



TRANSPORTATION POLICY

This is the Transportation Policy and will be referred to as such in all events organised and managed by England Golf. It sets out the circumstance in which golf buggies may be used in England Golf events. Please note that this policy does not apply to non-England Golf competitions, including club and county competitions.

1. Aim Of This Policy

England Golf wishes to encourage participation in golf by all players regardless of disabilities within the meaning given by the Equality Act 2010. This document sets out the circumstances in which England Golf will allow the use of motorised transport (golf buggies) in competitions.

2. The General Rules

- 2.1. This Policy applies in all England Golf competitions, including Handicap Events, and Elite Scratch Events.
- 2.2. Short term injuries such as broken bones, pulled muscles, or any other medical condition which does not meet the definition of a "Disability" under the Equality Act 2010 do not meet the criteria for the use of motorised transportation.

3. Handicap Events

- 3.1. For the purposes of this Policy, a "Handicap Event" means any golf competition, event or tournament organised by England Golf in which participants play from a playing handicap according to their golfing ability.
- 3.2. In Handicap Events, there are no restrictions on who may use Motorised Transportation, except as is otherwise provided for in this Policy, including:
 - i. Insurance requirements set out at section 8 of this Policy;
 - ii. Health and safety requirements set out at section 9 of this Policy; and/or
 - iii. Host Venue requirements set out at section 11 of this Policy.



4. Elite Scratch Events

- 4.1. For the purposes of this Policy, an “Elite Scratch Event” means any golf competition, event or tournament organised by England Golf in which participants do not play from a playing handicap and instead play from ‘scratch’ to the course handicap.
- 4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, the Elite Scratch Events for the 2023 season are listed at **Schedule 1** to this Policy.
- 4.3. In Elite Scratch Events, England Golf adopts Model Local Rule G-6 ‘Prohibiting Use of Motorised Transportation’ as set out in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf 2023.
- 4.4. Model Rule G-6 states: *“During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the Committee.”*
- 4.5. The penalty for a breach of the rule set out in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 above shall be as follows: *“The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.”*

5. Using a Golf Buggy in Elite Scratch Events

- 5.1. In Elite Scratch Events, motorised transportation (golf buggies) may only be used with the prior approval of the England Golf Championships Committee (the “Committee”).
- 5.2. The Committee may approve a request to use motorised transport (a “Buggy Request”) only if such request complies with the following requirements:
 - i. The player or caddie submits a validly completed Buggy Request Form (**Form B1**) to England Golf in accordance with this policy by the Relevant Date; and
 - ii. The player or caddie’s Buggy Request Form confirms that the player or caddie currently has a Disability ; and
 - iii. In England Golf’s reasonable opinion, the use of a golf buggy is a reasonable adjustment in light of that Disability; and
 - iv. The Committee receives the request in writing at least 14 days before the commencement date of the relevant competition(s).



- 5.3. For the purposes of this policy, "**Disability**" means a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term (*12 months or more*) adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities or play a round , and shall be interpreted consistently with the meaning given in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 5.4. The Committee may refuse a Buggy Request if the Buggy Request Form required by section 5.2 above is not submitted to England Golf at least 14 days before the commencement date of the relevant competition(s) (the "**Relevant Date**").
- 5.5. The Committee may not without good reasons refuse a Buggy Request if the criteria in this section 5 are met. However, the Committee may refuse a Buggy Request if the Committee has reason to believe that the individual who will use the motorised transportation will not do so safely and/or in accordance with all relevant rules, having particular regard to the requirements set out in paragraph 10.2 of this Policy below.
- 5.6. Where a player is under the age of 18 years and has met the criteria in this section 5, the Committee reserves the right to specify that the golf buggy is driven by another person of the Committee's choice in the event that the person having parental responsibility for the player is unable or not competent or qualified to do so.
- 5.7. Where the Disability prevents the player from driving the buggy, they may nominate a third party to drive the buggy for them, they must be approved by the Committee in the event that permission is granted.

6. Authorisation to Use a Golf Buggy

- 6.1. Following receipt of a valid Buggy Request, the Committee will consider and respond to the request. The Committee may either accept or reject a Buggy Request.
- 6.2. Where a Buggy Request is accepted, the Committee will issue the player with a certificate (a "**Buggy Certificate**"), which shall constitute evidence that the player has received authorisation to use a golf buggy in an Elite Scratch Event.
- 6.3. A Buggy Certificate is only valid for the Elite Scratch Event that is named on the certificate. A new Buggy Certificate will be required for each Elite Scratch Event in which motorised transportation is to be used.



- 6.4. Where the Committee refuses a Buggy Request, the player shall be informed of the decision, the reasons for it and the right to appeal this refusal to the Appeals Committee in accordance with this policy.

