

TYNEDALE GOLF CLUB

GOLF COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT

JANUARY 2017

**[UPDATED August
2021]**



TYNEDALE GOLF CLUB

TYNE GREEN ROAD

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DATE: JANUARY 2017

NEXT ASSESSMENT:

This risk assessment should be reviewed when there is any change to the golf course requiring a revision to this risk assessment; new information available about risks or control measures; results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective; changes to key personnel; or any other aspects requiring a review of the system.

UPDATED:

AUGUST 2021 – Following an incident on the course it was felt that a review was due as following covid there has been an increase in footfall along the river adjacent to the course and around the course. More visitors are crossing the course at many locations and there is an increase in dog public on the course.

ASSESSMENT AUDIT

Last Risk Assessment Date:

Action	Yes	No	N/A	By whom/date
August 2021 - Accident to walker prompted the review of the Risk Assessment	*			SMP/August 2021

Comments:

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TYNE GREEN SAFETY SCHEME AND RISK ASSESSMENT TYNEDALE GOLF CLUB LIMITED

1. Purpose and Scope of the Assessment

Purpose:

The management of health and safety within the golf course in order to minimise the risk of accidents, through the development of safe procedures of operation, for all aspects of golf.

The risk assessment describes how this will be achieved.

Tynedale Golf Club have a maintenance agreement with Northumberland County Council for the maintenance of the golf course. The NCC employ the staff who work on the course and will have their own risk assessments in place for this operation.

All greens employees (Northumberland County Council)

Will be responsible for ensuring that health and safety is at the core of all activities undertaken at the golf course.

All golfers, members and visitors (including spectators)

Will be responsible for ensuring they do not endanger themselves, other golfers or other members of the public (for instance, using footpaths / rights of way adjacent to the golf course) whilst present at Tyne Green Country park. The club will reinforce this within publications on their web page and notices around the club house. Improved signage around the course will help advise the public both new and old to the Tyne Green Country Park.

Scope of this risk assessment:

- Identify and assess sources of risk [responsible persons – Chairman, Vice Chairman, secretaries and management committee].
- Prepare a written scheme for the prevention and/or control of the risk [responsible person – Chairman, Vice Chairman, secretaries and management committee]
- Implement, manage and monitor all precautions taken [responsible person - Chairman, Vice Chairman, secretaries and management committee]
- Keep accurate records of all precautions [responsible person - secretary]
- Appoint a person to take managerial responsibility [responsible person - secretary]

The scope of works shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Resurvey and update of all existing risk assessments, on a regular basis.

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- Implement and carry out regular inspection and testing regimes as recommended by the RA.
- Monitoring of all measures put in place as part of this risk assessment, on a regular basis with a report being submitted to the responsible person detailing the condition and any remedial works required.
- Providing the responsible person with records of testing carried out and any remedial actions recommended for out of specification results or defects found.
- Providing the responsible person with any recommended system upgrade information.
- The risk assessment to be carried out by a competent operative and actions taken will be specific to the work concerned and the activities undertaken in relation to any specific operation.

The risk assessment shall be reviewed regularly, or if any of the following apply:

- any change to the golf course requiring a review of this risk assessment;
- new information available about risks or control measures;
- results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective;
- changes to key personnel;
- any other changes affecting the validity of the risk assessment.

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Management structure:

At the club the Responsible Person unless otherwise stated is the Chairman. The CHAIRMAN has a management committee consisting of Ladies representatives and the general membership.

The appropriate officer at the Northumberland County Council, is responsible for ensuring that greens personnel are competent and suitably trained to carry out the duties as prescribed during the day to day operation of maintenance at the golf club. The Responsible Person delegates the day-to-day operation of the written scheme to the Greenkeeper in Charge (the Competent Person).

The Competent Person(s) is appointed to take day to day responsibility for managing risks during the day to day maintenance activities being carried out. They should be able to identify if any constraints prevent the safe carrying out of tasks.

Training:

Training records are to be kept in the appropriate Northumberland County Council department.

All responsible and competent persons should receive basic training supplemented by regular refresher training in the safe use of equipment and the safe means of working.

Communication:

Communication is a key factor in the risk assessment process. The risks need to be identified and communicated to the council management and employees, to allow the prioritization of remedial actions to control the identified risks.

The Competent Person takes day-to-day responsibility for controlling any identified risk from the day to day operations, and must have sufficient authority, competence and knowledge of the golf course and its operation, to ensure all operational procedures are carried out in a timely and effective manner.

The Competent Person appointed to implement the control measures and strategies should be suitably informed, instructed and trained and their suitability assessed. Regular refresher training should be given and the Competent Person should have a clear understanding of their role and the overall health and safety management structure and policies of the golf club.

