

All competitions will be run under The Rules of Golf, as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews; except as amended by the Local Rules detailed on the back of the Scorecard and as posted on the Club Notice Board and as appears in this Document and any specific competition rules as decided by the Committee for that competition.

It is the responsibility of every player to familiarise themselves with these rules; ignorance is no defence; penalties for breach of rules will apply without exception.

Any reference to THE COMMITTEE in the following text means “The person or group in charge of the competition or the person/group in charge of the course on the day”

1. General Competition Rules

1.1 WHS Handicap System (WHS):

1.2 Player Registry: Players who are, or become, ineligible to play in a competition will not be included in the competition, but submitted scores will be considered for handicap adjustment.

1.3 Withdrawal from Competition: A player who has registered to play in any competition and is unable to play, under normal circumstances, must cancel prior to 16:00 hours, two days before the day of the competition, through the Pro-shop by telephone or in person. Failure to cancel, unless extenuating circumstances are found to prevail, will result in the player being spoken to by a member of the Committee to explain the problems caused by their non-compliance. If a member has more than one of these in a two-month period, a penalty of a one competition ban will be imposed.

1.4 Postponement/Abandonment Procedure:

If the competition is postponed prior to the due date or abandoned on the day and it is possible to reschedule the competition, the original starting sheet and all those players entered will automatically be carried forward to the new date when a new competition will take place with all players starting their round again. It is the player's responsibility to ensure their name is removed if they are unable to play on the

rescheduled date. Players not on the original sheet may enter at any time prior to 16:00 hours, two days prior to the new date. If it is not possible to rearrange a new date for the competition, the original start sheet shall be void and players will be informed by notices in the clubhouse, by Pro-shop staff, BRS and on the club's website, and any entry monies refunded.

If the circumstance is one that arises during the round and causes play to be suspended, e.g. flooding of greens, water logged fairways, fog or thunder and lightning, the cessation of play will be signified by the sounding of the Air Horn located in the Pro-shop. When the Air Horn is sounded, all players must stop playing immediately and walk back to the clubhouse. Any ball already in play should be left where it lay (although if appropriate, marked & lifted), any ball left in position at the time of cessation of play may, on resumption of play, be marked lifted and cleaned before replacement without penalty.

A delay of up to one hour will be initiated, after which, if the circumstance does not then cause disruption to play, the competition may be resumed by the sounding of the Air Horn twice, if decided safe to do so by the responsible person on the day. All players must then resume play. Play will start again from the exact spot if known, or nearest vicinity as agreed by playing partners, or the next tee if the previous hole had been completed when the Air Horn sounded. Should the circumstance continue, or re-occur once play has re-started, the competition will be abandoned by the sounding of the Air Horn and no scores will count for that day.

Please note: The fact the course may not have been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit or safe for play. Players have a duty of care not to behave in such a way that others may be injured by their actions. They also have a duty of care not to injure themselves.

1.5 When Players May or Must Stop Play

During a round, a player must not stop play **except** in these cases:

- a. Suspension by Committee. All players must stop play if the Committee suspends play (see Rule 5.7b).
- b. **Stopping Play by Agreement in Match Play.** Players in a match may agree to stop play for any reason, **except** if doing so delays the competition. If they agree to stop play and then one player wants to

resume play, the agreement has ended and the other player must resume play.

c. **Individual Player Stopping Play Because of Lightning.** A player may stop play if he or she reasonably believes there is danger from lightning, **but** must report to the Committee as soon as possible.

Leaving the course is not, by itself, stopping play. A player's delay of play is covered by Rule 5.6a, not by this Rule.

If a player stops play for any reason not allowed under this Rule or fails to report to the Committee when required to do so, the player is **disqualified**.

1.6 Poor Weather: If unpleasant weather descends on the course during any competition, it is not a good reason for discontinuing play and sheltering is strictly prohibited without specific permission from the committee otherwise the player is disqualified in accordance with the Rules of Golf, Rule 6-8a. (You may use an umbrella to shelter between shots, but you must continue playing the round without delay). If fog means you cannot see where your ball will finish then play should be suspended until visibility improves to the extent that you can see that distance.

