

**PORTAL GOLF CLUB**  
**MEN'S COMPETITION RULES**  
**(Effective 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018)**

**1 Responsibility for Competitions**

Competitions will be organised by the Competitions and Handicaps Committee in line with the R and A Rules of Golf and the Club Diary of events. Where a word is capitalised (MUST, CANNOT, WILL) this is a rule which if ignored will result in a penalty. Compliance with the current Men's Competition Procedure is mandatory and any non – compliance will be dealt with as appropriate.

These Rules along with relevant connected documents will be issued to all Members via e-mail, displayed in the Locker Rooms and may also be found on the Portal Golf Club website

**2 Eligibility for Competitions**

- a. To enter and win prizes in competitions, all competitors MUST be Members of the Club and have a handicap registered with the Handicap Secretary and one of the UK Golf Unions.
- b. Seven Day, Intermediate, Colt and PlayMoreGolf Members are eligible for all Competitions subject to any specific restriction in terms of age or handicap.
- c. Five-Day Members are not eligible to enter any Competitions played on Saturdays and Sundays (except, if a 5 Day Member has won a Division of a Mid-Week Medal, they are eligible to play in the Medal Winners Order of Merit Medal Competition on payment of the requisite green fee).
- d. Country Members will not be eligible for the Winter League, Knockout Competitions, and the Major Competitions as defined in 'e' below.
- e. Members wishing to enter and play in any of the Major Competitions (Founders, Inaugural, Oaklands, Captain's Day, President's Day, Club Championship, Scratch Trophy, Singles Knock-Out - Premier, Seniors' Trophy and Chairman's Trophy - Championship) must have a Competition Handicap on the actual Major Competition date or Knock Out Competition Entry Closure date.

**NOTE** – Members with handicaps that have been reactivated to 'competition' status using Supplementary Cards at Portal Golf Club or that have been obtained by the submission of three 'initial cards' at Portal Golf Club, are ineligible for entry to Major Competitions. These Members MUST have entered three qualifying competitions at Portal Golf Club in the twelve months prior to the actual Major Competition date or Knock Out Competition Entry Closure date.

- f. Juniors may compete in all Members Competitions provided they have been formally accredited by the Competitions and Handicaps Committee, they are over 14 years old on the Competition date and their Competition Handicap is no greater than 28. In all such Competitions, a Junior MUST play in a three ball with TWO adults. In Pairs Competitions, Juniors MUST compete with an adult and their handicap must be no greater than 28.

**3 Handicap Allocations and Reactivations**

The allocation of initial handicaps and reactivation of lapsed Handicaps MUST be done in accordance with the 'Men's Procedure for Handicap Allocations and Reactivations'

#### **4 Qualifying Competition Entry**

Entry into Qualifying Competitions MUST be done in accordance with the 'Men's Competition Procedure'

#### **5 Non-Qualifying Competition Entry**

- a. For all team competitions and other events, an Entry Sheet will be displayed on the Notice Board, on HDID or PSI Touchscreen normally 28 days before the Competition date.
- b. The Competition Organiser is responsible for all the arrangements before and during the Competition.
- c. If a Member finds he is unable to compete in the competition before the notice is taken down he can delete his name from the entry sheet. As a matter of courtesy, he should contact his playing partners.
- d. In a Pairs event, if a Pair withdraws they MUST inform their playing partners and organise a marker for the Pair still playing in the event.
- e. If the Entry Sheet has been taken down, the player MUST withdraw by doing the following :
  - i. Contact the Golf Shop and, provided they have the Entry Sheet, they will be able to take the person out of the Competition. The Golf Shop should also inform the person withdrawing the name of the Competitions Organiser and his contact phone number. Call the Competitions Organiser to inform him that you have withdrawn
  - ii. Ask the Golf Shop who their playing partners were going to be and contact them as a matter of courtesy to apologise for not playing.
  - iii. On the day of the Competition, the Golf Shop must be informed before your tee time and the above procedure followed where possible.

