



Lobden Golf Club

Code Of Conduct for Members & Their Guests

(December 2022 version 1.1)

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1 INTRODUCTION

Lobden Golf Club (the “Club”) is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for members, their guests and visitors. The Club does not discriminate on any grounds including gender, age, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or disability nor does it allow such discrimination to take place.

The Club provides access to golf for players of all levels and upholds the values and traditions of the sport.

The Club is committed to meeting all regulatory requirements including, but not limited to, equality, health and safety, occupiers’ liability, licensing, and rules governing Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC).

All members must adhere to this Code of Conduct and are responsible for ensuring that their guests do also. All employees, members and guests have the right to be treated with consideration, dignity, and respect. Any breach of the code could lead to disciplinary action. Anyone found to be in breach of this Code of Conduct may be asked to leave the premises by a member of staff or an officer of the club until such a time the incident can be investigated.

2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.1 MEMBERS’ RIGHT TO USE AND ENJOY

All members have the right to use and enjoy the Club’s facilities (as allowed by their membership category) without undue disturbance or interference by any others. All members must be considerate to other users of the facilities and not engage in any anti-social, unacceptable or unreasonable behaviour.

2.2 REPUTATION

Members must not bring the Club or the sport into disrepute. Whenever visiting other clubs, either representing the Club in organised events or playing socially, members should adopt the standards outlined in this Code of Conduct.

2.3 JUNIOR MEMBERS

Members must always respect junior members and not engage in any form of harassment, intimidation, or other negative behaviour.

Volunteers and staff working with junior members must adhere to specific safeguarding procedures.

2.4 CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

Only alcohol purchased at the bar may be consumed in the Club House (unless dispensation is given by the Bar Manager). Alcohol may be consumed on the course in moderation but must not lead to unsafe or unacceptable behaviour. Any person intoxicated by alcohol will cease to be served and may be required to leave the premises. Intoxication is not an excuse for unacceptable behaviour.

2.5 SMOKING

Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, is forbidden in all buildings and enclosed spaces. Smoking around the Club House is only permitted in the designated smoking area (which is the patio in front and to the side). Smoking is permitted on the course, but smokers must not leave litter.

2.6 ILLICIT DRUGS

The possession or consumption of illicit drugs anywhere on Club property is strictly forbidden. Anyone suspected to be under the influence of illicit drugs will be required to leave the premises. The Club will inform the Police of any person found, or suspected, to be in possession or dealing of illicit drugs.

2.7 VIOLENT OR THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

Violent or threatening behaviour is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated.

2.8 BULLYING

Bullying in any form is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, any racial abuse or slurs, homophobic comments or name calling or any other abuse that may be construed as derogatory.

2.9 FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

The use of foul and abusive language anywhere on Club property is forbidden. Anyone using such language will be told to stop and required to leave the premises if they do not and could face disciplinary action.

2.10 STAFF, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

Members must not directly reprimand or abuse any member of staff, club official or volunteer.

Matters concerning the performance of staff, officials or volunteers must be raised with the Captain or Secretary via the Complaints Procedure (see below).

2.11 PROFESSIONAL AND CATERING SERVICES

Professional and catering services are sometimes provided to the Club under Service Agreements. Members must deal with the providers with respect. Complaints about the services provided may be raised with the service provider but this must be done in a reasonable and respectful manner.

Alternatively, a complaint can be raised with the Bar manager.

2.12 CLUB PROPERTY

Club property must be treated with respect and not be damaged or removed (unless its removal has been authorised). Interference with safety equipment and/or signage is strictly forbidden.

2.13 PROPERTY BELONGING TO OTHERS

Property belonging to others must not be damaged or removed (unless its removal has been authorised by the owner).

The locker room is to be respected and kept tidy for all users. It is not acceptable to leave footwear or clothing on the benches or on the floor after play. Lockers are available, or members should take their items home. The Council may give permission to the cleaners to remove such deposited items into a storage receptacle. Items continuously not in use may be deemed abandoned and disposed of.

2.14 DOGS

Dogs belonging to members are allowed on the course so long as they are well controlled and no one in the playing group objects to their presence. Dogs are not allowed on tees or greens. Owners must clean up after their dogs. A member's right to bring their dog may be terminated at any time. Visitors and members may bring dogs in the Club House as long as they are kept under control, create no excessive noise and do not foul. The owners' are fully responsible and may be asked to take their dog outside if it becomes a nuisance.

2.15 SOCIAL MEDIA

Members' postings on social media platforms must not be injurious to the Club, its staff, its members, or third parties.

2.16 MOBILE PHONES

The use of mobile phones in the Club House must not cause a nuisance to other users. Calls should be made or received outside or in a remote part of the Club House.

The Club encourages the carrying of at least one mobile phone by each group playing the course, for emergency use only.

2.17 NEIGHBOURS

Members must respect the Club's neighbours when entering and leaving the premises, especially early in the morning and late at night. Members should observe speed limits in the roads leading to the Club. Residents have complained about speeding cars and sometimes arrange for speed checks.

Where parts of the course are close to neighbours' properties, members must not create any form of nuisance.

2.18 DRESS CODE

Players must adhere to the dress code for the course. Smart casual dress must be worn in the Club House (unless otherwise specified for a given event). Clean denim jeans without tears are permitted. Hats, caps must be removed. No golf shoes with hard spikes are permitted in the clubhouse however, summer, dimpled golf shoes, if clean, are allowed. Further guidance can be found on the Dress Code posters.

3 ON THE COURSE

3.1 RULES OF GOLF

Members must play the game in a sportsman like manner and adhere to the Rules of Golf.

