



# COMPETITION RULES, CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION & REGULATIONS AT BROMSGROVE GOLF CLUB

## Introduction

All competitions will be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A and Local Rules, Conditions of Competition and Regulations as shall be approved by the Competition Committee.

All of the rules etc set out below are informed by the R&A's Committee Procedures guidance contained within the Rules of Golf ([www.randa.org/rog/committee-procedures](http://www.randa.org/rog/committee-procedures)), but are not exhaustive. The Competition Committee will use the R&A's document to address any competition issues as they arise, updating this document as necessary.

These rules should be read in conjunction with the individual competition rules sheets posted in the locker rooms ahead of and during competitions.

## General Considerations

1. The maximum number of players on any tee time will not exceed four, no matter the competition.
2. Course reduced to 9-holes on a day when an 18-hole competition is scheduled. Under these circumstances, the 18-hole competition will be cancelled as it is not permissible to play the same 9-holes twice from the same tee boxes. Note: this rule does not apply to matchplay competitions where it is permissible to play the same 9 holes twice.
3. Playing two competitions simultaneously. There are two aspects to this rule:
  - a. The combining of two official club competitions (eg, strokeplay and matchplay) in a single round is **not** permitted.
  - b. Players may, however, combine an official club competition (eg, monthly Medal or Stableford) with a friendly competition (eg, best two scores to count) provided that the rules pertaining to the official club competition are adhered to throughout. For example, players must putt out in strokeplay to record a score.
4. Practice on the course. Rules 5.2a and 5.5a are modified in this way: A player **must not** practice on the course before a competition round. Players, however, may use the range, short-game area or putting green near the 1<sup>st</sup> tee to practice. Penalty for breach of this Local Rule:
  - a. General Penalty (2 strokes) applied to the player's first hole for the first breach.
  - b. Disqualification for the second breach.

5. Round starting point.
  - a. All 18-hole rounds in club competitions must commence from the 1st tee, unless a Condition of Competition necessitates starting elsewhere on the course (eg, shotgun starts).
  - b. All 9-hole competitions will be run over holes 1-9.
  
6. Booked start times. Any start time booked by the competitor will have the same status as one allocated by the Competition Committee and/or the Competition Co-ordinator.
  
7. Starting Times (Rule 5.3a).
  - a. The player **must** start at (and not before or after) his or her starting time.
  - b. If a player (playing in a singles competition) arrives at the teeing ground ready to play **no more than 5 minutes** late or the player starts no more than 5 minutes early, the general penalty is applied to:
    - i. the first hole in match play, ie loss of hole.
    - ii. the first hole in strokeplay, ie two strokes.
  - c. If **more than 5 minutes** elapses, then the penalty is disqualification.
  
8. Single Player in a Pairs or Team Competition. A side may be represented by one or more partners for all or any part of a competition; all partners need not be present. If one player arrives after the start of a hole, then they are not allowed to play until the next hole.
  
9. Multi-day competitions. For the Men's Club Championship, Senior Men's Club Championship and the Ladies' Club Championship, the Playing Handicap on the first day of play will also apply on the second day of play.
  
10. Course maintenance during a round. Where course maintenance, such as cutting of greens, fairways, or rough, or the raking of bunkers, takes place during a round, the results of the competition will stand.
  
11. Buggies are available for use in competitions subject to course conditions on the day and on a first come basis. A maximum of two players in any group may use a buggy to carry their clubs etc, and to sit and ride in it. All other players in that group must not sit, ride or use the buggy in any way under any circumstances. The General Penalty (two strokes) will be applied for each hole during which there is a breach of this rule.
  
12. Caddies: There is no restriction on the use of caddies in Club competitions, except that a player may have no more than one caddy. However, players must recognise that any failure by the caddy to observe the rules will reflect on the player and could lead to Penalties where the caddy breaches a rule.
  
13. Bad weather policy: The Club's policy on suspension of play due to lightning or other bad weather conditions can be found within the documents section of the Club v1 app.

## Eligibility

14. All members will be eligible to play in monthly Medal and Stableford competitions irrespective of gender, age or WHS Handicap Index.

