

BAWBURGH GOLF CLUB - MEN'S SECTION

GUIDELINES FOR WEATHER CANCELLATION / ABANDONMENT OF COMPETITIONS

In respect of competitions organised by the Men's Section Committee, there may be occasions when a competition must be **cancelled**, i.e. not started, or **abandoned**, because the minimum number of players are not able to either begin or complete their rounds due to certain weather conditions. These include, but are not limited to, any form of precipitation, flooding, frost, snow (on the ground), and the threat of or actual lightning, high winds and/or fog.

If the golf course is open for play it is anticipated that any competition organised by the Men's Section Committee will go ahead, even if early morning conditions are poor, for example due to frost and/or fog.

The MSC via the Captain will approach the office with any concerns regarding bad weather forecasts in advance of the start of a days play where it is felt appropriate. BGC management will make any decision on course closures and competition cancellations.

Bawburgh Golf Club, through its staff, is ultimately responsible for the safety of all players and the protection of the golf course so when certain weather conditions exist BGC will take the decision not to open the golf course, or to close it during the day. At this point, through the sounding of an emergency gas horn, players will be required to leave the course until further notice. If weather conditions improve, play may resume if authorised by BGC.

Should BGC not be in a position to take that decision (e.g. the office is unmanned or staff are insufficiently empowered) a decision regarding the running of the competition will be taken by the Captain, or in his absence the Vice Captain or prior year Captain who will attempt to gain additional input from other MSC members wherever possible (subject to the requirements of making a speedy decision).

This policy gives guidance as to what will happen if the golf course is closed for all, or a significant part, of the day (**cancellation**), or for a significant part or parts of the day (**abandonment**). In the case of **cancellation** or **abandonment**, any entry fees will be refunded.

The responsibility for rearranging a trophy and/or Order of Merit and/or Eclectic qualifying competition rests with the Men's Section Committee.

The responsibility for defining refunds of competition entry fees rests with the Men's Section Committee. The execution of such decisions rests with BGC Golf Office. In the event of competition cancellation competitors will receive their entry fees back. In the event of a competition being abandoned mid-term but with sufficient entrants completing their rounds to deem the competition result valid, those entrants remaining on the course at the time of abandonment will receive entry fee refunds.

Please note that despite competition abandonment scores may still be submittable under WHS Protocols so cards should be signed and returned to record play up to the point of walking off the course.

These guidelines do not apply to competitions run by the Junior, Ladies or Veterans Sections, nor to the Greenkeepers Trophy, Christmas Cup, Millennium Cup or Mixed Section Competitions which are organised by Bawburgh Golf Club, but they will seek to replicate the intent of the Bad Weather Policy across all competitions.

Reference to these guidelines is included in all competition rules issued by the Men's Section Committee.

1. Midweek, Weekend Optional (non-trophy) and Daily OOM Competitions

- 1.1 If the golf course is open, the competition will be played;
- 1.2 If the golf course is closed, the competition will be **cancelled**;
- 1.3 If the golf course is open for part or parts of the day, the competition will be played and the scores of those players who have completed their rounds will be included in the results; however, if the golf course is closed for a significant part or parts of the day, and less than **18** players are able to complete their rounds, the competition will be **abandoned**; the scores of those players who have completed their rounds may still be recorded for WHS purposes;
- 1.4 If the competition is a pairs or team event, and the expected weather conditions are such that players withdraw in advance, the golf office is authorised to change the format of the competition to an optional individual stableford.
- 1.5 If the competition is **cancelled** or **abandoned**, it will not be rearranged in that calendar year.

2. Midweek & Weekend, Paul Greengrass OOM & Eclectic Qualifying Competitions

- 2.1 If the golf course is open, the competition will be played;
- 2.2 If the golf course is closed, the competition will be **cancelled**;
- 2.3 If the golf course is open for part or parts of the day, the competition will be played and the scores of those players who have completed their rounds will be included in the results; however, if the golf course is closed for a significant part or parts of the day, and less than **30** players are able to complete their rounds, the competition will be **abandoned** and will follow the guidelines as per 1;
- 2.4 If the competition is **cancelled** or **abandoned**, the Men's Section Committee will not attempt to arrange an alternative date for it to be played again.

