



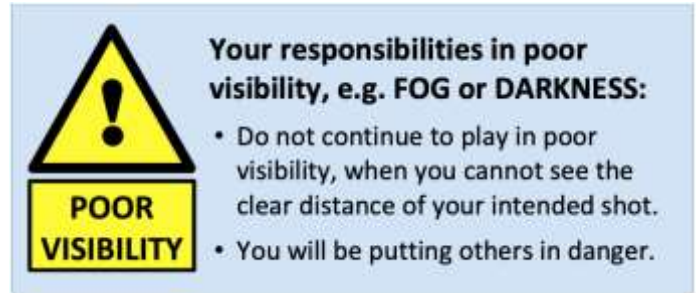
Hessle GC Poor Visibility - Fog & Darkness Policy

Hessle Golf Club has a duty of care to all users of the course and as such has a clear policy regarding the discontinuation of play due to lack of visibility. This will be typically due to either fog or darkness.

The policy is to be adhered to at all times. Failure to do so will result in individuals being sanctioned in accordance with club rules for breach of club policies.

1. Player Responsibility

- The decision regarding play when visibility is poor, first and foremost, lies with the individual golfer, as they are putting others at risk.
- Wherever a golfer is on the course, they must assess whether they can see the clear distance of their intended shot; whether it is safe to play.
- **If the clear distance of their intended shot cannot be seen, the player must not play.**
- Golfers may wait to see if conditions improve. If visibility does not improve, golfers must cancel their round and their participation in competition, citing dangerous playing conditions as the reason.



2. Tee Closures

- Visibility from the 1st tee & 10th tee - When the left fairway bunker on the 1st hole or the right fairway bunker on the 10th hole are not visible from the tee, play will not be permitted and the professional staff will prevent anyone from commencing their round and golfers are prohibited from venturing onto the course until the course is reopened
- Course Closed signs will be displayed on the 1st & 10th tees which are in close proximity to the clubhouse.
- The Professional will sound a horn to stop and re start play under these circumstances. A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signalled by one long blast of a klaxon horn. All other suspensions will be signalled by two short blasts of a klaxon horn. In either case, resumption of play will be signalled by multiple short blasts of a klaxon horn.
- Responsibility for this decision is to be taken by the Head Professional or Head Greenkeeper or the most senior member of staff on duty.
- Note, that the above points only closes the course to new golfers, it does not bring players off the course.

Members must not apply pressure to members of staff, in this matter; this may be considered as intimidation and a breach of the club's staff anti-bullying policy.

THE COMMENCEMENT OR RESUMPTION OF PLAY

- In conditions of swirling fog visibility to the designated bunkers markers must be consistent over a continuous minimum period of 15 minutes
- The Head Professional or Head Greenkeeper or the most senior member of staff on duty will be the final arbiter of when conditions improve and play can be restarted safely.
- When play can commence or resume. Members who have missed their tee-time because of a fog suspension will in most circumstances need to book an alternative time. *(See BRS timesheet guide below).*



When the BRS Booking System is in Operation

- For General Play & Club Competitions, if play is delayed due to poor visibility then those that have a tee time in the suspended play period will lose their tee time. Once play is allowed to restart BRS tee times will continue from that point and those that have missed their allotted time will have to re book later in the day.
- If a Major Competition such as an open event commencement of play is delayed due to poor visibility then all competitors will have their tee time delayed accordingly, ie if the play is suspended for an hour, everybody will tee off one hour later and the Professional staff will try to inform all players in advance.



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3. Suspension of Competition

R&A rules of golf - rule 6E clause 2.

“Visibility

It is recommended that, if landing areas are no longer visible to players (for example, due to fog or darkness), play should be suspended. Similarly, if players are unable to read the line of play on a putting green due to a lack of visibility, play should be suspended.”

- In the event of a club competition, rule 6E(2) will be triggered by the Professional, based on the actions of individual golfers, as per clause 1 or suspension of play as per clause 2 above.
- Once a significant number of participating golfers have decided that it is no longer safe to continue and start to come in off the course, the competition will be suspended or cancelled on the grounds that the course is deemed unplayable.
- This decision is taken by the Professional, based on the consensus and actions of a number of the participants.

4. Individual Golfers in Competition

Should, in accordance with clause 1 above, an individual player decide to stop playing on the grounds that they are concerned that they may be endangering other golfers, then the Handicap & Competitions Committee can allow this without cancelling the competition, provided they are contented that the individual did so out of genuine and appropriate concern for the safety of others.

If, because of bad weather, a player refuses to start at the time arranged by the Handicap and Competitions Committee or picks up during the round and the Handicap and Competitions Committee later cancels that round, the player gets no penalty as all penalties in a cancelled round are cancelled.

In such a case, it would be wrong for the Handicap and Competitions Committee to disqualify a player who insisted on discontinuing play and cancelling their round, provided that the Handicap and Competitions Committee are satisfied that the golfer discontinued solely because the circumstances could be dangerous to other players if they had continued with their round.

6. Policy Education and Enforcement

With a Poor Visibility – Fog and Darkness policy in place, as described, the Course staff and Professional staff will be given the authority to report any golfers they observe failing to adhere to the policy and to ask them to leave the course.

Many golfers only think about themselves and the group ahead - "We'll give them a few minutes and then tee off - they should be out of range!"

They fail to consider all the other issues that bring people into range, such as:-

Golfers losing balls or delayed for other reasons ahead

Golfers walking back to the clubhouse, players won't walk around the holes in order but go for the shortest route.

Course Staff - If members refuse to adhere to the policy then the Head Greenkeeper or the most senior member of staff on duty will instruct the course team to leave the course in poor visibility for their own protection.

As a golf club, we justify having players and course staff operating in the same space because they can see each other. Take away the visibility and you are putting the course team at undue and unnecessary risk.

Polite Reminders

The Greenkeepers working on the course have PRIORITY at all times.

Players are expected to wait for greenkeepers to acknowledge them and move out of range, BEFORE playing a shot that might endanger them. DO NOT assume a greenkeeper will be able to hear or react to a shout of "FORE!"

PLAYERS ARE ALSO REMINDED OF THE NEED TO SHOUT "FORE!" IF YOU CANNOT SEE THE FULL RANGE OF ANY WAYWARD SHOT ONTO ADJACENT FAIRWAYS