

THE SPRINGS

RESORT & GOLF CLUB

Information for players

Introduction

Welcome to The Springs Resort and Golf Club! Please read the following information to ensure you are aware of the safe conditions of play out on the course and around site more generally. Please speak to Pro Shop if you have any questions.

Accidents & emergency

In the event of an emergency call 999. Location details Postcode: OX10 6BE what3words: knocking.chromatic.avocado O/S Grid Ref: SU613863

First aid boxes are located At the main reception, pro shop and in the Greenkeeper's shed. The clubhouse defibrillator is located on the external wall underneath the balcony. Phone the pro shop who can radio and dispatch a first aider.

All accidents, incidents and near misses MUST be reported to Pro Shop staff. The course has a duty to record such information and to take action to prevent any reoccurrence.

****If the Horn sounds one long blast – it is mandatory that you leave the course.****

Terrain & ground conditions

Ground hazards present slip, trip risks and include but are not limited to; steep grassed slopes, wet and soft ground, frosty/icy areas, rabbit burrows, tree roots and stumps, loose gravel, drainage ditches, stones/rocks, wooden sleepers, metal grates, wooden path edging, winter tee matting, and edges of steep bunker faces which may subside etc

Every effort is made by course staff to identify and rectify such hazards where practicable to do so, please report any encountered that require action.

Water features

Deep water presents risk of drowning and care should be taken when in the vicinity of. Submerged balls or balls atop of frozen water features should only be retrieved where safe to do so with long reach tools.

Warning shouts ('FORE!')

Player must warn others where a shot has been hit with an unintentional consequence and will, or may, put others in danger, If in doubt shout "FORE". Shouts must be loud and urgent in tone. If you hear "FORE!", take evasive action – protect your head and crouch.

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Ball strikes

Ball strikes in golf are very uncommon, however the consequence of a ball strike to the head can be very serious. All players entering the course must accept there is an element of risk that cannot be fully mitigated and so do so at their own risk.

Players must be self-aware of personal ability, skill and likelihood of wayward shots and play conservatively to prevent risk to others. Holes with potential contact points between players are detailed in the course risk assessment statement. If the shot is blind, e.g playing out of a bunker or to a hidden green, walk up and ensure the area is clear first or ask a playing partner who may be ahead. Players are asked to cooperate with use of bells/clangers to let others behind know that a green/area is clear.

Statistics show the highest chance of a ball strike is to other members of the same party from mishits and ricochet. Players are advised to stay behind the person playing the shot and keep distance when shots are played close to trees, fence posts etc

When waving others through, players are advised to do so towards the end of the hole where the upcoming shot is likely to be slowing down. Keep your eye on the strike and ball travel. Do not hide in bushes/trees as this restricts your view, and your location to the striker who may shout warning. Ultimately such vegetation provides little protection and in case of trees stems/branches may cause unpredictable ricochet.

Practising on the course (e.g playing two or more balls) is prohibited. Remember, others will only anticipate a single shot per player, once played they may walk unawares into the line of play. If taking a Provisional Ball from the tee, because a ball is believed to be lost, remain vigilant for others. A designated practice area is provided (members use only), refer to course map, and players should be vigilant as to the play of others nearby.

Safety of greens staff

Greens staff have PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES. Please wait for them to finish or allow them time to move out of the way. Do not play your shot until they have acknowledged your presence, prior to playing your shot.

Greens staff start early morning and generally work from the 1st to the 18th to ensure holes are ready and free.

During the day, Greens staff also liaise with the pro shop to request or identify empty tee time windows, in order to carry out essential maintenance tasks.

Please respect and stick to your allocated tee time, do not arrive and start (or jump in part way round) into a perceived free gap unless agreed with the pro shop.

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Safety of others and property

At The Springs GC there is a public footpath that you must cross from holes 11 – 12 & 16 – 17.

Despite notices of private property notices, occasionally other user groups access the course (dog walkers, youths etc). If their behaviour or actions causes issue or offence please report to the pro shop, though we welcome players taking a stance on antisocial behaviour any interaction is at your own risk.

Players are reminded to extend the same safe play considerations to these user groups despite their unlawful trespass.

Players are responsible for all belongings and are advised to keep in sight at all times.

Insurance

The Springs GC holds Public Liability cover for eventualities stemming from duty failures or negligence of staff under Occupiers Liability Act 1984. This does not cover injuries/losses sustained by players/individuals as a result of actions (or inactions) of others. Players are advised to satisfy themselves of Personal Injury and 3rd Party cover from existing personal policies (e.g household insurance) or make specific arrangements, specific golf related insurance policies are widely available online.

Note: The Springs GC is a England Golf affiliated course, and as such all The Springs GC Members have 3rd Party Public Liability cover in place, this cover extends to play at any other golf course, further policy details can be found online at www.englandgolf.org/member-public-liability-insurance. Visitors, who are members of other EG courses, will also have this cover in place.

Please note The Springs GC does NOT mandate players hold 3rd part cover as a requirement of play.

