



Pontypool golf club  
Course Risk Assessments.



Aerial Photo (18 holes)

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# Introduction

## Aim of this Document

The Report is confidential to the Client. It is intended to be of assistance in documenting the key hazards and existing control measures identified following on from the review of the course risk assessment undertaken during late May early June 2020.

In compiling this report the assessor has made reference to the general business operational constraints, green keepers' task-based risk assessments, associated safe systems of work and general CoSHH assessments.

Where recommendations have been made in relation to potential improvements to existing arrangement, these have been extracted from this document and presented in a separate covering report presented directly to the client.

# Pontypool Golf Club Ltd

## Golf Course Risk Assessment

Health & Safety Document:

### Course Risk Assessment Statement for Pontypool Golf Club Ltd

The Board of Directors, management and staff at Pontypool Golf Club sincerely trust that all members and visitors fully enjoy their experience playing the 'arguably the most scenic and challenging golf course in South Wales', in conditions which are as safe as reasonably possible. This guide is intended to assist players to enjoy their golf safely by making them aware of the hazards that may be present on the golf course or may arise through playing the game of golf.

This guide also accompanies the General Risk Assessment for golf at Pontypool Golf Club.

It is essential that all members and their guests follow these guidelines.

The golf course maintenance is being carried out in line with best practices as stated in 'Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance' by the Health and Safety Executive.

### The Golf Course:

The course is compact, and much care needs to be taken.

The Risk Assessments noted below are intended to provide a brief resume of possible risks encountered on a hole by hole basis and Pontypool Golf Club trust the information provided will assist players when making their safety decisions on the course.

Individual players remain responsible for their own actions and Pontypool Golf Club recommends that adequate insurance is arranged by them to provide financial protection in the event of accident or injury.

This Risk Assessment has been undertaken with the average golfer in mind.

Consideration should be given to the following holes:



# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 1<sup>st</sup> Hole



Fairway from 1<sup>st</sup> tee



Course information

Risk Assessment	Identified Risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No: 1 523 yard (Par 5)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to the tee box via pathway.</li> <li>2. The tee shot is played to a part blind landing area.</li> <li>3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> shot is played over a mound to a blind area.</li> <li>4. Stream running across the 1<sup>st</sup> fairway</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Always walk carefully up the path. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li> <li>2. Players should not drive off until the group in front is clear of the fairway and the all clear bell has been sounded.</li> <li>3. Players should not play 2<sup>nd</sup> shot until the group in front is clear of the fairway and the all clear bell has been sounded.</li> <li>4. Players must not attempt to retrieve balls if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from a gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water. Another player should be close by in order to assist in case of an accident. Players should cross the stream by the 2 bridges</li> </ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 2nd Hole



Hole from 2<sup>nd</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No: 2 162 yard (Par 3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The descent and ascent to the hole is a steep gradient.</li><li>2. Stream running across the bottom of the fairway</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Golfers should follow the laid-out pathway down and around the slope and up to the green.</li><li>2. Players must not attempt to retrieve balls if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from a gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water. Another player should be close by in order to assist in case of an accident. Players should only cross the stream using the bridge.</li></ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 3rd Hole



Fairway from 3<sup>rd</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 3: 306 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steep gradient down to the fairway.</li> <li>2. Stream across the fairway.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Golfers should follow the pathway down to the footbridge</li> <li>2. Players must not attempt to retrieve balls if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from the gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water. Another player should be close by in order to assist in case of an accident. Players should only cross the stream using the bridge.</li> </ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 4<sup>th</sup> Hole



Fairway from 4<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 4: 368 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water hazard and brook on approach up to the 4<sup>th</sup> green</li> <li>2. The 4<sup>th</sup> green is close to the 5<sup>th</sup> tee</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Players must not attempt to retrieve balls from the brook if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from a gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water. Another player should be close by in order to assist in case of an accident</li> <li>2. Trees have been planted to help protect players on the 4<sup>th</sup> green. Players should immediately shout 'Fore' on the 5<sup>th</sup> tee if their drive is heading in that direction.</li> <li>3. Players should be alert to shouts of 'FORE' from 5<sup>th</sup> tee</li> </ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 5<sup>th</sup> hole



Fairway from 5<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 5: 459 yard (Par 4)	1. Culvert across part of the fairway.	1. Players must not attempt to retrieve balls from the pond or the brook if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from a gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water.  Another player should be close by in order to assist in case of an accident



# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 6<sup>th</sup> Hole



Fairway from 6<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 6: 433 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wooden steps to the tee</li> <li>2. Stream running across the fairway.</li> </ol>	<p>1. Always walk carefully up the steps. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers should ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</p> <p>2. Players must not attempt to retrieve balls from the waterway if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from a gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water.</p> <p>Another player should be close by in order to assist in case of an accident.</p>



# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 7<sup>th</sup> Hole



Fairway from 7<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 7: 357 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The green is approached via a steep gradient on the fairway.</li> <li>2. Players teeing off the 8<sup>th</sup> tee.</li> <li>3. The 7<sup>th</sup> fairway is close to adjacent 8<sup>th</sup> green</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully up the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li> <li>2 Trees have been planted to protect golfers on the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway. Players should be alert to shouts of 'Fore' from the 8<sup>th</sup> tee if a ball is heading in their direction.</li> <li>3. Players should be alert to shouts of 'FORE' from 8<sup>th</sup> tee.</li> </ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 8<sup>th</sup> Hole



Hole from 8<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 8: 206 yard (Par 3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The 7<sup>th</sup> fairway is close to adjacent to the 8<sup>th</sup> green</li><li>2. The hole is down a steep gradient.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Trees have been planted to protect golfers on the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway. Players should shout 'Fore' on the 8<sup>th</sup> tee if their ball is heading in that direction.</li><li>2. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully up the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li></ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 9<sup>th</sup> Hole



Fairway from 9<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 9: 402 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 6<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> fairways run parallel to the 9<sup>th</sup> hole.</li> <li>2. Banking and gradient on route to 10<sup>th</sup> hole.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trees have been planted on both sides of the fairway to help protect players on the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway.</li> <li>2. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully on the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li> <li>3 Players must shout 'Fore' immediately if their ball is heading in the direction of these areas.</li> </ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 10<sup>th</sup> Hole



Fairway from 10<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 10: 374 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 10<sup>th</sup> fairway runs parallel to the 9<sup>th</sup> hole.</li> <li>2. Gradient on route to 10<sup>th</sup> hole.</li> <li>3. Waterway at side of fairway</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trees have been planted on side of the fairway to help protect players on the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway.</li> <li>2. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully up and down the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li> <li>3. Players must not attempt to retrieve balls from the waterway on right hand side of fairway ,if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from the gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water.</li> </ol> <p>Another player should be close by in order to assist in case of an accident.</p>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 11<sup>th</sup> Hole



View from 11<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 11: 108 yard (Par 3)	1. Banking and gradient on route to 10 <sup>th</sup> hole.	1. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully up the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 12<sup>th</sup> Hole



View from 12<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 12: 389 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transverse gradient on fairway.</li> <li>2. 12<sup>th</sup> green close to 16<sup>th</sup> tee</li> <li>3. Steep bank to left hand side of green</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully along the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li> <li>2. Golfers on 12<sup>th</sup> fairway should be aware of golfers on the 16<sup>th</sup> tee and give way per course signage. Players must shout 'Fore' immediately if their ball is heading in the direction of the 16<sup>th</sup> tee area.</li> <li>3. No golf trolleys to taken along the left hand side of green , white hoops installed at front of green</li> </ol>



# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 13<sup>th</sup> Hole



View from 13<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 13: 518 yard (Par 5)	1. Gradient on descent to hole.	1. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully down the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 14<sup>th</sup> Hole



View from 14<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 14 335 Yard (par 4)	1. Gradient on ascent to hole.  2. Members of public using public footpath to left of fairway.	1. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully up the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable. 2. Care and consideration to be given to members of the public using public footpath. When teeing off

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 15<sup>th</sup> Hole



### View from 15<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 15 149 Yard (par 3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deep Brook to left side of fairway, guarded by trees.</li> <li>2. Drainage ditches to right hand side</li> <li>3. Gradient on ascent to hole</li> <li>4. Members of public using public footpath to left of fairway and associated green</li> <li>5. When crossing 13<sup>th</sup> fairway to travel from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> hole.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Players must not attempt to retrieve balls from the Brook or the ditches if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from the gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water.</li> <li>2. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully up the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li> <li>3. Care and consideration to be given to members of the public using public footpath. When teeing off</li> <li>4. Players need to be aware of possibility of other players teeing off from 13<sup>th</sup> tee before attempting crossing.</li> </ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 16<sup>th</sup> Hole



