

Playing in Competitions

This document has been updated in line with the 2019 Rules of Golf and will be revised when the World Handicap System replaces UHS in November 2020.

Introduction

This guide set outs rules and actions for all Club Members entering competitions at Chiltern Forest Golf Club (CFGF) and are in line with the Rules of Golf (RoG) and England Golf / CONGU Unified Handicap System (UHS).

The Committee reserves the right to set the Conditions of Competition (rules) held at CFGF. Players should acquaint themselves with these conditions before entering competitions.

The term Committee is taken as the Golf Committee and its appointed representatives. These include the General Manager, the Pro-shop staff and appointed Starters.

Handicaps

Handicaps are the responsibility of the Golf Committee inline with CONGU's Universal Handicapping System (UHS) and are administered by the Pro Shop team.

Current handicaps are available to all on the HDID system.

To enter a competition a player must have a valid handicap.

Players who, in the 12 months before the start of the year who have not completed the minimum of three qualifying rounds will have their competition handicap status removed. This will restrict players from entering some types of competitions and restrict the winning prizes in others.

New members should submit an up to date handicap certificate from their previous club or submit three cards signed by a member and return to the Pro Shop who will allocate a handicap.

Adjusting Handicaps.

Handicaps are adjusted in line with UHS as follows:

Automatically against the Competition Scratch Score (CSS) using the approved system for all Stroke Play Qualifiers. Adjustments may be up as well as down.

The annual handicap review where performances in competitions other than Qualifying Stroke Play are also taken in to account under Clause 23 General Play. Adjustments may be up as well as down.

Players handicaps can also be adjusted under General Play at any time if the Committee considers, on the evidence of submitted cards and results, that the player is playing significantly better than a handicap.

General play adjustments will not be made against a single outstanding round other than in qualifiers.

Exceptions & General Conditions

Players returning from long absences, for example after prolonged or serious illness or incapacity can apply to the Committee to have their handicap reviewed, having submitted three cards to the Committee.

Any player who considers their game worsening against handicap can apply to the Committee in writing for consideration for an increase in handicap. This should be supported by a minimum of three cards.

Some competitions may have handicap restrictions and or maybe split into one or more handicap bands for the allocation of prizes at the discretion of the Committee. Restrictions are shown in the Conditions of Competition(CoC) on the Club Website.

Entering Stroke Play Qualifiers & Main Board Competitions.

Entry is either by the PSI screen in the Clubhouse or by using the online booking system HDID. The latter requires password and User ID which can be obtained from the Pro Shop.

Players should pay the entry fee in the Pro Shop before playing and will be required to sign the Competition Book and collect their scorecard.

For stroke play qualifiers only, players not booked into the reserved tee times on HDID may play in the competition later in the day by paying the entry fee and signing the log in the Pro Shop prior playing.

They must also enter their score via the PSI screen at the end of the round and return their card before the end of the day.

It is not permitted to play in Main Board Competitions outside of the main reserved tee times.

Entering Midweek Qualifiers.

Midweek stroke play qualifiers are on a roll-up basis and do not require pre-booking on HDID. All players must pay the entry fee and sign the log in the Pro Shop prior playing. They must also enter their score via the PSI screen at the end of the round and return their card before the end of the day.

Entering Knockout Competitions.

Entry into Knock Out competition is via sign-up sheets in the locker room. Players may be restricted by handicap as to which competitions they may or may not enter and restrictions and requirements on when matches are to be played will apply. Players should pay their entry fee to the Pro Shop at the time they enter the competition.

Players who have not paid the entry fee at the time the draw is made will be excluded from the competition.

Only players with a “competition” handicaps will be included in the draw.

Players in Knockouts must take account of the requirements to complete matches by the due dates for each round. If you have any doubts or concerns that you will not be available to meet these requirements entry to the competition should not be undertaken.

Any competition designated as Mid Week is open to all and must be played midweek (Monday to Friday). Exceptionally where both players, in a match agree, the match may be played at the weekend. Players cannot insist, to the detriment of another player, that match is played other than Monday to Friday.

Inactive Handicaps.

The previous status of “inactive” was dropped in 2013 in favour of the more positive notation of “competition” or “c” after a players handicap on the system record (e.g.10c). The minimum requirement is the completion of three qualifier rounds in the preceding twelve months.

