

Droitwich Golf Club [DGC] – Competition Rules

Issue 6 - updated August 2020

Updated by : The DGC Competitions Committee

These rules compliment the 'Rules of Golf' and take precedence over the Rules which appear in the DGC Club Handbook. Any queries arising from these rules should be referred to the Competitions Committee in writing as soon as it arises. Post 02/11/2020 regulations and changes brought in by the roll out of the World Handicap System (WHS) will apply.

From 02/11/2020 onwards, all competitions at DGC will be subject to the directives introduced by the WHS roll out. To determine strokes received on the day of competition, all players MUST use the conversion table provided by DGC to convert their Handicap Index into "Course Handicap". From that, according to the format of the competition, players will play the competition off their "playing handicap." Any errors on scorecards submitted relating to an incorrect / inaccurate Handicap Index or strokes received may result in disqualification from that tournament. Members MUST be aware of their current Handicap Index prior to entering the competition.

The WHS Playing Condition Calculations (PCC) will be in effect for all competitions.

If a player fails to submit a score from an authorized format of play, the DGC Competitions Committee should investigate and take appropriate action.

- If the reason was valid the Score should not be posted
- If there was no valid reason and an acceptable score is discoverable, that score will be posted; and a club sanction may be applied.
- If the score is not discoverable, a penalty score must be posted.
- In the most serious cases, such as repeated failure to submit acceptable scores, the Committee has discretion to apply additional penalty scores, reset the player's Handicap Index or consider other disciplinary procedures.

Withdrawing a Handicap Index :

- A player's Handicap Index should be withdrawn if they deliberately or repeatedly fail to comply with their responsibilities under the Rules of Handicapping
- A player must be notified of the period of Handicap Index withdrawal and any additional conditions
- The withdrawal of a player's Handicap Index should be applied only after the player has been informed and has had an opportunity to respond
- The process will be handled by the Handicap Committee and/or the County/National Union.

If less than 14 holes of an 18 hole round have been played, net par + 1 stroke will be added to the first hole not played and net par to the remaining unplayed holes

If playing an 18 hole round and the player completes more than 9 holes, the score is added to the record.

1 CONDITIONS FOR COMPETITIONS :

All competitions are to be played in accordance with the 'Rules of Golf' and any Local Rules, all who complete or mark the cards of competitions are expected to be familiar with both. The 'Rules of Golf' are available to be downloaded for free from the R&A website (<https://www.randa.org/>). Hard copies of the R&A rules are from time to time distributed to members or can be obtained from the Competitions Committee or the Club Pro. Local Rules are printed on the reverse side of the scorecard and are posted on the Competitions Notice Board.

Full details of the Conditions and Qualifications that apply to each Club Competition are given in the table that compliments these rules. All competitors should read them & familiarise themselves with their own rights & obligations. It is not advisable to rely on past experience gained from previous years or out of date rules. These are displayed both on the club website and also on the competitions board

2 ELIGIBILITY to COMPETE :

All competitors MUST have a current active Handicap Index at the date of the competition. For members of DGC these are available on How Did I Do or Club Systems. All equipment must comply with current R&A regulations re club design.

All singles competitions will be qualifying except when:

1. More than 2 temporary green in play.....or
2. The measured course is shortened by 100 yards [91m] or more

2.2.1 DGC PREMIER COMPETITIONS :

The Club Championship, the Roy Green Trophy and The Stroke Play Championship will be played off scratch

2.2.2 DGC PREMIER COMPETITIONS :

The Raven Bowl is for members with a handicap of scratch & above (playing limit is 54)

2.2.3 OPENS - all non-qualifying :

DGC Corbett Bowl - Pairs better-ball bogey over 18 holes (playing limit is 24)
DGC AM / AM - Team stableford alliance over 18 holes 3 out of 4 scores to count (playing limit is 24)

