

COMPETITION GUIDELINES & RULES

AMENDMENTS MARCH 2015

These guidelines and rules are set and regularly reviewed by the Management Committee. They are intended to provide the best and fairest possible competitive conditions for all Seniors to achieve their desire for a thoroughly enjoyable golfing experience. We also try to tailor our competitions to accommodate the Club's elderly statesmen for them to enjoy the company of other Seniors in a competitive but relaxed atmosphere.

ENTRY TO COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES

- 1 All Seniors should note the programme of matches, competitions and other events published in the club diary, on the Seniors noticeboard and on the Club website. Seniors are also advised to watch the noticeboard for up-coming and re-arranged or re-scheduled competitions, matches and other events.
- 2 Competitors in Seniors individual strokeplay competitions must have an active Club handicap to be able to win. See the paragraph on **HANDICAPS** below for further information.
- 3 The normal process for publishing notices relating to competitions is for the notice inviting Seniors to enter the competition to be displayed 4 weeks prior to the competition, and the starting sheet to be displayed 10 days prior to the competition. Guest Day and Captain's Day may be exceptions to this timetable where the first notice may be posted on the noticeboard six weeks or more prior to the competition.
- 4 Competition invitation sheets are displayed for Seniors to append their names to enter and where appropriate enter their handicap and preferred starting time (E = early, M = middle, L = late). Tee off times are usually scheduled between 07:30 (the earliest time consistent with daylight hours and in accordance with Club directives) and 10:45 (occasionally later, but often earlier if the number in the number in the field does not warrant it).
- 5 All tee time groupings are 'drawn' to take account of individual starting time preferences to promote camaraderie and add to the social enjoyment of the game of golf.
- 6 The field for each of the twelve monthly medal and stableford competitions is, as far as practical, divided according to handicap into three equally divided divisions: gold, silver and bronze. Three-ball groups are allocated for these competitions. The basic procedure is to randomise players as far as possible but make adjustments where potential problems may arise, such as separating known players who have difficulty with the pace of play and long handicappers who could be intimidated playing with low handicappers. To do this effectively the Competition Secretary and his sub committee need to continually acquire knowledge of Seniors to whom this could apply so that necessary adjustments to the starting sheet can be made.
- 7 Once the starting sheet has been published no alterations of any kind are allowed unless authorised by a committee member. However, a number of additional tee times can be provided at the end for late applications. Seniors may add their name to the late application list appended to the starting sheet to apply for one of these, but they must note that if this is done more than twice during the calendar year, the competition secretary will ask for an explanation as to why this was necessary.
- 8 It is in the ethos of Seniors' competitions that members applying to play in any competition have an obligation to play unless they have reasonable cause to withdraw. As it is impossible, if not inappropriate, to specify reasonable causes to withdraw, the Seniors trust in the member's own judgement to decide.

- 9 On the day of the competition Starters will amend the starting sheet as needed to ensure everyone gets a game and to ensure smooth running of play. Their decision is final.
- 10 Monthly competitions have priority over non-monthly competitions. In the event of late postponement of a monthly medal or stableford competition, and to ensure it is played as soon as possible afterwards, the Starters may postpone an already scheduled non-monthly competition (e.g, a Top Dogs round, Texas Scramble, Four Club or Greensomes). In these cases the published starting sheet will be used for the substituted monthly competition date and the non-monthly competition will be re-scheduled.
- 11 The Committee will incorporate 9 hole competitions to coincide with other competitions as they deem appropriate. These competitions are played over the nine holes stipulated by the Club. A minimum of five players is required for these competitions to take place.

SCORECARDS

Scorecards are issued by the Starter for individual and team strokeplay and bogey competitions except the Top Dogs competition. These are issued before play showing competition name, player's name, date, tee time, and starting tee. Scorecards for team competitions also show team members identified as player A, B, C or D. Players must enter on their scorecard their Club handicap. Scores must be entered into the Club computer system and posted into the Club Office, or if the computer system is not in operation, they must be handed to a member of the Competition Committee within 30 minutes of completing a competition round

HANDICAPS

1. **QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS & QUALIFIED COURSES** - All Seniors strokeplay competitions are 'qualified competitions'. This means that provided the course at the time they are played is set-up by the Club in accordance with CONGU 'qualified course' requirements, returned scores will be subject to handicap review. Unfortunately, at the present time, the Club does not guarantee to provide 'qualified courses' during the months of October through to March.
2. **UNIFIED HANDICAPPING SYSTEM** - The Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) handicap allowances (Unified Handicapping System) are adopted for all Seniors competitions.
3. **INACTIVE HANDICAPS** - Anyone with an inactive handicap may participate in Seniors individual strokeplay competitions in order to return a 'Supplementary Score Card' to count towards an 'active' handicap or to participate in a 'social' round, but they will not be eligible to win. A fee equivalent to a normal competition entry fee is charged for inactive handicappers on their first entry to an individual strokeplay competition in the registration year and stands as their registration fee for the year.

