



Course Closure & Extreme Weather Guidance – Deeside Golf Club

Closing the course is never an easy decision; however, the Club has a duty of care to ensure the safety of members and staff, and to protect the condition of the courses. Damage caused by play during unsuitable conditions can negatively affect playing quality in the medium and long term.

This guidance explains:

- Why full or partial course closures may occur
- How and when inspections are carried out
- How reopening decisions are made
- Player expectations during weather-related suspensions of play

1. Suspension of Play During Extreme Weather

If sudden extreme weather renders the course unplayable, the Pro Shop Team will sound the horn and issue the appropriate ClubV1 app notifications.

Players should expect to:

- Mark their golf balls
- Return immediately to the Clubhouse
- Be prepared to resume play once conditions improve

Competition Handling

- If play does not resume within 3 hours, the competition and all associated scores will be cancelled—even if the course reopens later.
- If the course is closed at the start of play and does not reopen by 10am (summer months only), the competition will be cancelled.
- If play resumes, any player failing to return to the course is Disqualified under Rule 5.7c. This disqualification does not affect handicap.

2. Safety

Safety is the Club's top priority. The course may be closed solely for safety reasons.

A course will be closed when:

- Flooding has begun, and
- SEPA river-level monitoring indicates the River Dee is likely to continue rising

These conditions represent a direct safety risk.

3. Reasons for Full or Partial Course Closure

a. Flooding

The Club aims to keep as many holes open as possible. A hole may only remain open if:

- Tees, greens, and fairway approaches are clear of water
- Safe, passable access from tee to green exists

b. Snow

Closed to protect the course.

c. Ice

Closed for golfer safety and to protect playing surfaces.

d. Heavy Rain

Closed to protect the course from damage.

e. Fog

Closed for player safety.

Two long horn blasts indicate immediate suspension of play.

The course must close when the 14th green cannot be seen from the clubhouse.

f. Lightning

Closed for player safety.

Two long horn blasts signal suspension of play.

Golfers must remain in the Clubhouse until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike.

g. Thunder

Closed for player safety.

Two long horn blasts signal suspension of play.

Golfers must remain in the Clubhouse until 30 minutes after the last thunder.

h. High Winds (+50 mph)

Closed for player safety.

Two long horn blasts signal suspension of play.

Re-Opening After Closure

Any course closed for the reasons above may reopen following:

- A further course inspection, or
- Assessment that weather conditions have improved

4. Greens Team – Inspection Schedule

The Greens Team monitor course and weather conditions and carry out inspections during:

Summer Season

- **Mon–Fri:** 6:00am – 2:30pm
- **Sat–Sun:** 5:30am – 9:30am

Winter Season

- **Mon–Fri:** Sunrise – 3:00pm
- **Sat–Sun:** Sunrise – 10:00am

The Course Manager and Greens Team are authorised by Council to decide on course closure.

Outside Greens Team working hours, the Pro Shop Team will make closure or reopening decisions, consulting the Course Manager or Greens Team where possible.

5. Assessment & Member Notifications

ClubV1 is the Club's primary communication tool for all full or partial closures.

Summer Communication

- ClubV1 will be updated by 6:30am
- Notifications will include reasons for closure and timing of any further inspections

Winter Communication

- ClubV1 will be updated no later than 30 minutes after sunrise
- Notifications will include reasons for closure and planned re-inspection times

Second Inspections

- If the course is closed after the first inspection but conditions may improve, a second inspection will take place by 12 noon
- If playable, ClubV1 will be updated with hole availability and any restrictions

Members should:

- Monitor ClubV1 for up-to-date information
- Contact the Pro Shop if uncertain about weather or playing conditions
- Make personal judgments regarding safety when the course is open—particularly riders of buggies