View from 16<sup>th</sup> Tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 16: 443 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 16<sup>th</sup> tee close to the 12<sup>th</sup> green.</li><li>2. Gradient down to the 16<sup>th</sup> green.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Golfers on 16<sup>th</sup> should be aware of players playing from the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway, be alert to shouts of 'Fore' and observe the right of way per the course signage.</li><li>2. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully up the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li></ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 17<sup>th</sup> Hole



View from 17<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 17: 127 yard (Par 3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green close to 18<sup>th</sup> Tee</li> <li>Water Hazard in front of green</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Players must not attempt to retrieve balls from the pond or the waterway if they cannot get a safe firm foothold from a gently sloping side. Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from the water. Another player should be close by in order to assist in case of an accident.</li> <li>Golfers on 17<sup>th</sup> tee should be aware of players teeing off from the 18<sup>th</sup> and alert to shout of 'Fore' if a ball is heading in the direction of the tee area.</li> <li>When approaching 17<sup>th</sup> green ensure 18<sup>th</sup> tee is clear of other players teeing off.</li> </ol>

# Pontypool Golf Club

## Course Risk Assessment

### 18<sup>th</sup> Hole



View from 18<sup>th</sup> tee

Risk Assessment	Identified risk	Action taken to reduce, minimise risk.
Hole No 18: 304 yard (Par 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 18<sup>th</sup> Tee close to 17<sup>th</sup> green</li> <li>2. Water Hazard across the fairway.</li> <li>3. The 18<sup>th</sup> green is drivable from the tee.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Golfers should follow pathways where appropriate. Always walk carefully up the gradient. Extra caution must be taken when wet. Golfers to ensure they have appropriate footwear with well-maintained cleats where applicable.</li> <li>2. Golfers capable of driving the hole should wait until the 18<sup>th</sup> green is clear before hitting their tee shot. They should be aware of golfers on the practice putting green and shout 'Fore' if a ball is heading in that direction.</li> <li>3. Ensure 17<sup>th</sup> green is clear of other players putting out before teeing off.</li> </ol>



### The Practice Area:

Practice play is strictly limited to the designated practice area located adjacent to car park, the practice chipping area behind the Academy and to the small practice putting green in front of the clubhouse. Practice is strictly forbidden on the course.

When using the practice area you must hit away from the car park..

Do not pitch or chip at the practice chipping area if another player is within range of being hit.

Players to be aware of possibility of members of public using public footpath to left of practice area and across front of academy.

### Summary:

- Before playing any shot, ensure that others, including members of the public, are a safe distance from you as not to be hit by your shot.
- You are advised to adopt caution, and be aware of your surroundings, when close to any trees on the course, particularly during windy or other adverse weather conditions. While branches considered to be dangerous are removed whenever possible, Pontypool Golf Club cannot be held responsible for natural conditions prevailing at any particular time.
- Special attention must be paid when a tee lies behind a green or is close to a fairway that could be hit by a wayward drive. In all cases let players, and greenkeepers pass a safe distance, out of range before driving.

Remember: To shout 'Fore' loudly if there is any chance of anyone being hit.

### Exposure to:

#### Toxins, bacteria and viruses:

With any outdoor sport it is essential that hands are washed as soon as possible after play and that care is taken to avoid undue hand to mouth contact to limit the possibility of infection.

Animal faeces, urine, bacteria all occur naturally in the environment and may pose a health risk. All waterways carry the potential risk of Leptospirosis, (Weil's disease) and all cuts or grazed skin must be covered if it is to come into contact with water.

Direct contact with irrigation water should be avoided whenever possible and must not be drunk.

#### Pesticides and Fertilisers:

Fertilisers and Pesticides are used and possible traces may exist on the turf even days after application. Avoid hand to mouth contact with unwashed hands and clean the ball using a ball washer.

Signs will be displayed in the course information box outside the changing rooms when the spraying of such chemicals is being applied to the course. These signs must be observed.

Particular care should be taken to abide by all notices and wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.

Should any ill health effects be noticed contact the Greenkeeper for advice on the substances used.

#### Wildlife:

In the event that you come across any dead wildlife on the course, you are expressly prohibited from any contact with it and requested to advise a member of Pontypool golf club staff, who will deal with it accordingly.