Inactive handicappers may participate in 'fun' competitions using their inactive handicap. This includes Texas Scrambles and matches versus the Ladies and the Juniors provided these Sections agree. Inactive handicappers may not participate in inter-club matches.

All Seniors are urged to acquaint themselves with regulations on active/inactive handicaps published by the Club in order to do all they can to acquire and maintain an active handicap. Seniors who persistently avoid acquisition of an active handicap will be referred to the Committee for them to consider what action, if any, should be appropriate.

4. **TEMPORARY WINTER HANDICAPS** - In the event of a winter strokeplay competition being played over a non-qualified course, temporary winter handicaps will be triggered. Initial handicaps will be based on the results of the first non-qualifying competition for that

winter season and will come into effect for each subsequent non-qualifying strokeplay competition during that winter period.

REPORTING FOR PLAY: STROKEPLAY COMPETITIONS (NOT THE TOP DOGS COMPETITION)

1. All players must report to the Official Starter to collect their card and pay their entry fee no later than 10 minutes before their tee time (25 minutes if starting at the 10th tee or for a shotgun start).
2. The Seniors Committee may impose a 2 stroke penalty if a player reports 5 minutes or more late of their reporting time and will disqualify a player arriving after their tee time unless that person is participating in a team competition.
3. The Starter will only accept late additions to the field up to 20 minutes before the last tee time.

ABSENCES – STROKEPLAY COMPETITIONS (NOT THE TOP DOGS COMPETITION)

1. If a player is unable to play in a Seniors' competition, he must contact the Starter as soon as possible at his home at a socially acceptable hour to have his name deleted so that a substitute played can be found. Only management committee members are allowed to make deletions or other amendments to the starting sheet for team competitions.
2. If an absenting player's name remains on the starting sheet at the time of any competition it is their responsibility to contact the starter personally at least 15 minutes prior to the start time of the competition at the clubhouse on 01255 424331 to advise their absence. It is recommended that players do not rely on a third party to notify absence.
3. If contact is not made in good time, then that member may, at the discretion of the Competition Secretary, be barred from up to **two** of the next competitive strokeplay rounds organised by the Seniors for which the member is eligible to enter, other than Captain's Day, Guest Day, Top Dogs and the Turkey Shoot. The barred member will be verbally notified by the Competition Secretary.

DRAWN & KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

1. Once a draw has been made substitutions will only be permitted by the management committee in exceptional circumstances.
2. No extensions of closing dates for the rounds will be granted although special arrangements will be made in the event of prolonged course closure.
3. Winners of matches are responsible for recording results. In the event of a match not being played, or the result not being posted by the final date designated, both sides will be disqualified from the competition.

RULES OF CHALLENGE FOR KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

1. It is strongly recommended that delays in fixing match dates are avoided. The first named individual or pair is responsible for contacting their opponent(s) to arrange the date and time for a match.
2. If a date and time to play a match is agreed then non-appearance by one side will allow the other side to claim the match. Once the time and date have been agreed it may only be altered with the agreement of both sides. Provided the course has not been declared by the Club as 'closed' the match must be played. The number of holes and/or temporary holes is not a factor in determining whether a match can be played or not. Closing date extensions

will not be allowed to accommodate unplayed matches.

3. If a date and time for the match cannot be arranged then a side may claim the match first by reporting to a member of the management committee to ensure correct procedures are established, then secondly, by standing adjacent to the 1st tee being ready and equipped to play the match at 2 pm on the last day stipulated for the round. If the opposing side do not attend by 2.05 pm they will be disqualified from the competition.
4. If both sides in the match attend the 1st tee by 2.05 pm on the last stipulated day for the round, then the match shall be played as soon as the tee becomes free.

