

Frost Delay Policy

As per the last few years on all the Turnberry courses there has been no permitted play if a white air frost is evident on the greens. This is due to the damage caused to the leaf of the grass plant when it is walked or driven on. Unfortunately for all, these conditions tend to occur when the sky is blue and the sun is shining – making it all the more frustrating for the golfers and maintenance staff alike.

More frustratingly for all concerned is that the 18th green of the Ailsa is one of our first to clear meaning that everybody is itching to get out on the course whilst the 5th green is still completely covered in frost.

Conversely, on the Kintyre it is the 1st & 2nd greens that will remain with frost long after the other greens are clear. So, on the Kintyre we have played with temporary greens on these 2 holes to allow for golf to continue as soon as the rest of the course is air frost free.

The greenkeeping Supervisor on duty on the day will make the informed decision as to what time the courses will be opened, and will not be pressurised into opening any earlier than is right for the golf course.

What has worked in the past to ensure more golfers get out when the course is ready is a multi – tee start on the Ailsa. Thus, if the 5th green is clear of frost – tees 1, 3, 6 & 10 can be used by the starters to get the golfers out, and if the 5th is not clear of frost we will omit the 3rd tee.

Please don't just go to the tees without having spoken with a starter.

A long term, ground frost is a different issue. If the ground is solid, it is not doing any damage to the plants or roots and play will continue (although getting a tee peg in the ground will be a challenge). It is only as this frost starts to come out of the ground that play will be suspended, as we have a soft surface and frozen ground at a depth which normally creates some evidence of flooding and will cause root break if the thawing roots are pushed into the frozen, hard ground below.

You have my assurance that it is to the benefit of the greenstaff teams to open the courses as quickly as is right to do, especially at weekends when we can get home as soon as the courses open.

Thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Euan Grant,
Golf Courses & Estates Manager