#### Summary:

- You are advised to avoid oral contact with anything that comes into contact with the golf course (including trees, sand, soil and grass); particularly when caution signs indicate that chemicals have recently been sprayed on the course.
- It is essential that hands are washed as soon as possible after play

#### Waterways, Streams and Ponds:

The ponds and waterways do pose a potential drowning risk and therefore players must not attempt to retrieve balls from the above where they cannot get a safe firm foothold from the gently sloping side.

Players should use a special ball retrieval tool in order to remove balls safely from deep water. In all cases when venturing into wet areas another player should be close by in order to assist in case of difficulties.

#### Fog, Thunder and Lightning:

If Pontypool golf club decide that weather conditions are such that it is unsafe to play, the course will be closed, and a player may not override this decision. A fog horn will be sounded to warn those players on the course as follows: -

1. One prolonged note of the fog horn:  
Discontinue play immediately! Players must leave the course and find safe shelter immediately.
2. Two short notes of fog horn:  
Players can resume play.

Note: In the event of thunder and or lightning, players must not return to play until at least half an hour after the last lightning or thunder has taken place and the above fog horn sounded.

Shelter under trees is very dangerous and must never be attempted.

If thunder and lightning is close, clubs should be left and not carried to reduce chances of being hit.

#### Stones and objects on the course:

From time to time stones may appear on the surface of the turf, especially on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> fairways. Balls should be moved away from stones.

Please check, particularly, in the roughs before playing a shot to ensure that injury from stones does not occur.

#### Maintenance and Machinery on the course.

Work during play is essential to maintain the course. Therefore there are times when staff will be at risk from flying golf balls.

It is essential that players wait for staff to complete a task and remove themselves from the playing area before playing a shot. Greenkeepers will move as soon as they can to allow play to continue.

Note: Players do not have right of way over green-keeping staff.

Golfers must keep away from 'on course' machinery and shots should not be played when there is a chance of hitting machines and their operatives.

#### Access to the Golf course for Mowers and Emergency vehicles.

Access to the golf course is possible at the following location:

1. The Main Course entrance from Lasgarn Lane.

Please Park in designated areas, and do not obstruct other cars or any gates, as this will hamper any emergency access to the course and surrounding properties.

#### Opening Hours:

The electric Gate is opened from 07:30 until the bar closes. From 07:30 to sunset the golf course is considered to be OPEN. There will be players who play outside these times and therefore they should consider whether the course is safe to play. Players have a duty of care to ensure that they do not injure themselves. All players play at their own risk and should do nothing to jeopardise the safety of themselves or others.

#### ACCIDENT & EMERGENCIES:

The Manager, Professional, Greenkeepers and Bar Manager are trained in First Aid, Basic Life Support and the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

In the event of an accident, a First Aid box is located in the Bar and Pro shop. The AED is located in the Bar by the exit to the veranda.

#### Accident Reporting:

All accidents must be reported to the Manager, Professional in the first instance or in his absence the Bar staff and a detailed entry made into the Accident Book located in the Pro shop.??

#### Emergency Contact:

Nearest Hospital: Nevill Hall, Abergavenny      01873 732732

## Contact Telephone Number

Secretary	01495 763655	Ext 1
Professional and course bookings	01495763655	Ext 2
Bar Manager:	01495 763655	Ext 3
Course information	01495762655	Ext 4

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness

## **CURRENT CONTROL MEASURES:**

- First aid provisions assessed and provided including trained first aiders, first aid supplies, a defibrillator and its' competent users
- Golf etiquette applies on courses and signs are posted reaffirming this.
- Children using the course must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Access is controlled via the pro shop reception.
- Course map provided on the reverse of the score card.
- Local rules reiterated on the score card.
- Persons (<17 years of age) are not allowed to rent / drive the golf buggies.
- Anyone appearing under the influence of alcohol or drugs is refused access.
- Bunker rakes have plastic heads.
- Tees are positioned away from walkways between holes.
- The tee is positioned so that tee shots are played angled away from other holes as far as is reasonably practicable to achieve.
- Reasonable visibility of users.
- A small coppice has been planted left to encourage play away from the 4<sup>th</sup> fairway
- When Green keepers are taken on they undergo the standard induction process and are mentored for the early part of their employment whilst they familiarise themselves with the course. A critical part of this process is gauging approach play.
- Task based risk assessments relating to the use of green keeping machinery and importantly including segregation from course users.
- Chemicals are sprayed at times of low occupancy.
- Chemical application signs available to indicate nature of the hazard to course users.