15. For the club's Trophy competitions (Knockouts, Scrambles, Pairs and Team events, etc), eligibility requirements will be set out in the individual competition's rules sheet. These are in the respective locker rooms. In summary, these state that competitions are:
- a. Open to all members with a WHS Handicap Index, who must have submitted Acceptable Scores in a minimum of 3 x 18-hole competitions in the 12 months prior to:
    - i. The closing date of all trophy competitions.
    - ii. The start date of all knockout competitions.
  - b. Acceptable Scores can't be submitted from Matchplay, Team (such as Scrambles and Am-Ams), Greensomes or Foursomes competitions, or from General Play Rounds.
16. As the Ladies' Vets Cup and the Senior Ladies' Winter League are 9-holes only, the eligibility requirements for these competitions have been relaxed to 3 Acceptable Scores whether in 9-hole or 18-hole competitions.
17. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, members without a Handicap Index but who have submitted three cards to receive a Handicap Index, will have:
- a. Exemption from the eligibility criteria referenced in 15a above for a period of three months only.
  - b. Their exemption period commencing from the issue date of their Handicap Index.
  - c. To submit Acceptable Scores from 3 x 18-hole qualifying competitions (eg, Medals and/or Stablefords) within the three-month exemption period to maintain eligibility for the club's Trophy competitions.
18. The laminated poster on the competition noticeboards explains what constitutes an Acceptable Score.
19. It is the player's responsibility to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria for trophy competitions as specified in rule 15 above. Failure to meet the criteria means that, whilst they may still be able to play in the competition (at the Co-ordinators' discretion), they will not be able to win the competition or a prize (nor will playing partners if a pairs or team event). No refund of entry fees will be made.
20. No refund of entry fee will be made after the closing date of the competition should a player withdraw or is disqualified. Substitutions for pairs or team competitions may be allowed at the Co-ordinator's discretion.

## **Entry Requirements**

21. Monthly Medal and Stableford competitions. Entries can be made online using the Club v1 or How Did I Do apps or the Player Score Input (PSI) terminal in Golf Reception. Entry fees will be taken directly from the member's account card. Members must ensure they have sufficient funds on their account card to cover the entry fee.
22. Juniors who wish to play in monthly Medal or Stableford competitions must play their round with at least one adult playing within the two-, three- or fourball. Failure to play with an adult will result in:

- a. Disqualification from the competition and as such being ineligible to win prizes, and
- b. Their score still counting towards handicap adjustments.

23. Trophy competitions (except Club Championships). Entries can be made online using the Club v1 or How Did I Do apps. The starting and closing dates for entries to the competition will be set out in:
- a. An email to members; and/or
  - b. Posters displayed on noticeboards in Golf Reception and locker rooms.

Entry fees will be taken directly from the member's card account. Members must ensure they have sufficient funds on their account card to cover the entry fee.

24. A maximum of two Juniors may be part of any team entered for fourball trophy competitions.

25. Men's Club Championship (incorporating the Senior Men's Club Championship) and Ladies' Club Championship. Instructions on how to enter these competitions will be set out in an email from the respective Championship Co-ordinator. Currently entries are made by:
- a. sending an email to the Championship Co-ordinator; and
  - b. transferring payment to the Club's bank account.

## **Format of Competitions**

26. The format for each club competition will be specified in:
- a. an advisory email and/or on a poster displayed on the noticeboards in Golf Reception and in the locker rooms, and/or
  - b. in the competition's rules sheet displayed in the locker rooms.

## **Scorecards**

27. For trophy competitions, including Scrambles, competitors must:
- a. Before the round, ensure that their card accurately contains the following information:
    - i. The name and date of the competition, and allocated start time.
    - ii. Their name, Handicap Index and Playing Handicap (after adjustment for the Handicap Allowance).

For such competitions, the Competition Co-ordinator will have created a card that contains these details, but it is good practice to check that these are correct before you go out to play.

