



ALLENDALE GOLF CLUB

GOLF COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT

DECEMBER 2026

[UPDATED FEBRUARY 2026]

ALLENDALE GOLF CLUB

HIGH STUDDON

ALLENDALE

NORTHUMBERLAND NE47 9DH

07970151239

SECRETARY/HEAD GROUNDSMAN: 07970151239

This risk assessment should be reviewed when there is any change to the golf course requiring a revision to this risk assessment; new information available about risks or control measures; results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective; changes to key personnel; or any other aspects requiring a review of the system.

UPDATED:

Feb 2026 – with the addition of new paths added to various holes (e.g., between holes 6 and 7, and between holes 7 and 8) and new winter tee mats added on holes 2, 3, 9, 11, and 12. The winter tee mats are due to come off at the start of the new golf season 5th April 2026.



ASSESSMENT AUDIT

Last Risk Assessment Date: _____

Action	Yes	No	N/A	By whom / date
Initial Assessment	☐	☐	☐	
Review of Paths	☐	☐	☐	
Review of Tee Mats	☐	☐	☐	
Inspection of Water Hazards	☐	☐	☐	
Tree Safety Check	☐	☐	☐	
Staff Safety Briefing	☐	☐	☐	
Signage Check	☐	☐	☐	
First Aid Kit Audit	☐	☐	☐	
Topography Check	☐	☐	☐	
Member Safety Briefing	☐	☐	☐	

Comments:

1.0

2.0

3.0



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1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

The management of health and safety within the golf course in order to minimize the risk of accidents, through the development of safe procedures of operation, for all aspects of golf. The risk assessment describes the means by which this will be achieved.

Responsibility:

- **All greens employees and players:** Responsible for ensuring that health and safety is at the core of all activities undertaken at the golf club.
 - **All golfers, members, and visitors (including spectators):** Responsible for ensuring they do not endanger themselves, other golfers, or other members of the public (e.g., using footpaths, car park, or attending functions) while present at Allendale Golf Club.
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SCOPE OF WORKS

The scope of this risk assessment includes:

- Identifying and assessing sources of risk (Responsible: Secretary/Committee).
 - Preparing a written scheme for prevention/control (Responsible: Secretary/Committee).
 - Implementing, managing, and monitoring all precautions (Responsible: Secretary/Committee).
 - Keeping accurate records of all precautions (Responsible: Secretary).
 - Appointing a person to take managerial responsibility.
 - Resurveying and updating all risk assessments on a regular basis.
 - Implementing regular inspection and testing regimes as recommended.
 - Submitting monitoring reports detailing the condition and any remedial works required.
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OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES & MANAGEMENT

Management Structure:

The Responsible Person is the Club Secretary or relevant Committee member. This person, with the Greenkeeper in Charge, ensures personnel are competent and trained. Day-to-day operation is delegated to the Greenkeeper in Charge (the Competent Person).

Training:

Training records are kept in the Health and Safety Risk Assessment/Log Book for audit inspections. All responsible and competent persons should receive basic and refresher training.

Review Criteria:

The risk assessment shall be reviewed regularly, or if any of the following apply:

- Any change to the golf course topography.
 - New information available about risks or control measures.
 - Results of checks indicating control measures are found to be ineffective.
 - Changes to key personnel.
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COMMUNICATION & STRATEGY

Communication is a key factor in the risk assessment process. Risks must be identified and communicated to management and employees to prioritize remedial actions.

The Competent Person takes day-to-day responsibility and must have sufficient authority and knowledge of the course to ensure procedures are carried out effectively. They should be suitably informed, instructed, and trained.

Precautions in Place:

- Pre-Planned Maintenance and Inspection.
 - Site Monitoring.
 - General Health and Safety Recommendations.
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2. AIM

2.1 Compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

The risk assessment provides site management and the Responsible Person with information for arranging health and safety action plans.

The assessment focuses on:

- Physical condition of greens and golfing equipment (“hardware”).
- Risks generated by the management and execution of systems and controls.

Abnormal Conditions:

The assessment also considers conditions outside normal day-to-day running, including:

1. Maintenance and Breakdown.
 2. Abnormal operation.
 3. Commissioning.
 4. Start-up after extended holidays or lockdown.
 5. Unusual circumstances.
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3. GOLF COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction

This assessment covers the 18-hole golf course. It does not cover the clubhouse, car park, greenkeepers' compound, or practice area. Separate assessments cover greens staff work. *Note: Allendale Golf Club accepts no liability for damage to vehicles parked in the club car park.*

3.2 General Course Topography

The club is on a split-level incline, which can be hilly and wet. It is not suitable for motorized buggies. It is a nine-hole course with 16 different tee boxes across 18 holes. The terrain includes wooded areas and hills that can become slippery. **Golf shoes are recommended at all times.**

3.3 Public Access

There is no public access to the course.



COURSE PROCEDURES

3.4 Staff Working on the Course

Staff have priority at all times. Golfers should not play shots if staff are within range.

3.5 Use of Equipment

Allendale Golf Club is not suitable for motorized buggies. Electric trolleys are permitted but must be charged off-site by the user.

