

Frost Delay and Course Protection Procedure

Purpose Rheinblick is committed to providing the best possible playing experience while protecting the long-term health and quality of our course. During the winter months, frost can cause significant damage to putting greens if play is permitted before conditions are safe. This procedure outlines how frost delays are managed and what members and visitors can expect.

Why do we delay play?

Walking or playing on frosted putting greens damages the grass by crushing frozen plant cells, often resulting in long-lasting turf damage.

Although the course may appear playable, protecting the greens is essential to maintaining course quality for all members and visitors.

For this reason, **the protection of the course always takes priority over commencing play on time.**

How frost decisions are made

Because frost conditions cannot be accurately determined until first light, all decisions are made on the morning of play.

The following process is followed:

1. The course is inspected as soon as there is sufficient daylight to accurately assess conditions.
2. If frost is present on the greens, Club staff contact the Head Greenkeeper (or their delegated representative).
3. The Head Greenkeeper determines whether a frost delay is required and, where possible, provides an estimated reopening time.
4. Once a decision has been made, Club staff notify affected players as soon as practicable using available communication channels.

Tee Times During a Frost Delay

Where practical, the Club will endeavour to accommodate affected players once the course reopens.

This may include:

- combining smaller groups to maximise course capacity;
- implementing alternative starting arrangements where operationally possible;
- delaying the entire field.

However, this will depend on:

- the size of the delay;

- tee sheet availability;
- the number of players booked;
- maintaining fairness for all members and visitors.

Regrettably, where the tee sheet is heavily booked, it may not be possible to accommodate tee times affected by a frost delay. In these circumstances, affected tee bookings may need to be cancelled.

Communication

The Club will make every effort to notify affected players as early as possible.

However, members should appreciate that:

- frost cannot be assessed until daylight;
- decisions cannot be made before course conditions are inspected;
- communication can only begin once a decision has been confirmed.

While every effort is made to notify players before they travel, this will not always be possible during rapidly changing weather conditions.

Our Staff Our staff implement decisions made by the Head Greenkeeper. They do not determine whether the course opens or closes. Members and visitors are asked to treat all staff with courtesy and respect.

Continuous Improvement The Club continually reviews its procedures to ensure members receive the best possible experience while protecting one of the Club's greatest assets—our golf course.