- b. On the 1<sup>st</sup> tee (or before), competitors must:
  - i. Exchange cards with a fellow competitor (the marker), if not a team competition.
  - ii. Note your name, Handicap Index and Playing Handicap (after adjustment for the Handicap Allowance) on the card you have received in exchange.
- c. The marker must record their score in the marker's column on the scorecard. In a Pairs competition, the marker should record their better ball score in the marker's column, and indicate to which player score it relates, eg by annotating their initials alongside the score.

- d. After the round, competitors must:
  - i. Check their score for each hole. If there is an error, strike through the incorrect score and record the correct score in an adjacent column. This must be initialled by the marker.
  - ii. Sign their card as a true record.
  - iii. Ensure that the marker has signed the card.
  - iv. Return the card to the place designated by the Competition Co-ordinator (see 26 below).

Players must submit all cards, even if they have had a poor round. Failure to do so without a valid reason will lead to penalty scores being applied. Incorrect completion of the scorecard may result in disqualification.

28. The scorecard is considered returned when the player has handed it to the Competition Co-ordinator, or, in the event of the Co-ordinator not being available, when the player has placed it in the scorecard box on the desk located in Golf Reception. Cards must be returned promptly after play.

29. Deciding ties. In the event of a tie, final positions will be decided on the following basis:

- a. last 9 holes, last 6 holes, last 3 holes, 18<sup>th</sup> hole. For the purposes of this rule, the last 9 holes are holes 10-18.
- b. If there is still a tie, then positions will be decided on the front 9 – final 6 holes, final 3 holes, and 9<sup>th</sup> hole.
- c. For team competitions where a single score is recorded, the relevant proportion of each team's Playing Handicap will be deducted from the gross score of the holes being considered, eg one-half for 9 holes, one-third for 6 holes, etc.

30. Monthly Medals and Stablefords. Players should enter their scores via either the Club v1 or How Did I Do apps or on the PSI terminal in Golf Reception. It is a requirement that in doing so, players record both their marker's name and whose card they marked. Note: PSI does not currently allow the marker's score to be added.

## **Knockout Competitions**

In addition to the above, the following rules and conditions of competition apply to knockout competitions.

31. Matchplay draws. With two exceptions, all matchplay competitions will involve a random draw generated by Club v1. For the Slideslow Cup and Winter Singles League, the draw is determined by the position of competitors in the qualifying competition, eg 1v32, 2v31, 3v30, 4v29. The draw will place 1v32 and 4v29 in the upper half of the draw and 2v31 and 3v30 in the lower half of the draw in line with guidance contained in Section 5, G(1) of the R&A's Committee Procedure.

32. Organisation of matches. Both players are responsible for organising their matches. Failure to complete matches by set deadlines may result in disqualification unless justifiable reason is provided to the Co-ordinators. The Co-ordinator's decision is final.

33. Disputes. If there is a dispute on this matter, it should be brought to the immediate attention of the Co-ordinators who will decide on the match. The Co-ordinators' decision is final.
34. Starting point. All matches should always start at the first hole. Competitors should toss a coin to determine the honour on the first tee of each match.
35. Match level after 18-holes (or 9-holes). Where a match is level after 18 holes (or 9-holes), it will continue for as many holes as it takes to determine the winner. Any shots received/given for the initial 18 holes (or 9-holes) will apply for the extra holes played. Note: This rule does not apply to the group stage of both the Senior Men's Winter Pairs and the Senior Ladies' Winter Pairs competitions.
36. Course reduced to 9-holes. Should the course be reduced to 9 holes, the match can still be played by playing the same 9 holes twice. Any odd number of strokes must be taken on the first nine holes played.
37. Suspension of play. Should a match be suspended because of bad weather or fading light, then the match must resume:
- a. at the point at which play was suspended, and
  - b. with the match position carried forward from the point at which play was suspended.
38. Result declaration. The winning player of each match is responsible for entering the result into the Club V1 app.
39. Refereeing the final. An official that is appointed by the Co-ordinator must referee the Final of all Knockout competitions.

**Competition Committee**  
**May 2024**

This document will be reviewed in March 2025.