Vehicles, pedestrians & car park areas

Please adhere to site speed limits. This is for safety of all users and reduces potholes developing from harsh braking on the sloped driveway. Please avoid driving on grass verges, vehicles can become bogged, and the damage is unsightly.

Drivers are encouraged to reverse park as this affords drivers maximum visibility when leaving parking bays. Please report collisions/bumps, there is CCTV in certain areas of the carpark and footage will be made available to requesting insurers and police.

Remain alert for pedestrians/players who may be in the roadway and out of sight, e.g setting up trolleys, changing shoes etc.

Golf buggies

Golf Buggies are available for hire and drivers must complete a Disclaimer covering terms of hire and safe use.

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Adverse weather (general)

****If the Horn sounds one long blast – it is mandatory that you leave the course. ****

General statement - A decision to carry on playing during adverse weather conditions is left to the discretion of the player, who **MUST** consider fitness, health, and accept responsibility for their decision making. Players must be self-sufficient as there no shelter or availability of water or food on the course.

No play will be permitted when the “Course closed” signs are in place, which may be as a result of heavy rain, waterlogged ground, snow, icy etc.

Lightning

Lightning - If the player believes there is threat of lightning strikes, but there is not sufficient time to evacuate the course, you are advised to comply with the following:

- Keep as low as possible - ideally crouch down in the nearest bunker/hollow
- Leave your golf equipment where it is and move away from it
- Do not use a mobile phone – make sure it is switched off
- Do not put an umbrella up under any circumstances
- Do not shelter under trees

Fog & visibility

In order to fulfil health and safety responsibilities, The Springs GC operates a fog policy. No play will commence on the course if the leaning pine on the 1st holes is not visible from the yellow tee. Course and Shop staff will monitor and manage fog and visibility and will sound the horn once this if necessary to stop play.

Whilst on the course, should fog descend in localised area and unless the Horn sounds one long blast, players must use their own judgement based on the ability to see clearly 150yds.

In foggy conditions where visibility is above 150yds players must adjust clubs/shots accordingly so that the ball/shot always remains in view.

Final tee times will be set so as to allow play to finish within sufficient daylight. Players must finish play where light levels are insufficient for safe play. The course is effectively closed outside of daylight hours to prevent slips; trips falls and danger from water features.

Wildlife

Players should be aware that there is a potential threat from wildlife, such as wasps, bees and other biting insects on the Course. Though very unlikely the presence of Adders cannot be ruled out. Urgent medical attention should be sought if you suffer a venomous bite.

Footwear

Due to terrain The Springs GC requires golf shoes to be worn at all times whilst playing on the course.

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Fertiliser and fungicides and other treatments

A notice on the 1st tee will advise of use of treatments that day. As general precaution players are advised to wash hands after play and avoid contact with food whilst playing.

Course risk assessment statement

In addition to the generic course hazards mentioned above, the layout, location and features of each The Springs GC hole has been assessed and comments included below where necessary.

- Public Footpath to cross on holes 11, 12, 16 & 17
- Water features on 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17
- Practice range behind 12th green
- 1st – Mounding and lodge guests on RHS. Be aware of players on 18th fairway (LHS)
- 2nd – Be aware of play to 3rd tee (RHS)
- 3rd – Be aware of mounding and road (RHS). When on Course 2 be aware of players 7th green (LHS)
- 4th – Be aware of players on the 3rd green when playing of white tee and the 6th tee (LHS). When on Course 2 be aware house on (RHS)
- 6th Be aware of players on the 7th tee. When on Course 2 be aware of players on the 8th tee and fairway (RHS)
- 7th – Be aware of Water feature lake on (LHS) mounding both sides of this hole. When on Course 2 be aware of players on 8th tee and fairway (RHS)
- 8th – Be aware of Water feature lake (LHS) Be aware of players on the 17th green (RHS)
- 9th – Be aware of water feature lake and players on the 10th green (RHS) and ditches on both sides of this hole. Mounding on both sides of this hole be aware of practice area (LHS)
- 10th Be aware of Water feature lake (RHS) ditch crossing as walking to the 11th tee
- 11th – . Be aware of Water feature lake (RHS) public footpath behind shrubbery (LHS) be aware when crossing public footpath to the 12th tee.
- 12th – Be aware public footpath behind shrubbery (LHS) wetland (RHS) mounding both sides of this hole.
- 13th – Be aware of wetland (RHS) Ditches (LHS) mounding central on this hole. crossing to the 14th tee.
- 14th – Be aware of wetland in front of tee. Ditches (LHS) central on this hole and behind green. Small mounding both sides of this hole
- 15th - Ditches (RHS) ditch central on this hole and behind green. Small wetland and Thames riverside (LHS) mounding both sides of this hole crossing to the 16th tee.
- 16th Wetland (RHS) be aware when crossing public footpath to the 17th tee.
- 17th Be aware of Water feature lake (RHS)
- 18th Ditches on (RHS) mounding. Be aware of practice area (RHS) clubhouse behind the green.

You are advised to exercise caution at all times on the course in respect of identifying areas where others may be at potential risk of being hit by another's golf ball, especially on those holes where the landing area is not clearly visible from the tee and areas where parallel fairways are played in opposing directions.