent the spread of disease in the turf base and to prevent the development of notable compaction of the soil profile.
- Overseeding will be undertaken as and when required to help input new growth and support the removal of meadow grass by introducing the creeping bent variant.
- Fertiliser, with no phosphate input unless chemical analysis indicates deficiency.
- Irrigation will be provided to an as and when needed from the clubs bore hole and PH levels will be monitored to maintain the correct levels for the type of grass composition,
- Pest and disease management will follow best practice. Single broad-leaved weeds will be removed by hand as seedlings.
- Greens maintenance will be programmed to minimise disruption to play but, where possible, to maximise the benefit from each operation.

GREEN SURROUND

The green surround shall be maintained to provide a smooth, well presented transition from fairway to putting green. This will include a close-cut fringe, collar, and apron. Banks and mounds within the green surround shall be mown at a height, which retains an attractive presentation without promoting scalping, drought, or wear stress. The green run up and collar should comprise a similar texture and density of turf as for the greens, providing firm and dry surfaces, which will facilitate a wide variety of approach play.

The collar and immediate surround will be managed, except for cutting; in as similar a manner to greens as is feasible. The collar will be mown to a height of cut between 8mm and 12mm depending on the season and weather.

- The apron and surround will be mown at 12mm in the growing season and 14 mm in the winter, a minimum of twice a week and as necessary over the winter to retain a tidy presentation.
- Weed and pest control measures to be taken as necessary in accordance with COSHH.

FAIRWAYS

The fairway is defined at the Club as the land lying between the carry from the tee and the green apron. A mixture of species, fescue, bent and dwarf rye, is ideal for fairway play and the management of

fairways will be such as to promote this mixture. Fairways shall be mown to present an attractive appearance, producing an informal margin, which complements both natural and manmade features.

- Fairways will be cut at a height of between 12mm to 15mm dependant on season and weather at the necessary frequency to maintain neat and consistent surfaces.
- Aeration will be carried out to promote firm and dry playing surfaces throughout, wherever practical due to the rock format underground. Concentrating on main traffic areas in the late summer and autumn. Weed and pest control measures to be taken as necessary in accordance with COSHH.
- The carry to the fairway will be at a maximum of 100 yards from the Ladies tee. Where appropriate,

TEES

Tee maintenance shall provide for a firm, level stance with a uniform, dense grass cover from which a clean contact with the ball can be made. Areas around the tees will be maintained at an appropriate height to offer a contrast. Design limitations to this objective, e.g., size of the tee and shade from trees, shall be corrected in a planned programme of upgrading.

Tees will be maintained as for green surrounds. In addition, divot repairs will be completed on a weekly basis to those tees taking heavy damage, i.e., the par 3 holes.

- Divot repair for Par 4 and Par 5 holes will take place every other week.
- Tee irrigation will be maintained to facilitate divot regeneration.
- Weed and pest control measures to be taken as necessary in accordance with COSHH.

BUNKERS

Bunkers will be maintained to provide hazards, which collect balls to a central depression with adequate room for a full swing from this position. They will be designed to drain freely, be visible and provide a positive influence on play. The sand used will be to a specification and laid to a depth to provide for a consistent playing surface. The bunker sand will have most of its particles in the 0.125 to 1mm range, having a light tan colour to provide for good definition and contrast. Where bunkers do not meet these criteria then they will be upgraded but in such a way as to conform to the traditional Braid/Mackenzie style of design to the course. Rakes should be replaced in bunkers in the appropriate holders or with the head towards the front with the final 30cm protruding from the bunker.

- Fairway bunkers are normally to be raked weekly during the season and sand is to be topped up, as necessary. The bunker and its boundary are to be trimmed as necessary to retain a clear definition to the hazard.
- Greenside bunkers will be raked twice a week and on the morning of any "main" club competition, sand is to be topped up, as necessary. The bunker and its boundary are to be trimmed as necessary to retain a clear definition to the hazard.

ROUGH

The semi-rough will be mown a maximum of one machine cut width to provide a nominal penalty to the wayward shot. The rough will be mown to provide a greater penalty. The deeper rough shall be managed to retain and encourage the native vegetation as discussed in the separate environmental management plan.

- The semi rough will be topped as necessary to present a uniform surface at 38mm (1.5")
- The rough will be maintained at 63mm (2.5")
- Deeper rough vegetation is to be managed at by an annual cut back during the late off season as per the environmental management plan, to encourage local plants and other foliage to grow providing a natural habitat for local animal and insect species.
- Areas of specific interest regarding flora and fauna will be managed in accordance with guidance from the WLF.
- Weed and pest control measures to be taken as necessary in accordance with COSHH.

