

**COURSE ETIQUETTE and GENERAL COMPETITIONS TERMS AND CONDITIONS**  
**March 2024**

**1. PRIORITY ON THE COURSE**

- (a) Greens staff have priority whilst working on the course.
  
- (b) The tee is closed for general play whenever it is reserved for competitions, matches or society bookings, unless players book into a vacant tee slot on a competition day using the procedures stated in sections 3,4,5 and 6.
  
- (c) All tee bookings, whether for competitions or general play, will be made on the BRS system in accordance with any rules specified at the time, unless the course has been made available for casual play with no tee booking required. Changes in the rules applicable to tee booking will be communicated to members prior to being introduced.
  
- (d) If a group fails to keep its place on the course and loses one clear hole on the players in front, it must invite the group following to pass.
  
- e) Players are expected to play a provisional ball when their original ball may be lost or out of bounds.
  
- (f) When a tee time has not been booked and a group/individual wishes to play who are already at the club they must book in to that time via the Professional's shop prior to play or via the BRS system.
  
- (g) A player must not play more than 2 balls on the course and must not use any part of the course proper as a practice area.

**2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITIONS**

**(a) Conditions of Entry for All Competitions**

- i) All players must register prior to starting their round and collect their scorecard which will include competition title, player's name, date course and playing handicap.
  
- ii) Competition entry fees will be deducted automatically from Green Cards at the time of registration. It is the players responsibility to maintain their Competition entry purse with sufficient credit to cover competition entry fees.
  
- iii) Priority on the first tee is according to the start sheet or the order of the draw.
  
- iv) Players should be at the tee 5 minutes before their starting time and be ready to commence play at their booked tee time.
  
- v) Players arriving on the tee, ready to play within 5 minutes after their starting time will be penalised under the R & A Rules of Golf 5.3a - loss of the first hole in match play, or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Players arriving more than five minutes late will be disqualified.

vi) Players cannot NR a strokeplay round. If they are unable to complete a hole their marker should record NR or zero for that hole and the player should continue to complete the remaining holes of their round and record scores for those holes.

vii) Scorecards must be completed legibly, signed by both player and marker.

viii) All competitions are operated on the PSI (Player Score Input) computer system. Immediately after completion of play, all players are required to enter their gross scores, either via the HowDidIDo phone app or on the terminal in the Lounge and post their scorecard in the designated box. Failure to return a scorecard will be dealt with in accordance with rule 7.1(b) of the World Handicap System (WHS) Rules of Handicapping 2024 (Posting a Missing Score or Penalty Score).

ix) When entering scores if a player, having started a hole has no score to record, they must enter "NR" or 0 (zero) for that hole only. Players should continue to enter the scores for the remaining holes.

x) Players must enter "Did Not Play" for any hole that is not started. Rule 3.2a of the WHS Rules of Handicapping sets out the valid reasons for not playing a hole

xi) Members who cancel or fail to turn up on the day of competition are liable for payment of the entry fee.

xii) Players may use buggies in all competitions except the Gents' Club Championship and any other competitions where the rules do not permit the use of buggies.

#### **(b) Failure to Comply**

i) Members who fail to comply will be emailed and reminded of their responsibility to comply with the Terms and Conditions of Competitions.

ii) Members who fail to comply on 3 occasions in any year will be banned from entering any club competitions for a month following the 3rd offence. Further non-compliance will result in disciplinary action being taken in accordance with the Club's Disciplinary Policy.

#### **(c) Eligibility to enter competitions**

i) Honours Board Competitions (Stroke Play)

Members must hold a WHS handicap index and must also have submitted a minimum of 8 acceptable scores in singles competitions or general play rounds played under stroke play rules during the 12 months prior to the competition. (Except Gentlemen's Veterans' Cup for which 3 acceptable scores in previous 12 months is the minimum requirement.)

ii) Knockout Competitions

Members must hold a WHS handicap index and must also have submitted a minimum of 8 acceptable scores in singles competitions or general play rounds played under stroke play rules during the 12 months prior to the date of their first match.

iii) A member who is also a member of another club and has nominated the other club as his/her Home Club, may take part in any club competition, provided that his/her official handicap index has been confirmed and that he/she meets the required entry criteria.

iv) Junior members under 18 years of age must enter competitions with at least one adult playing member or a designated (PGA) member of the Professional's staff.

**(d) Suspension or Cancellation of Competition Play**

During competition play, the Course Manager, the Head Greenkeeper, the Professional, or a member of the Committee overseeing the competition, may close the course or re-open it, should conditions, in their opinion, warrant it.

