



Fairway Mats Winter Trial: Frequently Asked Questions

1) Why use Winter Mats?

- ✓ Start the early season with better playing conditions for the benefit of all players
- ✓ Protect the fairways from damage caused by winter traffic during a vulnerable time of year
- ✓ Players have a consistent and reliable surface to hit from even in wet, muddy or frozen conditions resulting in cleaner contact
- ✓ Fewer course closures hopefully as the turf will not be as damaged
- ✓ Reduced wear on high-traffic landing areas. Popular landing zones stay healthier despite winter use
- ✓ Less repair work for greens staff patching divots in the spring
- ✓ Improved drainage and soil health by preventing compaction and loss of turf cover
- ✓ Less mess, clubs stay cleaner

2) When are we being asked to use mats?

- ✓ From November 1st 2025 to February 28th 2026 across all play – both casual and competition.

3) Is the use of mats compulsory?

- ✓ Yes during this period all members and visitors are required to use mats on the fairway at all times during both general and competition play.

4) Do I use mats everywhere?

- ✓ Mats are to be used on the fairways only including around the greens when not using a putter. All strokes with a putter are to be played off grass. Preferred lies apply around the greens.



Mats are not to be used from teeing areas



Mats are not to be used in the rough

5) Why are we being asked to use mats in all play, not just casual play?

- ✓ The Greens Committee has requested the trial covers all play to get a full indication of the difference the mats make by the end of February.

6) Where do I get my mat from and is it free to use?

✓ Mats are available to members from the Pro Shop free of charge. Please take a mat and return it after your round. Visitors will pay a deposit on taking a mat which will be returned when they bring the mat back.

7) Can I use my own mat? Is there a special type? Can I make one?

✓ Yes members may use their own mat. There are various brands on the market available to buy. Yes you can make one if you wish.

8) How do I use the mat? (this video is well worth watching: [Multimat](#))

✓ Either side of the mat may be used and it is recommended to secure the mat to the ground with a tee peg using one of the holes at the end of the mat. The mats we have at the Club have a special inverted spot for the ball that allows for better use on slopes.



A ball must not be hit from a tee peg off the mat, including the tee peg securing the mat.

✓ A player takes free relief by lifting the original ball and placing the ball on the artificial mat then hitting it from there. The ball must be lifted, placed on and played from an Astroturf, or similar type of mat. The mat must be placed as near as possible to where the ball originally lay and the ball must be placed on the mat. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

✓ If the ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot (no closer to the hole) where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed. The mats are designed to be usable on slopes.

✓ If the ball on the mat is accidentally moved before a stroke is made, there is no penalty and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

9) What if I refuse to use a mat?

✓ The use of a fairway mat is compulsory during this period and all members are respectfully asked to comply with this trial. A general penalty will be applicable for anyone refusing to use a fairway mat. This is typically a two shot penalty in stroke play or the loss of a hole in match play.

10) Can I still submit a card for handicap using fairway mats?

✓ Yes acceptable scores may be returned in competitions and general play when there is a Local Rule requiring the compulsory use of fairway mats.

11) Are there preferred lies in the rough?

- ☒ **Yes these carry on as normal once the mats are introduced.**

Model Local Rule E-2

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e. That is: the ball must be replaced by setting it down on the required spot and letting it go so that it stays on that spot. If the player tries to replace a ball but it does not stay on its original spot, the player must try a second time. If the ball again does not stay on that spot, the player must replace the ball by placing it on the nearest spot where the ball will stay at rest, but the spot must not be nearer the hole.

12) Can I keep hold of a mat?

- ☒ **Club Mats need to be returned after a game as mats need to be shared between all members. Mats will be cleaned at the pro shop. A return box will be available outside the Pro Shop if the Shop is closed.**

13) Can I share a mat with another player?

- ☒ **Yes although this is not encouraged as it is likely to slow down play. Please be mindful of the pace of play when using a mat.**

14) How do I attach a mat to my bag?

- ☒ **Clips are attached to the mats already to make it easy to attach a mat to your golf bag.**

General Information:

- ☒ **All players are encouraged to try a mat during October in order to get used to them.**

We appreciate your co-operation and support in helping us maintain the course to the highest standard year-round. If you have any questions, comments or need assistance using a winter mat, please don't hesitate to contact a member of our team.

Yours sincerely

Mold Golf Club Management Committee

More information can be found here: [Winter golf preferred lies - Wales Golf](#)