

Buffalo Hill Course Multiple-Use Policy

The Kalispell Golf Association (KGA) leases the golf course from the City of Kalispell for the purpose of providing the best possible golfing conditions for its paying members and guests. As a result, the KGA and the City of Kalispell must be responsible for controlling access to the golf course for both golfers and non-golfers. Personal safety is highest priority.

Golfer Access:

1. Golfers are allowed on the course only during “open tee time” periods as posted in the Clubhouse

Rational: There are predictable periods of time when the course is closed for maintenance; consequently, there are no “open tee times” during these periods of time.

2. Golfers are allowed on the course when the course is safe and ready to play as determined by the Golf Course Maintenance Staff.

Rational: There are environmental conditions that occasionally occur that result in the closure of the course. For example, heavy rains can cause dangerous soil conditions for golfers and traffic during saturated soil conditions, resulting in soil compaction, which is detrimental to the playability of the turf. Frost covered turf can die if traffic is allowed; consequently, the course is closed until the frost melts. High winds can result in dangerous debris and hazardous trees on the course; consequently, the course maybe closed until the dangerous conditions have been corrected. The Golf Course Maintenance Staff is responsible for making the course playable, and as a result, making the determination when the course is safe to play.

3. Golfers are not allowed on the course when lightning is in the area, as determined by the Pro Shop Staff.

Rational: Lightning kills golfers every year. The Pro Shop Staff will do it best to close and clear the golf course when lightning is threatening. The Pro Shop Staff will also determine when the lightning appears to have left the area, and then re-open the golf course for play.

4. Golfers are not allowed on the course during the nighttime hours when the course is “open for the season.”

Rational: The golf course is irrigated during the nighttime hours. The golf course irrigations system operates at high pressure (up to 120 PSI). Anyone hit by this high-pressure, high-velocity water can sustain significant injury and possibly even death, consequently, the course is closed to golfers during the nighttime hours when the course is “open for the season.” Buffalo Hill Golf Course has significant elevation changes throughout its grounds, and the limited light during the nighttime hours can impair ones ability to accurately judge the terrain, consequently, the course is closed to non-golfers during the nighttime hours and when the course is “open for the season.”

5. Golfers are not allowed on the course when the course is “closed for the season” as determined by the General Manager.

Rational: Once the course is “closed for the season,” other non-golfer activities begin such as jogging, sledding and skiing. These non-golfers are not aware of the risks golf balls pose and will not be prepared to look-out for flying golf balls; consequently, when the course is closed for the season, golfers may not play on the course.

Non-Golfer Access:

6. Non-Golfers activities such as jogging and **walking are encouraged when the golf course is “closed for the season,”** subject to hours governing city parks, generally open at 6:00 a.m. and closed at 11:00 p.m.

Rational: Non golfing activities such as walking and jogging are encouraged when the golf course is closed for the season, and during hours consistent with other City of Kalispell parks.
7. Skiing and sledding is encouraged when adequate snow cover exists as determined by the Golf Course Maintenance Staff.
8. Non-Golfers are not allowed on the course during the daylight hours when the course is “open for the season.”

Rational: Golf balls have been clocked at over 150 mph, and typically land with a velocity of over 50 mph, consequently, flying golf balls pose a significant danger to non-golfers who may stray into landing zones.
9. Non-Golfers are not allowed on the course during the nighttime hours when the course is “open for the season.”

Rational: The golf course is irrigated during the nighttime hours. The golf course irrigations system operates at high pressure (up to 120 PSI). Anyone hit by this high-pressure, high-velocity water can sustain significant injury and possibly even death; consequently, the course is closed to non-golfers during the nighttime hours when the course is “open for the season.” Buffalo Hill Golf Course has significant elevation changes throughout its grounds, and the limited light during the nighttime hours can impair ones ability to accurately judge the terrain, consequently, the course is closed to non-golfers during the nighttime hours and when the course is “open for the season.”
10. Non-Golfers are not allowed on the course when frost covered turf conditions exist even when the course is “closed for the season.”

Rational: Frost covered turf can die if traffic is allowed; consequently, the grounds are closed to all traffic until the frost melts as determined by the Golf Course Maintenance Staff.

Rational: Skiing and sledding can cause damage to the turf when there is inadequate snow cover, consequently, the course will be closed to skiing and sledding during periods of limited snow cover as determined by the Golf Course Maintenance Staff.
11. Consistent with other public golf courses in the area, dogs are **not allowed on the grounds at any time, whether with golfers or non-golfers.**

Rational: For purposes of liability and safety of pedestrians, dogs are not allowed on the golf course at any time. Additionally, fecal deposits pose significant health risks to skiers and sledders as well as for the Golf Course Maintenance Staff during the turf maintenance seasons. Damage to turf is also a common result of dog waste. Finally, like a baseball field or football field, golf course turf is intended for a specific use, as such, dogs and their waste do not belong on the golf course because both can negatively impact the competition.

This policy is for the benefit and welfare of both the golfing and non-golfing community. Violations are subject to public ordinance, which may result in fines or other penalties.

Approved by the Kalispell City Council 3-6-2006