The handicaps of those who have not met the minimum requirement will be shown without the “c” suffix. They will not be permitted to enter knockout competitions but can enter CFGC Board Competitions but will not be able to win prizes.

Organisers of Club matches should only field players with “competition” handicaps.

A player can change their status to “competition” handicap by competing in any qualify competition to get their tally up to a minimum of three. In the absence of timely qualifying competitions, players can submit supplementary cards from regular rounds signed by another member.

Other Club Competitions.

Other Club competitions, including Captains Day, Drive-Ins and alike will have to sign up sheets posted on the various noticeboards in the Clubhouse. These will have specific entry conditions and entry fees.

Main Day & Alternate Day Competitions (Weekend Stablefords).

A Main Day & Alternate Day Competition is where the competition is played over a two day period where the Main day is the Sunday and the Alternate day is Saturday. At CFGC these are the Weekend Stableford rollups played during the Summer months. Players can elect which day they will play, but cannot play both days.

Players playing on the Alternate Day (Saturday) but not in the competition WILL NOT contravene Rule 7.1b “Practising on the Course” as the Conditions of the Competitions (CoC) have a statement declaring the competition a Main Day & Alternate Day Competition. Separate CSS will be calculated for each day.

Playing in Competitions.

Allocated tee times are the ones at the time the competition entry closes. This is one minute to midnight on the day before the competition on HDID entries and the published date on competition entries posted on notice boards.

Entrants must report to the Pro Shop in good time before play commences, pay the entry fee, sign the Competition Log and collect their scorecard.

Players must start at the time allocated by the Committee.

Players playing at a time not allocated by the Committee or changing their allocated time, without the permission of the Committee, other than in the circumstances shown below, will be disqualified.

Players must not start before their allotted time unless instructed to do so by the Committee. (A starter is a representative of the Committee).

Players must be at the tee 5 minutes before their scheduled start time.

Failure to start within the five minutes of the allotted start time will incur a two-shot penalty. Starting more than 5 minutes after the allotted time will incur disqualification.

Where the tee is running late and providing players have arrived in good time to play at their allotted time no penalty will be incurred.

Withdrawing from Competitions before the Start of Play.

For guidance on withdrawing from competition before the start of play see Appendix1. The appendix also outlines the sanctions on "No Shows".

Score Cards

The player is responsible for the correctness of their score recorded for each hole.

- If a player returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken they is disqualified.
- If a player returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken the score as returned stands.
- Alterations to a scorecard cannot be made after its return to the Committee.
- The scorecard must be signed by the player and countered signed by their opponent.
- The player must ensure the correct handicap is shown on the card.
- The scorecard must be returned to the Committee, on the day of the competition, by way of the score card box under the PSI screen. Failure to return a card will result in disqualification.
- Scores MUST also be entered on the PSI system. This makes for a quicker and more accurate turn around of competition results.

Under the RoG players cannot be disqualified for not entering score on the PSI but persistent offenders may be barred from future competitions, under Club Rules.

No Returns:

Where a player returns a card with one or more holes without a score entered it will be treated as a non-return (NR).

Players must complete the stipulated round entering scores for remaining holes played out.

It is important to do this as the absence of even a partially completed card can affect the CSS and handicapping process.

Where a player leaves the course without completing the competition round the player shall be disqualified. Exceptions will be made due to illness or injury.

Use of Ride-on Buggies in Competitions.

CFGF's policy on the use of ride-on buggies in competitions comply with the Equality Act 2010 Section 6 - Disability.

The use of ride-on buggies, whether privately owned or hired, are NOT permitted in competitions, except where the user has a letter or certificate from their GP to the effect that the named person is unable to negotiate the course other than with the use of a ride-on buggy.

The Club reserves the right to;

- Reviewed regularly all exemptions.
- Withdraw any exemption at any time if the medical condition or disability necessitating the use of a ride-on buggy ceases.

Fellow competitors in the same group as an authorised buggy user must NOT ride on a buggy nor have the clubs and equipment carried by a buggy. To do so will incur disqualification. During general play (non-competitions) ride-on buggies may be used.

