



## LIGHTNING POLICY

V3.2022

*“The Club Management Team consider 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, the siren will sound and all golfers must come off the course and into the clubhouse. If there is a risk of lightning play MUST be discontinued and it is not an option to continue at your own risk”*

When lightning is detected, the club will make a decision to suspend play and management will do its utmost to provide enough time to evacuate the course.

According to the R&A Rule 5.7a, a player may stop play if he or she reasonably believes there is danger from lightning but must report to the Committee (Golf Department) as soon as possible.

Furthermore R&A Rule 5.7b(1), if the Committee (RJ Golf Department) declares an immediate suspension of play, all players must stop play at once. The intent of this suspension is to enable the course to be cleared as quickly as possible when a potentially dangerous situation, such as lightning, exists.

The rules regarding lightning apply to all persons on the premises including players, staff and caddies.

Please note that Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club (legal entity) does not accept any responsibility for the timing of lightning warnings and any person on the golf course and all people must at all times take the necessary care and precaution and are at all times responsible for their own welfare.

When Lightning is detected, the following Sirens will apply:

- \*One Long Blast - Stop Play immediately and return to the clubhouse.
- \*Two Shorter Blasts – Resume Play
- \*Three Shorter Blasts – Play Abandoned

When the siren is sounded all players MUST discontinue play immediately (Finishing the hole or quickly putting out is not allowed and any disregard will result in immediate disqualification).

All Players with due regard to their own safety, must return to the Clubhouse immediately. The rain shelters on course are not considered lightning shelters as they are not enclosed. Once the ALL CLEAR is given, adequate time for the players will be allowed to get to their respective positions to resume play. (Any player who starts before the official resumption of play will be disqualified.)

The Club officials decision is final regarding the state of play and members are requested to respect the decision in the best interest of safety for all patrons.

**Advice during Lightning Storm:**

It is the player's own responsibility to discontinue play when, in his/her opinion, a danger from lightning exists. In the event that a player is out on the golf course when lightning is about then the following safety considerations are advised:

**KEEP AS LOW AS POSSIBLE AND IDEALLY CROUCH DOWN IN THE NEAREST BUNKER/HOLLOW.**

**LEAVE YOUR GOLF EQUIPMENT WHERE IT IS AND STAND AWAY FROM IT.**

**DO NOT PUT AN UMBRELLA UP IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Players have a duty of care not to behave in such a way that all golfers, Staff and members of the public may be injured by their actions.

No golfer should commence or continue play when the decision to cease play has been made by a Club Official. Furthermore, no player may resume play until the siren (two shorter blasts) has been sounded.

**Insurance:**

Members are advised to take up their own insurance to cover for any Third-Party Risks.