Discontinue play immediately - One prolonged note on klaxon - players must cease play immediately having first marked the position of their ball.

Discontinue play - Three consecutive notes on klaxon repeated - players may complete the hole being played or mark their ball as it lies.

Play to resume - Two short notes on the klaxon repeated.

The klaxon will be kept in, and sounded from, the professional's shop.

**(e) Competition Ties**

i) Any ties will be decided on the count back scores using holes 10 to 18 for competitions held between March and October. The annually published winter competition protocols will set out the process for deciding ties during the winter season.

ii) For 36-hole competitions, ties will be decided as per the published Terms and Conditions for that competition

**(f) Knock-Out Competitions**

i) Members must not enter knock-out or league competitions unless they are prepared to arrange matches, play all matches on time and must be able to offer at least three dates one of which should be a weekend.

ii) Entry to Knockout Competitions will be via the HowDidIDo app unless otherwise stated. The draw will be conducted electronically by the Competitions and Handicap Committee and members informed by email. All participants are equally responsible for making contact. It is a condition of entry that members consent to their email and phone details being made available to their opponent to assist in the organisation of matches.

iii) All parties in matches not played to time will be disqualified unless one party concedes a walk-over. No extensions to round will be allowed.

iv) In match play players are permitted to agree to delay or suspend play under R&A Rule 5.7a and must stop play in accordance with rule d above. When the match is resumed either on the same or a subsequent day it should resume in accordance with R&A rule 5.7c

v) Match play, in any form, is prohibited on tee reservation competition days until the last competitors have teed off.

**(g) Distance Measuring Devices**

Players are permitted to use Distance Measuring Devices in accordance with R&A Rule 4.3(a)

#### **(h) Competition Age Qualifications**

Gents' Seniors' Opens 55 years and over

Gents' Seniors' Medals 60 years and over

Gents' Veterans' Cup 70 years and over

Gents' Seniors' Friendly Matches 55 years and over

Ladies' Joyce Hyde Cup 50 years and over

#### **(i) Hole in one**

Members achieving a hole-in-one during an official club competition (excluding team and AmAm competitions) will be eligible for a bar tab of up to £75; the member's scorecard, clearly marked, must be returned to the General Manager. Members achieving a hole-in-one in other play, duly witnessed, will be presented with a bottle of whisky or sherry.

### **3. SATURDAY COMPETITIONS (7-DAY MEMBERS)**

(a) Competitions for 7-day members will be held on Saturdays

(b) Start sheet booking will open on BRS at 4pm on Mondays 12 days prior to the competition.

(c) A member may enter his/her own name and the names of all other players in the tee time.

(d) Competition start times will be detailed on BRS. Members entering to play during these times prior to the day must play in the competition. Social golf will be available to book on BRS after the last stated tee time for the competition.

(e) If there are any vacant competition start times on the start sheet on the day of play, 7-day members may utilise these times for social golf. Players must register no earlier than 1 hour in advance of the vacant tee time. The format for social golf must be of a similar or lesser format than that of the competition.

(f) Competition results will be published separately for both Gents and Ladies competitions on the notice boards in the respective locker rooms. Credits will be applied to the winners' Green Cards as per the Prize Schedules.

### **4. SUNDAY COMPETITIONS (7- and 6-DAY MEMBERS)**

(a) Multi-tee and mixed stroke play competitions for 7-day and 6-day members will be held on Sundays as per fixture list. Alternate Day competitions for ladies are also played on Sundays (see fixtures list)

(b) Start sheet booking will open on BRS at 8am on Mondays 13 days prior to the competition.

(c) A member may enter his/her own name and the names of all other players in the tee time.

(d) Competition start times will be detailed on BRS. Members entering to play during these times prior to the day must play in the competition. Social golf will be available to book on BRS before and after the last stated tee time for the competition.

(e) If there are any vacant competition start times on the start sheet on the day of play, members may utilise these times for social golf. Players must register no earlier than 1 hour in advance of the vacant tee time. The format for social golf must be of a similar or lesser format than that of the competition.

(f) Competition results will be published separately for both Gents and Ladies competitions on the notice boards in the respective locker rooms. Credits will be applied to the winners' Green Cards as per the Prize Schedules.

## **5. WEDNESDAY COMPETITIONS (7- AND 6-DAY LADIES)**

(a) Ladies' competitions for 7-day and 6-day members will be held on Wednesday mornings; the 1st tee will be reserved for one tee time prior to the first and one tee time after the last competitors' start time.

