

COMPETITION GUIDELINES & RULES

REVISED AS AT FEBRUARY 2020

These guidelines and rules are set and regularly reviewed by the Management Committee. They are intended to provide the fairest possible competitive conditions for all Seniors to achieve their desire for an enjoyable golfing experience. We try to tailor our competitions to accommodate all Seniors so that they enjoy the company of other Seniors in a number of competitive games each year.

1. ENTRY TO COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES

- I.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.
- I.2 Competitors in Seniors individual stroke play competitions must have an active Club handicap to be able to win. See the paragraph on **HANDICAPS** below for further information.
- I.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.
- I.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).
- I.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.
- I.6 The field for each of the monthly medal and stableford competitions is, as far as practical, divided according to club handicap into three equally divided divisions: gold, silver and bronze. Three-ball groups are allocated in each division. These groups are selected so that different handicap players may play together as far as is possible. However, consideration will be given to resolve any potential problems that may arise; such as players who have difficulty with the pace of play who could be intimidated playing with low handicappers. To do this effectively the competition organisers need to be kept up to date by Seniors to whom this could apply so that necessary adjustments to the starting sheet can be made.
- I.7 Once the starting sheet has been published no alterations of any kind are allowed unless by the competition organisers. However additional tee times are provided after the last tee time for late entrants to which Seniors may add their name with the competition starters permission.
- I.8 It is in the ethos of the competitions that seniors applying to play in any competition have an obligation to play unless they have reasonable cause to withdraw.

- I.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.
- I.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 competition organisers may postpone an already scheduled non-monthly competition e.g. Fun Competition, Top Dogs round, Texas Scramble, Four Club, etc. 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.
- I.11 The Committee will incorporate 9-hole competitions to coincide with other competitions as they deem appropriate. These competitions are played over the last nine holes as stipulated by the Club and CONGU. A minimum of five players is required for these competitions to take place.
- I.12 The number of qualifying games will be four each qualifying year for the Annual Turkey Shoot.
- I.13 To remind all Seniors: -
- If no contact is made with the starters of a Competition that the Senior has entered but then does not intend to play in;
 - If the Senior does not tick off their name to signify they will be attending Inter Club matches;
 - If the Senior fails to abide by the required timings as stated on the Competition start sheets;
 - If the Senior attempts to alter Competition start sheets once published on the notice board; The Senior's name will be removed from the next Competitive game and/or Inter Club match start sheet they enter to play in.

2. SCORECARDS AND REGISTRATION

- 2.1 Scorecards are issued by the competition starter for individual and team Stroke Play 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.
- 2.2 For individual competitions players must register on the Club PSI system before play and the resultant scores entered on the system on completion of play. Nil returns should also be entered on the Club PSI system.
- 2.3 Do not forget to sign your card.
- 2.4 Cards must be posted into the Club Office, or if the PSI system is not in operation, they must be handed to a member of the competition organisers after completing the competition.
- 2.5 Failure to comply may result in disqualification or suspension from future Seniors competitions.

3. HANDICAPS

- 3.1 QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS & QUALIFIED COURSES: All Seniors individual stroke play

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.

3.2 UNIFIED HANDICAPPING SYSTEM: The Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) handicap allowances (Unified Handicapping System) is adopted for all Seniors competitions.

3.3 INACTIVE HANDICAPS - Anyone with an inactive handicap may participate in Seniors individual stroke play 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 Seniors trophy.** A fee equivalent to a normal competition entry fee is charged for inactive handicappers on their first entry to an individual stroke play 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.

3.4 TEMPORARY WINTER HANDICAPS: In the event of a winter stroke play 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 stroke play competition during that winter period.

4. REPORTING FOR PLAY: STROKEPLAY COMPETITIONS (NOT TOP DOGS)

4.1 All players must report to the competition 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).

4.2 The Seniors Committee may impose a 2-stroke penalty if a player reports 5 minutes or later of their reporting time and may disqualify a player arriving after their tee time unless that person is participating in a team competition.

4.3 The competition starter may accept late entrants up to 20 minutes before the last tee time.

4.4 If a player is unable to play in a Seniors' competition, he must contact the competition starter on his contact phone number at a socially acceptable hour to have his name deleted so that a substitute can be found, only competition organisers are allowed to make deletions or other amendments to the starting sheet for team competitions.

4.5 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 20 minutes prior to the start time of the competition either in person or via their contact phone number to advise their absence. It is recommended you do not rely on a third party to notify absence.

4.6 If contact is not made in good time, then that Senior may, at the discretion of the competition organisers, be barred from two of the next stroke play competitions 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 Committee Secretary.

5. RULES FOR DRAWN & KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

- 5.1 Once a draw has been made substitutions will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.
- 5.2 No extensions of closing dates for the rounds will be granted although special arrangements will be made in the event of prolonged course closure.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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 matches not completed in time.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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

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.

6. RULES FOR TEXAS SCRAMBLE COMPETITIONS

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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 competition starters will adjust team's using reserves or, if necessary, making adjustments with other team's. To help facilitate this two Committee members will be allocated to the penultimate tee time and two competition starters will be allocated to the last tee time. The two Committee members and the two starters will fill-in for non-attenders as needed.
- 6.3 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).
- 6.4 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).
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 If the chosen ball is in rough, subsequent balls must be dropped in the same cut of rough.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 Rule 4-2 '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.

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.

Non-adherence to these rules will result in disqualification.

7. RULES FOR THE TOP DOGS' COMPETITION

- 7.1 Full handicaps will be allowed for a single player when their partner is not available to play on the day of the round.
- 7.2 Play is in a similar format to the Golf Club Top Dogs' competition except that there are only eight rounds and all rounds are stableford format.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 Each round is scored at 20 points to the winners, 19 points to 2nd, etc. etc. down to 0 it is decided by the highest number of points scored in the final round and then by countback (see Rules on Ties in Stroke Play Competitions (Countbacks)).
- 7.5 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 competition organisers who will calculate their better-ball score. On no account must a single card be used to record their scores.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 The competition organisers will 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.