**WHITWOOD GOLF CLUB GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITIONS**

\*Effective from 7th July 2012, Updated 1st November 2023

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The purpose of this document is to explain Club Competitions and specify the Competitions Conditions which govern these.

**REGC - RULES AND BY-LAWS**

2. Competitions and handicaps for members are governed by the Competition Committee and the Handicap Advisor. Competitions and handicaps shall be in accordance with the Rules of golf 2023 as laid down by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrew's and handicaps by the World Handicap System WHS 1st January 2020 for both ladies and men.

3. In addition, all competitions shall be subject to the following specific conditions and Local Rules as defined below or as set out on the rear of the scorecards. Further or revised Local Rules or other such conditions of a specific competition may be introduced at the discretion of the committee from time to time and will be displayed on the competition notice board.

4. All competitors are expected to familiarise themselves with these rules and ignorance of any specific competition rule or Local Rule will not be accepted as an excuse for failing to comply.

5. No competitions shall be arranged or played by members within the club except with the approval and under the control of the competitions committee.

6. All starting times allocated for members in Club competitions must be strictly adhered to.

7. Certain specific Rules governing stroke play are so substantially different from those governing match play that combining the two forms of play is not practicable and is not permitted. The result of a match played in these circumstances is null and void, in the stroke play competition, the competitors are disqualified. (Rule 33-1)

8. In the event of a dispute, the final decision will be made by the Competitions Committee.

9. To gain a handicap, new members must submit 54 holes marked by a member who has an Active Handicap.

b. In order to keep his/her Handicap active a member must return three cards from qualifying competitions within a calendar year.

c. To play in any club Major competition, all players must have returned a minimum of four cards from qualifying competitions within the previous 12 month calendar period.

10. Valid handicaps are required for play in competitions. In all Club Competitions only members with an Active Handicap may win a prize. In all Invitation or Open Competitions and Matches players from other clubs must have an Active Handicap. Prizes will not be handed over until such times as proof of handicap is produced.

11. Members must “sign in” via the PSI touch screen and pay their associated competition fees prior to commencing the competition. The penalty for non-observance of this by-law will be disqualification. Completed cards must be placed in the boxes provided on completion of a round. Players must first enter their scores on the P.S.I. computer.

12. Five day members are eligible to play in weekend competitions, providing they pay the associated green fee and competition entry fee.

13. A member shall not be eligible to play in any Club competition unless his or her Club subscription or other dues have been paid.

14. A player in a Club foursome or four-ball competition, withdrawing before the first round has been commenced, may be replaced with the consent of the Club Manager, or a member of the Competitions Committee.

15. Competitors in all Club competitions have precedence on the course over casual players. Tee reservations have priority on the course and it is the responsibility of members commencing play prior to such tee times to ensure they do not delay play of those following.

16. All competitions will be 18 Holes played from White Tees for Men and Red tees for women unless otherwise stated in this document and decided by the Competitions Committee. This will then move to the Yellow Tees for Men in the winter months .This will always be 95% course handicap unless stated beforehand differently. On occasions course condition may impact this rule; however players will be informed accordingly by a member of staff.

17. All competitions with 20 or more players will be split into 2 divisions with even pay out in each division. This been Division 1 (0-15 Handicaps) Division 2 (16+ Handicaps). In the event of there been less than 6 in each division the handicap limit in division 1 will be increased to make sure there is a minimum of 6 in each division . For 9 hole competitions the handicaps is (0-8 ) and (9+ ) again subject to there been a minimum of 6 in each division this will be amended accordingly .

18. Ties in stroke, par and stableford competitions will be decided on the last eighteen holes, nine holes, six holes or the last three holes, or as specified in the conditions of entry for a Club Competition.

19. In match play knockout competitions all rounds will be played until a result is obtained.  Play in all knockout competitions must start from the 1st tee.Players in knockout competitions must abide by the rules detailed in this document.

20. Any dispute regarding play shall be decided by the referee, who will be the Club Manager and/or a member of the Competitions Committee. Disputes may be referred to the Handicap Advisor whose decision will be final.