Precautions in place to prevent or minimise risk:

Pre-Planned Maintenance and Inspection

General Health and Safety Recommendations.

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When remedial action should be taken:

Remedial action to be taken in the event that the scheme is shown not to be effective, including control scheme reviews and any modifications made when there is:

- any change to the golf course requiring a review of this risk assessment;
- new information available about risks or control measures;
- results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective;
- changes to key personnel;
- any other changes affecting the validity of the risk assessment.

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2. AIM

2.1 To maximise the safety of members, golf visitors and visitors to Tyne Green

The risk assessment should be carried out in order to allow the Golf Course to be a safe place to play golf and the country park a safe place to walk.

1. The risk assessment will look at the areas of danger and offer options to minimise the risks to members, golf visitors and the visitors to Tyne Green.
2. The responsibility for Health and Safety is the responsibility of all that use the Countryside Park including golfers and public alike.
3. Golfers should be respectful of public and wait appropriately for the public to pass safely.
4. public should have respect of golfers ensuring that they do not allow children to run carelessly onto the course, Keep their dogs under control (preferably on a lead) and walk in the safe paths around the course.

The risk assessment must be reviewed regularly or whenever there is a reason to believe that the original assessment may no longer be valid. This may be due to any of the following reasons:

- any change to the golf course requiring a review of this risk assessment;
- new information available about risks or control measures;
- results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective;
- changes to key personnel;
- any other changes affecting the validity of the risk assessment.

The risk assessment should be regarded as a working document and updated as required.

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3. GOLF COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction

This assessment considers issues relating to the 10 hole golf course and practice area. Risks associated with the work carried out by the greens staff are considered as part of a separate risk assessment provided by Northumberland County Council.

Tynedale Golf Club accepts no liability for any damage caused by golfers to vehicles parked on the road or car park adjacent to the clubhouse.

3.2 General course topography

The golf course is generally relatively level, being sited on the valley floor of the River Tyne, at an elevated level above that of the immediate area of the river. There are some, occasionally steep inclines within the golf course, extending over short distances.

The golf course is bounded by the River Tyne to the north and by the Newcastle- Hexham- Carlisle railway line to the south.

Access to the course is via Tyne Green Road through the Tyne Green Country Park

A narrow stream runs in front of the 18th Green and alongside the 8th/ 17th Fairway and green.

3.3 Public access

There is only one public right of way which runs across the course from the railway crossing at the Railway Cottages straight across the course to the River Tyne.

There is a footpath which circumvents the golf course and is the safest route for public. Access to this route can be taken from a number of unofficial accesses. Unfortunately, many public cross the course at these points to save walking around the course to the River Tyne.

There are a number of unofficial accesses on to the course. In the west at the XXXXX crossing which leads to two unofficial footpaths at or around the 3rd tee. One path runs alongside the railway line and the other alongside the river to the north of the avenue of trees. The lack of maintenance of this route such as footpath repairs and lack of tree pruning has caused public to walk generally in the avenue of trees on the river side and the airway on the 1st and 2nd holes which run alongside the railway line putting themselves and family in danger and at risk from golf shots from the 3rd Tee, the 6th tee and the 7th tee.

There is a footbridge at the clubhouse designed for golfers playing the 18th and leaving the course. Visitors use this bridge as an unofficial access on to the course walking directly onto and across the 9th/18th 5th /14th ,6th and 15th putting themselves ,family and friends in danger.

There is an access for maintenance vehicles to the east of the clubhouse from the large turning head . This has a rail which can be removed to allow grass cutting machines onto the course. This has a pedestrian access, a remnant from the days when the 1st and 10th tees

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were adjacent to the turning head. The course was changed by the council at the time to avoid crossing the holes mentioned latter in this paragraph. This was never closed off when the course layout was changed. This gives access across the 9th/18th, 4th/13th and the 7th/16th. The final access is from the councils play park and provides access up the river along the trees or along the stream adjacent to the park. There is a section of the path at the clubhouse where the public cross the 18th fairway and in danger from golfers, obstructed by trees , playing to the 18th.

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3.4 Staff working on the course

Staff working on the course have priority at all times and golfers should not play shots if staff are within range or are summoned to take their shot by the staff member.

3.5 Use of trolleys, electric trolleys and motorised (electric) buggies

Any member or visitor who wishes to use their personally owned buggy will be required to follow the instructions regarding the safe use of the buggy.

Buggies owned and operated by members must be subject to the provision of a copy of an insurance certificate providing 3rd party public liability, initially on making the request to use their buggy and subsequently each year when renewing their membership. This copy will be kept on file in the clubhouse office.

Any visitor bringing their own buggy should be asked to provide a copy of an insurance certificate providing 3rd party public liability before using the buggy on the course.

All buggy drivers must be over 18 years of age.

