

COMPETITION RULES, CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION & REGULATIONS



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), 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 match play 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, stroke play and match play) 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 1st 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, 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 at section 12 of the Members Handbook and within the documents section of the HDiD app. Where bad weather conditions affect a club competition, the following will apply.
 - a. Play is suspended for the duration of the lightning storm/fog, but the course reopens as soon as it has passed:
 - As required by the Rules of Golf, if the Centre (Committee) reopens the course after the suspension of play, then those Members who have entered a competition are required to go back out and complete their round from the point where they had marked their ball.
 - Failure to do so means disqualification from the competition and players may incur a Penalty Score if they fail to resume play when instructed to do so. This is an invalid reason for not completing the round.

- b. Play is suspended due to the lightning/fog and the course doesn't reopen within a reasonable time, eg within 1 hour of the actual time of suspension.
- The competition will be abandoned, and no winners will be declared.
However:
 - Players who have completed their round, at the time play is suspended, will submit their scores as usual.
 - Players who have completed at least 10 holes will be required to submit their score which will be scaled-up automatically to 18 holes by the WHS platform.
 - Any player who has completed less than 10 holes will not have a submitted score for WHS purposes. Nevertheless, they should still return their card as it will be processed using the actual scores achieved on the holes completed but designating those not played as "not started". This avoids the player receiving an automated email from England Golf.

Abandoned rounds (competition or general play) occur when play is stopped for dangerous or extreme weather conditions, and it is not possible for play to resume. These rounds do not result in Penalty Scores because the reason for suspending play is valid. When this situation arises, anyone who has completed 10 holes or more must enter their score for handicap purposes. As the competition is abandoned then entry fees for all entrants will be refunded.

- c. Where a match is discontinued by agreement between the players, they are not subject to disqualification, unless by doing so the competition is severely delayed. The match will resume later from the point where each player had marked their golf ball.

Eligibility

14. All members with a valid WHS Handicap Index will be eligible to play in monthly Medal and Stableford competitions irrespective of age or value of their 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 5 x 18-hole competitions in the 12 months prior to:
 - i. The start date of all trophy competitions.
 - ii. The closing date for entries 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 5 Acceptable Scores whether in 9-hole or 18-hole competitions.
17. With effect from 1st 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 for a period of three months only.
 - b. Their exemption commencing from the issue date of their Handicap Index.

- c. To submit Acceptable Scores from 5 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. At the discretion of the Competitions Committee, members who can demonstrate an enforced absence from golf for a period of 9 months or more due to illness or injury will be granted an exemption to the eligibility referenced in 15a. The exemption will last for a period of 3 months only, provided that they have not been granted a discretionary adjustment to their calculated Handicap Index at the point they ceased playing golf. The exemption period will commence from the date of their first general play or competition round of golf after the period of absence.

19. The laminated poster on the competition noticeboards explains what constitutes an Acceptable Score.

20. It should be noted that the Management Committee agreed to raise the minimum number of Acceptable Scores to:

- a. 6x18-hole qualifying competition cards from 1 April 2027.

This will bring Bromsgrove Golf Club into line with most other clubs in the region.

21. It is the player's responsibility to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria for trophy competitions as specified in rules 15 to 20 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.

22. No refund of entry fee will be made after the closing date of the competition should a player withdraw or be disqualified. Substitutions for pairs or team competitions may be allowed at the Co-ordinator's discretion.

Entry Requirements

23. Monthly Medal and Stableford competitions. It is a requirement that all competitors pre-register for monthly Medal and Stableford competitions prior to commencing play. Entries can be made online using the How Did I Do apps or the Player Score Input (PSI) terminal in Golf Reception. Failure to pre-register before the round begins, will result in the player being excluded from the competition. Any score returned will not be an acceptable score as defined by the WHS and therefore will not be allowed for handicapping purposes. 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.

24. 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.

25. Trophy competitions (including Club Championships). Entries can be made online using the How Did I Do app or via the PSI terminal at the Golf Club. 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.

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

27. Sanctions for no-shows in competitions. The Management Committee have agreed that all members **must** notify the Co-ordinator in the event of a withdrawal from a trophy competition and provide a good reason for not being able to play. This may allow the Co-ordinator to fill the place with someone from the reserve list, or to amend starting times. Failure by the player to do so will lead to the following three-stage sanction:

- 1 First offence: a warning letter setting out the consequences of further withdrawals without good reason
- 2 Second offence: a ban from the next two competitions for which the member was eligible
- 3 Third offence: a ban for the remaining competitions in that calendar year.

Note that unexpired portions of any ban will carry over to the following calendar year.

Format of Competitions

28. 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

29. 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).
 - iii. The Tee being played

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 1st 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 30 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.

30. 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.
31. 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, 18th 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 9th 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.
32. Monthly Medals and Stablefords. Players should enter their scores via either the How Did I Do app 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. Players will be disqualified under Rule 3.3 if they do not provide the name of their marker when entering their scores either on the app or on the PSI terminal. Single players cannot enter a Medal or Stableford unless they have someone who can act as their marker. (that person doesn't have to play in the competition).

Knockout Competitions

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

33. Matchplay draws. With two exceptions, all matchplay competitions will involve a random draw generated by Club v1.
 - a. For the Slideslow Cup, the top eight qualifiers in the draw will be seeded.
 - b. For the Winter Singles League, the top eight qualifiers from the league phase of the competition will be seeded..
34. Organisation of matches. All players are responsible for organising their matches and are encouraged to contact their opponents as soon as they are notified of the draw. Failure to complete matches by set

deadlines may result in disqualification for one or both players (or pairs) unless justifiable reason is provided to the Co-ordinator. In all events, the Co-ordinator will not grant an extension greater than two weeks beyond the deadline. The Co-ordinator's decision is final.

35. Disputes. If there is a dispute on any matter relating to the match, it should be brought to the immediate attention of the Co-ordinator who will decide based on the available evidence. The Co-ordinators' decision is final.
36. 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.
37. 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.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. Result declaration. The winning player(s) of each match is responsible for entering the result into the HDiD app.
41. Refereeing the final. An official that is appointed by the Co-ordinator must referee the Final of all Knockout competitions.

Competition Committee

March 2026

This document will be reviewed in March 2027.