2.2.4 SUMMER KNOCKOUTS - all non-qualifying :

DGC Men's 4 ball better-ball - Fourball better ball matchplay pairs over 18 holes, final over 18 holes (playing limit is 54)
DGC Men's Howard Green - Matchplay singles over 18 holes, final over 36 holes (playing limit is 18)
DGC Men's 19 / 54 [Referred to as 19/28] - Matchplay singles over 18 holes, final over 18 holes (playing limit is 19 to 54)
DGC Men's Ron Chester Midweek - Midweek matchplay singles over 18 holes, final over 18 holes (playing limit is 54)

2.2.5 WINTER KNOCKOUTS - all non-qualifying :

DGC Men's Winter Greensomes - Greensomes matchplay pairs over 18 holes, final over 18 holes (playing limit is 54)
DGC Men's Steve Smith - Fourball better ball matchplay pairs over 18 holes, final over 18 holes (playing limit is 54)

2.2.6 MEDALS - all qualifying (also see 2.2 above) :

DGC Monthly medal (Mar to Sept) - Singles stroke play in 3 divisions over 18 holes (playing limits are Div 1 Scratch to 11, Div 2 12 to 16, Div 3 17 to 54)
DGC Monthly stableford (Oct to Feb) - Singles stableford in 3 divisions over 18 holes (playing limits are Div 1 Scratch to 11, Div 2 12 to 16, Div 3 17 to 54)
DGC Midweek monthly medal (Mar to Sept) - Singles stroke play in 1 division over 18 holes (playing limit is 54)
DGC Midweek monthly stableford (Oct to Feb) - Singles stableford in 1 division over 18 holes (playing limit is 54)

2.2.7 36 HOLE EVENTS - all qualifying (also see 2.2 above) :

For ease of administration purposes, the Handicap Index at the start of the first 18 holes will be used for all 36 holes.

DGC Eric Griffin Cup - Singles stroke play over 36 holes (playing limit is scratch to 12)
DGC Strokeplay Championship - Singles stroke play over 36 holes (playing limit is scratch)
DGC Secretary's Cup - Singles stroke play over 36 holes (playing limit is 13 to 54)

DGC MAJORS - all qualifying (also see 2.2 above) :

Please note that for all DGC MAJORS only entrants in Division 1 can win the main prizes and trophies.

DGC Jubilee Cup - Singles stableford play in 2 divisions over 18 holes (playing limits are Div 1 Scratch to 28, Div 2 29 to 54)

2.2.8 DGC Ken Bull Seniors Trophy - Age limit 50-59 on day of event - Singles stroke play in 2 divisions over 18 holes (playing limits are Div 1 Scratch to 28, Div 2 29 to 54)

DGC Ken Bull Veterans Cup - Age limit 60 and over on day of event - Singles stroke play in 2 divisions over 18 holes (playing limits are Div 1 Scratch to 28, Div 2 29 to 54)

DGC Kingsman Cup - Pairs foursomes bogey in 1 division over 18 holes (playing limit is 18 in line with Daily Mail competition rules)

DGC Presidents Cup - Singles bogey play in 2 divisions over 18 holes (playing limits are Div 1 Scratch to 28, Div 2 29 to 54)

DGC Shirley Jones Cup - Singles stroke play in 2 divisions over 18 holes (playing limits are Div 1 Scratch to 28, Div 2 29 to 54)

DGC Summer Greensomes - Pairs greensomes stableford in 1 division over 18 holes shots received calculated by 0.6 lower handicap 0.4 of higher handicap (playing limit is 54)

ECLETICS - all non-qualifying :

DGC Bill Elsmore Trophy - Best three net scores from May, June, July and August Monthly Medals (playing limit is 54)

2.2.9 DGC Harold Green Trophy - Best three net scores from May, June, July and August Midweek Medals (playing limit is 54)

DGC Winter League - see Winter League Rules

DGC Robert Wilson Trophy (Was Salt King Cup) - Ecclectic competition over 10 pre-selected Summer competitions. Best 6 finishes to count (playing limit is 54)

Note : Handicap limits for the Robert Wilson Trophy are governed by the limits of the qualifying competitions that constitute the Robert Wilson Trophy.