1.7 Water on greens. If all the area around a hole is covered in temporary water and it cannot be removed, in stroke play the course should be considered unplayable and the Committee should suspend play under Rule 5.7.

In match play, if the water cannot be removed, the Players/Committee may suspend play until the problem is resolved or if persistent, then the match is to be re started from the same hole on a new agreed date with the score standing as it was, prior to suspension.

1.8 Lightning:

1.9 Minimum Entries: For any competition to gain official status there must be at least ten competitors for the Men's and Mixed competitions, and five competitors for the Ladies taking part in order to count for order of merit points; where a competition does not reach that required number there will be no points awarded. Competitions for Men and mixed, with nine competitors and down to five competitors taking part

will have a pay-out dependant on exact number of competitors. Below five competitors, for men, taking part will result in the competition being declared null and void with those competitors receiving a refund of their entry fee and their scores will not count for competition purposes, but will be used for handicap adjustment. Lady's competitions with five players or less will be adjudicated by the person in charge of that competition on the day, with the rules fully explained to individuals prior to start of play.

1.10 Scorecard Submission: All competitors must, on completion of their round, ensure that their scorecard is signed by them and their marker, have their correct course handicap written on the card, gross score recorded for every hole and tee used indicated. Failure to complete the card correctly will result in the player's disqualification in accordance with the Rules of Golf, Rule 6-6b.

All scorecards taken out for competition must be returned and handed in, whether or not the round has been completed or 'non-Returned'. Any player not submitting their competition card will be spoken to by the Committee. Multiple incidents will result in a ban of one competition initially, with more significant bans for further noncompliance.

Scorecard Marker: Marker must be either: Any other player in the group (other than partner in a side) who has a WHS handicap or somebody approved by the Committee.

Correct Handicap: The player's correct **course** handicap must be shown on the scorecard, if the player fails to enter this handicap it will result in the player's disqualification in accordance with the Rules of Golf, Rule 6-2b.

An incorrectly entered too high a handicap will result in disqualification. An incorrectly entered too low a handicap will result in that handicap being used for their scoring in that round.

Scorecard Return: Any player not promptly placing his scorecard in either of the designated letterboxes (outside external door to Pro-shop or to the right of the Pro-shop door) or to the organising Committee, upon completion of their round (correctly completed as above) will be disqualified in accordance with the Rules of Golf, Rule 6-6b.

Once so posted, the card is deemed returned and no alterations will be allowed.

PSI (player score input) Terminal: If the terminal is accessible and working, all competitors must, on completion of their round, enter their scores on the PSI terminal located outside the Pro-shop. Although not compulsory under the rules of golf, WHS relies on prompt score returns and failure to use the terminal without good excuse will result in the player being barred from the next competition.

1.11 Results:

Ties: In the event of two or more players returning the same score, the winner(s) shall be decided in the following order:

Scratch Stableford and Scratch Medal

- a. The best score over holes 10 - 18.
- b. If no difference; best score over holes 13 - 18.
- c. If no difference; best score over holes 16 - 18.
- d. If no difference; best score on the 18th hole.
- e. If no difference; best score over holes 4 - 9.
- f. If no difference; best score over holes 7 - 9.
- g. If no difference; best score on the 9th hole.
- h. If no difference; the scores will be treated as match-play starting from the first with the winner being decided by 'Sudden Death'.
- i. If no winner is produced, then the result will be decided by the toss of a coin.

Handicap Stableford and Handicap Medal (Exact Competition

handicaps to two decimal places to be used in countbacks)

- a. Best score over holes 10 - 18 after deduction of one-half of exact competition handicap.
- b. If no difference; best score over holes 13 - 18 after deduction of one-third of exact competition handicap.
- c. If no difference; best score over holes 16 -18 after deduction of one-sixth of exact competition handicap.
- d. If no difference; best score on the 18th hole after deduction of one eighteenth of exact competition handicap.
- e. If no difference; best score over holes 4 – 9 after deduction of one-third of exact competition handicap.

