

RISK ASSESSMENTS

Tutorial Three

The previous tutorial discussed putting into place a Health and Safety Management system which should enable the club to manage all health and safety issues more effectively. Part of the system will be Risk Assessments. Only 40% of UK golf clubs have suitable and sufficient risk assessments in place.

WHY DO RISK ASSESSMENTS- because over 10,000 people are injured every year requiring hospital treatment associated with golf.

MAIN REASONS; We don't carry out the risk assessments just because the law [Management of Health and Safety At Work Regulations 1992 (MHSW)] requires it but because it allows the club and employees to better understand the hazards they are working in and to help lower the risks of injury to their staff and golfers.

WHAT IS A RISK ASSESSMENT: A risk assessment is a systematic process of identifying hazards and assessing the magnitude of the risk. A risk assessment should be documented and provide mitigation measures to lower or even eliminate the risk. A risk assessment without actions and action parties is not an effective process.

WHAT SHOULD BE RISK ASSESSED: Hazards at golf clubs are widespread and can vary from risks associated with fire to handling and maintaining course machinery. Golf clubs should carry out risk assessments on the following main areas;

- The playability of the Course
- All Greenstaff work activities incl. vehicles
- Handling Chemicals
- Manual Handling
- Fire Risks
- Catering and cellar risk
- Use of Buggies
- The Clubhouse
- Storage
- Working With Youngsters
- Asbestos
- Legionnaires

The PROCESS; To carry out a risk assessment the club should develop a plan of action and commit to it. We would recommend as a minimum the plan should incorporate;

- Identify all areas at your club requiring risk assessments
- Develop a simple methodology to record the findings and calculate the risk levels
- Identify who at the club is best suited to complete the assessments
- Complete all of the identified areas in a set time frame
- Establish action lists to close out all risk assessment actions
- Publish a report
- Communicate the significant findings to the management
- Add to risk assessment to your management system

LONG TERM: Once a full set of risk assessments have been completed for the club and recorded the risk assessments will need reviewing at set periods to ensure their validity. It is recommended that the club's expertise review the risk assessments as a minimum yearly or earlier if any significant hardware or process changes have occurred. (EG New equipment purchased for the course). Once the assessments are part of the clubs normal workings it is unlikely that a large amount of cost or time will be required to maintain the assessments.

Many clubs are still without a suitable and sufficient set of assessments and are exposing themselves to not only increasing the likelihood of an accident, but to prosecution. It is our advice that this item forms part of the future planning activities at your club.

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