TREES

Trees will be managed as discussed within an environmental plan. Trees will be managed and culled accordingly if disease is evident and any new like for like tree planting programmes will ensure tree saplings species is conducive to the existing trees and native to the area, the use of conifers and privet hedges to provide protection from the elements will not be considered as they are not native to the land area.

STEEP INCLINES / SLOPES

Due to the terrain of the course, it is not safe to attend certain part therefore these will be managed in line with general Risk Assessment due to the steep aspect when working with cutting machines - therefore grass and shrubbery will be left to grow as it is deemed too dangerous to attempt cutting.

STAFF

The optimum number of staff will be identified by a project management exercise, initiated by the Exec and Green Chair in conjunction with the Club Manager and Head Greenkeeper and in seeking professional guidance from relevant professional bodies, which will be repeated every 3 years or as deemed necessary, or as cost factors dictate.

The Club is committed to sustaining the optimum staffing level as finances allow and to provide the necessary training and education to retain a structured staffing profile and to enable staff to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. Additional part-time staff will be employed as deemed necessary. Staff are required to wear the protective clothing and safety equipment provided by the Club, to follow specified work procedures and Health and Safety procedures. The Club is committed to offering a competitive salary structure, and provision of training as necessary to ensure these objectives are fulfilled.

MACHINERY

A full inventory of course maintenance equipment will be maintained. A planned programme of replacement will be produced by the Greens Chair for the executive committee's approval as an on-going measure though there will be flexibility within this structure to delay or bring forward purchases as the need arises. All machines will be well cared for by the staff, following the maintenance programmes in the appropriate manufacturer's handbook. All machinery will be

cleaned and lubricated, as necessary, after use. The main items of machinery will undergo routine servicing.

MATERIALS

The quality of materials purchased for use on the golf course will meet the relevant standard specifications and be purchased at the best possible price. Laboratory analysis will be undertaken as deemed necessary to ensure the provision of quality products appropriate to the course's requirement.

ACCOMMODATION

A good standard of accommodation will be provided for the staff, machinery, and materials in accordance with health and safety requirements. The Greens team undertake to maintain the accommodation in a safe, clear, clean, and tidy environment.

SAFETY ON THE COURSE

Safety out on the golf course is extremely important to minimise accidents and promote a safe environment. The green staff will be provided by personal protective equipment and will undergo training by the Head Greenkeeper who is ultimately accountable for Course Staff Training and Safety.

Visibility impairment due to fog or poor light, will be determined by observation of the first green from the white tee. If the flag cannot be easily seen, then the course is unplayable. Play is not allowed before Sunrise and after sunset or prior to 6.30am whichever is the sooner.

WORKING PRACTISE

Fair Weather working practice will be organised by the Head Greenkeeper unless reprioritised by the Greens Chair. Bad Weather working practice will be as stipulated and controlled by the Club Manager or Line Manager of the Head Greenkeeper in conjunction with the Head Greenkeepers expert knowledge. Special Project working practice will be as stipulated and overseen by the Greens Chair or their nominated appointee or club manager.

COURSE CLOSURE

The Management wish to stress that they and the staff will make every effort to keep the Golf Course open, in full or in part, for play by members and visitors and will communicate information concerning the daily course playability but social media, professional shop contact and website blog post). The Directors recognise the importance of taking into consideration Health and Safety issues and the commercial implications before making a final decision to close the course.

The course may be closed, or partially closed, on the authority of THE ATTENDING GREENKEEPER and the Club Professional. In the event of disagreement, the final decision rests with the Greens Chair or Club Manager.

- Closure may occur when unusual weather conditions have occurred and damage to the course would result if play were permitted. Such conditions would exist if the greens were largely waterlogged if the course were flooded so that relief is not available on the fairways or during severe frost or snow.
- Thick fog would also demand temporary closure until safe conditions prevailed. If the flag on the first hole cannot be seen from the Yellow Tee, then the course is not safe to play.
- The course will be inspected at intervals through the day to assess when the course will be fit too re-open. Whenever possible, closure will be limited to only those holes worst affected by the conditions described above.

- During a competition, the Professional or an authorised member of the Competition Committee may close the course if it is considered that the greens have become unsuitable for play due to any reason such as flooding, thunder/lightning, fog, frost or snow.

The use of a klaxon will be used to announce course closure to golfers on the course as per the course risk assessment.

- Players are reminded that it is also their own responsibility to suspend play and safely leave the course under their own initiative should they consider the weather conditions represent a danger to themselves and/or other players.
- Suitable and adequately maintained footwear should always be worn and proper care taken when walking on uneven ground and in wet conditions.

ATTACHE –LATEST STRI REPORT

ATTACHE – COURSE PLAN

ATTACHE – ANY WOODLAND TRUST OR WILDLIFE REPORTS

ATTACHE -ENVIROMENTAL PLAN

ATTACHE – LATEST WATER REPORT

ATACHE – EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

The Executive Management Committee February 2021