#### **6 Procedure on the Competition Day**

- a. A Member must be on the tee ready to play at the designated tee time. If a Member arrives at the tee no more than 5 minutes after his starting time a two-shot penalty in stroke play, or loss of hole in match play, WILL be imposed. If a Member is more than 5 minutes late on the tee he WILL be disqualified or WILL forfeit the match.
- b. It is the Member's responsibility to ascertain the conditions under which the Competition is played and for ensuring he plays in accordance with his current handicap as displayed on the PSI Touchscreen (but see also Rule 10g below).
- c. Each Member is responsible for his own safety and the safety of his fellow competitors. Macdonalds are ultimately responsible for Course Closure and Evacuation due to inclement weather or other conditions as stated by Macdonald's Representative at the Council Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
- d. The decision to suspend, abandon or cancel a competition due to inclement weather rendering the continuance of Competition play unfair will normally be taken by the Competition Organiser or in their absence the Competitions and Handicaps Chair, a member of the Competitions and Handicaps Committee, Captain or Vice-Captain. They will be responsible for communicating the decision to all the Members either on or off the course at the time. In the event of a competition being abandoned for any reason, if 75% of the field have completed the course then the result of the competition will stand.

## **7 Pace of Play**

- a. The Member **MUST** play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee has established. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the Member must not unduly delay play.
- b. For the purpose of preventing slow play, the Committee may, in the conditions of a competition establish pace of play guidelines including maximum periods of time allowed to complete a stipulated round, a hole or a stroke. Time allowance will be made for letting other groups play through.
- c. In stroke play only, the Committee may, in such a condition, modify the penalty for a breach of this Rule as follows: First offence – One stroke; Second offence – Two strokes.

## **8 Failure to Attend or Complete a Competition, or Failure to Comply with Entry Procedures.**

- a. The names of Members who fail to comply with these Competition Rules will be notified to the Competitions and Handicaps Chair. Following consideration of the transgression and the circumstances, Members may be subjected to a ban for up to the next three like competitions, subject to appeal. 'Like Competitions' means:-
  - i. Majors as shown in Section 2e. If insufficient Majors remain in the calendar the ban would be for the appropriate number of similar competitions, as below.
  - ii. Monthly competitions include both summer and winter weekend competitions irrespective of format, but excluding Majors as above.
  - iii. Mid-week competitions include both summer and winter midweek competitions irrespective of format.
  - iv. Team events include all competitions organised for pairs or teams of any nature.
- b. Members, who without prior notice, fail to attend a Competition they have entered **WILL** be deemed a "No Show" and subject to a first ban of two competitions or three bans for subsequent offences.
- c. In the event that another Member has entered another Member's name without their knowledge resulting in a "No Show" then both Members **WILL** receive a ban for the next one like competition.
- d. Members who fail to complete their round without a valid reason will be deemed to be a "Walk-Off", notified to the Competitions and Handicaps Chair, and subject to a ban from the next two like competitions, or three bans for subsequent offences. If the Member does have a valid reason for not completing the round they **MUST** mark their score card with the reason for leaving the course and have it signed by their Marker, enter the gross score for holes completed and ensure their score card is placed in the Competitions Box before leaving the course. A written explanation for the retirement may be required.
- e. Any Member who persistently fails to comply with the entry procedures regarding sign-in and score entry, or regularly makes a late withdrawal from competitions without providing an adequate explanation, may receive a ban from the next like competition, or up to three bans for subsequent offences.

- f. Any Member who is deemed to be a persistent offender in the 12 month period following an AGM, will be required to explain the reason to the Captain. In the absence of extenuating circumstances the Member may be banned for a further one month beyond and in addition to any other bans accruing, or a suspension of their handicap.
- g. Any Member(s) who wins through to the final of a Club Knock-Out Competition but is (are) unavailable to compete in the Final shall be disqualified and his (their) place(s) taken by the defeated semi-finalist(s). The Competitions and Handicaps Chair should be informed as soon as possible of the situation.
- h. In a Pairs Knockout where one Member is unavailable for health reasons, his playing partner may compete in the Final as a solo player.

## **9 Marking and Submission of Cards**

- a. Members must exchange cards on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee. Incorrect scores should be crossed out, the correct score added and the change initialled.
- b. Any 2's should be ringed and the number achieved should be entered in the appropriate place.
- c. On completion of the round, the cards should be checked and MUST be signed legibly by the marker who must ensure that the Member's gross score has been recorded accurately and clearly for each hole. The Member MUST also check and sign the card. Each Member is responsible for returning the correct score on his card.
- d. For all qualifying Competitions the score from the Member's card MUST be entered without undue delay on a PSI Touchscreen (located in the Spike Bar and the Golf Shops) including Nil Returns.

The scorecard MUST be placed in the Premier Competition Box or handed into the Championship Golf Shop, dependent on which course the competition was played on. Any missing cards WILL result in disqualification.

- e. If a Member persistently fails to input his score into the computer system or does not put his card into the Competition Box or handed into the Championship Golf Shop, dependent on which course the competition was played on, he may be excluded from future Competitions.