Competitions Played under Preferred Lies (Winter Rules).

Preferred Lies are normally in force from 1st October until the 30th April. Dependant on course conditions this period may be extended or shortened. Qualifiers can be played under Preferred Lies rules subject to course conditions on the day.

Qualifiers can also be played;

- With temporary greens, provided there are no more than two in operation.
- Off mats.

Rules regarding the shortening or lengthening of the course are managed by the Golf Committee in agreement with Greens Committee and Head Green Keeper.

Starting from the Correct Tee

In the absence of an allocated start tee all competitions will start from the first tee, all play at other times must start following the Club Rules on tee start times which are published in the member's diary and shown on the start times board at the first tee.

Definitions.

HDID: How Did I Do - CONGU approved competitions and handicap system.

NR: No return, where a player has failed to enter a score for one or more holes.

CSS: Competition Scratch Score calculated from the returned scores to manage adjustments to handicaps.

The Committee: the definitive authority in the club responsible for competitions and the course.

Qualifiers: Stroke play matches played by individuals against par. These include Medals, Stablefords and Bogey competitions where handicaps are adjusted against performance.

CONGU: Part of England Golf responsible for the national management of handicaps stands for Council of National Golf Unions who operate the Unified Handicapping System (UHS).

PSI: Club Systems International Ltd online booking and score recording system.

RoG: The Royal and Ancient Rules of Golf.

CoC: Conditions of Competition.

Document Change.

Ver 1 2013 Playing in competitions

Ver 2 2014 Changes to reflect UHS notation on handicaps from inactive to competition handicap.

Ver 3 2015 Inclusion of Competitions played under Preferred Lies(Winter Rules).
Clarity on start times fixed by Committee when HDI entry closes.

Ver 4 2015 Clarity on Practising on the course not applicable to Main Day & Alternate Day Competitions (Weekend Stablefords).

Ver 5 2015 Addition of Appendix 1 and additional paragraph dealing with the procedure for withdrawing from competitions before the start of play and sanctions on No Shows.

Ver 6 2016 Update to paragraph 13 to include references to the Equality Act 2010 and adding CFGC rights to review and withdraw exemption certificates.

Ver 7 2016 Clarification as to when the Mid Week Shield KO is to be played (para 5).
Clarification of tee start times (para 15)

Ver 8 2020 General clarifications and deletions of flagstick rules in line with 2019 RoG changes.

Appendix 1

Commitment to Play in Competitions

Members entering competitions must turn up at the correct time. If for any reason you cannot play please note the following:

The unexpected happens to all us on occasions, preventing us from taking part in competitions at short notice. When this happens on the day of the competition please consider your fellow club member and always contact the Pro-shop without delay.

- Withdraw in good time.
- Don't leave it till the day of the Competition.
- Before the competition entry closes use HDID to remove your name.
- See if you can find a replacement.
- After the entry has closed on HDID contact the Pro-shop, they will remove you from the entry list. If you have an agreed replacement the Pro-shop will enter them on the list or find a replacement
- If you cannot access HDID ring the Pro-Shop and they will make the changes for you.

DON'T JUST LEAVE IT AND HOPE FOR THE BEST

Failure to Show

If you enter a stroke play singles competition and fail to show up for your allotted tee time and have NOT informed the Pro-shop you will be excluded from the next stroke play competition.

Similarly, action will be applied to "No Shows" in pairs competitions.

Repeat offenders will be excluded for a minimum of two consecutive competitions and may be charged a match fee for the competition they failed to play.

Hints and tips

There is nothing more galling than to turn up on your only day to play golf only to be let down by your playing partner or partners.

If you can't play withdraw in good time and not on the day. Let the Pro-Shop know so they can assist with backfilling the vacant slot.

See if you can find a replacement to take your place

In any competition, more so in pairs competitions, arrange your playing partners and enter together. This way you are less likely to be let down by those you know.

In pairs, competitions don't become a "No Show" because your partner has dropped out. Contact the Pro-shop in good time for them to find a replacement or find a new partner yourself. If all else fails turn up and play if only to mark the other pairs card.

NOT SHOWING UP IS LIKELY TO RUIN SOMEONE ELSE'S WEEKEND