



All Golf Clubs, regardless of size, have safety hazards e.g. slips, trips and falls, use of cutting machinery etc. These hazards can pose risks to members of the club, to visitors and to all employees. A Safety Management System, SMS, is a proactive tool that is used to identify, reduce and control these hazards to prevent injury to those who use the Club and the employees. A SMS consists of all the arrangements used by the Club at all levels to actively to manage health and safety. Its purpose is to provide an easily understood framework for those who manage the Club and its employees of how a Health and Safety policy is formulated and executed. Actively managing health and safety will help in preventing accidents and also in ensuring compliance with UK law

## The SMS is comprised of clearly defined elements:

- A clear statement of the Health and Safety Policy outlining the top-level goals of the Club.
- A commitment to providing support and financial resources to achieving these goals.
- An organisational structure of the persons responsible for achieving the aims and goals outlined in the policy.
- A plan of how the policy would be implemented addressing the assessment of risks and how these are to be reduced.
- How health and safety standards and performance will be measured and assessed.
- How the system will be audited and reviewed to ensure that it continues to meet the clubs needs and aspirations.

An SMS should form part of the routine day to day running of a Club and not seen as something looked at once a year or

when there has been an accident. The progress of the required actions within it should form part of the Club's regular Committee meetings.

A key element of the success of any Safety Management System is a commitment from the Board of Management/Committee to proactively embrace the actions within the SMS and to discharge the Club's health and safety responsibilities. This commitment must be made clear to all those who use the Club and work in it.

It is important that individual committee members are seen to be applying and adhering to the requirements of the SMS as their behaviour will influence the attitude and actions of others within the Club.

A Club which implements a successful Safety Management Systems will benefit from improved morale of their employees, reduction in accidents and injuries as well as providing a firm base for the defence in any criminal or civil action on health and safety. This should be reflected in a reduced overall financial cost to a Club.

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