21. If the number of participants in a competition is below 6, the competition will be abandoned, no prizes will be awarded and the Entry Fees will be refunded. This is apart from when playing in a final where the likelihood is there will be a smaller amount of players and discretion of the committee there decision will be final.

**22.**  If the course becomes unplayable and is closed by the green staff, the competition shall be cancelled and may be rearranged. If, however, competitors choose either not to play, or to discontinue play because of bad weather and the course remains open, the competition shall be deemed to have been played and will not be re-scheduled. If less than 50% of the competitors don’t finish there round due to adverse weather the completion will be null and void and monies will be refunded.

23. Entry fees for the 2024 season are to be as follows –

**General Competition** - £3.50

**Pairs Event** – £7 per pair

**Memorial** - £4.50

**Major** - £7.50

**Twos** - £1.50

24. There is an optional ‘twos’ sweep where players pay £1.50 to enter. If no two’s or 1’s are recorded, it is rolled over to the next competition. There is a separate pot for each day Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.  All pay outs will be made to member’s cards with the usual 30% going back to the member’s fund. This will be paid out at the same time as previous weeks winners receive their money on the following Monday.

**TIED**

25. In the event of tied competitions, unless specified under individual competition rules, the results will be decided ‘the Back 9 option will resolve a tie by the lowest total of the back 9 (holes 10 – 18) scores, followed by back 6 then back 3, 2 and 1, then if scores remain tied the front 9 will be used in the same way’. If still equal the result is a tie.

**PRIZE MONEY**

27. 30% of all entry fees are retained by the club to be put into a members fund for the club committee to decide what they want to use it for. This includes engraving of trophies, winners’ boards, Rabbits & Tigers League Subscriptions etc. All prize money will be credited to “members’ cards” the following Monday on a pay out from the week previous. The Competition Committee has total discretion to vary any of the above, particularly if the total entries are either exceptionally small or large.

**DRAWN COMPETITIONS**

28. **“Major”** competitions will be drawn events. A registration sheet will be placed on the bar 2/3 weeks prior to the competition. There will also be availability to sign in using the PSI touch screen. Once all entries have been made a random draw will be completed by staff on the Friday Morning for the Major with closing date close of Play Thursday. Players will be drawn in groups randomly and in accordance with entries made. All competitors will receive an email with their times given in accordance with the time zone selected.

The club staff will accommodate late entries; however the original draw will stand. Players who express a wish to play after the draw has been made will be added to an existing 3-ball, determined by a member of staff.

In order to try to accommodate all members, each draw will have 2 time zones:

Zone 1 – am morning

Zone 2 – pm after 12pm

Players are required to indicate which zone they would prefer, when using the registration sheet. The club staff will endeavour to accommodate players’ individual preferences. There has to be a minimum of 3 players in an afternoon and if there isn’t enough will have the opportunity to be put in the morning or given their money back.

Please note every player must have played a minimum of four qualifying rounds in that calendar year to be eligible to compete in a Major event.

**OTHER DRAWN COMPETION**

29. New competition from April 2024 is the creation of a “Finals Day”. This will replace the old Finals week. All winners of General Competitions will qualify to play in a finals Day.

**General competitions** are competitions played weekly that cost £3.50 and are played under the formats of Medal , Stableford, Par/Bogey and 9 hole competitions over the qualifying period from when the White markers go out in April .

This will run until the 30th September. Once this has finished a list of winners will be contacted to confirm they are eligible to play in the finals day to be arranged in October in accordance with the fixture list published before the start of the season.

It is the player’s responsibility to confirm they can play.

The format for the final will be 18 Hole Stableford of White tees for Men and Red for Women.

This will be randomly drawn the Thursday before the Saturday’s competition and the committee has agreed to waver the Green fee for any 5 Day member on this occasion only.

There will be 2 divisions with both divisions winner receiving £40 on their member’s card coming out of the member’s fund.