- f. If no difference; best score over holes 7 - 9 after deduction of one-sixth of exact competition handicap.
- g. if still no difference best score for hole 9 after deduction of one-eighteenth of exact competition handicap.
- h. If still no winner is produced, then the result will be decided by the toss of a coin.

All competition results for qualifying and non-qualifying stroke play events and your exact handicap are published to the website: www.howdidido.co.uk. This is a free to use website, however, you do need to register to view. Alternatively, competition results are displayed on the club notice boards.

- 1.12 Starting Tee:** Unless a 2 tee or shotgun start condition is part of a competition, all competitions and general play are to start from the first Tee. The 10th tee will not be used as a competition starting tee unless it is part of the competition conditions. Members can start on the 10th tee for general play if the course is quiet and they are not hindering other players by doing so, or approval is given by a course official.
- 1.13 Competition Tees:** All competitions will be played from the white tees for men and red tees for ladies, unless otherwise stated in the specific rule applying to that particular competition.
- 1.14 Silverware/Main Competitions Entries:** Will have an entry sheet displayed on the main notice board at least one month prior to the date of the competition. The poster will advise any particular conditions for that competition, particularly format of play and handicap allowance.
- 1.15 Buggies:** Are permitted for all qualifying and knockout competitions. Buggies are not allowed for any competition played over 36 holes in one day, the only exception to this is where a player has a medical exemption certificate issued by a doctor, or other relevant medical professional.
- 1.16 Trophies:** All trophies are retained on display in the Clubhouse and are held by the winner for one year only and can never be won outright.
- 1.17 All Competitions results are deemed final when a notice announcing the result has been posted on the club notice board.**

1.18 Rules for Knockout Competitions

- 1.18.1 The Entry Fee:** shall be as per the displayed notice, per player, and should be paid in the Pro-shop at the time of entry. Members who have not paid the entrance fee will not be included in the draw.
- 1.18.2 A Draw:** will be held for opponents in the first round and play thereafter shall proceed according to the match sheet.
- 1.18.3 Tees:** All matches must be played from white tees for men & red tees for ladies, and shall be played out over 18 holes and starting from the first tee only to allow for the stroke indexes to have their correct effect. In the event of the match being level after the initial 18 holes then extra holes again starting from the first tee must be played in 'sudden death' format with the winner(s) being the first to win a hole, taking handicap into account and based on the format being played.
- 1.18.4** The official start time/tee time clock will be the clock situated externally to the clubhouse. Should this not be working then players are likely to be able to use a mobile phone clock time (usually accurate) or any other timepiece that they mutually agree is the correct time.
- 1.18.5** Order of play on first tee: On the first teeing ground, both in Stroke Play and Match Play, the side that has the honour (i.e. plays first) is determined by the order of the draw. In the absence of a draw, the honour should be decided by lot (e.g. tossing a coin).
- 1.18.6 Contact:** Players must give their telephone numbers to the Pro-shop staff to enable contact to be made by their opponents. It is the responsibility of player(s) named FIRST on the match sheet to approach the opponent(s) at least fourteen days before the last day on which the match can be played, and to offer three separate dates for the match, one day of which must be a Sunday and the dates must allow for AM and PM start times. Players must be flexible and cannot stipulate that they can only

play at certain times. The Committee will be informed ASAP if there is no agreement and will make a final decision. By entering the knockout competitions, players authorise the club to give out their telephone numbers to any of their opponents, to enable contact.

1.18.7 Agreeing a Date: If there can be no agreement, both sides having complied with the fourteen-day rule, the match shall be decided on the toss of a coin, adjudicated by the person responsible for running the competition, or his nominated deputy, on the last day of the due date for completion of that round. If no sides are present then the toss of the coin will be carried out with a committee member making the call and the decision will be final.

1.18.8 Knockout results: Winners to update match result and ensure that this has been done by the last date for the round.

