

Fortunately (unlike elsewhere in the UK), golf has been identified as one of the exceptions to the “stay at home” measures introduced in the latest lockdown in Scotland. However, the strictest rules have been applied to ensure the highest level of safety for everyone, and have been sent by Golf Scotland to all clubs across the country.

On the course

Groups of up to 2 golfers from a maximum of two households.

All tee times must be booked in advance.

Caddies and non-golfers are not currently permitted if the numbers within the group would exceed 2.

Clubhouse

All indoor clubhouse facilities (including locker rooms) should be closed.

One off appointments to retrieve equipment are permissible.

Toilets can remain open, subject to following Government public toilet guidelines at all times

Professional shop

All professional and retail shops should be closed, although click and collect can be operated.

Starter facilities can operate providing adherence to physical distancing and appropriate measures are put in place

Practice range

All indoor or a combination of indoor and outdoor facilities should be closed.

Fully outdoor facilities (regardless of whether bays are covered or not) and if access to the bays can be controlled with physical distancing and all appropriate hygiene measures in place these can remain open.

Club fitting services cannot be offered at this time

Coaching

Only outdoor coaching is permitted.

Over the age of 12 – 1:1 coaching only.

Under the age of 12 – group coaching should not exceed group sizes of 30.

Number of coaching sessions that can be delivered per day are unlimited.

Travel

Minimise unnecessary journeys.

Avoid any unnecessary travel into or out of the local area.

Keep journeys within the area to an absolute minimum.

More information can be found on the Scottish Government's website

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus>

What does this mean for Oldmeldrum Golf Club?

1. We will be reverting to a maximum of 2 ball pairings when the course re-opens. BRS will be updated to reflect this and there will be no exceptions. Tee time intervals will remain at 7/8 minutes. At peak periods on Saturdays and Sundays, once again, we ask that those who can only play at weekends be afforded some priority. This issue will be more prominent this time round due to the shorter days so please think twice before booking a tee time.
2. Entry to the professional shop is prohibited for any reason.
3. Our locker rooms will be closed albeit access through them to the toilets is allowed. Please make arrangements to remove your equipment as soon as you can, if you plan to play golf.
4. Access to all other areas of the clubhouse is prohibited.
5. Face coverings to be worn at all points in and within the vicinity of the clubhouse.
6. Social distancing to be adhered to at all times
7. Our practice range will be closed. However, the practice area between the 2nd and 8th will be available subject to social distancing
8. Coaching only available on a 1:1 basis on the practise area (not the range)
9. Regrettably, our members who live in the Aberdeen City Council area should not travel to Oldmeldrum for golf.

On the last point, the ruling provided by the Aberdeenshire Council Health & Safety executive is that people are allowed to travel 5 miles into a neighbouring local authority from the border of the 2 authorities for exercise, starting and finishing at the same place. The quoted example was an Aberdeen resident could travel 5 miles from the border between the City and Shire to play golf at a course in the shire. It may be that some of your members live further away from the course than that, and therefore should not travel.

The surge in COVID virus cases throughout the country should be of the utmost concern to everyone, the severity and prevalence in the North East of Scotland being much higher than the first lockdown last year. We all have an obligation to follow the rules for everyone's safety, even more so now that they are in law.

The situation is very fluid, as you all know, and the availability of golf at Oldmeldrum is no different. The council will continue to monitor and review all aspects over the coming days and weeks and will advise of any changes.

Stay safe by respecting the FACTS at all times, and to our City members, we look forward to seeing you all as soon as regulations allow.