MISCELLANEOUS - non qualifying :

2.2.10 DGC Captain's Day - No fixed format. Serving Club Captain of the year chooses the format

DGC Invitation Day - No fixed format. Serving Competitions Committee of the year choose the format

All non shotgun competitions are to be played over 18 holes of golf in order (Hole 1 to Hole 18) and must start from the first tee. This includes all Summer and Winter knockout competitions.

2.3 In the event of a matchplay match result being settled before all 18 holes have been completed, it is acceptable not to carry on until all 18 holes have been completed. Any matches that result in a tie after 18 holes, a sudden death play-off starting from the 1st tee (continuing the course holes in order if no result is reached on the 1st green) will be played until a result has been reached.

2.4 Junior Boys attaining a HOME handicap of 28 or less will be eligible to compete in ALL Club Competitions but not knockout competitions, with the exception of the Club Championship.

2.5 Existing or new Junior Associate members who do not have Droitwich Golf Club as their Home Club for handicap purposes will be eligible to enter Monthly & Mid-Week Medal and Stableford competitions. They will not be eligible to play in any Board Competitions or any Winter or Summer singles, pairs or four-ball knock-out Competitions. They will not qualify for the Raven Bowl should they win or come runner-up in any competition they are eligible to enter, and will not be eligible to qualify for the Club Championship via the May Monthly Medal. This rule will be applicable from 31/12/2020. If one of a pairs team is a Junior Associate member then the pair will not be eligible to compete for the main prize.

2.6 Junior boys with handicaps higher than 28 may only enter & compete in junior events. No junior under 18 years of age may enter the Sweep in a Club competition.

2.7 Five day members are not permitted to enter any weekend competitions with the exception of the Captain's Charity Day Competition.

2.8 Entry to the DGC Club Championship will be via the May Monthly Medal. The holder and lowest 15 gross scores recorded from the May Medal. Ties for 15th place to be play off over 18 holes. Winner Qualifies for Commemorative Jug WGCGC.

3 ENTRIES :

3.1 Members are personally responsible for their entries to the electronic or paper competition entry sheet. Failure to enter your name on the 'Competition entry sheet' will mean that you are deemed not to have entered the competition & as such your card will not be accepted.

3.2 A minimum of 12 competitors constitutes a valid competition. If there are 11 entrants the competition will be declared null and void.

3.3 For most competitions the fee is payable in the Professional Shop at the time of registering to play or completing the entry sheet. For certain competitions pre- payment is required, in which case entries will only be accepted when all relevant details including the entry fee is submitted on printed envelopes or on-line via the club website. Any envelopes must be placed through the Managers letter box on the ground floor of the clubhouse. (Please do not submit entries in the card submission box). **If you enter an envelope without the required money you will not be entered into the competition**

3.4 Reserved starting sheet times apply to Cup Competitions & Monthly Competitions. The reserved starting sheet times will be available electronically or in exceptional cases as a paper starting sheet. Junior members will not be allowed to enter their names on the Men's Competitions starting sheet until the 15th day subsequent to the posting of the starting sheet. No member will be allowed on the course prior to the commencement of a Monthly Competition or Cup Competition. The course will be closed for play prior to Opens & Invitation Competitions such as Invitation Day, Captains Day & the AM-AM. The course will also be closed prior to any shot gun start competition. Please refer to the Club Diary for details of pre-competition course closures.

3.5 Competitors MUST be on the tee ready to play at their reserved time. Any competitor who arrives late for his starting time but is ready to play within five minutes after his starting time will be penalised TWO strokes at the first hole in Stroke Play or loss of the first hole in Bogey or Match play (except individually arranged Match play matches where if necessary the CAPTAIN will arbitrate). After five minutes the player shall be DISQUALIFIED. Failure to meet an appointed time on the tee is a serious matter that will incur a penalty as outlined in the following:

3.5.1 Covering a player who does not turn up to play in a competition that they have entered on either HDID or other manual entry sheet. The serving DGC Competitions Chairman will administrate the no show register.

