



MGC Play Safe, Stay Safe Guide

Phase 3 – 9th September 2020

The MGC Play Safe, Stay Safe Guide has been updated to take account of latest guidance from government, health authorities and the sport's governing bodies including England Golf, the R & A, PGA. **For ease of reading, any updates are highlighted in blue.**

The health, safety and well-being of our members, employees and visitors remain at the forefront of our planning for the return to golf and any changes made take full account of this.

This guide should be read in conjunction with the Minchinhampton Golf Club (MGC) Social Distancing Policy which can be found on the Members website.

Guidelines include the following:

1. Booking guidelines
2. Arrival and check in
3. Clubhouse facilities
4. Professional Shop
5. On the course
6. Competitive Golf
7. Safety of MGC employees and who to contact

1. Booking guidelines

The following sets out the booking guidelines that take effect from 2nd June 2020:

- The number of rounds bookable has now been lifted and the booking window has been extended to 14 days. Tee times have reverted to 8-minute intervals
- From 10th June, transition arrangements will cease and at the New Course, Avening and Cherington courses will revert to 2-ball and 3 and 4 ball courses. The Old Course will remain as before, with 1, 2, 3 or 4-ball bookings permissible
- All players must continue to be named and any 'Anonymous' bookings will be deleted by the system **3** working days prior to the tee time
 - From 10th June guests of Members may play so long as a green fee has been paid and the guest confirms agreement to abide by the MGC Play Safe, Stay Safe guidance and Social Distancing Policy. Members must ensure that their guest's details are added to the system



when booking and ahead of arriving on site. A copy of the MGC Play Safe, Stay Safe Guide is available on the main (public) website which guests must read before arriving

- Members will be able to join bookings on the system where a space is available. If a Member or group of Members have concerns about this and have a legitimate reason to not have other Members joining them, then they must contact Dan Shaw (01453 832642)
- **Visitor bookings are now being taken and subject to availability may be booked 3-days in advance.**
- **We have limited tee times for societies subject to availability. Please contact Tom Sheffield (t.sheffield@minchinhamptongolfclub.co.uk) for more information**
- Intelligent Golf (IG) must be used for bookings at all 3 courses and this will be available as normal from 7am each day. If a member cannot use IG or has a specific requirement e.g., sole play, then they should contact Dan Shaw (01453 832642) **for Old Course** or the Pro Shop (01453 833840) **for New Course**, during opening hours
- Tee times are available each day from 8am to 9pm and play is only permitted if a tee time has been booked – members may not turn up and play without a booking and cannot play outside of the booking window
- Each time members make a booking on IG, a message will be shown advising that on booking, you are consenting to abide by the Code of Conduct guidelines including social distancing
- Play does not need to be for 18-holes, however booking will only be taken from the 1st tee
- New Course members can continue to book to play at the Old Course 7-days in advance and Old Course members can continue to book to play at the New Course 7-days in advance after 16:00 Monday-Friday and after 13:00 on Sunday
- Any changes to tee bookings should continue to be cancelled before 6pm the day prior to your booking. The Golf Team will be monitoring the tee bookings, recording cancellations and availability of tee times and will be reporting to the Club's Management
- With the lifted restrictions on number of players and reversion to 8-minute tee times, the ability to book tee times around work arrangements for NHS/Social Care workers will be eased, therefor advance bookings will no longer be allowed
- Foursomes play may resume, however in accordance with advice from the R&A in terms of the Rules of Golf and the impact of COVID-19, the following guidelines must be adhered to:
 - Each partner should use their own golf ball, which is only handled by that player. For example, the player teeing off from hole 1 is the only one that touches the ball from teeing off through to completion of the hole. The partner teeing off from hole 2 does likewise with their ball. Under the Rules of Golf a partner is permitted to drop the side's ball in taking relief. It is also permissible to drop another ball when taking relief



- When marking and replacing the ball on the putting green this should be conducted by the partner the ball belongs to. Under this situation (or any other where the ball must be replaced) the original ball must be used and must not be substituted by another ball
- It is strongly recommended that each player carries their own hand sanitiser in case they touch their partners golf ball in error

2. Arrival and check in

- Members and visitors should travel to the Club alone, or with a member of the same household
- When parking you should observe social distancing and park away from others who may be arriving or leaving at the same time
- At the New Course, [you should check in using the Member touch screens in the Players entrance, noting the requirement to sanitise after use. At the Old Course, the same will apply when the Member touch screen is installed in September](#)
- Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitiser if required
- Players must arrive at the tee 5-minutes prior to the reserved booking and should strictly observe the booked tee-off time to maintain the minimum 8-minute spacing
- Members should maintain 2-metre social distancing at all times and not gather in groups
- Juniors may play in accordance with detailed guidelines as set out on the website. In summary:
 - Under 12's must be accompanied by either an adult member of their household who can walk with them or play if they are a member. Alternatively, under 12 supervision may be provided by someone other than a parent/guardian or carer but with the consent of the parent/guardian or carer and should be someone the child knows and is confident with or has played with before.
 - Juniors aged 12-16 may play with one other junior but must strictly observe social distancing guidance and policy.
 - MGC has a Safeguarding Policy which must be followed
- Members of the on-site MGC team will observe social distancing practices to ensure adherence and any players not following directions will be asked to leave the course

3. The Professional Shop (New Course only)

- The shop will be open between 9am to 6pm each day with strict social distancing measures in place



