

## **AGC MOTORISED CART USAGE POLICY**

### **BACKGROUND**

Axedale Golf Club (AGC) encourages golfers to walk the course; however we recognise that the use of motorised carts allows golfers with mobility problems to remain in the sport for longer and therefore support their use. The availability of carts is a benefit for Members and their guests and also an attraction to potential green fee players.

At present (1 August 2019), AGC has around 380 Members and there are 42 carts stored at the course. Additionally the club owns three carts which are available for hire by Members and green fee players. A number of Members own carts which they transport to the course in order to play.

The aim of this policy aims to provide a provide guidance on cart usage on the course and a number of other cart related aspects

### **POLICY DOCUMENT**

Whilst Axedale Golf Club prefers golfers to walk the course, motorised carts are an accepted part of the game and are welcomed at our Club.

AGC has invested considerable resources in providing improved playing areas particularly around greens. However, there is no doubt that the incorrect use of carts damages the grass surfaces through soil compaction and tyre wear. Previously the only requirement on cart usage was that carts were to remain at least 10 metres from every green. Unfortunately, too many cart drivers don't co-operate and continue to drive carts onto the green surrounds and other critical turf areas.

The Club had embarked on a process to prepare and replace cart paths in selected areas around the course, with more to come over time.. With this in mind, the Club will implement a policy for the use of carts that balances the needs of all parties.

All cart users are expected to use the existing paths at all times. Where there are no designated paths, cart users are expected to travel in the light rough verges next to each fairway, choosing one side of the fairway and travelling up that side for the full extent of the hole. Carts are not to be driven within 10 metres of greens or on embankments around tees or greens unless approved by Committee under the Disabled Access provision.

This policy will be publicised on the Club's website and will be given to each cart user. All club members are expected to help enforce this policy and are encouraged to report breaches. Users who breach the policy will face the range

of disciplinary action available under the Club rules and may be liable for costs associated with any damage caused negligently or recklessly.

The following are general requirements for all motorised carts:

- Carts must keep to established paths whenever possible.
- Carts must not be driven or parked **on or within 10 metres** of greens and greenside bunkers. Drivers may park within 10 metres of tees only on the designated cart paths.
- Do not drive over mounds that are within 10m of greens
- Carts are NOT permitted inside any roped off areas
- Consideration should be given to shutting off petrol motors while nearby players play their shots.
- Motorised vehicle users must not turn so tightly that they cause turf damage.
- Park carts to the rear of greens or to the side leading to the next tee, NEVER in front of greens. This will greatly assist the Pace of Play.
- Near tees, carts must remain on the pathway and shall not be driven on tee surrounds.
- If course conditions are wet, carts should only travel on the driest and firmest parts of the golf course and should stay away from critical golf areas as much as possible

AGC has adopted three (3) potential operating conditions for cart use

**Maximum of two carts per group:**

Each group of golfers must have no more than two carts. Cart users must be prepared to share their cart, or join another cart, in order to adhere to this policy.

**Normal Play:**

Use the 90-Degree Rule. In effect the "90-degree rule" means that the golf course is allowing carts onto the fairways but only at 90-degree angles from the cart path or rough. In other words, don't drive the golf cart up the middle of the fairway from the tee box to your golf ball. Stay on the cart path or in the rough until you are level with your golf ball, then make a 90-degree turn off the cart path and drive straight across to the ball. The "90-degree rule" minimizes the time a golf cart spends rolling over the grass, while still allowing convenience for golfers.

**Wet Weather Play:**

Cart Path/Rough Only (part or all course) AGC may post signs that designate certain holes off-limits to carts, for example, "Cart path/rough only on No. 6 and No. 8. In this situation, the course's Normal Play conditions apply, but on the specified holes carts are required to keep on the designed cart path/rough only and players will need to walk from there to their balls. In some instances the cart path/rough only rule will apply to all holes and where defined paths are not in existence the cart **must be kept off mown fairway** areas at all times and players will need to walk to their balls.

**Extreme Wet Weather Play:**

No Carts – in this instance NO cart use on the golf course will be permitted

The Club reserves the right to modify or ban the use of carts should conditions warrant it. When this occurs, members will be notified by email, a notice will also be displayed on the Club's website and signage placed at the clubhouse and on the first tee.

Any wet weather decision making is influenced by two primary considerations, player/operator safety and preservation of the golf course. The decision to approve, modify or suspend the use of golf carts is undertaken in consultation between the Course Committee Chair and the Course Superintendent. On competition days this decision will be made by the "captain of the day" or event co-ordinator with the Course Superintendent.

**Disabled access**

Members with mobility issues and a medical certificate may apply to the Committee for dispensation. If approved by Committee, they will be provided with a clearly visible identifier that must be displayed on their cart. Drivers will be allowed to use 90 degree rule at all times (except if carts are banned from the course under the Extreme Wet Weather provision).

**Communication**

All cart owners to be provided with a copy of the policy

Policy to be displayed on notice board in clubhouse

Clear stickers to be produced and placed on cart windscreens to show 90 deg rule and how it must be implemented.

Wet weather play –cart signs that instruct cart drivers to 'drive only on paths'to be placed close to tee boxes next to cart path so they are visible to all drivers.