RULING ON TIES IN STROKEPLAY COMPETITIONS (COUNTBACKS)

Should a tie result in either a medal or stableford competition the winner(s) and subsequent placings will be decided on countback of net score or points as follows:

1	The last 9 holes of the course	10	The last 10 holes of the course
2	The last 6 holes of the course	11	The last 11 holes of the course
3	The last 3 holes of the course	12	The last 12 holes of the course
4	The last hole of the course	13	The last 13 holes of the course
5	The last 2 holes of the course	14	The last 14 holes of the course
6	The last 4 holes of the course	15	The last 15 holes of the course
7	The last 5 holes of the course	16	The last 16 holes of the course
8	The last 7 holes of the course	17	The last 17 holes of the course
9	The last 8 holes of the course	18	By lot

Net scores in medal must be applied hole by hole. Countback is always made in the way described regardless of which hole the players started from.

RULES FOR TEXAS SCRAMBLE COMPETITIONS

1. These are medal competitions played off yellow tees. Handicaps are calculated at 19% of the combined handicaps of a team of 3. Exceptionally, in mixed Texas Scramble competitions where there are teams of four, handicaps are calculated at 15% of the combined handicaps.
2. Seniors competitions are strictly played in teams of three and once published on the starting sheet, team members will be committed to play (subject to the rules under **ABSENCES** above). No provision is allowed for teams of 2 or 4. To facilitate inclusion of all Seniors in cases of absence of team members, the Starters will adjust team complements using reserves or, if necessary, making adjustments with other team complements. To help facilitate this two Management Committee members will be allocated to the penultimate tee time and the two Starters will be allocated to the last tee time. The two Management Committee members and the Starters will fill-in for non-attenders as needed. All non-Management Committee Seniors will get a game.
3. Members of teams are identified on the scorecard as either Player A, Player B, Player C or Player D (no Player D for teams of 3).
4. Each team member must use a minimum of four (five for teams of 3) but no more than five tee shots (eight for teams of 3). This must be recorded on the scorecard at each

- hole (either A, B, or C or D for a team of 4).
5. The team decides which tee shot or subsequent shot is to be 'used' at each hole. A marker is placed within 12 inches of the chosen ball, not nearer the hole. This ball is played by its owner first. Other team members follow by dropping their ball as close to where the first shot was made but no more than 2 feet of the marker and not nearer the hole. They then play their shot. If the marker interferes with their shot it may be temporarily moved and then replaced after the shot is made. A ball may be dropped again if it lands in a divot of a previous shot played by their team. Divots not made by the team may be replaced before a drop is made. Other contingencies are covered by Rule 20 of the R&A Rules of Golf.
 6. If the chosen ball is in rough, subsequent balls must be dropped in the same cut of rough.
 7. The team must not delay in choosing the ball to be played next. If a ball can only be found through searching in rough etc. and is clearly not going to be selected for the next shot, the team must abandon it. The owner of the ball may make a brief search to recover it provided this action does not slow the pace of play of the following team.
 8. On the green a marker must be used to mark the chosen ball. The marker should be placed 6 inches from the ball the same distance from the hole. Each team member then putts from the same spot. The first ball holed out determines the score for the hole.
 9. Rule 14-2 'Assistance' must be borne in mind. Make sure no one in the team stands on, or close to the line of play or of a putt. They must not stand in front or behind, when another team member is actually playing a stroke or a putt.
 10. A special scorecard is provided for these competitions which provides for a record of player's tee shots used. A synopsis of these rules is also provided on the reverse of the card.
 11. Non-adherence to these rules will result in disqualification.

(A variation of the Texas Scramble format is 'Drop-Out Texas Scramble'. This is identical in all respects to the format described above except that the person whose ball is chosen does not play a stroke from that position).

RULES FOR THE TOP DOGS' COMPETITION

1. Play is in a similar format to the main Club's Top Dogs' competition except that there are only eight rounds and all rounds are stableford format,
2. No player may play with the same partner as the previous year except the defending champions. No substitutions are permitted once the first round starting sheet has been posted on the noticeboard.
3. Each round is scored at 20 points to the winners, 19 points to 2nd etc. etc. down to 0 for the last place(s). Best 6 of 8 rounds (based on points awarded) decides the winners. A tie is decided by the highest number of points scored in the final round and then by countback (see page 10).
4. In the event of an odd number of competing pairs, a pair not listed to play with another pair in Top Dog matches should make up a 3 or 4 ball with non-competing members to have their card marked. Alternatively, each of the two players must mark a card for their partner as if playing singles, then hand in both cards to the organisers who calculate their better-ball score. On no account must a single card be used to record their scores.

