

Introduction

Searles Resort Golf club 'Play Safe' procedure based on guidance from the Golf industry governing bodies.

This procedure will include all aspects of the golfing experience, from arrival in the car park shortly before the round to departure straight away on completion of the round. Golfers will be required to comply with the rules on social distancing throughout. Some temporary provisions in relation to the Rules of Golf will also be necessary to ensure safe play (see 6).

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1.0 Course Set Up

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 During the coronavirus crisis the golf governing bodies set an essential maintenance policy which focused on frequency of cutting regimes. Green for example were only allowed to be cut twice a week, Therefore when play is resumed the green speed may play slightly slower than you are used to for the time of year, but we will build up the pace as a when we are allowed to increase the number of cuts.

On the golf course you will find a number of differences. These are aimed at reducing the contact points where players could potentially transfer the virus.

Therefore, all bunker rakes have been removed, Players may bring their own personal rakes and retrievers, which should only be handled by that player and taken away at the end of their round, please try to smooth out your marks as best you can. Our golf course staff will be monitoring bunkers during the day.

- 1.1.2 Ball washers are out of use.
- 1.1.3 Benches are out of use, bins can be used but please don't touch them.
- 1.1.4 Hole signage is on the course, but all players are reminded not to touch these.
- 1.1.5 The stakes defining areas of the course can be treated as immovable objects
- 1.1.6 On the course the Flagsticks are being retained. We are putting in place the ball retriever system so that you can still putt out, always leaving the pin in the hole, and lift the lever with your putter and the ball we come out. You must not touch the flagstick at any time.

1.2 Practice Areas

- 1.2.1 The driving range is not currently open to the players, we aim to bring this back into service shortly.

2.0 Reserving Tee Times

2.1 Bookings

- 2.1.1 The golf office will be open from 8am – 4pm Monday to Sunday. Please use the existing number. 01485 536025
- 2.1.2 Players may now arrive before play to access the Fountain bar. Please be aware that due to social distancing rules there may be less chairs available than normal and therefore please enjoy the facility but be considerate of other guests.
- 2.1.3 Our staff will monitor tee bookings on the Handicap Master Tee booking system to ensure that players are keeping to the playing conditions as set out in this procedure.
- 2.1.4 Players will be required to book in to play online before travelling to the course.
- 2.1.5 Players will need to access the course through the resort through the main entrance, security will check on your booking to ensure you have pre-booked before access can be granted.
- 2.1.6 Tee Times have been arranged for 10 minutes intervals. Visitors will be allowed to book 1 tee time per day. This will be reduced on 11th July to 8 minute intervals.
- 2.1.7 The player booking the tee time will have to specify who they are playing with.
- 2.1.8 The club are required to have a record of who is playing.
- 2.1.9 The maximum number of golfers in a group per tee time is 4, these can be from different households.

3.0 Arrival and Waiting to Play

3.1 Car Park

3.1.1 From Monday 14 September it is illegal for gatherings of more than six people to take place either indoor or outdoor.

3.1.2 On arrival at the golf course please drive to the sign posted car park. Please arrive no earlier than 15 mins before your tee time. Please change shoes in the car park.

3.2 Clubhouse

3.2.1 Accessing the Clubhouse

3.2.2 Golfers are invited to use the facilities of the Fountain Bar under the social distancing rules as set out in the current guidance. There will be a one-way system in place for all persons entering the building, the entrance will be the door on the decking area to the fountain bar and the exit will be the door to the golf area. The Fountain Bar furniture will be laid in accordance with the regulations and members and visitors will be reminded not to move the chairs from their designated tables.

3.2.3 Clubs/ facilities have a legal obligation to collect details of all members and visitors entering the clubhouse for track and trace. These details must be stored, in compliance with GDPR, for 21 days. From Thursday 24 September clubs/ facilities must also display an official NHS QR Code poster so that visitors can 'check-in' as an alternative to providing their contact details. If you do not have a phone that supports this app, the steward on duty will be required to take the name and contact details of the lead booker and record them against the table you are sitting at.

3.2.4 To minimise the risk of contact, Face coverings must be worn by staff, golfers and visitors in all public indoor areas of the club/ facility, as well as in Pro's Shops. Coverings may only be removed when seated in bar and restaurant areas. There are some exemptions to wearing face coverings including children under the age of 11 and those with certain disabilities.

3.2.5 From Thursday 24th September, Food and Beverage will be table service only. On entering the premises, check in with the QR code provided and wait to be seated. You must stay seated unless going to the toilet or leaving. Please adhere to the social distance rules in the bar.

3.2.6 Visitors are requested to utilise vacant tables outside whenever possible.

3.2.7 A limited menu will be available at the reintroduction of the food service.

3.3 Toilets and Changing Rooms

3.3.1 Visitors are requested to follow government social distancing rules when accessing the toilets. Face masks must always be worn. Changing rooms are currently closed.

3.3.2 The toilets will be cleaned in line with our Covid secure procedures on facility cleaning.

3.3 Buggies

3.3.1 Buggies will be available if they have been booked and paid for prior to arrival, please call the golf office on 01485 536025. The member of golf staff on duty at the hotel shall ensure that the buggies are prepared for use. The Member of Golf Staff will have the buggy waiting next to the putting green 10 mins before play.

3.4 Practice putting green - priority of use to the players in the next group due to tee off. Please ensure the 2 metre distance rule is strictly followed.

4.0 During the Round

4.1 Social Distancing

4.1.1 Players need to ensure that they keep at least 2 metres apart during the round.

4.2 Teeing Areas

4.2.1 Golfers to keep 2 metres apart at teeing areas due the normal close proximity of golfers to one another when tee shots are being played.

4.3 General

4.3.1 Golfers to stay more than 2 metres apart when walking to the ball, searching for a ball and playing shots.

4.3.2 Golfers not to touch stray balls.

4.4 Bunkers

4.4.1 With no rakes allowed on the course, golfers to make their very best efforts to smooth the sand using their club and/or their feet. The member of golf staff on duty will monitor the bunkers.

4.5 Putting Green

4.5.1 Golfers to keep 2 metres apart on the putting greens and not to touch the flagstick.

5.0 After the Round

5.1 Accessing the Clubhouse

5.1.1 See clauses 3.2, 3.3

6.0 Rules of Golf Related Matters

6.1 Amendments

6.1.1 Until further notice, the following provisions are considered acceptable on a temporary basis:

6.2 Flagsticks

6.2.1 Golfers are required to leave the flagstick in the hole at all times and not to touch it. It is a matter for the Committee to decide whether it establishes this policy by way of a Code of Conduct or Local Rule, and whether it provides a penalty under the Code of Conduct or for a breach of the Local Rule.

6.2.2 As a temporary provision, flagsticks can be used for the purpose of player safety which do not meet the specifications in Part 8 of the Equipment Rules.

6.2.3 On the course the Flagsticks are being retained as the ball retriever system is installed, so that you can still putt out, always leaving the pin in the hole, and lift a lever with your putter and the ball we come out. You must not touch the flagstick at any time.

These rules will be amended as guidance from the golf governing bodies change. These rules are there to protect the safety of yourselves and fellow golfer at Searles Resort golf club.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, we hope you enjoy your return to golf.