

# **RULES OF THE EPPING GOLF COURSE**

## **Incorporating**

### ***RULES OF EPPING GOLF CLUB***

Attention is drawn to the rules set out below -in particular, rule 2.25 "Exclusion of Liability". They are binding upon all Members , Non-Members & Visitors

#### **1. GENERAL**

1.1 Although these rules apply to the members of the Epping Golf Club (The Club) they represent a code of good practice for all golfers. Members are expected to politely guide other course users to acknowledge this code for the benefit of all.

#### **2. COURSE**

2.1 Members and non-members should familiarise themselves with the Local Rules of the course displayed in the clubhouse and on the score-cards.

2.2 Members and non-members, their guests and caddies will at all times observe the rules of Golf and the Club Rules and refrain from unseemly conduct, bad language and bad manners, on or off the course.

2.3 The clubhouse and course are closed to members and the public before 7am and after 10pm.

2.4 Players cars are only permitted in the car park and nowhere else on the course. Entry to or use of the car park is at own risk and subject to the following terms and conditions:-

Epping Golf Club, its owners, agents or employees will not be liable whether in contract tort or otherwise to any person using or entering the car park for whatever reason for any damage injury or loss whether direct or indirect suffered or incurred by that person or by a third party other than death or personal injury caused by the negligence the Club, its owners, its owners, agents or employees

2.5 Quiet, considerate use of mobile phones is permitted in all areas.

#### **DRESS**

2.6 Members are expected to set an example in wearing conventional golf dress on the course and in the clubhouse.

*2.61 Gentlemen: Shirts to be worn at all time, no hats in the clubhouse*

*No sleeveless/collarless tops, football wear, jeans offensive slogans ,or visible body piercings.*

*Conventional Golf shoes should be worn; any shorts should be tailored, not athletic*

*2.62 Ladies: No jeans . Shorts should be tailored, not athletic*

*Conventional golf shoes and suitable tops should be worn*

2.7 Where possible any changing should take place in the clubhouse.

2.8 Members and non-members must ensure that any green fees for their game are paid for before play. Those not so doing will be asked to leave the course. In competitions entry is void unless the competition book is signed and fee paid before play. Membership privileges are only available to those who are fully paid up on 1st April and 1st October.

2.9 The captain and lady captain shall be offered courtesy of the tee at all times

2.10 All players must observe tee reservations made by duty receptionist or competition secretary. Members may book a starting time in advance but must claim the time within 5 minutes or it may be reallocated.

2.11 The course is never closed except on Christmas Day but parts of the course may come out of play for maintenance.

2.12 Golfers are not allowed to practice anywhere on the course. Members may practice in the practice area, putting green and practice hole (Non members may use these facilities before or after playing or by prior booking).

2.13 Dogs under control are allowed on the course, with permission from the starter, if they do not cause offence. Any damage or fouling must be remedied by the owner. This privilege will be withdrawn for frequent offenders.

2.14 "Winter Rules" and "Preferred Lies" will apply when conditions demand and will be subject to due notice:

*"A ball lying on any closely mown area may be marked, picked; wiped and placed within six inches of where it originally lay but not nearer the hole. After the ball has been so placed it is in play in that position and shall not be re-lifted under this local rule. If the ball moves after the player has addressed it the penalty shall be one stroke".*

*"As a Winter rule, in non-competition play only, the flag must not be attended hence there is no penalty for striking the flag when putting".*

2.15 Competitions will be as indicated in the annual competition programme and as laid down by the Club Committee. On days of special competitions the tee may be reserved for competitors who have priority on the course .

2.16 When competent Junior members may play after noon at weekends or earlier at the receptionist's discretion. When course usage between Juniors and Adults coincide Junior members are expected to offer priority to such adults

2.17 Members and Non-Members should have their own set of clubs. Caddies and strollers are only allowed on the course at the duty receptionist's discretion, their behaviour and dress is the player's responsibility.

2.18 All games and competitions must start at the 1st tee unless otherwise authorised by the duty receptionist. At no time shall such a game start at some other point if there are players on the hole before. Such players starting mid-course have no right of precedence on the first tee when they come off the 18th.

2.19 All golfers are permitted to play from any tee (White, Yellow, Red, Stripes)

2.20 All Members and Non-Members are expected to replace divots, repair pitchmarks and place litter in the bins - whether caused by themselves or others. Members and Non-Members should pick up any stones on the course and toss them into ditches or rough to avoid mower damage.

2.21 Members and non members are expected to point out the good practice of rule 2.20 where appropriate to other course users.