**Division 1 Handicaps 0-15** (Playing Handicap)

**Division 2 Handicaps 16+** (Playing Handicap)

**POSTING OF RESULTS**

30. The Club Staff aim to post all results, on the respective boards, within 2 days of the competition.

**KNOCKOUTS  - GENERAL RULES**

31. The following knock-out competitions are held during the season:

**Goodwin Trophy** (for handicap 16+)

Medal format 95% allowance Of Yellow Markers for Men Red Markers Women (Club Competition that then takes on Match-play format with 90% handicap allowance)

**Lease Cup Pairs** Best four teams from Saturday and Sunday to qualify (Club Competition that then takes on match-play format 90% allowance four ball better ball)

32. Entry must be made, and associated entry fees paid, prior to the expiry of “First Round Date”. During pairs’ knockouts, one of the partners can be replaced prior to playing the first round.

**MATCH ARRANGEMENTS**

33. ‘Player & Challenger’ Method

Match play arrangements are as follows:

a.)      The first named competitor(s) shall be the ‘Player(s)’, their opponent(s), the ‘Challenger(s)’.
b.)      The Challenger(s) shall offer the Player(s) THREE dates/time, to include ONE weekend date/time, before the “Play by Date”. The latest date offered may be the ‘Play on/by’ date. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, e.g., closure of the course, illness, etc., it is not possible to play the match on the initially agreed date, the Challenger(s) may offer other date(s), BUT NO extensions will be permitted to the ’to be played on/by’ date. Any match not played by the ‘to be/ played on by date’, shall be declared void.
c.)      Should the ‘Challenger(s) fail to meet the above requirements; the Player(s) will automatically progress into the next round. When the Challenger conforms to the above requirements and the Player is unavailable to play, then the Challenger will progress to the next round.

It is the responsibility of the winning player(s) to post his/her (their) name(s) and result on the draw sheet for entering the next round. If a match is not played, then both players/pairings will be disqualified.

34*.* Any difficulties should immediately be referred to the Competition Committee who shall make a binding ruling and their decision shall be final.

35. Match play cannot be combined with a Stroke Play Competition - See Rule 33.1.

36. All matches must start at the First tee and WHITE tees will be used. In the event of any match being tied it will be decided by “sudden death” play off on a hole by hole basis (usual stroke allowances continue to apply).

**DISPUTES**

37. If during play, uncertainty or disagreement on rules occurs, play must continue. However, before playing off the next tee the player who believes his opponent has infringed the rules must lodge a claim with him. The match must then be played out to a result using both possibilities. The claim must then be referred to the Chairman of the Competition Committee with the player specifying the infringement of the rules, which his opponent has Perpetrated. This must be done at the earliest opportunity and before the result is posted. The Chairman of the Competition Committee will give a prompt and final decision.

**SCORECARDS**

38. The competitor / team is responsible for accurately recording the following information on the scorecard:

Name or names

Current handicaps

Name and date of competition

White \ Yellow /Red Tees

Score for each hole

40. The competitor will ensure that the marker has entered the correct gross score for each hole played and that both the player and marker have signed the card prior to placing it in the competition box. **Note:** Scorecards must be placed in the competition box or handed directly to a member of the committee if there is one so delegated to collect the cards for a specific competition such as an open or invitation days. On no account should a player hand his card to a third party. In the case of a ‘better ball competition’ the marker should clearly identify the player whose score is to count on each hole.

All scorecards must be checked and signed prior to leaving the course.

**THE COMPETITION**

41. Each competitor having placed there name on the competition entry sheet or signed in the PSI Touch screen or indicated to staff they want entering will be signed in and charged for the competition. There will be no refunds apart from exceptional

Circumstances that must be communicated before play or in the event of an emergency while playing at the discretion on the Club Manager.

**Penalties:** Failure to pay the entrance fee, the return of an incorrect, incomplete or unsigned

Scorecard will result in disqualification.