## **10 Results of Qualifying Competitions**

- a. A Results Sheet showing each Member's score and handicap adjustment will be published on HOWDIDIDO, usually on the day following the competition.
- b. Majors and Roll-Ups will comprise a single division. Medals and Stablefords will be split into up to three divisions by handicap depending on the number of entries.
- c. Prizes will vary according to the competition. However, for Medals and Stablefords, the field will be split into 'Divisions' as follows :-

**44** *Players or fewer - one Division*

**45 to 64** *Players - two Divisions, the split will be handicaps 0 to 14 and 15 to 54*

**65** *Players and above - three Divisions, the split will be handicaps 0 to 11, 12 to 16 and 17 to 54*

- d. There will be one prize for the winner of each division and, where there is more than one division, the overall winner receives an enhanced prize. Vouchers will be issued for the appropriate amounts.

- e. A Twos ball pool will operate for most competitions. Members with Twos recorded on the score card will be allocated a share of the ball pool (dependent on number of Twos and Ones and number of entrants) and a voucher will be issued for the appropriate amount. **A 'Hole in One' will receive half the Ball Pool and the other half will be divided amongst the 'Twos', if any.** If there are no winners in the ball pool, the pool will be donated to the Captain's Charity.
- f. If two Member's scores are equal, the winner will be the Member with the lower back 9 score net of handicap. If the scores are still equal, the lower back 6, 3, 2 and 1 will determine the winner. In the case of 9 hole competitions the lowest back 6, 3, 2 and 1 will apply. In the case of a tie in a 36 hole competition, the count back will be taken from the second round card.
- g. All Handicap adjustments will be calculated in accordance with CONGU Regulations. Handicap increases will take effect when published on HOWDIDIDO. Members who calculate that they will receive a reduced handicap following a competition **MUST** apply that reduction immediately and before they next play in a qualifying, Knock Out or similar competition.

## **11 Transportation**

- a. Members must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised by the Competitions and Handicaps Chair whose permission must be sought prior to use. The use of buggies will be reviewed by the Competitions and Handicaps Committee at regular intervals and they should be informed when use of a buggy is no longer required.
- b. Penalty for Breach :-
  - i. Match Play – At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round – Two holes.
  - ii. Stroke Play – Two strokes for each hole at which the breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – Four strokes.
  - iii. Match or stroke play - In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.
- c. Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued upon the discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise, the player will be **DISQUALIFIED**.

## **12 Appeals**

- a. Any Member who wishes to appeal against any decision or penalty arising from their entry in a competition must submit the reasons for their appeal in writing to the Competitions and Handicaps Chair within seven days of the competition date or receipt of any notification of a penalty, request for explanation etc.
- b. The Competitions and Handicaps Chair will convene a meeting to investigate the appeal comprising himself and two members of the Competitions and Handicaps Committee. However, if the appeal is against a decision made by the Competitions and Handicaps Chair, he will ask the Handicaps Secretary to convene the meeting in his place.
- c. The appeal shall be heard and the decision provided to the Member within one week of the appeal whenever possible.
- d. The Member may choose to appeal this meeting's decision to the Captain whose decision shall be final.

## 13 Penalties and Sanctions in Qualifying Competitions

**For the avoidance of doubt, Members should be aware of the penalties that WILL be applied in the event of non-compliance with Competition Rules during Qualifying Competitions.**

ISSUE	COMPETITION RESULT	HANDICAPPING ACTION
Breach of Rules of Golf not corrected	DISQUALIFIED	Card acceptable for handicapping depending on details
No handicap noted on card	DISQUALIFIED	Card acceptable for handicapping
Handicap on card too high	DISQUALIFIED	Card acceptable for handicapping
Card not signed by player or marker	DISQUALIFIED	Card acceptable for handicapping, unless marker has refused to sign and reported the reason why
Card not returned before closing	DISQUALIFIED	Add to competition as 'nil return'
Failure to complete the full 18 or 9 holes		Delete from competition if adequate reason noted on a signed and returned score card. Otherwise DQ and 'nil return'.
More than 5 minutes late on tee	DISQUALIFIED	Score card not acceptable – 'nil return'
Disqualified by Committee/No entry fee paid	DISQUALIFIED	Score card not acceptable – 'nil return'
Breach of Competition procedures, e.g. fails to sign-in or enter score in PSI		Score card acceptable, but consistent failure to comply may result in a competition ban.