3.5.1.1 **First offence** - if the player fails to turn up for one competitions in the same season (April to March) the player will be suspended from the next competition of that format like for like. I.e. if the player misses a monthly medal, the player will be suspended from the next monthly medal. If the player fails to turn up for a Board Competition, the player will be suspended from the next Board Competition, and so on....

3.5.1.2 **Second offence** - if the player fails to turn up for two competitions in the same season (April to March) the player will serve a one month suspension from all Club Competitions and Opens, if a competition is a Robert Wilson Trophy qualifying competition, the player will register 0 points for that competition. Suspensions do not include the Tuesday Classic.

3.5.1.3 **Third offence** - if the player fails to turn up for three competitions in the same season (April to March) the player will be requested to attend a meeting with the serving Club Chairman, Club Captain and Competitions Committee Chairman to discuss their case and decide upon a suitable outcome.

3.5.2 At the end of each playing season (April to March) any no show offences from the previous season will be reset to zero for all members.

3.6 A withdrawal from an entered competition, whether on a reserved electronic format, paper starting sheet or an envelope entry requires written withdrawal or deletion in good time to permit a substitute to take the vacancy.

3.6.1 To clarify good time means by when the competition is closed for entries (See rule 3.6) Entry via the computerised starting sheet will close on the listed specified date. The start sheet will them be regarded as finalised. Withdrawal and/or alterations to a finalised list will only be permitted and actioned by the Competitions Committee. Entrants should show consideration to playing partners who should also be advised of the entrant's inability to play.

3.7 Withdrawal after a competition is closed for entries will NOT qualify for a refund of entry fee except at the discretion of the Competitions committee. In cases of genuine last minute emergencies a telephone message of your inability to play MUST be conveyed to the Competitions Committee or the Professional and Playing Group, responsibility for this remains with the entrant who should immediately follow this up with a written explanation to the Committee. To clarify, weather (good, bad or extreme) is not deemed a valid reason for withdrawal.

3.8 If a player is to enter a score of NR for any competition they must enter & submit the scores up to the point in which they NR. When the WHS system is rolled out, 14 holes constitutes a completed round.

3.9 If any Board Competition or Open is cancelled due to bad weather an attempt to replay the Competition will be made by the Competitions Committee, however this is dependent on Club Diary congestion at that time.

4 HANDICAPS:

4.1 All members should acquaint themselves with the guidelines issued by the World Handicap System.

All entrants must play off the correct handicap index. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the WHS scheme, if applicable, after each QUALIFYING COMPETITION. Where applicable adjustments to Handicap MUST be made if a score is returned in a QUALIFYING COMPETITION prior to playing in any competition at a club other than his HOME CLUB & therefore members should keep themselves aware of their 'EXACT HANDICAP INDEX'.

4.3 Members of AWAY clubs should have ONE Handicap Index only (except for NI, Ireland, Wales and Scotland) which shall be allocated & administered by his HOME CLUB. His other AWAY club(s) should be advised accordingly of this choice & keep them updated of any alterations that affect his EXACT HANDICAP INDEX.

To obtain a Handicap Index a player shall submit three 18 hole cards or six nine hole cards (three front nine and three back nine) played over a MEASURED COURSE. Anyone completing a social round for handicap purpose must register with the club pro before starting his round. All completed social rounds for handicap purpose scores must be returned to the Competitions Committee via the 'SCORE CARD SUBMISSIONS BOX' after first entering the scores electronically on the club system. All social rounds for handicap purpose cards should be clearly dated and signed by the member marking the card & the player. A non-returned social round for handicap purpose card will be classed as an NR. Junior boys attempting to obtain a handicap must comply with the WHS unified handicapping system.

4.5 If a social round for handicap purpose card has been signed and submitted and errors are detected during the processing of the card by the Competitions Committee, this card will be processed, but the submitter will be informed of the error(s).