3.2 GOLF ETIQUETTE

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:

Acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.

Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player.

3.3 SLOW PLAY AND CALLING THROUGH

Each group is expected to keep up with the group in front. Groups should give way to faster groups behind them. Players should play “ready golf” and not look for their ball for longer than three minutes.

3.4 SAFE PLAY

Members must always take the safety of themselves and others into consideration. Shots must not be played when any person is in range. Never stand in the possible line of another player’s shot or the arc of their swing. Please be aware that a public footpath crosses the course and that pedestrians have always right of way. Any green keepers on the course have priority at all times. Please make sure pedestrians and green keepers are aware of your presence and only play your shot when it is safe to do so.

3.5 COURSE PRIORITY

Players with a reservation have priority on the first tee. No group has priority on the course due to its number of players.

3.6 LITTER

Litter must not be left on the course. It must be either deposited in the bins provided or taken off the course for proper disposal.

3.7 CARE FOR THE COURSE

Members must generally care for the course by repairing divots and pitch marks, following signage, and avoiding any other damage to the course.

3.8 GROUP SIZE

The maximum number playing in a group is four players.

3.9 SHARING CLUBS

Players shall have their own set of clubs and are not allowed to share with another player.

3.10 PRACTICING ON THE COURSE

Practice is allowed on the course as long as it is in the form of playing a round and does not involve more than a couple of balls or interfere with the pleasure of other golfers, particularly if they are competing. Repetitive practice, hitting balls into and around greens is not allowed and should be reserved for the practice ground. If a Member is deemed to be practicing on the course in a damaging or unsociable way they may be subject to disciplinary measures.

3.11 NUISANCE VISITORS

Lobden Golf Club is on common land by permission of the Lord of the Manor and by maintaining the goodwill of our neighbours. However, Members of the public are known to venture on the golf

course, sometimes with the intent of causing nuisance or damage. The Occupiers Liability Act places a duty of care towards all persons on the property whether they are authorised or not.

3.11.1 Non-Nuisance Presence

Non-nuisance walkers and riders cannot be barred from the course. If members feel comfortable to do so, they may approach such visitors to alert them to the dangers of the course and to offer directions to safety. Members must not aggravate persons on the course nor use any force to remove them. Members should walk away from any potential confrontation.

3.11.2 NUISANCE VISITORS

Members should report nuisance visitors to the bar, a club official or a member of the Greens Staff. Members are cautioned against confronting nuisance visitors and should avoid any confrontation with them. If the nuisance persons are conducting illegal acts e.g., criminal damage or drug taking the Police should be called.

3.12 ON THE COURSE DRESS

Members and guests must follow the on the course dress guidelines that are published in the clubhouse.

4 COMPETITIONS

4.1 BEFORE STARTING COMPETITION PLAY

Players playing in competition rounds must before play, sign into competition via either using the PSI unit (located in Locker room) or via a mobile device. E.G mobile phone.

Players must also pay relevant competition fees as stated by the club (e.g. for 2023, Saturday Comp £4, Wednesday Comp £3).

From time to time the competition committee may decide to increase or decrease entry fees for certain competitions, Players will be informed well in advance of this.

Penalty for anybody found to have not signed in or paid correct fees before their tee time is instant **DISQUALIFICATION**.

In case of a technical issue, Comp or a Council member should be informed immediately to rectify or take account of it.

4.2 AFTER COMPLETION OF COMPETITION ROUND

Upon completion of competition rounds players must enter scores onto the ClubV1 / HowDidIDo software (PSI unit or mobile device) & return scorecards into box located within the clubhouse.

Players have until the close of the competition to enter scores onto ClubV1 / HowDidIDo software.

Competitions are closed within 2 hours of the last group of players returning from play.

Any players that fail to enter scores onto ClubV1 / HowDidIDo will be automatically **DISQUALIFIED** from the day's competition.

In case of a technical issue, Comp or a Council member should be informed immediately to rectify or take account of it.

4.3 GOLDEN TEES

The purpose of the Golden Tees is to encourage those members of Lobden Golf Club who struggle with the course to carry on playing. These are not intended for the more able players to use to gain a distinct advantage over the field. Although not a punishable offence for a more able player to use the Golden tees it is frowned upon. A player must confirm their intention to play Golden Tees prior to commencement of their round, a player cannot pick & choose which Golden Tees they will use. If using one Golden Tee, you accept that you must play from all of them during your round.

Penalty for using Golden Tee – 1 stroke per Golden Tee used

5 IN THE CLUB HOUSE

The Club House is for the use of members, their guests and visitors. Use of the Club House, within its opening hours, is unrestricted unless advised to the contrary by the Council. The Club House can be used for multiple purposes and members must be considerate to other users.

Many of the General Provisions above apply within the Club House and must be adhered to.

6 COMPLAINTS

Complaints should be made to the Captain or Secretary in writing via email, letter, or the website. Simple complaints may be dealt with by reply but more serious complaints will be entered into the Club's complaint handling procedure. Complainants will receive feedback on how their complaint is being dealt with.

7 WHISTLE BLOWING

It is in everyone's interest that this Code of Conduct is followed. Whilst some members may feel comfortable intervening when they see people breaching the code it is understood that this is not always easy. Breaches can be reported to a member of the Council in confidence -

8 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Breaches of the provisions of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. The most serious breaches may result in suspension or expulsion. Breaches that warrant formal disciplinary action will be handled by the Council or Officers of the Club.

This Code of Conduct is issued by the Lobden Golf Club Council who retain the right to modify it. Constructive feedback on the Code of Conduct should be made in writing to the Council.