42. A competitor should not discontinue play for reasons other than those stipulated under Rule 6-8 of the Rules of Golf. Persistent failure to finish a competition round without good reason being offered to the Club Committee may result in exclusion from competitions. Any competitor in a club stroke play competition who fails to return his card will be disqualified.

 **COMPETITIONS FORMATS**

Please see the below list of specific competitions played and there formats.

**Spring Cup (Major)**

Stableford format over 18 Holes. White Tees for Men and Red for Women

Two Divisional split with each division receiving the same winnings

Division 1 0-15 (Handicaps) Division 2 16+ (Handicaps)

**Club Championship (Major)**

Medal Play, 36 Holes played over 2 consecutive days. The player with the lowest gross score wins the Club Champion Trophy and the player with the lowest nett score wins the Nett Trophy. The same player cannot win both.

**Neville Dooler Trophy (Major)**

Medal Play, 18 Holes competition with prizes for best Nett and best Gross. Winnings will be split evenly over the two divisions. For honours board you can’t be on both so it will go to the second best player in the Nett Division.

**Jubilee Salver (Major)**

 Medal Play, 18 Holes competition with prizes for best Nett and best Gross. Winnings will be split evenly over the two divisions. For Honours board you can’t win both so it will be given to the second best score in the nett division.

**Autumn Cup (Major)**

18 Holes Medal format for handicaps 0-15

18 Hole Stableford format for Handicaps 16+

Pay-out for winner will be split evenly between both divisions

**Leese Cup** (Pairs Event)

Fourball Betterball (pairs) 90 % handicap allowance

Total of 8 pairs to qualify to be drawn out into three knock out rounds

All rounds to be played as a Fourball Betterball match play.

This will be 4 from Saturday and 4 from Sunday.

In the event of a team qualifying and playing again the following day the next best team will be put through to the knockout stage.

**Lambert Trophy**

 **(Pairs Event classed as Memorial points for player/senior of year)**

Fourball Betterball medal 90% handicap allowance

Open to all members who have an active handicap

Any pairing

**Tiger Trophy (Classed as Memorial for player/senior of the year points)**

18 Hole Medal Play of White Markers – Handicap (0-15)

**Veterans Trophy (Memorial)**

18 Hole Medal format to be played of Yellow Tees for Men,

 Red Tees Women.

All players must be 50 years of age on the day of the competition

**Ron Howarth Memorial Trophy (Memorial)**

18 Hole Stableford Competition

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**Perkins Trophy (Memorial)**

18 Hole Stableford format for Handicaps (16+)

**Bryan Bullock Memorial Trophy (Memorial)**

18 Holes Stableford format

**John Rogers Trophy (Memorial)**

18 Medal format (0 -15 Handicaps)

18 Stableford format (16+ Handicaps)

**The Red & White / Red & Yellows (Non Qualifiers)**

Stableford format each player tees off from the Red tees on the first 9 holes, then from the White/ Yellow Tees on the last 9 holes. Dependant on what time of year the markers are out.

**Greensomes/ Mixed Greensomes**

Medal Competition (Pairs)

Both players tee off on every hole, and then they decide which ball to play. They must then play alterative shots until the ball is in the hole. (Lower handicap 60% + Higher Handicap 40%)

**ADDITIONAL PLAYER AWARDS**

**Player of the Year (Jim Cotton Trophy) –**

This is too introduced in April 2024 additional terms of competition can be found on a separate document outlining the rules and terms and conditions. This will be deciding by a points based system.

For further details see criteria of Player of the year in the clubs policies

**Senior Player of the Year 60+ (David Large Trophy) –**

This is too introduced in April 2024 additional terms of competition can be found on a separate document outlining the rules and terms and conditions. This will be deciding by a points based system.

For further details see criteria of senior player of the year in the clubs policies

**Most Improved Golfer**

This will be the golfer whose handicap has come down the most from the qualifying period.

 The Qualifying period is to start once White markers go out in April up until 30th September annually.

For further details see criteria of most improved golfer in the clubs policies

**Whitwood Golf Club Club/Competitions Committee**

1st November 2023