



GOLF BUGGIES

Brian Butler, GCMA Health & Safety Advisor, suggests procedures to follow prior to the golf buggy being allowed on to the course.

September 2001 (reviewed August 2011)

The following information is provided for reference purposes only. Before allowing golf buggies to go out on the course you should obtain the following:

- ⌘ Check with the Club’s insurance to see that you are covered.
- ⌘ Make sure the user is fully insured.
- ⌘ Define the area the buggies should take and put notices up banning use in dangerous areas.
- ⌘ Ensure the Club has a suitable and sufficient Risk Assessment on the use of buggies. It needs to be kept under review and up-dated in the event of an accident or near miss report.

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Buggies on Golf Courses

In a recent case to do with Disability Discrimination, a judge rejected the assessment of a Golf Club that the course was too dangerous to allow anyone to use buggies. He said the argument was spurious.

Just wearing a hard hat at times to reduce the risk of being hit by a golf ball is too simplistic, so is the total ban on all buggies. There are places on all golf courses where a buggy could be used safely, and other places where the risk would be significant. Similarly, there are climatic conditions, which would increase the risk and may well lead to a ban on buggies at these times.

A ‘suitable and sufficient’ risk assessment would have to take all these factors into account. It is unlikely that such an assessment would result in a total ban on buggies. It is suggested that it was for this reason that the judge suspected that the total ban was motivated by other considerations such as an aversion to buggies and the damage they can cause to parts of a golf course. It should be noted that the judge does not have to satisfy himself that the Club had the intention to discriminate against disabled people, but simply the result of the ban had the effect of such discrimination.

Finally, it should be noted that allowing buggies on the course, but displaying a notice disclaiming all liability in the event of an accident, would give the Club no protection in law.

[This document is prepared for guidance and is accurate at the date of publication only. We will not accept any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any member or third party acting, or refraining from acting, on the information contained in this document.]

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any persons (either members or visitors) using mechanically propelled golf buggies on Golf Course do so in the deemed knowledge that the Golf Course is undulating, presenting natural and obvious hazards to golf buggy users **AND UPON THE STRICT UNDERSTANDING THAT: -**

1. They have in force a comprehensive policy of insurance with an Insurance Company of repute covering all losses, injuries or damage which may be sustained by themselves or third parties as a result of any accident which may occur whilst their golf buggy is in use.
2. The driver of the golf buggy ensures that an appropriate route (along fairways and other designated ways only) is taken at all times and particular care and attention is paid at points of obvious danger on the Golf Course, for example the first and third fairways.

Anyone who is unable or unwilling to comply with the requirements of this notice must not under any circumstances take a mechanically propelled golf buggy onto the Golf Course.