



PIKE HILLS GOLF CLUB – HIGH WINDS POLICY

Risk assessment and procedures to be taken in event of high winds.

This policy documents and updates procedures and actions already in place at the club.

Pike Hills Golf Club has a large number of trees on the course, many of them are ageing and include Poplars that are particularly susceptible to damage during high winds.

Wind speeds between 30 mph and approximately 45 mph are considered to be medium risk and Golfers will be informed, before teeing off, that the winds are strong and to take extra care particularly when playing shots from under or close to trees.

In some circumstances certain holes may be closed due to increased risk from falling branches and the risk of balls being blown onto adjacent properties or other golf holes. Once golfers have commenced their round they should continually assess the conditions and discontinue play if they consider they are at risk.

If wind speeds are in the region of 45 mph (Gale force 9) the course will be closed as there will be significant risk of falling branches, flying debris and little control of wayward golf shots. When the klaxon has been sounded with 1 long blast repeatedly, to signal the course is closed and or competition abandoned, players MUST leave the course immediately by the safest possible route.

Ground staff will not work on the course after closure.

Greens staff will be responsible for making the decision to open or close the course, based upon actual wind speeds recorded.

The Managing Secretary or Facilities Manager, if present, will take over responsibility when greens staff leave. If they are not present, shop staff will take over.

If play in a competition has been suspended, signalled by three short klaxon blasts repeatedly, then the procedures in R&A Rule 5.7 must be followed.

This procedure has been introduced after careful consideration and advice from Golf England and the R&A.

Pike Hills has acquired an anemometer which will allow an objective assessment of conditions to be carried out.

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