**WATER MANAGEMENT**

**ON THE COURSE**

**OFF THE COURSE**

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The combined effects of a changing climate, increasing demand and greater competition are making water scarcity a genuine threat to golf around the world. Clubs are having to spend much more on supplies that are also becoming more vulnerable to regulation and restriction. This makes water conservation an absolute priority for golf clubs now and in the future. The operation of both the sporting and social aspects of Golf can result in water wastage.

**BALLYBOFEY & STRANORLAR GOLF CLUB IS COMMITTED TO PLAYING ITS PART IN WATER CONSERVATION.**

**5 STEPS TO**

**EFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT**

**1. TRACK WATER USAGE**

Check water meters on a regular basis to ensure there are no leaks. Record water usage on the last day of every month.

**2. DO AN IRRIGATION AUDIT**

Map the irrigation system, noting the efficiency and working order of every nozzle and valve. Adjust nozzles and water pressure as necessary.

 **3. REVISIT YOUR COURSE’S CULTURAL AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES**

Know and understand how and where to prioritize water use. The use Soil Moisture Sensors to measure moisture content in turf enable efficient irrigation efforts.

Aeration, sand topdressing, verticutting and a good fertility management program assist with soil compaction and allow for better moisture penetration, saving water usage in the long-term.

The harvesting of water for irrigation purposes from Lough Alaan is a long-established practice.

**4. INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE**

* Reduce water wastage on existing club facilities by fixing broken taps, toilets etc.
* To prevent frozen and cracking pipes in the winter months, ensure that all exposed pipes are adequately insulated.
* Install a solenoid valve or similar on urinals so they can be turned off whenever the clubhouse is not in use.
* Insert cistern blocks or similar in cisterns of older and single flush toilets to reduce the amount of water used.
* Install aerators on club taps and showerheads to reduce flow.
* Replace old taps in the toilet sinks with self-closing or water efficient taps.

**5. CLUB ENVIRONS**

* Collect rainwater in a water butt for watering plants and biodiversity areas in the club.
* For smaller planted areas, use watering cans rather than hoses to water.
* Where a hose is used for watering, install a flow restrictor and/or trigger gun to reduce wastage of water.
* Install water awareness posters throughout the clubhouse.