(b) Start sheet booking will open on Wednesdays at 7am two weeks prior to the competition. Details will be shown on each competition notice. Ladies wishing to play in the competition outside of the times listed on the start sheet should advise the Pro Shop or the Lady Captain. Ladies playing at these times will not have priority over other players on the course.

(c) Players in 9-hole competitions should enter their names on the appropriate start sheet but should be prepared to move into an earlier time slot in order to play immediately after the last 18-hole players.

(d) If there are any vacant competition start times on the start sheet on the day of play, members may utilise these times for social golf. Players must register no earlier than 1 hour in advance of the vacant tee time. The format for social golf must be of a similar or lesser format than that of the competition.

(e) Competition results will be published on the notice board in the Ladies' locker room and credits will be applied to the winners' Green Cards as per the Prize Schedules.

## **6. THURSDAY COMPETITIONS (GENTLEMEN)**

(a) Gentlemen's medal competitions for 7-day and 6-day members will be held on one Thursday per month. In addition, competitions with different formats may be added from time to time.

(b) Start sheet booking will open on BRS at 4pm on Thursdays 14 days prior to the competition.

(c) A member may enter his own name and the names of all other players in the tee time.

(d) Competition start times will be detailed on BRS. Members entering to play during these times prior to the competition day must play in the competition. Social golf will be available to book on BRS after the last stated tee time for the competition.

(e) If there are any vacant competition start times on the start sheet on the day of play, members may utilise these times for social golf. Players must register no earlier than 1 hour in advance of the vacant tee time. The format for social golf must be of a similar or lesser format than that of the competition.

(f) Competition results will be published on the notice board in the Gents' locker room and credits will be applied to the winners' Green Cards as per the Prize Schedules.

## **7. ENTER ON ARRIVAL STROKE PLAY COMPETITIONS**

a) Singles competitions will be held on Thursdays and are open to all Gentleman playing members. They will be in Stableford format.

(b) Singles competitions will be held on Sundays and are open to all playing members.

(c) These competitions will run throughout the day, with no pre-booked start sheet. All players must register prior to starting their round and collect their scorecard. Entry fees will be deducted automatically from Green Cards at the time of entry. Immediately after completion of play, all players are required to enter their gross scores, either via the HowDidIDo phone app or on the terminal in the Lounge, and post their scorecard in the designated box.

(d) Players in the competition may play with players not taking part in the competition, but they must have their scorecard marked by a player with a WHS handicap Index.

(e) Players in the competition will not have priority on the course.

(f) Thursday results will be published on the notice board in the Gents' locker room and credits will be applied to the winners' Green Cards as per the Prize Schedules.

(g) Sunday results will be published as a combined competition (gents and ladies) on the notice boards in both locker rooms. Credits will be applied to the winners' Green Cards as per the Prize Schedules.

## **9. GENERAL PLAY SCORES (WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM)**

(a) All players may submit a General Play score for handicap purposes, provided it meets the criteria set out in subsections (b) and (c) below.

(b) A score is acceptable for handicap purposes if the round has been played:

(i) in an authorized format of play over at least the minimum number of holes required for either a 9-hole or an 18-hole score to be acceptable;

(ii) in the company of at least one other person, who may also act as a marker;

(iii) by the Rules of Golf;

(iv) on a golf course with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating, where length and normal playing difficulty is maintained at a consistent level.

(v) Score cards must be marked by and clearly signed by a fellow player with a handicap index.

(c) Players intending to return a General Play score must register prior to play, either on the England golf app (MyEG), on the HowDidIDo app, or in the Pro Shop. They must check that the intended tee satisfies rules for an acceptable score. Immediately on completion of play they must enter their gross scores, either by the England golf or HowDidIDo app or by requesting the Professional staff to record on the ClubV1 system. The signed scorecard must be left in the designated box in accordance with rule 4.4 of the WHS Rules of Handicapping 2024 (peer review).

(d) A General Play score may be returned at any club in GB&I, regardless of whether the player is a member, provided it meets the criteria set out in subsection (c) above. The method of pre-registering for the round and returning the score may differ depending upon the system in place at the host club. If playing overseas players may bring scorecards back provided they have been authorised by a club official.

(e) A player who registers for a General Play score and does not return that card will be subject to action under rule 7.1(b) of the WHS Rules of Handicapping 2024 (Penalty Score).

Agreed by Competitions and Handicap Committee on:

March 26th 2024