7. Enforcement and Evidence

- 7.1. Players and Caddies are required to 'self certify' that they meet the criteria to use motorised transportation in accordance with this Policy. No medical evidence or doctors' reports will be required in the first instance.
- 7.2. Notwithstanding the above, if the Committee has reasonable grounds to suspect that a Player or Caddie has applied for and received a Buggy Certificate based on incorrect or false information, the Committee may revoke authorisation to use motorised transport and invalidate a Buggy Certificate by giving notice to the Player or Caddie in writing, by email, or by phone.
- 7.3. Where the Committee revokes or invalidates a Buggy Certificate in accordance with paragraph 7.2 above, the Committee may require a Player or Caddie to submit medical evidence from a practicing medical professional (GP, Consultant, Surgeon etcetera) before a Buggy Certificate is reissued.
- 7.4. If a Player or Caddie submits a Buggy Request which contains misleading or untrue information and subsequently uses a buggy where they otherwise would not be entitled to do so, England Golf reserves the right to disqualify that player from any relevant competition, apply any appropriate penalties or sanctions allowed by the Rules of Golf, and/or take disciplinary action where it deems appropriate.

8. Insurance

- 8.1. Where a Buggy Certificate has been issued, the buggy user must have an appropriate policy of insurance covering liability for all personal and third party claims and the driver must provide a copy of the certificate of insurance on demand to England Golf.
- 8.2. If the buggy is owned by the person using it, there must be in force an appropriate policy of insurance covering liability for all third party liabilities. In the event that the buggy is provided by a Club, it is incumbent upon the Club to ensure that there is in



force an appropriate policy of insurance covering third party liabilities and the terms of use have been communicated to the user of the buggy.

9. Health and Safety Considerations

9.1. Where a Buggy Certificate has been issued, England Golf, the Committee, and/or the host venue of any competition reserves the right to refuse the use of motorised transport where, in their reasonable opinion, it would be unsafe to allow the use of motorised transportation having regard to the following:

- i. any relevant weather conditions;
- ii. the topography and ground conditions;
- iii. the condition and suitability of the golf buggy; and/or
- iv. any other relevant considerations which could impede the safety of the golf buggy or impact on the safety of others.

10. Provision and Use of Golf Buggies

10.1. Nothing in this policy shall oblige England Golf to provide a player with a golf buggy for use in connection with a competition. It shall remain the responsibility of the player or caddie to source their own appropriate golf buggy.

10.2. A player, caddie or third party permitted to use a golf buggy must use the buggy in a reasonable and safe manner. In considering what is 'reasonable and safe' the driver will have regard to the following factors:

- i. the ground condition;
- ii. the safety of others;
- iii. that a buggy should give way to pedestrians;
- iv. that a buggy should not impede any other user on the course; and
- v. that the speed of the buggy should be limited to 15mph at a maximum.



- 10.3. A golf buggy shall be for the sole use of the player and their equipment unless the Committee has deemed that for reason of age or disability a third party is required to drive the golf buggy.
- 10.4. The driver must comply with all directional signs and not use prohibited areas, including public highways and pavements.
- 10.5. The driver must certify that they are competent to drive a golf buggy.
- 10.6. The driver is solely responsible for the safe use of the buggy.
- 10.7. Liability for any injury or damage caused is the liability of the driver.

11. Host Venue Requirements

- 11.1. The venue at which an event is being held (the “Host Venue”) has discretion to enact its own rules regarding the use of motorised transportation on their premises.
- 11.2. Regardless of any Host Venue rules and requirements, neither England Golf nor any Host Venue will discriminate directly or indirectly against any player or caddie on the basis of a disability.

12. Appeals

- 12.1. Any decision by the Committee to refusing a player or caddie permission to use a golf buggy may be appealed by the player or caddie to the England Golf Governance Team.
- 12.2. An appeal should be made in writing to the Governance Department within 5 working days of the date of the initial decision and sent by email to Compliance@EnglandGolf.org or by post to: **FAO Governance Team, England Golf, The National Golf Centre, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6PU.**
- 12.3. Any appeal requests must include a statement where the player or caddie give the reasons why they are seeking to appeal a decision.
- 12.4. The Governance Department shall make a decision on an appeal and communicate it to the player or caddie within 5 working days of the initial appeal.
- 12.5. The decision of the Governance Department is final.



Schedule 1

Elite Scratch Competitions

1.	International Matches
2.	English Senior Women's Amateur Championship
3.	Brabazon Trophy (including the Regional Qualifiers)
4.	English Senior Men's Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
5.	English Senior Women's Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
6.	English Open for golfers with a disability
7.	English U18 Closed Amateur Stroke Play Championship
8.	English Schools Team Championship
9.	Logan Trophy
10.	McGregor Trophy
11.	English U25 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
12.	English Girls' Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
13.	Carris Trophy
14.	English Amateur Championship (Men's, Women's)
15.	English Girls' U16/U14 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
16.	Reid Trophy
17.	English Senior Men's Amateur Championship
18.	English Women's Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
19.	County Finals (Men's, Women's, Boys', Senior Men's)
20.	County Champion of Champions (Men's, Women's, Boys', Girls, Seniors)
21.	Champion Club (Men's, Women's)

The competitions listed in Table 1 above may be subject to change. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the participant to check the individual rules and requirements for the specific competition that they are participating in.