3. Weekend, Midweek (if any) and Charity Stableford Trophy Competitions

- 3.1 If the golf course is open, the competition will be played;
- 3.2 If the golf course is closed, the competition will be **cancelled**.
- 3.3 If the golf course is open for part or parts of the day, the competition will be played and the scores of those players who have completed their rounds will be included in the results; however, if the golf course is closed for a significant part or parts of the day, and less than **50** players are able to complete their rounds, the competition will be **abandoned** and will follow the guidelines as per 1;
- 3.4 If the competition is a pairs or team event, and the expected weather conditions are such that players withdraw in advance, the golf office shall contact the Men's Section Captain and/or Vice-Captain for approval to change the format of the competition to an optional individual stableford. An alternative date will be arranged by the Men's Section Committee for the trophy.
- 3.5 If the competition is **cancelled** or **abandoned**, the Men's Section Committee will arrange an alternative date for it to be played before the end of October or, otherwise, the competition will not be rearranged in that calendar year.

4. Bawburgh Masters / Club Championship

4.1 If the golf course is open on both days, the competition will be played;

4.2 If the golf course is closed on both days, the competition will be **cancelled**;

4.3 If the golf course is closed on either one of the days, the scores from the other day will be recorded and combined with those from an alternative date arranged by the Men's Section Committee;

4.4 If the golf course is open for most of one or both of the days, the competition will be played and the scores of those who have completed their rounds will be included in the results; however, if the golf course is closed for significant part or parts of one or both of the days, and less than **80** players on day one and/or **40** players on day two are able to complete their rounds, that day's competition will be **abandoned** and will follow the guidelines as per 1;

4.5 If one or both days of the competition are **cancelled** or **abandoned**, the Men's Section Committee will arrange an alternative date or dates for it to be played before the end of October or, otherwise, the competition will not be played in that calendar year.

5. Singles or Pairs Knockout Matches

5.1 If, after mutual agreement, a match must be **abandoned** during the first 18 holes due to lack of daylight or the course becoming unfit for play through certain weather conditions, then play shall resume from the point where the match was **abandoned**, or, and only if all players are agreeable, restarted from the 1st hole.

5.2 If, after mutual agreement, a match must be **abandoned** during a sudden death play-off, then the match shall only resume from the point where the match was **abandoned**.

5.3 If players are unable to mutually agree to abandon a match then each player should provide evidence supporting their rationale to the MSC who will make a decision on the next steps.

6. Daily Order of Merits

6.1 Daily Order of Merit competitions are included in Section 1 above.

6.2 Premier and Scratch order of merits are part of underlying competitions and therefore the sections above will apply as appropriate

6.3 Should any unforeseen circumstance arise that is not covered in the Order of Merit rules the MSC will make a decision on the next steps.

Updated 14/1/2025 and remains current until further notice

Bad Weather Policy – Mid Play Abandonment Protocols

A competition will only be abandoned mid-term for the players still on the course under the following circumstances:

1. A decision to abandon a competition mid-term will be made by the Office team if necessary in conjunction with any other Mens Section Committee Members available at the premises or still out on the course playing.
2. The final decision for abandonment will be made after an on-course inspection of impacted areas has been undertaken by those involved in the decision making.
3. If neither of these are possible players on course will be deemed to have abandoned mid-term should 66% or more of the players still in the competition and on the course decide to walk in.

Guidance for Bad Weather Situations

Frost – if particularly heavy and this is for the office to decide (for e.g. greens frozen/rock solid/bouncing considered not normal) then the competition maybe cancelled and changed to a non qualifier.

Hail – Allow up to 20 minutes for lying hail to thaw. Hail is deemed a loose impediment so can be removed from the line of a putt. The scale of the lying hail will determine whether this is a feasible option. There is unlikely to be line of play relief available as hail covers all of a green, however if there is a clear line of play relief can be taken to us this. If after 20 minutes greens are still blocked with no prospect of thawing refer to Abandonment Protocols.

Snow – Allow up to 20 minutes for lying snow to thaw. Snow is a H&S hazard so the office may deem the course unfit to play. Snow is deemed to be casual water so line of putt relief can be taken. If after 20 minutes green are still blocked with no prospect of thawing refer to Abandonment Protocols.

Rain – Rain itself will not stop a competition. Localised flooding could be a reason for abandonment. Casual water relief rules apply. If a hole is completely blocked by water allow 20 minutes for lying water to clear. If after 20 minutes green are still blocked with no prospect of thawing refer to Abandonment Protocols.

Wind – Wind will only stop a competition if the office declare it unsafe to play and close the course.

Heat – Intense heat will only stop a competition if the office declare it unsafe to play and close the course.

Cold - Cold will only stop a competition if the office declare it unsafe to play and close the course