



Donnington Grove Country Club General Rules (Updated April 2016)

1. Introduction

- I. The general club rules set out below summarise the expected standards of behaviour of Donnington Grove members both on and off the golf course and are a condition of membership of the club and binding on all members at all times. Member's guests and visitors to the club are expected to observe the same rules.
- II. They should be read in conjunction with the DGCC constitution and the DGCC competitions manual and of course the current version of the 'Rules of Golf' as published by the R&A. They have been agreed between the DGCC management and the DGCC members committee.
- III. Above all these rules are designed to ensure that all members gain maximum enjoyment from their membership of DGCC.

2. The spirit of the game

- I. Unlike many sports, golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. It relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to be aware of, and abide by the Rules.
- II. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf which is endorsed in the club rules set out below.

3. Etiquette on the course

- I. Etiquette is not only a matter of accepted behaviour and courtesy, but also the safety and well-being of fellow golfers and green staff.
- II. Members should note the requirements of the DGCC on course dress code which is clearly communicated on the club web site and on notices in the Pro shop and Club house. Dogs are not allowed on the course at any time.
- III. Use of mobile phones on the golf course/putting green/practise range is not permitted under normal circumstances. However, they may be taken onto the course for use in genuine emergencies and must remain on silent/vibrate mode.

4. Courtesy on the course

- I. Members should be aware of others and not disturb their play by moving, talking or making any unnecessary noise. Several specific examples of unacceptable behaviours on the course to are set out in the Club competitions manual and are fully endorsed for all play at DGCC.
- II. Members must avoid slow play at all times and be prepared to call a following group of players through if they have lost more than a hole on the group in front or are searching for a lost ball whilst a group behind are ready to play. Members seeking to play through a group who have stopped at halfway should also seek permission to do so.
- III. Members must respect the authority of course marshals and be prepared to comply with any requests, particularly in respect of slow play. Dissention will not be tolerated and could lead to sanction and/or disciplinary action.

5. Safety on the course

- I. Members should always be aware of the safety of other golfers whilst swinging a golf club anywhere on the course or the practise ground. Members must not take any action which could cause injury to another player or damage to DGCC property. Any such incident reported to the committee and could result in immediate disciplinary action.
- II. Members should also be aware of the safety of others, and particularly the danger of being hit by a wayward golf ball. This includes green staff, other nearby golfers and any members of the public. Members must shout a warning of 'fore' if they believe this may be the case.

6. Etiquette in the clubhouse

- I. Members are expected to enjoy themselves in a manner which does not cause offence or nuisance to other members, guests, staff or visitors to the club. Specifically, obscene language or lewd behaviour will not be tolerated. DGCC staff is instructed to caution any member who breaches this rule and in extreme cases to request that the person(s) leave the premises. DGCC staff will report any member to the committee for further disciplinary action to be taken.
- II. Members are requested to comply with the DGCC dress code both on the course and in the clubhouse. This is clearly communicated in the Pro shop, the club house and on the member's web site.
- III. Dogs and other animals are not allowed in any part of the clubhouse with the exception of service animals such as guide dogs or hearing dogs.
- IV. The Clubhouse has every facility required for changing into and from golfing apparel and therefore changing in the Car Park is not permitted. Golf and sports bags are only allowed in the Changing Rooms.

7. Format of play and priority on the course.

- I. A group of golfers shall comprise of no more than four players and taking into account the overall pace of play normally a single player or two ball group should be entitled on pass a 3 or 4 ball group which should invite them to play through.
- II. The format of play during club competitions is determined by the Competitions committee and published in the competitions manual. Members must adhere to these rules when playing in DGCC club competitions.
- III. All members and their guests must report to the Pro shop prior to the start of a round and this should always start from the first tee unless specific permission has been given by DGCC management.

- IV. Green fees for guests must be paid before starting play and all players should arrive at the first tee at least 8 minutes before their booked time. It will not always be possible to reschedule a tee time if players are late in arriving for play.
- V. Unless otherwise directed, members may choose to play off any tee where markers are in place. Members must not play from tees where markers are not in place. Visitors without members must play from the 'tee of the day confirmed by the pro shop.
- VI. Members playing in club competitions or club games should (wherever possible) have priority over any other groups on the course and matches continuing to the first tee should have priority over any members starting off.

8. Care of the course.

- I. Members must comply with the DGCC policy of 'soft spikes only'. No metal spike golf shoes will be allowed on the course and members should ensure that any of their guests are made aware of this.
- II. Members must always repair their divot marks on teeing grounds (using the sand/seed mix in the green tee boxes) and replace their divots on fairways.
- III. On greens members should always repair their pitch marks using an appropriate pitch mark repair tool and take all care not to damage the putting surface.
- IV. Members must always rake over bunkers to make good after playing their shot, taking care to replace the rake inside the bunker.
- V. Members must take care when removing and replacing a flag stick to avoid damaging the hole and also when retrieving a ball from the hole.

9. Local Rules

- I. All local rules applicable to play at DGCC will be specified on the course score card and will apply to all forms of golf played.
- II. Any temporary local rules in operation (such as winter rules and embedded lies) will be communicated via the club notice boards and web site. Members must note that absence of any specific notices on the course itself shall not constitute a defence against any infringement of such rules.

10. Booking tee times.

- I. Tee times may be booked directly by members through the Pro-Shop or via the on line booking system on the club website. The principles rules for booking and/or amending tee times is detailed on the club website and is the same for pro shop bookings.
- II. DGCC operates specific time periods on weekend s which are reserved for members and/or members playing with guests. Similar member only time periods will be allocated for club competitions at weekends and members roll ups on weekdays. Allocated tee times are clearly shown on the online booking system and on competition start sheets.

11. Handicaps

- I. DGCC operates the Unified Handicap System (UHS) controlled by CONGU (the Council of National Golf Unions) for member's handicaps. All members of DGCC will be bound by the principles and rules of the CONGU UHS.

- II. The DGCC competitions and handicaps committee is responsible for member handicap administration, updating handicap rules and procedures and communicating with members. Handicap updates will be published regularly on club notice boards and the member's web site.
- III. Members who elect to have their handicaps administered at another club are categorised as AWAY and must ensure that they take responsibility for ensuring their handicap is correct when playing in DGCC club competitions

12. Competitions

- I. All DGCC member competitions are organised and administered by the Competitions and Handicap committee in accordance with R&A rules and the committee's decision on any matters relating to club competitions will be final.
- II. The Competitions and handicap committee will maintain and update the club's competitions manual which contains full details of all club competitions, handicap rules and procedures and guidance for members playing competitive golf. This manual is available to all members via the member's web site and the pro shop.
- III. The competitions and Handicap committee also takes responsibility for marketing DGCC club competitions, publishing all competitions in the club diary and on line calendar and all related member communications.

12. Disputes and complaints

- I. These rules have been created to provide a framework for all members to enjoy the golf and social life at DGCC. It is therefore hoped that all members will fully abide by them.
- II. In the unlikely event that members cannot resolve a conduct issue with their fellow members directly then they may complain in writing to the DGCC club committee who will investigate and address their concerns. The committee will seek factual evidence and/or supporting witnesses to arrive at a fair decision.
- III. In certain circumstances, reprimands may be issued or periods of disqualification from competition ordered. Decisions of this kind would be subject to a formal appeal heard by the club captain.

These general club rules will be monitored by the DGCC members committee and update from time to time as deemed necessary.

Approved

DGCC club committee April 2016