3.6 Reduced visibility weather conditions

When conditions are foggy, any closure of the course will be at the discretion of the Greenkeeper in Charge, if present, or the Club Secretary or his/her representative. A sign will be placed at the first tee and at the locker room entrance advising 'Course Closed'. The course will only be reopened when the weather conditions have lifted such that visibility is adequate for golf to be played.

3.7 Lightning

In the event of lightning, or the imminent threat of lightning, the course will be closed by the Club Secretary or his/her representative. The klaxon will be sounded once (long blast) signalling that the course is closed. A tour of the course will be carried out to ensure that all players have left the course. Continuing to play at your own risk is not an option.

Where there is insufficient time to evacuate the course and there is a threat of lightning, golfers and others are advised to comply with the following:

- keep as low down as possible, seek refuge in the nearest bunker or hollow;
- leave golf equipment and stand at a distance from this;
- DO NOT shelter under trees or go to high ground;
- Switch off your mobile phone and do not use it;
- DO NOT put up your umbrella;

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- DO NOT stand close to any stream or pond.

The golf course will be reopened by the Club Secretary or his/her representative by the sounding of the klaxon, three times, once the risk of lightning has passed.

3.8 Paths

Where paths are available on the golf course, all golfers (walking or using a buggy) must use these.

3.9 Painted white lines / G.U.R. (ground under repair)

Where temporary white lines are painted on the golf course, these are provided to ensure the safety of all golfers and to assist the greens staff in maintaining or repairing damaged or vulnerable areas of the course. Golfers with buggies and trolleys must remain outside these lines.

3.10 Footwear

All golfers must ensure they are wearing golf shoes that are adequate and suitable for the ground and weather conditions on the day of play.

3.11 Golfers' insurance

All golfers (members and visitors) are advised to take out adequate 3rd party insurance to provide cover for liability at law for damages payable in respect of:

- Death or bodily injury
- Loss of or damage to material property.

As of July 2019, England Golf provides £10m personal liability insurance as part of the member's affiliation to England Golf, in the event that they are held liable for injuring someone or for causing serious property damage at a golf club.

3.12 Safety notices

All users of the golf course should be made aware of the full risk assessment which is available to be read on/in the:

- Club website
- General office
- Mens locker room
- Ladies locker room

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with its content.

Tynedale Golf Club wants everyone to enjoy their round of golf but accepts no liability for any accident or damage caused by not following the safety notices and guidelines whilst playing the course.

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Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

3.13 Responsibilities

Maintaining this Risk Assessment is the responsibility of the Chairman and club officials.

3.14 Overview of Risk Assessment definitions

The risk assessment will address the following:

- Generic risks whilst playing golf
- Risks from carrying clubs and using pull and motorised trolleys in dry and wet conditions
- General hazards within the golf course.

GENERIC RISKS WHILST PLAYING GOLF:

RISK DESCRIPTION	GRADE OF RISK	RECOMMENDATION	GRADE OF RISK WITH RECOMMEND'N IN PLACE
Being struck by a golf ball hit offline by a golfer playing on another part of the golf course	High	All players must remain alert at all times to the behavior of nearby players. Players who have played an offline shot must immediately shout 'Fore' to alert all surrounding players that the shot has been struck. Golfers should obey the golfing etiquette and give way to those golfers further ahead on the course ie playing the 2 nd give way to those playing the 3 rd /12 th etc Stand aside of the fairway ,do not wave players ahead to play and stand in front of the golfers shot.	Medium

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Being struck by a golf ball hit by a playing partner	High	Non-playing partner(s) must not advance in front of the shot being played without watching the shot being played. Players who have played a shot towards a playing partner(s) must immediately shout 'Fore' to alert all surrounding players that the shot has been struck.	Medium
Being struck by a golf ball played by a golfer in the following group	Medium	Following golfers must ensure that those in front have advanced further than they can hit their best shot .	Low
Being struck by the swinging club of a playing partner	Medium	Players to stand at least 2m from the arc of the swinging club.	Low

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RISK DESCRIPTION	GRADE OF RISK	RECOMMENDATION	GRADE OF RISK WITH RECOMMEND'N IN PLACE
Tripping on uneven, sloping or slippery ground	Medium	<p>Obvious tripping hazards should be removed by fellow golfers and green keeping staff.</p> <p>Sloping areas which become wet and are lacking in thick grass cover should be roped off by green keeping staff to prevent entry by players.</p> <p>Extra care should be taken by all golfers encountering these conditions (including ensuring they are wearing proper footwear)</p>	Low
Tripping over a fellow golfer's playing equipment, trolley or buggy	Low	Care should be taken by all golfers on the course.	Low
Slipping when on sloping ground, e.g. the sides of bunkers, especially when ground conditions are wet	High	<p>Enter and exit bunkers from the shallowest sides wherever possible.</p> <p>Trolleys and buggies must be kept at least 5m from such slopes in all conditions.</p>	Medium
Steep slopes on the sides of raised tee boxes can be slippery when wet	High	Use the steps in place to ascend tee boxes	Low
Slopes within the course may become slippery when wet	Medium-high	<p>Treat slopes with care, particularly when conditions are wet.</p> <p>Ensure golf shoes are adequately spiked and suitable for the ground and weather conditions on the day of play.</p>	Medium-low
Ponds / streams: marked by hazard posts (see hole by hole analysis)	High	<p>Players should remain outside the line of the hazard stakes. Only enter the staked area on foot and with extreme caution to avoid slipping into the water.</p> <p>Keep all trollies and buggies 3m from the edges of hazards.</p>	Medium