4.6 Any player who is submitting social round for handicap purpose card to gain their initial handicap rating must complete a minimum of 54 holes (three 18 hole cards) over a MEASURED COURSE participating equally over the front nine and back nine of the course.

4.7 It is the obligation of ALL players to ensure that all competition cards in QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS, whether or not complete, are returned to the Competitions Committee via SCORE CARD SUBMISSIONS BOX. Failure to report scores could lead to the disqualification from the competition and / or suspension of the offending player's handicap.

4.8 Any player who the HOME CLUB believes constantly or blatantly fails to comply with his obligations & responsibilities imposed by this scheme or conducts himself in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the HOME CLUB could have his Handicap suspended.

5 CARDS:

5.1 When a recognised DGC competition has been entered it is the player's responsibility to submit their scorecard regardless if all holes have not been completed.

The Committee will avoid rejecting a card but they will not risk accepting one where doubt exists as to the name of the competitor or his gross score because of illegibility. Please write clearly & indicate all your initials & name in capitals, together with the competition entered, the date & where applicable your entry number from the entry sheet. Ensure all gross scores are clearly shown so there can be no ambiguity. All corrections should be clear & initialled. It is the player's responsibility to check his gross score for each hole & settle any disputed points prior to submission to the Committee. He shall ensure that the marker has signed his card, countersigned the card himself & return it to the Committee as soon as possible. Penalty for breach of rule - DISQUALIFICATION.

When Juniors become eligible to enter Club Competitions they MUST have a full member within their playing group to oversee the signing of the cards. Under no circumstances will a Junior TWO-BALL be permitted to play in Club Competitions other than in four-ball competitions, in which case their playing partners MUST contain an adult member. (*A junior may sign another junior's card provided that an adult member playing in that group is satisfied that the card is correct*).

6 RESULTS AND PRIZES:

6.1 Entry fees must meet legitimate expenses for the running of the Competition. An income & expenditure account will be prepared & submitted to the Chairman of Finance for audit purposes each year.

6.2 The Committee will publish the results of the competitions as soon as is practical. Vouchers & sweep money won will be available from the Professional Shop thereafter.

Prizes for all Cup & Medal Competitions will be presented at the Prize Giving Night in December every year. It is important that all member's winning a Cup or Medal should make every effort to be present on the Prize Giving Night to collect their prizes. The Corbett Bowl, AM-AM, Invitation Day, Vintage Shield, Invitation Day & Captain's Day prizes will be presented on the day of play.

Entry into sweeps is optional and is not open to juniors under the age of 18. A winner who has not entered the sweep will not of course receive the proceeds, which will go to the competitor who has entered & who has the best net score. A count back 9, 6, 3, 2, and 1, will decide the ties for identical scores. The split for the sweeps is displayed on the competitions list displayed on the website and also the competitions notice board.

Club board competitions cannot be decided on count back if they are match play format will go to sudden death straight away. Any other format will go to an 18 hole play-off at a date to be arranged, if after the play-off the scores remain tied the match will go straight to a sudden death in the format which will be played in format of the original competition i.e. Stroke-play, Bogey or Stableford. Any player competing in a play-off will play off the handicap they had on the day of the original competition.

7 TEAM MATCHES:

There are a number of teams with fixtures arranged by the Team Captains with other clubs, including Scratch, A, B, C, Worcester Handicap League, Seniors & Juniors, Kidderminster Cup and Droitwich Shield. Selection of the teams is by the Team Captains from a list of Members wishing to play that is displayed on the Team Notice Boards. If you would like to be considered please enter your name on the appropriate list to allow future selection.

It is a privilege & honour to play in a Club Team & represent Droitwich Golf Club. When you are selected for a Team you are received at another club as a personal guest of your opponents, free of green fees, with reserved tees for your game. Your only outlay will be the cost of a meal. This cannot be waived at away matches even if a player cannot stay for the meal afterwards. If anyone who is selected for a home match is unable to stay for the meal he should advise the Team captain prior to the day. It is considered unacceptable for players not to stay for the meal & socialize afterwards.

