

# SGL League Rules 2026

Signed and approved by the Tournament committee and authorised by the tournament  
Founder on 28/12/2025



## **The League**

The league has been created by the clubs participating in the existing annual Inter-Club League for HI 5-15. Its aim is to record the results of the matches already being played between the clubs during the year to produce a 'football style' league winner each season.

The game format is 4 ball better ball, 90% of HI, lowest handicap playing off 0.

## **The League Spirit**

The participating clubs entering in to the Inter-Club League (ICL) do so with the understanding that no participant is expected to manipulate the rules in order to gain specific advantages. Golf is one of the most self-regulating, trusted, and respectable games; those values are expected to be upheld by the clubs, captains, and players within the league.

## **League Title & Trophy Maintenance**

The title winners will be presented the trophy on the day of the Inter-Club League the following year, i.e. 2025 winners will be presented at 2026's Inter-Club League event. The SGL will be responsible for Trophy Maintenance, The winning club must return the Trophy polished. If the trophy is lost or damaged within the winners holding period, the winning club is responsible for its repair or replacement.

## **1. Rules & Definitions**

1.1 - Group refers to the collection of players sharing the same tee slot; usually a fourball, but could also be a 2v1 fourball, or singles. Handicap allowances as defined by WHS will be used, applied to a fourball (2v2, 2v1), or singles (1v1) as appropriate.

1.2 - The format will be 4BBB Matchplay with 90% handicap allowance.

1.3 - Match is the collection of groups on the day, usually six groups, but a minimum of five.

1.4 - League Goal will mean the result of one group; 0 for a loss, 0.5 for a half, 1 for a win

## 2. Scoring

2.1 - The league points will be awarded to the team who wins the most points in the match and will be awarded for the match following;

- Win                3 points
- Draw              1 points
- Loss               0 points

2.2 - The fourball score of the group will be entered to the league table to determine a winner should two or more teams be tied on the same points at the end of the season. As with a football league, teams can be separated by 'goal difference' and 'away goals' at the end of the season; the ICL will use the fourball scores from each group as the equivalent of 'goals', e.g. a 4-2 win away from home will equate to four away 'goals' for the winners and two home 'goals' for the losing team.

2.3 - Match and group scores must be e-mailed by both captains to

2.4 – SGL operates a promotion and relegation format. 1 team will be promoted, and 1 relegated at the end of the season from either division. Division 1 being the Champions Cup Division, Division 2 being the Golfers Plate Division. Future Divisions will be created and added to the Format. This may be subject to change as the league grows.

2.5 – There are currently only 2 divisions for the 2026 season.

## 3. Period of Notification

3.1 - Team sheets and player numbers must be exchanged at least two full days prior to the match;

3.1.1 - For Saturday matches, this is midnight on the Wednesday prior

3.1.2 -For Sunday matches, this is midnight on the Thursday prior

3.2 - Home Captains must submit their team sheet to the visiting team to allow the visiting Captain to match his pairs against the home team's playing order.

## 4. Team Composition

4.1 - Captains should aim for team sizes of twelve to enable six fourball groups to be played and the teams may consist of both male and female players.

4.2 - The minimum team size allowed is Ten, allowing five fourball groups to be played. If this minimum cannot be reached the match must be rescheduled as per rule 5.

4.3 - Captains should aim to field all players with a Handicap Index of 5 to 15. Players with a higher handicap may be able to play but they must play as if their handicap is 15.0 on the day.

4.4 - Players cannot play with a lower handicap unless their handicap has been reduced in the previous 7 days from the match and they will play off their handicap index on the day.

4.5 - Maximum Handicap Index for 4BBB matches is 15

4.6 - Handicap Index for Inter-Club Trophy is 5-15 at time of submission and applied to Captains as well.

4.6.1 - Players whose handicaps change after the team submission will still be eligible to play off of their new Handicap Index unless it goes over 15.0 then they will play off 15.0

4.7 - Changes to team composition after the minimum period of notification will mean;

4.7.1 - The opposing captain will have prerogative over whether group compositions will be 2v1 to fulfil the number of groups agreed prior to the period of notification of the match

4.7.2 - Any shortfall in the number of groups played will mean league goals automatically awarded for un-played groups, e.g. if the match was agreed to be 6v6 but due to one team's shortfall the match was played 5v5, the opposing team will start 0-1 up in league goals.

## **5. Rescheduled Matches**

5.1 - Must be played prior to the end of the season, which is defined as 1st January to the last day of February the following year.

5.2 - If the match is forfeited due to a club's inability to field the minimum number of players and is not replayed before the end of the season, the club at fault will lose the match with a fourball score of 3 – 0.

5.3 - If the match is unable to be played or rescheduled due to weather conditions, or other course closures, the match will be halved with a fourball score of 3 – 3.

5.4 Rescheduled Matches must be communicated with the SGL at Rhys@southerngolfleague.com

## **6. Dispute Resolution**

6.1 - The dispute must be e-mailed to Rhys@southerngolfleague.com and the opposing team captain must be on copy.

6.2 - Two captains from the other clubs will be picked to arbitrate on the dispute, by e-mail or by phone, until a decision is reached.

## **Other General Rules**

7. Teeing Grounds: Men will play from the White tees
8. Local Rules: All local rules of the hosting course will apply.
9. Winter rules will apply between October 1st till April 30th.
10. Conceded putts will be allowed between players.
11. Scorecards/Match day score sheet must be signed and submitted to the A Team Captains on the day, to agree and submit a match score to the tournament committee upon completion of the rounds. The Match day Score sheet can be downloaded from [www.southerngolflleague.com](http://www.southerngolflleague.com) under the resources tab.
12. The home club will give the first tee honour to their opponents.
13. Match Fees - £15pp – Match fees are to be collected by each captain and paid on the match day to the home club, payment method is of the preference of the home club. Catering is to be offered within the match fee allowance, it is recommended breakfast or lunch (or both) depending on the tee time and clubs hospitality services. If no food is offered, the £15 match fee per person is given to the home club regardless.
14. Teams may be changed for each round but no player may represent more than one Club in any one year.
15. Speed of Play: Players must at all times play without undue delay. All matches should be played to a result.
16. Motorised Buggies: Players and supporters must walk the courses at all times during a competitive round of golf .Only players in the match with authorisation from the Tournament Referee due to medical conditions are allowed the use of golf buggies during a competitive round, however in such cases the A league have no jurisdiction whatsoever over individual golf clubs when it comes to the use of buggies on their course.
17. Caddies: Caddies, as defined in the Rules of Golf, are permitted.
18. GPS: During matches players may use devices that gauge or measure distance only. Smart phones may be used even if they are fitted with nonconforming features provided the player doesn't access these applications. Penalty: first offence - loss of hole / subsequent offence – disqualification. If you suspect an opponent is in breach of R&A Rule14-3 you must make a valid claim at the time of the match as no subsequent claims will be considered.