

Purpose

The Golf Bring Your Own (BYO) Cart Policy ('the Policy') articulates Council's position on the use of privately owned motorised carts and vehicles for Council's golf courses.

Background / Context

Ringwood and Dorset Golf Courses are public access golf courses and form part of the Maroondah Leisure suite of leisure facilities.

Both courses are popular with casual visitors (pay per visit) and Maroondah Leisure members (access determined by their membership category) and each course is home to multiple resident user groups who operate independently on behalf of their group members.

In recent years there has been a significant increase in demand for the use of motorised vehicles at both courses. This includes Council owned motorised carts and privately owned carts/vehicles. The increased usage has highlighted the need for the development of a framework to ensure that all carts are of safe condition, and that they are used in a manner that will not pose risk to the courses, property, or any golf course patrons.

For this Policy, privately owned vehicles will be referred to as 'BYO Carts'.

Scope

This policy applies to the following Maroondah Leisure Golf venues:

- Dorset Golf Course
- Ringwood Golf Course.

Successful implementation of this Policy will ensure these venues apply consistent usage principles and conditions for permitting BYO cart access.

This policy only relates to the BYO Carts registered prior to July 2024. Exemptions to the pre-registration are detailed in the BYO Cart golf schedule.

Objectives

The objectives of implementing a golf BYO cart policy are as follows:

- To manage and reduce risk to patrons and to Council.
 - To ensure carts are operated safely.
 - To implement consistent BYO cart procedures, usage conditions and fees.
 - To preserve the condition of the golf courses.
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Policy Principles

The policy is guided by the following key principles:

Safety

All patrons utilizing BYO carts will be required to agree and adhere to vehicle condition and safety requirements and usage protocols.

Access & Inclusion

Individuals with disabilities or mobility limitations will be afforded reasonable accommodations to use BYO motorised carts, provided that the vehicle meets minimum safety requirements.

Consistency

Conditions for use will be consistently applied for all patrons across both Council golf venues.

Relationship to the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision

Community Outcome:

A safe healthy and active community

Key Directions:

A healthy community

1.6 - Promote the health and wellbeing of the community through accessible and affordable initiatives and services that respond to community needs

An active community

1.13 - Promote physical activity by supporting education initiatives and providing a diverse range of accessible active and passive open spaces, state of the art sporting precincts and integrated recreation facilities

1.14 - Work in partnership to increase opportunities and create welcoming, supportive and accessible environments for all community members to undertake physical activity

Other Policy Position and Philosophies

1. Continuous Improvement: The policy will embrace a philosophy of continuous improvement. It should be regularly reviewed and updated to incorporate new technologies, best practice, and feedback from stakeholders. This approach ensures that the policy remains relevant, effective, and adaptable to changing circumstances.
2. Patrons who do not adhere to the stipulated BYO vehicle conditions will not be permitted to use their BYO Cart, furthermore if usage causes damage to the course, to property or harm to any persons or has the potential to cause damage or harm, then the driver will not be permitted to use their own vehicle at Council's golf venues. This restriction will be reviewed after a period of 3 months.

Policy implementation

Policy will be endorsed by CMT and made available to all Ringwood Golf Course and Dorset Golf Course staff who are responsible for managing all BYO cart bookings.

Roles and Responsibilities

Maroondah Leisure Staff

- Understand and communicate to customers that there is a Policy and process framework for the application of the Golf BYO Cart Policy.
- Apply the Golf BYO Cart Policy with integrity and transparency.

Service Area Managers

- Review policy to ensure it continues to meet community and Council expectations.
- Develop appropriate communication of any changes to the Policy.

Review

Manager Maroondah Golf Courses and Sportsfields reserves the right to modify the schedule annually and the Policy after three years.

Definitions

A BYO cart is a small, low powered privately owned vehicle used for transporting participants and golf clubs around the golf course.

Related policies, strategies, procedures, and guidelines

This policy is implemented in conjunction with the following council documents:

- BYO cart waiver form (24/328547)
- Golf Strategy 2020-2030
- Golf BYO Cart Schedule