

SunSmart workplaces: Golf

Small changes can make a big difference.

In golf, workers such as greenkeepers, golf professionals, coaching and event staff, maintenance crews, and golfers themselves often spend long hours outdoors maintaining courses, supporting events, and playing. As outdoor workers and participants - engaged in paid or unpaid roles or extended outdoor activity - they are regularly exposed to hazards such as ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Over time, this exposure significantly increases the risk of skin cancer.

Under work health and safety laws, employers have a legal responsibility to provide a safe workplace and to eliminate or minimise health risks, including exposure to UV.

Reducing this risk starts with practical action. By making simple changes to everyday routines and practices, golf organisations can actively minimise exposure and better protect the health of their workers.

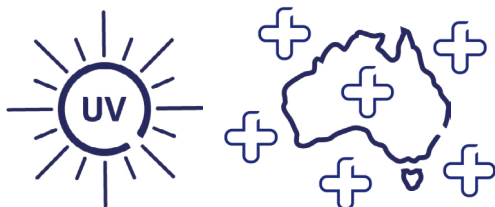


Did you know?

Golfers in Australia are **2.5 times** more likely to be diagnosed with skin cancer than the rest of the population.

Why sun safety matters in golf

Exposure to UV radiation is a leading cause of skin cancer in Australia.



Every year in Australia it's estimated that over **200** melanomas and **34,000** other skin cancers are caused by **UV exposure in the workplace**.

Skin cancer is largely preventable. That makes effective sun protection not just good practice - but a workplace responsibility.

Golf environments can increase the risk of UV exposure because staff and golfers may spend long hours outdoors due to:

- maintaining greens and fairways
- coaching or supervising players on course
- tournament or event days that require extended outdoor presence
- limited shade on open courses
- reflective surfaces such as water hazards, sand bunkers and turf.

It's important to remember that UV damage occurs **even on cloudy or cool days**.



Small steps to create a more SunSmart golf club

While sun safety at work is a shared responsibility, it starts by the workplace creating a supportive environment.

Look at how work is planned

- ✓ Schedule course maintenance tasks **earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon** where possible.
- ✓ Plan coaching sessions and on-course activities **outside high UV periods** when practical.
- ✓ **Rotate tasks** where possible to reduce the amount of time key staff spend in direct sun.

Make sun safety part of everyday practice

- ✓ **Require sun-safe workwear** including wide brimmed hats, long sleeves, long pants and sunglasses.
- ✓ **Provide SPF 50+ sunscreen** in staff areas, pro shops, bathrooms, or maintenance sheds and encourage reapplication.
- ✓ Encourage staff to **take breaks in shaded areas** – such as clubhouses, shelters or tree cover.

Build sun safety into your club culture with 3 easy steps:

1. Review your club's current practices using this handy [online assessment](#).
2. Develop and communicate a [SunSmart policy](#) - there's a template to help you and [resources](#) to support you to promote it.
3. Encourage staff to share practical ideas that make sun safety easier in their work routines.



Supporting a healthier golfing workplace

By making sun protection part of everyday routines - just like course safety checks, daily club activity and operations planning - golf clubs can protect their staff and golfers, support staff wellbeing and lift the club's reputation.

Take action today

Check out the [SunSmart Workplaces toolkit](#) for practical, ready-to-use resources to reduce UV risk at work. The toolkit provides templates, risk assessment guides, and sun safety resources to help you make smart changes. Use it to help meet your workplace safety responsibilities.

Visit www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart-workplaces for more information.

