

***Welton Manor Winter Golf Rules
& Adverse/Extreme Weather
Information 2026/2027***





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We are encouraging members to return scores for handicapping throughout the year, as WHS does not have an off season in GB&I. This information has been compiled to assist members and visitors preparing for winter golf and the requirements to ensure relevant scores for handicap purposes can continue to be submitted. Please read the information board in the conservatory, before proceeding to the first tee, to check course conditions, competition information, temporary greens, winter tees and any restrictions etc. and ongoing maintenance work.

1. Preferred Lies:

We would like all members and visitors to be aware preferred lies will commence from Tuesday 20th October 2026 through to spring 2027, when it will be reviewed. For scores to be acceptable for handicapping, the Local Rule may only allow the lie to be preferred on grass cut to fairway height or less within 6" of the original lie of the ball. The Local Rule for marking, lifting, cleaning, and replacing on the same spot may be used anywhere within the General Area.

2. Mats (tees and fairway mats):

Acceptable Scores may be returned in Competitions and in General Play when using fairway mats to protect the natural surfaces of the course, during the preferred lies period. We would encourage golfers to use fairway mats where necessary. The use of Fairway mats is not allowed within the teeing area, as this would breach rule of Golf 6.2b (2) and 6.2b(3). Please note that the mats used should be plain and may not have lines which help with alignment as they would then be considered a training aid.

‘When a player’s ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less and a putter is not being used for the stroke, the player must take free relief by lifting the original ball and placing the original ball or another ball on an artificial mat and play it

from there. The mat must be placed on top of the spot where the ball came to rest. If a ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try and place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot, not near the hole, where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed. If the ball on the mat is accidentally moved before a stroke is made, there is no penalty, and the ball must be placed again on the mat. If a tee is used to secure the mat into the ground, the ball must not be placed on the tee. Mats may not be used in the rough.

3. Bunkers:

Bunkers may be taken out of play and marked as GUR for situations such as severe or prolonged wet weather, or during maintenance work. Scores are still acceptable for Handicap purposes when bunkers are taken out of play, treated as GUR with relief taken under Rule 16.1. In situations where there are multiple bunkers that need to be designated GUR, players will be informed by the daily information board or management/competition secretary and without having to place GUR signs in all the bunkers.

There is no limit on the number of bunkers that can be treated as GUR for scores to count for handicapping. Bunkers flooded with water can be marked as GUR; allowing scores to be still acceptable and returned for handicap purposes.

4. Temporary Greens:

Please check the information board in the conservatory to check if any winter greens are in play. For scores to be acceptable, no more than 2 temporary greens are allowed to be used. Whilst temporary or alternative greens are acceptable for handicapping purposes, whenever the length of the course length has been increased or decreased by more than 100 yards, the adjustments to the Course Rating and Slope Rating set out in Appendix G of the Rules of Handicapping must be applied.

5. Closed Holes:

During winter months there are various situations such as course conditions and maintenance plans where holes may be closed and declared out of play. In these circumstances the club may decide to declare some holes out of play and could also still

meet the requirement for up to two temporary greens. The scores continue to be acceptable for handicap purposes – the golfer would follow rule 3.2 of the WHS Rules of Handicapping, 'When a Hole is Not Played', with the software calculating and awarding expected score accordingly. Players must not play any closed holes; this also applies throughout the playing season.

6. Trolleys/Buggies:

Could we please ask our members and visitors to use hedgehog wheels or carry a light golf bag around the course to protect it during the Winter months, from 20th October 2026 to 30th April 2027. (To be reviewed spring 2027) This will help to prevent a possible trolley ban. The use of heavy electric trolleys should be avoided as much as possible as they cause compaction and immense damage to the soil structure particularly in very wet areas. As of 20th October 2026, we will be implementing a ban on electric trolleys that do not have hedgehog wheels throughout the Winter season. However, we are actively encouraging both our members and visitors to use hedgehog wheels on all golf trolleys wherever possible or use light golf bags or carry their bags for the Winter season. We will be reviewing the use of golf trolleys on a regular basis, and further restrictions may have to be introduced in very wet conditions such as either no trolleys being allowed, or all trolleys may have to have hedgehog wheels. Please refrain from cleaning your golf trolley wheels, golf shoes etc on the patio area or the gravel car park. It would be better to use the grass verge areas in the car park.

