



PGA of Alberta - Lightning Policy

PGA of Alberta considers the safety of its Members and Guests the top priority during inclement weather. Weather reports and local conditions are monitored during storm warnings. If it is decided that it is unsafe to continue to play golf as a storm approaches, PGA of Alberta staff or the Professional Shop will sound a klaxon to call all golfers off the course and into the clubhouse.

If there is a risk of lightning play **MUST** be discontinued. PGA of Alberta is not responsible for the safety of any golfer on the course and it is therefore your responsibility to remove yourself from any situation which you deem dangerous.

If you see lightning or hear the klaxon (three short blasts) the following will apply:

- Proceed immediately to the clubhouse or the halfway hut (if it is nearer to your location) – these are the safest places on the course.
- Do not continue to play golf and do not seek shelter under trees. Trees do not protect you from lightning.
- During competitions, if there is a lightning risk, play will be suspended and players must leave the course.
- Where play is automatically suspended on the sound of the klaxon, a player **may not** override the Policy decision to evacuate the course.
- Players should stop play and seek shelter any time they believe lightning threatens them, even if the klaxon has not been sounded.

Although PGA of Alberta will take every precaution to ensure the safety of players during a thunder storm, it is a player's own responsibility to discontinue play when in his/her opinion lightning is a threat. It is not always possible to monitor conditions on the entire course and players have a duty of care to themselves. They should therefore familiarize themselves with both the PGA of Alberta policy and the Rules of Golf.

Juniors

All adults who play with juniors in Pro-Am events are accountable for the way in which they manage risk and the welfare of each child. PGA of Alberta has a duty of care in this respect and accepts that the members should take extra responsibility when juniors are on the course during inclement weather conditions. Where a risk from lightning is foreseen, or apparent, PGA of Alberta staff will take positive steps to reduce the risk to juniors including going out on to the course to escort them to safety.

Rule 6-8

Discontinuing Play - Rule 6-8 as stated in the R&A Rules of Golf will apply to all competitions and matches where there is a risk of lightning. The rules of golf are straightforward when lightning is a risk. Rule 6-8 makes it quite clear that a player is entitled to discontinue play if he or she believes there is danger from lightning. Although bad weather in itself is not a good reason for discontinuing play, bad weather accompanied by lightning, or the very real risk of lightning, most certainly is. Common sense dictates that play in these circumstances must be discontinued in the interests of safety. Even if the klaxon is not sounded and the player honestly believes that there is a real risk of danger from lightning, then he or she is entitled to proceed under the provisions of Rule 6-8 and discontinue play.

Resumption of Play – Where play has been suspended due to lightning, play must be resumed where it was discontinued, even if resumption occurs on a subsequent day. (see Rule 6-8 R&A Rules of Golf.) When the danger has passed, 3 short blasts of the klaxon will indicate that it is safe to return to the course.

General

We insist that all members adhere to the lightning policy. Failure to do so is at your own risk and PGA of Alberta accepts no liability for any Member or Guest who fails to co-operate with any decision to suspend play and close the course.

It is not the responsibility of staff to retrieve clubs, equipment or trolleys from the course during a lightning storm where play has been suspended, as their safety may be jeopardized.

LIGHTNING IS A SEVERE HAZARD THAT MUST BE VIEWED SERIOUSLY