5. Tee-off times stipulated by the starting sheet for Top Dogs rounds must be adhered to unless there is a delay caused by the weather or re-opening of the course after closure. However, a player arriving late may catch up and join in with a match already started, without penalty. Any such player must not play any holes between the first teeing hole and the hole where he joins the match. If this happens he will be disqualified from that round and his scores will not count.
6. The committee endeavour to arrange each round of this competition avoiding repetitions of starting times and four-ball groupings to thereby give a good mix of players and add to the social enjoyment of the game of golf.

COMPETITION PRIORITIES IN THE EVENT OF COURSE CLOSURES & INCLEMENT WEATHER

Unfortunately, it is often possible that course closures, course foreshortenings and inclement weather can cause postponements to a later date and, in extreme cases, cancellations. In cases of course foreshortenings and inclement weather, it will be the decision of the Competition Secretary in consultation with management committee members as he feels necessary, who will decide whether the competition will be played on that day. Seniors are asked to be aware that it may be impossible for this decision to be made until the last minute. Summer competitions are not normally affected but our winter competitions are listed here in priority order to provide a guide:

1. Monthly Stablefords
2. The Four Club Cup
3. The Turkey Shoot, and lastly
4. Individual Rounds of The Top Dogs Fred Mulford Trophy

It is often the case that we have to cancel a round or more of the eight round Top Dogs competition to accommodate priority competitions. The Committee will decide if the number of rounds to be played should be curtailed and, if more than one, how many rounds will count towards league placings.

PACE OF PLAY (R & A Rules of Golf 6-7 must be strictly observed).

A round of golf is about pleasure and enjoyment and not a race around the course but we must all observe the Golden Rule: "KEEP UP WITH THE GAME IN FRONT NOT JUST AHEAD OF THE GAME BEHIND".

In addition the following points of etiquette must be observed:

- Keep practice swings to a minimum.
- Catch up with the latest news in the clubhouse not on the fairway, the green or the tee.
- Be ready to play. If you have the honour on the tee, play your shot, then mark scores on the card afterwards. Cards must not be marked on or at the side of the green just played.
- Before walking onto the putting green to putt out, leave your trolley in a position for quick egress to the next tee.
- If when playing Stableford you have exhausted your shot allowance, do not delay your playing partners or the match behind - pick up your ball immediately.
- Play a provisional ball if you suspect your ball could be out of bounds.
- Do not lose time searching for balls that have gone out of bounds.
- If you lose a hole, you must let the following match through.
- You do not have to lose a hole on the players in front if it is apparent the following group can and are playing quicker, you should call them through.

- If on most occasions when you play there appears to be no one in front, seriously ask yourself if you are a player who genuinely & consistently keeps up with the pace of play and think of what you can do about it.

CONGU UNIFIED HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

On February 1st 2004 the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU®) introduced the Unified Handicapping System (UHS). From that date, and for the first time, the same set of rules for calculating and regulating handicaps applied to golfers, male and female, who are members of clubs affiliated to one of the eight Unions/Associations. These Unions/Associations are responsible for administering amateur golf, including handicaps, for club golfers in G.B. & I. This important step is intended to help and promote a greater mixed participation in the game of golf and to increase the enjoyment of the game at club level and beyond. The following CONGU handicap allowances are applied in all Seniors golf matches and competitions:

Singles Matchplay	Full difference between the handicaps of the two players
Foursomes Matchplay	Half the full difference between the aggregate handicap of either side
Four Ball Better Ball Matchplay	Highest handicapper to concede strokes to the other three players based on 3/4s of the difference between the full handicaps
Singles Bogey	Full handicap
Foursomes Bogey	Half the aggregate handicap of the partners
Four Ball Better Ball Bogey	Each partner receives 3/4s of their full handicap
Singles Strokeplay	Full handicap
Foursomes Strokeplay	Half the aggregate handicap of the partners
Four Ball Better Ball Strokeplay	Each partner receives 3/4s of their full handicap
Singles Stableford	Full handicap
Foursomes Stableford	Half the aggregate handicap of the partners
Four Ball Better Ball Stableford	Each partner receives 3/4s of their full handicap

To see the complete list of CONGU Recommendations go to their website at www.congu.com