3.6 Reduced Visibility

During fog or heavy rain, the Greenkeeper in Charge or Club Secretary may close the course. A "Course Closed" sign will be placed at the first tee and foyer.



SAFETY MEASURES

3.7 Lightning

In the event of lightning or imminent threat, the course will be closed. Continuing play at your own risk is not an option.

- Seek refuge in the club house; stay low.
- Leave equipment and stand at a distance.
- DO NOT shelter under trees or go to high ground.
- Switch off mobile phones; DO NOT use umbrellas.

3.8 Paths & Blue Lines

All golfers must use available paths. Painted blue lines indicate G.U.R. or safety areas; trolleys must stay outside these lines.

3.9 Footwear & Insurance

Golf shoes are mandatory. Golfers are advised to carry 3rd party liability insurance (England Golf members typically have £10m cover).



4. GENERIC RISKS TABLE (PART 1)

Risk Description	Grade	Recommendation	Residual Grade
Struck by offline ball	High	Shout 'FORE' immediately; remain alert.	Medium
Struck by partner's ball	High	Don't advance in front of the shot.	Medium
Struck by following group	Medium	Ensure group in front has advanced far enough.	Low
Struck by swinging club	Medium	Stand at least 2m from the swinging arc.	Low
Tripping on uneven ground	Medium	Remove hazards; wear proper footwear.	Low



4. GENERIC RISKS TABLE (PART 2)

Risk Description	Grade	Recommendation	Residual Grade
Slipping on bunker slopes	High	Exit via shallowest side; keep trolleys 5m away.	Medium
Slippery raised tee boxes	High	Use provided steps to ascend/descend.	Low
Slippery slopes	Med-High	Spiked shoes mandatory; treat slopes with care.	Med-Low
Ponds / Streams	High	Stay outside hazard stakes; keep trolleys 3m back.	Medium
Tripping over equipment	Low	General care on the course and paths.	Low



5. GENERAL HAZARDS

Etiquette:

Do not play shots when others are in range. Shout "FORE!" for any errors in judgment.

Greens Staff:

Give staff time to move. Attract their attention if they are wearing ear defenders.

Parallel Holes:

Shout "FORE!" if unsure where a ball will land on parallel or crossing holes.



ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Water:

All banks/edges of ponds and ditches are potentially slippery. Do not step on ice.

Trees:

Poplars may shed dead wood or branches. Avoid walking close to trees in strong winds.

Animals:

Be aware of rabbit holes, particularly in long grass, which pose a risk of sprains or breaks.

Chemicals:

Avoid oral contact with grass; look for "Caution Spraying" signs. Courses contain fertilizers and animal waste.



WEATHER & PRACTICAL SAFETY

Adverse Weather:

Take extra care in wet or icy conditions. Stay hydrated and use sunscreen in hot weather.

Slopes:

Use provided steps on steep banks. Take care with trolleys on steep inclines.

Practicing:

Limited to designated areas: practice net (above 1st tee) and practice putting green (below 1st tee).

Accidents:

Report all accidents or observed dangers to 07970151239 or staff immediately.



6. HOLE BY HOLE ANALYSIS (PART 1)

- **1st hole:** OOB to left (farmer's field). Shots to right risk hitting people on 9th/18th greens or 8th fairway. Do not tee off if golfers are on 10th tee.
 - **3rd hole:** OOB to left (wooded). Large unfenced water area. Wayward shots may hit players on 15th green.
 - **4th hole:** Risk of hitting golfers on 6th & 15th fairways.
 - **6th hole:** Be aware of 4th fairway and 10th winter tee. 5th and 14th greens have right of way on competition days. Ring bell when leaving green.
 - **7th hole:** Ensure no golfers are on the bank or in the gully. Steep hills; use provided footpaths.
 - **8th hole:** Be aware of players on 1st and 10th holes.
 - **9th hole:** Be aware of balls from 7th and 18th tees.
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6. HOLE BY HOLE ANALYSIS (PART 2)

- **11th hole:** OOB left (ditch/field). Wet area on way to 12th tee.
- **12th hole:** Steep slippery slopes to green. Be aware of players on 6th/15th greens.
- **13th hole:** Be aware of 5th/15th holes; they may not realize you have right of way.
- **15th hole:** Rough ground both sides. Do not tee off if golfers are on ladies' tee or 13th green. Wayward shots risk 5th/14th greens.
- **16th hole:** Steep slippery hill to tee. Wayward shots risk 6th tee.
- **17th hole:** Steep hills; use footpaths to ravine. Restricted view of 8th fairway; ensure 8th hole is clear.
- **18th hole:** Steep hill to tee. Wayward shots endanger 8th/17th. OOB left (clubhouse/car park).

Final Note: Be aware of golfers walking from the clubhouse to the 10th tee, those leaving the 18th green, and anyone playing the 17th green. Report all hazards immediately to 07970151239.

Club House: This is an unmanned club house:

- Visitors can pay their subs either by cash or card. By cash put your subs in an envelop and put it in the slot on the bench, by card the card machine is on the bench.
- There is First Aid kits in the club house below the TV.
- A Defibrillator is at the front of the club house for use if needed.
- The showers in the Ladies and Gents are out of use at present.