- Staff working in the Pro Shop will follow social distancing guidelines at all times
- Staff will be provided with PPE including masks and gloves to wear on-site, [however in line with Government guidelines the wearing of such PPE is not mandatory](#)
- Hand sanitiser is available on entry to the Pro Shop
- Staff will maintain a minimum 2-metre distance from customers and members
- Restricting access to a maximum of 4-persons at any time with 2-metre demarcations shown at the entry point
- Having a 2-metre exclusion zone at the service desk
- Encouraging contactless card use as opposed to cash payment for golfing or food and beverage items which include confectionary and hot and cold drinks
- Pre-ordering of golf items is encouraged, and the pro-shop staff will have them ready for your arrival
- Scorecards will not be available but may be downloaded from the MGC website
- Sanitised trollies and single use buggies may be hired. When players are from the same household, these may be shared
- Coaching and fitting services from the professional team have started and follow approved codes of practice for PGA staff, including social distancing protocols

4. Clubhouse facilities

- The New Course clubhouse [is now open for access to toilets. Lockers, changing facilities and showers remain out of use.](#)
- [Bar and catering services have resumed at New and Old Course Clubhouses. Opening hours and levels of service will be published on a weekly basis. Tables and seating within both Clubhouses have been set up according to guidelines and should not be moved](#)
- It is **essential** that social distancing is always observed, and this includes the number of persons who may meet as set down by Government guidelines or by Law. Adherence to this is for the safety and wellbeing of our Members, Employees and Visitors and to ensure golf or our facilities are not affected by the consequence of failing to follow such advice.
- In accordance with Government and England Golf guidelines from Saturday 8 August, face coverings must be worn by members of the public in all indoor areas of the club / facility as well as in Pro's Shops. Coverings may be removed in bar and restaurant areas for the purpose of eating and drinking. There are some exemptions to wearing face coverings including children under the age of 11 and those with certain disabilities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>



- The Old Course shop and toilet facilities are now open but subject to guided usage as indicated on the website
- The practice putting greens will be open for pre-golf warm up use only (max 10 minutes) and will be restricted to **6** persons at any time at the New Course and 2 person at any time at the Old Course
- The short game practice area at the New Course is open **without any restrictions imposed but subject to social distancing being observed**
- The practice nets will be open for pre-golf warm up use only (max 10 minutes)
- The shoe cleaners and trolley washer will not be in use
- The driving range will be open daily from 8am to 7pm to members and guests
- Only Digi-Cards (not tokens) may be used and these are available from the Pro Shop
- Range baskets will be cleaned and sanitised before use and maintained during the day

5. On the Course

- Members should maintain 2-metre social distancing throughout the game, particularly on the tees and greens
- Bunker rakes (New Course) have been removed and players are asked to make best efforts to smooth sand using their club or feet. **Local rules are as set out on the Club website**
- All pedestrian gates will be secured open and should not be closed
- Flagsticks should remain in the hole and must not be touched. **Local rules are as set out on the Club website**
- Hole cups have **foam inserts** for easy contact free ball retrieval
- Players should not move to the next tee until the people in front have exited the tee box
- Keep up the place of play if a ball is lost, unplayable or in a penalty area then call the group behind through
- Any 1-ball players will need to play at the pace of the course and the group ahead as calling through will not be permitted
- All rubbish bins have been removed or are out of use – please take any litter home
- Benches have been removed
- Ball washers have been removed
- Drinking fountains and water is not available (**except during hot weather when drinking water will be provided in half-way house with sanitiser**) – players should take account of



weather conditions and ensure they have appropriate refreshments which should not be exchanged between players

- Players should take account of the weather conditions and ensure sun protection is applied especially when UV levels are high. Details may be found on the following webpage <https://www.melanoma-fund.co.uk/>
- Players must not pick up another players equipment or any stray golf balls that may be found and must not shake hands
- On-course Portaloo toilets on Avening and Cherington have re-opened but subject to guided usage as indicated on the website. [The additional temporary Portaloo facilities at the rear of the Clubhouse have now been removed](#)

6. Competitive Golf

- Competitive golf has now resumed and is in line with guidance from England Golf. Intelligent Golf now includes details of all competitions and normal pre-COVID arrangements for booking to play should be adhered to
- Except where advised differently, member touch screens should be used for registering of all tee times and competitions
- Members will be able to submit supplementary cards for handicap purposes from 22nd June
- Players should not touch or sign any scorecard other than their own. Scores should be verified verbally and signed only by the player.

7. Safety of players, MGC employees and who to contact

First Aid:

- A first aider will normally be present whilst staff are on site, but this cannot be guaranteed due to the reduced number of staff on-site at any given time. Players are responsible for ensuring they have a means of contacting emergency services directly in the event that they or their playing partner are taken seriously ill

Safe Golf:

- There [are an increasing number](#) of MGC employees now working and managing safe golf for members and staff and the following safety measures have been put in place including:

Green keeping Team:

To protect their safety, the green staff are working alone and operating in split shifts therefore there will be a presence on the courses throughout the day. Please note that green keeping staff have



priority on the course and players are asked to respect the safety and well-being of them and to respond positively to any requests from them

Starters:

MGC starters have now returned to work. With the opening of the Member touch screens in the players entrance, they will not be responsible for checking in players for their tee times. In addition to providing starter duties, they will also be undertaking increased wardening duties to maintain pace of play, etc. Please always follow information provided by the starters

Office staff:

Whilst Club administration staff may be present during the day the office is closed and contact other than via telephone or e-mail should be avoided. All other administration staff remain working from home and can be contacted accordingly