8 QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS & QUALIFYING SCORES:

8.1 A QUALIFYING COMPETITION is any competition in which MEDAL OR STABLEFORD PLAY CONDITIONS prevail subject to restrictions & limitations contained in the scheme or imposed by the WHS.

8.2 A QUALIFYING SCORE is any score including a 'no return' returned in a QUALIFYING COMPETITION.

PERMITTED ADJUSTMENTS TO A MEASURED COURSE, whilst each AFFILIATED CLUB must endeavour to maintain the length of its MEASURED COURSE for all MEDAL PLAY conditions. To allow movement of the playing position on a MEDAL TEE or the use of more than two TEMPORARY GREENS or TEE, the length of the course being played may be reduced by no more than 91 metres (100 yards) from the length of the calibrated MEASURED COURSE. Therefore competitions will be deemed QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS where no more than TWO temporary greens are in play. Where THREE or more temporary greens are in play the competition will be deemed NON-QUALIFYING & NO handicap adjustment will be made. This decision will not be made until the day of the competition unless the course conditions are known in advance for any reason.

9 **RULES:**

- 9.1 It is the responsibility of the player to familiarise themselves with any changes in rules. If a player is found to be in breach of such rules the required penalty will be applied. This action can be undertaken after the player has entered and signed the card
- 9.2 Any final decision on a breach of rules during any club competition will be decided by the competitions committee at the next available date when they can meet.
- 9.3 Any breach of rules that are not brought to light until after a competition has been closed will again be discussed by the competitions committee.
- 9.4 The decision of when to start and end winter rules will be decided by the competitions committee in agreement with the Club Captain with the support of the Worcestershire County Secretary and Golf England.

10 **UNPLAYABLE COURSE CONDITIONS:**

- 10.1 For club medal / stableford or midweek medal / stableford competitions if 2/3 of the competitors have (or could have but chose not to) completed their rounds the competition stands. NR cards in the competitions returns box will count towards completed rounds.
- 10.2 For "board" or "major" competitions if the klaxon is sounded to cease play after the competition has started and the course does not re-open, the competition will be declared null and void and the result will not stand, regardless of how many players have completed their round up to that time. Every attempt will be made by the Competitions Committee to replay the competition at a later date.
- 10.3 For invitational competitions & Opens if the whole field is unable to complete their round due to unplayable course conditions as defined by the committee or thunder & lightning, the completion will be rescheduled where possible.
- 10.4 If any competition is called off prior to the first competitor teeing off, that competition will be declared null and void and will not be re-arranged. The exceptions to this rule are:
- Corbett Bowl
- Raven Bowl
- 10.5 It is at the discretion of the Club Chairman to grant a re-arranged date should any Captain or Vice Captain shotguns be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions or course closures.

11 **COVID-19**

- 11.1 As a result of the 2020 COVID-19 virus, the following over-riding rules apply:
- 11.1.a When a recognised DGC competition has been entered it is the player's responsibility to check and agree their score with the marker prior to the marker submitting their scorecard regardless if all holes have not been completed.
- 11.1.b Please write clearly & indicate all your playing partners initials & name in capitals, together with the competition entered, handicap / strokes received, the date & where applicable your entry number from the entry sheet. Ensure all gross scores are clearly shown so there can be no ambiguity. All corrections should be clear & initialled. It is the player's marker's responsibility to check the gross score for each hole & settle any disputed points prior to submission to the Committee. The player shall ensure that the marker has signed his card prior to card submission. Penalty for breach of rule - DISQUALIFICATION.
- 11.1.c It is the obligation of ALL players to ensure that all competition cards in QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS, whether or not complete, are returned to the Competitions Committee via SCORE CARD SUBMISSIONS BOX by the marker. Failure to report scores could lead to the disqualification from the competition and / or suspension of the offending player's handicap.

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