1.18.9 EXTENSION OF TIME WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR ANY ROUND PRIOR TO THE FINAL.

2. General Local Rules and Conditions

2.1 Out of Bounds:

- a. Beyond any fence bounding the course.
- b. Beyond any white stakes bounding the course.

2.2 Stones (Loose impediments) & Rakes (Movable obstruction) in Bunkers: can be removed, but are subject to Rules 15.1(a)(b) & 15.2 (a)(b) respectively.

2.3 Fixed Sprinkler Heads, Irrigation Covers, Warning Bell Posts, Fascia Sleepers, Pylons, Yardage Markers and Ball Washer Posts: Are all immovable obstructions and relief from interference from them may be obtained under Rule 16.1a (1), **EXCEPT** when the ball is in a penalty area.

2.4 Pylons, Cable Poles and Overhead Cables: If a ball strikes a pylon, cable, pole or overhead cable, that stroke **MUST** be replayed from as close to its original position as possible, without penalty in accordance

with Rule 14.6a or 14.6b. The ball may be cleaned or substituted prior to re-hitting.

2.5 Prohibited Areas of Play: If a player's ball lies in any of the following areas from which play is **prohibited**, or if such an area where **Play is Prohibited**, interferes with a player's stance or the area of intended swing the player **MUST** take relief under Rule 16.1a (Abnormal Ground Conditions). The ball may be cleaned or replaced when so lifted.

- 1) Any area clearly marked as 'Ground under repair.'
- 2) Within the total base area of the framework of pylons.
- 3) All roads and paths and path edgings on the course, even if not artificially-surfaced, are treated as immovable obstructions from which free relief **MUST** be taken.
- 4) The entire sand area of a bunker, if just a GUR sign is within the bunker.

Note; Where a ball comes to rest in an area of a bunker which is separately and clearly marked by a line as GUR, it must be dropped within that bunker for free relief to apply.

2.6 Protection of Young Trees: Protection of young trees identified by stakes, guards or white tags. If such a tree intervenes with a player's stance or area of intended swing, the ball must be lifted, without penalty, and dropped in accordance with the procedure described in Rule 16.1b (Immovable obstruction). The ball may be cleaned when so lifted.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rules 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6: Match Play - Loss of hole. Stroke Play - Two strokes penalty added to gross score.

2.7 Aeration Holes: On the putting green. If a ball lies in or touches an aeration hole on the putting green, a player may take free relief from that one hole, by placing the original or replacement ball on the spot of the nearest point of relief from THAT one aeration hole, that is not nearer the golf hole. No relief if aeration holes are merely on the line of play.

In the general area: Rule 16.1b relief - If a ball lies in or touches an aeration hole in the general area, a player may take free relief by placing the original or replacement ball on the spot of the nearest

point of complete relief from THAT aeration hole, that is not nearer the golf hole. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule.

But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play.

2.8 Preferred Lies: These will apply yearly during the period 1st Oct to 30th April inclusive. Outside of these dates preferred lies will only be allowed if the club posts a notice with details of the additional preferred lies situation.

Preferred Lies Rule: When a player's ball lies in any part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief once, by placing the original ball or another, in the general area and not nearer the hole and within 6 inches (15cm) from the spot of the original ball.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b (2) and 14.2e.

Important Points of Etiquette:

Divots: Are to be replaced and stamped down.

Pitch Marks: On greens must be properly repaired, pitch marks in the general area must be made good.

All Marks Made in Bunkers: Must be smoothed over for the benefit of others.

Speed of play: Ready golf is to be encouraged to speed up pace of play.

Players are reminded that they **should** give way to faster groups be they one, two, three or four ball.

Note: At weekends speed of play will be that of a four ball; in general, a four-ball medal should be completed within four hours of the first teeing off time. Teams who persistently take longer may be spoken to by a member of the committee who may advise on methods to speed up play where possible.

A single player: Has no standing, however, they should be advised to team up with other groups where possible or, once on the course given due consideration when there is space for them to move forward once let through by slower groups.

Bag Tags: All players, members and visitors must display a valid membership tag or day ticket or have it available for inspection.