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USING MOTORISED BUGGIES IN WET CONDITIONS

If the Greenkeeper in Charge or his/her representative considers that the course conditions are too wet to safely operate motorised buggies without damaging the course and risking damage to buggies / users, the 'course conditions' notice on the front page of the Club website will be amended to state that buggies are off (i.e. not to be used).

Risk – High level from buggies skidding uncontrollably or overturning, causing injury to drivers, passengers and others, as well as damage to the course.

Recommendation – Use of buggies will be banned until course conditions improve.

GENERAL HAZARDS PRESENT ON OR NEAR THE GOLF COURSE

The information below identifies the main hazards that members and visitors may encounter when playing, practicing on or walking the golf course. This is not a comprehensive list as adverse weather and unforeseen human or other actions may create new and unforeseen hazards. Being aware of this information will reduce the risk to yourself and others. The Golf Club Management may deem it necessary to close the course if risks to members and the public are considered excessive.

All golfers must adhere to the following:

1. Be aware of and adopt golfing etiquette, do not play a shot when others are in range; if an error of judgement is made in terms of distance or direction, shout **"FORE"**!
2. Be aware of the behavior and location of other golfers and members of the public, particularly on holes running alongside the River Tyne and railway line path.
3. Be aware of your playing partners, do not walk in front of them when they are playing a shot, or stand in range of the arc of their golf club.
4. Be aware of greens staff when these are working on the course, give them time to move away before playing a shot. If they are unaware of your presence, attract their attention as best you can (noting they may be wearing ear defenders so may not hear you easily).

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5. Many holes on the golf course run in parallel, and some holes play across other holes; if unsure where your ball will finish shout “**FORE**”! as a precaution. See also the hole by hole notes for more information.

Hazards associated with ponds, streams and ditches

All banks and edges of ponds, streams and ditches should be treated as potentially slippery and caution taken when negotiating these. Do not step onto frozen ice. Keep motorised buggies and trollies clear of hazards and at least 3m from the edges of these.

Hazards associated with trees on the golf course

Many of the trees on the golf course contain a lot of dead wood and may shed branches at any time, particularly in strong winds. Avoid walking close to trees in windy weather as branches can fall unexpectedly. This risk applies to golfers and public alike.

Hazards associated with animal damage

Rabbits and other animals can dig holes in areas of the golf course, be aware of the risk of stepping into a hole, particularly in areas of long grass; this may result in sprained or broken limbs.

Hazards associated with chemicals used on the course

Avoid oral contact with anything that has come into contact with the golf course, especially if signs “Caution Spraying” are in place. The golf course will at times have traces of fertiliser, fungicides/herbicides and other chemicals, as well as animal waste.

Hazards associated with dead animals

Any dead animals found on the course should not be handled but reported to a member of staff, who will take action to address this.

Hazards associated with adverse weather

Additional care is required when moving round the golf course in wet, cold or icy conditions. During hot weather, ensure you remain well hydrated by having a bottled drink with you, wear a hat and apply sunscreen.

Players must take responsibility for their own safety on the course when it is open for play.

If the klaxon sounds, you must leave the course for your own safety.

Hazards associated with slopes and banks

Wear the correct footwear on the course, having regard for the weather / ground conditions.

Take care when going up or down slopes; use steps where these are provided; avoid taking buggies and trollies up or down steep slopes, especially if an alternative route is available.

Do not brake suddenly when driving buggies on slopes, especially in wet conditions.

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Enter and exit bunkers from low points.

PRACTICING

This is limited to the designated areas – practice ground (adjacent to the 18th hole); practice net (adjacent to the 18th green) and practice putting green (to the side of the 18th fairway).

ACCIDENTS / OBSERVED DANGERS AND HAZARDS

Please report all accidents to the golf club office (by phone, 01434 608154 if the office is unmanned) or a member of staff. First aid kits are located ...The clubhouse only.

Any dangers noticed such as wasps' nests, unsafe branches of trees, rabbit holes should also be reported as soon as possible (as above).