

YARRAWONGA MULWALA GOLF CLUB RESORT

Policy Name: **MOTORISED GOLF CART STORAGE POLICY**

Statement: In light of recent equipment and structure fires found to be caused by Lithium Batteries, the Yarrowonga Mulwala Golf Club Resort has adopted the following policy. YMGR is committed to ensure all Golf Carts both traditional and Lithium Battery powered, as well as Electric Buggies that are stored on our premises are professionally fitted, stored and charged in a safe manner in accordance with best industry practice.

Definition: In its simplest form, a Golf Cart or Electric Buggy is a small apparatus for transporting golfers and their equipment around a golf course. Since the evolution of Lithium Batteries, some Golf Cart owners have upgraded their equipment to a Lithium Battery power source.

Policy: The YMGR will adopt a NO further LITHIUM Powered Golf Cart policy until the technology around lithium batteries catches up with the insurable risk parameters. This policy will not impact Electric Buggy storage arrangements save for the preventative measures being implemented (below).

The result of this Policy being introduced is that all Lithium Powered Golf Carts that are currently stored at YMGR will need to be isolated from other, traditionally powered equipment.

The YMGR will provide an isolated area within its available storage facilities to accommodate all **currently stored** Golf Carts that have been manufactured or retro fitted with a Lithium Battery power source. This area will be limited in number to those currently accommodated. It is the YMGR's current position that no further Lithium powered Golf Cart storage spaces will be made available. The club will alleviate itself of the Lithium Battery risk via natural attrition.

The specific storage area will be timed and temperature controlled with thermostat regulated charging circuits. In accordance with industry standards, on days and nights of extreme heat the thermostatically regulated circuits may not activate and those Lithium powered Golf Carts may not receive charge.

The Electric Buggy charging area, below the Pro Shop, will have the power circuit updated to a timed circuit to ensure the stored Lithium Battery powered Electric Buggies receive charging power not in excess of the manufacturers recommended times.

Lithium powered Golf Cart owners who are currently party to or have entered into a new long term storage agreement will have that agreement honoured and transferred to the Lithium Storage area.

The Risk & Compliance Committee will regularly monitor adherence to this policy.

Procedure (ALL Golf Cart Owners):

- a) A notice of this policy will be communicated to all members currently storing Golf Carts and Golf Buggies for awareness,
- b) The owner of a Golf Cart or Electric Buggy is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of their equipment and compliance with this policy,

Procedure specific to NON-Lithium Golf Cart Owners:

- c) All Non-Lithium powered Golf Cart owners storing a Non-Lithium powered Golf Cart will be required to sign an ADDENDUM Acknowledging - Motorised Golf Cart Storage Policy document to accompany their existing On-Site Motorised Cart Storage Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the Storage Agreement). This addendum will serve as an acknowledgment that they will not upgrade their Non-Lithium powered Golf Cart to Lithium Battery power.
- d) All Non-Lithium powered Golf Cart owners storing a Non-Lithium powered Golf Cart will be required to enter into and maintain a minimum public liability insurance cover at their own expense, (a more comprehensive insurance policy is a matter for the owner)

Procedure specific to Lithium Powered Golf Cart Owners:

- e) All owners of Lithium powered Golf Carts will be required, rather than requested, to enter into and maintain yearly Comprehensive Insurance cover for their Golf Cart, to protect themselves and the YMGR in the unlikely event of a fire,
- f) All owners with a Lithium powered Golf Cart in storage will be required to produce a certificate of compliance by a properly qualified Auto Electrician who verifies the Lithium Battery has been installed to an industry compliant standard,
- g) At the end of the life cycle of the currently installed Lithium Battery, the Golf Cart will need to be converted to a traditional power source at the owners expense.

Compliance to Policy – All Golf Cart Owners

- h) The YMGR will conduct quarterly inspections of storage facilities and identify any unauthorised Lithium Batteries that have been introduced to non-lithium storage areas,
- i) Any unauthorised upgrade of a stored Golf Cart in a non-lithium area to a Lithium Battery will be deemed a breach of the Storage Agreement. The charger fitted will be immediately removed and the owner/s will be directed to remove the affected Golf Cart immediately, until the Lithium Battery is removed and returned to a traditional power source,
- j) The owner/s of any cart subject to section i) (above) will be afforded a period of 60 days in which to return the Golf Cart to traditional, non-lithium power. At the expiry of the 60 day period, if not rectified as above, the Storage Agreement will be cancelled, a pro rata refund paid, if applicable, and the cart space offered to the next member waiting on the Waiting List.
- k) All Golf Cart Owners will be required to provide a certificate of insurance current at the time of annual fee renewal.

Golf Cart Maintenance on Premises Policy

- l) The practice of private contractors attending the YMGCRC and upgrading Golf Carts in storage to Lithium Batteries is to cease immediately.
- m) Any and all works of a significant nature (battery replacements specifically) are not to be carried out on YMGCRC premises. This condition does not apply to approved contractors who from time to time attend and conduct periodical maintenance on Pro Shop owned golf carts.

Relevant Legislation: Nil

Related Documents: **Eastern Golf Club Fire** – Justification for Policy Implementation
<https://www.9news.com.au/national/eastern-golf-course-clubhouse-destroyed-in-ferocious-blaze-northeast-of-melbourne-in-yering/72f363b7-376c-415e-8bc5-860415e119b1#:~:text=The%20club's%20management%20yesterday%20said,buggies%20and%20batteries%20are%20kept.&text=Firefighters%20have%20today%20confirmed%20lithium,building%20that%20sparked%20the%20fire.>

MGI Electric Buggy – Battery Instructions (No more than 10 continuous hours)
<https://mgigolf.com/blogs/faq/do-i-leave-my-battery-on-charge>

Moto Caddy Electric Buggy - Battery Instructions (see Point 4 - Non continuous Charging)
<https://www.motocaddy.com/uk/blog/lithium-battery-care-tips/#:~:text=AVOID%20OVERCHARGING,charger%20unattended%20overnight%20or%20indefinitely>

On-Site Motorised Cart Storage Agreement

ADDENDUM Acknowledging - Motorised Golf Cart Storage Policy

Related Policies: YMGCRC – Golf Cart Storage Policy

Original Policy - Promulgated Date: 27/11/2023		
Amendments Made:		
No:	Date	Summary of Amendment:
1.		
2.		
3.		