

LGC ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

2023 – Updated March 2026



This policy addresses issues with the playability of the course and safety of members/staff during extreme weather e.g. thunderstorms, lightning, excessive rain or wind, fog and extreme heat. Any of these conditions may result in the temporary closure of the golf course and practice facilities.

If the Course Superintendent, Manager, Staff, Captains or Match Committee Reps, considers the course unplayable due to weather conditions, they may invoke this policy by:

- (a) ordering a delay to the start of the event until conditions have improved.
- (b) cancel or postpone the event.

Members may not dispute the decisions of the Captains or Manager/Staff in relation to this policy.

Heat Policy:

If the temperature at 4pm is predicted to be 37 degrees or above the next day, consideration should be given to any scheduled competition on that day. Options include:

- Bring all tee times forward, to allow at least 4 ½ hours before predicted 37 degree hour
- Change to a multi-tee start
- Re schedule the competition
- If extreme heat is predicted all day, cancel competition play for that day

The decision will be dependent on what time of day the temp is predicted to reach 37 or above, (according to the BOM predicted hourly forecast for Leongatha) Eg. if hourly predicted temp of 37 is at 3pm, no competition play should commence after 10.30am allowing 4.5 hrs to complete the round.

These considerations will be made by the Golf Operations Manager in conjunction with the General Manager and/or Match Committee Member/Director of Golf.

Wind Policy:

Members are advised and reminded of the dangers of limbs falling from trees on days of extreme winds and are advised to give consideration to their own personal safety while out on the course.

The Bureau of Meteorology readings for wind speed at Leongatha are used. Play is to be suspended following three readings (each 10min apart) of wind speed exceeding 65kms per hour. **A loud siren will be activated and all players must mark their ball and return immediately to inside the clubhouse and await further instruction.** In circumstances when wind speeds are less or more than 65kms per hour, however considered dangerous, discretion to suspend play rests with the most senior manager present. Resumption of play will require three consecutive BOM wind speed readings below 65kms per hour.

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Lightning Policy:

When a lightning strike is within 10km of the Club, play on the course and the use of the practice facilities will be immediately suspended. A loud siren will be activated and all players must mark their ball and return to inside the clubhouse immediately and await further information. Play will resume when there have been no lightning strikes within 10km for a period of at least 20 minutes.

Fog Policy:

Guidelines for when a heavy fog is present on the golf course limiting player and staff visibility and safety.

- The Golf Shop / Course Superintendent has the authority to suspend play until fog clears.
- Conditions will be continually assessed and the Golf Shop notifies of any changes.
- Once the Golf Shop reopens play, golfers are to ensure the group in front are clearly visible before playing shots. Golfers are reminded that a decision to commence play is dependent on all of the course being clear of fog, not just at the clubhouse precinct.

If fog rolls-in or returns after play has commenced, a loud siren will sound the suspension of play. All players must mark their ball, return to the clubhouse and await further direction. Any golf played after the siren sounds and play is suspended will result in disqualification.

Suspension of play:

A single loud blast of the siren will be activated. All players must mark their ball and return to inside the clubhouse immediately and await further information.

Resumption of play:

Signalling of two short blasts of the siren will occur when play is to resume, at this stage players will proceed when safe to do so.

Approaching Danger

On days of extreme fire danger or other potential threats, the Leongatha Golf Club will monitor Emergency Services advice and act accordingly.

On days of Catastrophic Fire Danger the course will be closed. Play will be prohibited until the danger is lifted.

Players must take responsibility for their own safety when threatened by extreme weather