The use of golf buggies will be reviewed daily throughout the winter season. We prefer golfers who need a buggy to use our buggies unless their own buggies have appropriate floatation tyres, if you are unsure, please ask at the golf reception.

Please drive buggies sensibly around the course keeping well away from the greens and tees and avoiding any wet areas on the course. This will allow buggies to be used more throughout the winter months.

7. Course/Clubhouse Preservation:

Please repair all pitch marks on the greens and restore any divots on the tees and around the course. In addition, please refrain from walking with trolleys etc through wet areas on the course and avoid taking golf trolleys close to the greens and tees. We will be introducing some winter tee mats during the winter period whenever deemed necessary to do so.

We will endeavour to protect the main playing surface of the tees by either using the winter mats or different areas of the tees. Please do not enter the golf reception/bar with muddy shoes. Please use the shoe cleaner outside adjacent to the conservatory door and clean them or change them for clean shoes before entering the golf reception/bar. Also, please do not leave any litter out on the course.

8. Crow Damage:

Please be aware there maybe a few areas on the course where the crows may damage the turf. Please be patient throughout this period, we will endeavour to repair the damage wherever possible, by using a heavy roll etc and may have to, at times, deploy gas gun bird scarers around the course. We are sorry for any inconvenience, but we must try any means available to keep the damage to the minimum. We are fortunate that the grass normally recovers quickly in the spring once the weather warms up and the grass starts to grow again. Relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b if LIE of the ball is affected. This does not apply if stance is affected only, or the ball is within a penalty area.

9. Abnormal Ground Conditions:

These are whether marked or otherwise, animal holes, immovable obstructions, or temporary water, ground under repair (GUR) such as drainage channels and other areas impacted by maintenance, waterlogged bunkers, cracks in the ground etc then relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b.

10.Aeration Holes:

If your ball comes to rest in an aeration hole on the green then the ball may be replaced to the side, no nearer the hole.

11.Tee Set and Yardage Compliance:

The Rules of Handicapping require that for a score to be acceptable for handicap purposes, it must have been played over a measured and officially rated tee set. The set of tees must be registered on the WHS platform by England Golf. Every golfer will be informed of the course conditions and tees for the day on arrival at the golf reception and directed to the information board in the conservatory.

Appendix G of the WHS Rules of Handicapping clarifies that the front of the teeing area should not be placed more than +/- 10 yards from the fixed measurement point on each tee (doing otherwise is not an option and should only be used where the tee cannot be placed normally). Overall length of the course must not be +/- 100 yards from its measured length (from the fixed marker). A 300 yards Rule provides for situations where there is a necessary shortening or lengthening of one or more holes by a total of more than 100 yards, but less than 300 yards: but only on a 'temporary' basis e.g. course excavation work/drainage etc. This 'Temporary Rating' would have to be submitted by us to be approved by England Golf. This would permit 'acceptable scores' to continue to be returned. The maximum duration of approval is one year.

12.Default Markers:

Within the WHS portal, we as a club have the opportunity to switch on and off available tee sets. This functionality will stop scores being submitted from general play (when using the My EG App) any changes need to be saved.

13.Winter Handicaps:

As WHS allows for the submission of scores from measured and rated tee sets throughout the year, any reference to a 'Winter Handicap' is no longer acceptable (note: a player may only have one handicap). It is not permissible to use your own handicap system.

14. Annual Review:

The annual WHS handicap index review process will be completed between the 20th October and the 31st December 202.

The Handicap secretary will take into consideration any player with a long-term illness or injury. Where results from non-acceptable score formats regularly demonstrate an ability which is better than a players HI, such evidence may also be used for a reduction. It is not recommended by WHS that a review of every player is carried out.

We hope the above information will help you to understand Winter golf rules and restrictions and allow you to continue enjoying your golf at Welton Manor, throughout the winter period and any possible adverse weather conditions whilst helping to protect the course and maintaining your handicap etc throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact the management team (Dave, Hayley or Jamie) either via email; info@weltonmanorgolfcentre.co.uk, by phone on 01673 861888, or at the golf reception.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

The Management Team

