

Rutgers University Golf Course

Accessibility Policy for Guests with Disabilities

Rutgers is committed to providing accessible experiences for golfers with disabilities at the Rutgers University Golf Course and has a reasonable accommodation procedure in place to allow greater access to our golf course for patrons who need it. If due to a disability, a golfer needs additional access to play the game, they should follow the processes below.

Requests for Disability-Related Accommodations

For golfers who require a disability related accommodation to utilize the facilities or participate in events at the golf course, the golf course has a reasonable accommodation process.

Option #1:

Golfers who have disabilities can streamline the accommodation process by submitting an accommodation application online. (*link to be developed*) If you need assistance or have a question about submitting the online application, please email rugolfcourse@ipo.rutgers.edu or call (848) 445-2637 prior to your tee time. When contacting us, please provide your name, the name of the event or tee time; the date; and the reasonable accommodation requested. We may require additional information from patrons whose disability is not readily apparent and depending on the accommodation requested. If approved, the golfer will have the access level designated in their foreUP customer profile. Once the access designation is provided to the golfer, the accommodation will remain in effect for the golf season, unless the golfer needs to make changes. This advanced process will streamline future play or events and allow the course management to ensure that all reasonable accommodation is in place for the golfer. For golfers who have Enhanced Access, it is recommended to let the golf course know you will be needing the use of the accommodation when scheduling your tee time, especially for those accommodations that require advanced notice.

Enhanced Access renewals must be requested by the golfer at the beginning of each season through an updated online accommodation application. This process helps ensure that any adjustments to prior accommodation are accurately reflected.

Option #2:

If a patron or guest with a disability is unaware of the advance procedure outlined in option #1 and/or requests a disability related accommodation on the day of play, if the disability is not readily apparent, then the patron or guest may present credible assurance such as presentation of a valid, State-issued disability parking placard or card, or other State-issued proof of disability. The golf course will make every effort to provide the requested accommodation on the day of play. However, some accommodations such as the need for an American Sign Language interpreter or

the use of the Solo Rider cart may require advanced notice to the golf course. Golfers are encouraged to allow sufficient time upon arrival at the course for assessment, including consultation, necessary documentation, and training if required.

The patron will also be required to complete an online accommodation application prior to their next round.

Note: A reasonable accommodation may include the use of an accessible golf cart or permission to utilize a standard golf cart in certain areas of the course that are restricted from normal use of golf carts to provide enhanced access to fairways and greens for individuals with disabilities. The Golf Course will conduct individualized assessments regarding the use of golf carts as a disability-related accommodation including determining how a golf cart may be permitted on the course following inclement weather conditions. As mentioned previously, golfers are encouraged to allow sufficient time for assessment, including consultation, necessary documentation, and training if required.

Golf Course patrons who require the use of a golf cart, including the Solo Rider adaptive cart, as a disability-related accommodation are not charged a fee for such use.

Golf Cart Accessibility

The Rutgers University Golf Course maintains a fleet of golf carts as well as an accessible adaptive golf cart for use by golfers with ADA medical requirements. The standard golf carts are equipped with GPS technology that allows the golf course to provide equal access to areas of the golf course that are normally restricted due to various events. We also maintain a SoloRider that is independently usable by individuals with mobility disabilities. The SoloRider has a hand-operated brake and accelerator, carries golf clubs in an accessible location, and has a seat that both swivels and raises to put the golfer in a standing or semi-standing position. This accessible golf cart provides the player with additional assistance using the cart to pitch, hit or putt the ball due to a disability.

Patrons who are requesting a standard cart for a disability-related accommodation are encouraged to contact the pro shop by email rugolfcourse@ipo.rutgers.edu or calling (848) 445-2637 prior to their reservation time to arrange for appropriate accommodations. First-time users may be required to receive training on the safe operation of the golf cart and course protocols to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all guests.

Reservations for the SoloRider adaptive golf cart are on a first call basis and should be made at least 24 hours in advance since it takes 24 hours to fully charge the cart. Use of the adaptive golf cart requires training on the features and safety precautions for the device, and protocols for use on tee boxes and greens. First-time users should request to schedule an orientation session with staff and practice at the driving range prior to use on the golf course for a full round of play. The orientation for use of the SoloRider will include completion of the [USGA U.S. Adaptive Golf Alliance Single Rider Golf Car Orientation Checklist and Release of Liability Form](#). In cases when the SoloRider is unavailable due to use by another golfer or maintenance, staff will work to identify a

suitable alternative accommodation, such as identifying the next available reservation or offering use of a standard golf cart.

Golf Cart Operational Rules

At the Rutgers University Golf Course, standard golf carts must remain on paved paths around tees, greens, and areas with minimal slope, and are restricted to cart paths on all par 3 holes and the turnaround behind the 10th green, unless the patron has been granted Enhanced Access privileges (see above).

Golfers with disabilities who have been granted Enhanced Access privileges and require closer access to tees and greens may be permitted to use the standard cart, SoloRider, or other adaptive devices on these areas or in proximity to them. When a golfer is granted Enhanced Access, there will be a designation noted in their customer profile. When the customer comes to play, that designation will be visible to the pro shop staff, and they will change the access level of the golf cart the golfer is riding in, to the access level granted to the customer.

As part of this procedure, individualized assessments will be conducted to evaluate the use of a golf cart as a disability-related accommodation, ensuring the arrangement aligns with each golfer's needs and course safety.

Conditions That May Affect Play and Use of Carts

Quality playing conditions on the golf course are attributed to routine maintenance. (See the USGA's [*Fore the Golfer: What to Expect After the Storm*](#).) The Rutgers University Golf Course is uniquely situated, and it is not unusual for the golf course to retain storm water runoff. As a result, our golf course experiences unusual amounts of saturation that can make the course either unplayable or not suitable for any wheeled vehicles. In order to ensure the playing conditions are safe, it may be required to completely close the course or make it partially accessible in some unique situations.

Specifically, following periods of rain, thunderstorms, frost, and snow melt, it may be necessary for the golf course superintendent to restrict the use of golf carts, mowers, and maintenance equipment.

During periods of restricted golf cart use, the Golf Course will make every reasonable effort to prioritize access for golfers with disabilities who have reserved tee times or are participating in league play, including providing the SoloRider and Access Flags as accommodations. If course accessibility is limited due to inclement weather or other conditions, golfers will be informed of accessible holes and cart path areas, as well as any sections to avoid due to water or safety hazards, prior to play. Should these conditions limit available holes, golfers may choose to reschedule their tee time and will be given priority for the next available unrestricted time slot.

All our golfers are encouraged to subscribe to text/email notifications from the golf course and check our home page where conditions will be shared if they are restricted. If, during daily play, the

golf course closes due to conditions, golfers will receive a pro-rated refund or credit back to their profile based on the number of holes that they have completed. The Rutgers University Golf Course reserves the right to open or close the course as conditions warrant.

Golfers with reservations for a standard golf cart, the SoloRider, or Enhanced Access accommodations due to mobility needs are encouraged to contact the golf course in advance at rugolfcourse@ipo.rutgers.edu or call (848) 445-2637 if they anticipate wet conditions or potential cart restrictions due to the forecast. Options such as rescheduling the tee time or date can be discussed at that time.

League play may also be affected when there are cart restrictions. League representatives are also encouraged to reach out to the golf course at rugolfcourse@ipo.rutgers.edu or call (848) 445-2637 to discuss formats of play and receive suggestions on structure of weekly competitions that provide reasonable accommodations for players that participate in their league.