2.22 Members and Non-Members are reminded of the rule for slow play:

*"A player shall at all times play without undue delay. Between completion of a hole and driving off the next tee a player may not delay in any way. Penalty: Match play loss of hole. Stroke play: 2 strokes. For repeated offence: disqualification."*

If a game following is waiting speed up, pick up or call through IMMEDIATELY - do not wait for a queue to form. Players must not play until those in front are out of range. If a ball is inadvertently struck towards another person, the striker or member of that game shall shout FORE! loudly and in good time. After such an incident the player(s) will apologise to those affected at the earliest opportunity.

*"Players searching for a ball should signal those behind through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not easily be found; they should not search for the lost ball for the statutory 5 minutes before doing so,"*

Where possible they should play along with the overtaking players to avoid undue delay to those following. Where the play of two or more games coincides, those playing the later hole have priority.

**Members are to approach matches holding others up and politely explaining the etiquette of calling through or hurrying up.**

2.23 The Golf course is surrounded by private properties and highways, no player has any right to enter these areas at any time. Members and Non-Members must exercise extreme caution to avoid playing into neighbouring properties or highways. Players wilfully ignoring this rule will be barred from the club and course and may face prosecution or be sued.

2.24 There is a public footpath running across the course and golfers must ensure any adjacent footpath is clear before playing and give right of way to walkers at all times.

### **2.25 Exclusion of Liability**

**The Club, its owners, agents or employees will not be responsible for any damage injury or loss occurring at the Club or on neighbouring properties or highways or at any activity or function operated, arranged, organised or sponsored by the Club other than death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the Club, its owners, agents or employees.**

**Any member, guest, visitor or other person who in any manner makes use of any apparatus, facility, privilege or service of the Club or who engages in any game, exercise, competition or any other activity operated, arranged, organised or sponsored by the Club will do so at his/her own risk and will hold the Club, its owners, agent~ or employees harmless against any loss, cost, injury, damage of any other liability sustained and/or resulting from any act or omission of any Member, guest, visitor or other person introduced into the Club or any visitor except as specified above.**

**The Club, its owners or agents or employees will not be responsible or liable to any Member or their guest or any visitor or other person for any articles brought onto the Club premises.**

**Members and Non-Members are strongly advised to ensure that they are personally insured against the risks involved when using the Club and its facilities.**

2.26 The Golf Course is private land; balls lost on the course become the property of the Epping Golf Course.

2.27 Members and Non-Members should respect wildlife and young trees on this course. The ball must be picked and dropped at the nearest point of relief no nearer the hole from "ground under repair" (Blue stakes) particularly in the new tree plantations. Penalty for play from "ground under repair" – 2 shots.

2.28 No Member or non-member shall interfere with or reprimand any course employee in carrying out his or her duties. Comments and complaints should

be directed to the duty receptionist or entered in the suggestion book. A reply will be forthcoming.

2.29 Members and Non-Members are reminded of the R & A rules on gambling and professional status: The Club may not be used for betting, gambling or any unlawful games in contravention of the Gaming Acts.

### **3. CLUBHOUSE**

3.1 There is no smoking anywhere in the clubhouse.

3.2 Spikes or muddy shoes must not be worn in the clubhouse beyond the blue rope. Members are expected to observe the dress code when using the clubhouse and be smartly dressed.

3.3 Members are not permitted to display or alter any notices in the clubhouse without the permission of the duty receptionist.

3.4 The proprietors and/ or committee will consider and answer any queries lodged with the duty receptionist.

3.5 Members shall pay, before leaving the clubhouse, all expenses incurred by themselves, their guests or caddies; the staff have strict orders to refuse credit.

3.6 The Club General Committee or a representative shall arbitrate in any matter of dispute relevant to the Club. Members are reminded that serious breaches of these Rules may, result in disciplinary proceedings following the guidelines of the Governing Bodies of golf, to whom we are affiliated (National & County Golf Unions).

### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 Applicants for membership should place their names and telephone numbers in the waiting list book. Priority is given to: returning members, family or friends of members, golfers wishing to play mostly at quieter times. Admittance follows attendance of a new member to a briefing session, completion of the form and payment of the required sum. Membership acceptance, continuation or renewal is at the proprietor's discretion who shall consider the views of the general committee. Membership cards and vehicle stickers remain the property of the proprietors.

4.2 There shall be a maximum membership of 350 for the 18-hole course. Juniors shall be limited to 30. Variation in these numbers is at the proprietor's discretion.

4.3 Members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the game of golf both on and off the course.

4.4 Members repeatedly failing to obey any of the Rules will not have their membership renewed.

4.5 Steward's membership conditions by arrangement with the proprietor.