



## WHITBURN GOLF CLUB COMPETITION RULES 2022

Due to the World Handicap System, England Golf and DCGU requirements the competition rules and handicap management is more essential than ever and strict penalties (automated and club determined) have been recommended by England Golf. These are required to be followed by all members, guests and visitors in order to maintain an accurate measure of true playing ability. Whitburn Golf Club will follow all governing body requirements in order to preserve the highest level of fair play and support to members possible.

### Contents

1. General Competition Rules and Information
2. Individual Competitions
3. Handicaps
4. Sweeps and Prizes
5. Penalties for Non-Compliance with Rules
6. Miscellaneous

### **1 General Competition Rules and Information**

**Only bona fide members of golf clubs with official active handicaps can enter the club open competitions. iGolf Handicaps are not acceptable for competition play.**

The rules of golf apply at all times.

All competitors should be familiar with The Rules of Golf and Club Local Rules and information as printed on the scorecard.

The competition secretary / handicap committee and club captain have the right to impose sanctions or penalties against any player / member who disregards the rules of golf or these competitions rules. In any dispute the committees' decision is final. Final appeal can be made through consultation with DCGU.

**Normal competition times:**

Men's Sunday club competitions are between 06.00 and 15.00 on Sundays (depending on time of year and weather conditions).

Men's Midweek Medal Competitions are between 06.00 and 17.00 on Wednesdays (depending on time of year and weather conditions).

Ladies: between 10.26 and 11.01 and at 16.30 on Tuesdays. BRS times available as normal up to 4hrs before Sunset subject to availability. For full details of Ladies competition rules contact the Lady Captain of the Club.

Senior Men's Competition days are between 10.26 and 11.29 on Thursdays (depending on time of year and weather conditions).

Entry to Competitions including Opens will be by pre-booking on BRS (With the exception of certain competitions e.g. Invitation days, Charity Days where registration will take place in the Clubhouse.

Competitions may be delayed start, postponed or cancelled at the discretion of the Club Captain or Secretary in some cases. If delayed start the Sunday Competition may be substituted for a different type of competition to enable competitive play.

**2. Individual Competitions**

Only full subscription club members are allowed to play in Club Trophy/Board competitions.

It is recommended to check the information board outside the professional shop for competition details prior to start.

A member can remove his name, or add his name if not already booked, up to commencement of the competition. All competition scorecards must be returned and entered in the PSI by an individual or group member.

A member may enter a competition on the day of a competition by confirming that a slot is available with at least one playing partner and signing in via one of the PSI touch screens.

Booking and sign in including score entry activities will be via BRS & PSI touch screens.

Failure to comply will result in suspension from the next singles competition (e.g. Failure to return a Sunday card results in suspension from next Sunday comp. The same applies to midweek medals).

Any member failing to make his starting time on the tee will receive an automatic suspension from the next singles competition.

With the exception of shotgun competitions, competitors must start at the 1st tee in all competitions.

All singles competitors should go out in 3 balls for Sunday Competitions and 4 balls on Midweek medal days where possible. Members, visitors and Societies are allowed to book in on Wednesdays even when not in competition. No visitor bookings will be taken on Sundays until the last competition group have teed off. Non competing members may not join competition groups. Visitors and guests may not join competition groups. No players should be out on the course prior to the first BRS tee time. Members booking a competition slot but not playing in the competition will be charged a competition fee and a Handicap penalty score applied.

Only one junior player is allowed to play in each three ball.

In 4 ball or foursomes/greensomes competitions, a full or senior member must partner juniors.

Starting times will not be changed by competitors or delayed due to inclement weather

The competition committee may abandon or suspend a competition if weather conditions deem it necessary as detailed in section 1.

Adverse and dangerous weather conditions may require the course to be cleared at any time. This will be signalled by one long klaxon blast and when conditions are suitably safe two shorter blast will sound. Players ball position should be marked before leaving the course.

All players who enter a 36-hole competition are required to play both rounds and any player who fails to play in both rounds will be suspended from the next singles competition (club championship – see specific rules).

Club Matchplay competition rounds must be played within the specified dates as shown on the draw sheet. Any match (including the final) finishing in a tie after 18 holes, should continue on a sudden death, hole by hole basis until a winner is decided.

Resolution of ties in other competitions will be decided by back 9, back 6, back 3, back 1. If a tie still occurs then the count back is taken over the front 9, front 6, front 3, front 1, until a result is established.

All competitions are subject to change as circumstances may warrant.

Any competitor who fails to register a booking on BRS and/or sign in via the PSI Touch Screen (or starting sheet when applicable) before starting play will be disqualified. His card will not be entered into the competition and will be deemed neither a score for the competition or for handicapping purposes, nor will he be eligible for the twos competition. **Should a technical error occur preventing sign in players must advise the Club Professional which sections of the competition they are entering. They must also sign in before entering their score following completion of their round.**

Any competitor whose entry fee is not paid before starting (or does not advise the club Professional as above), will be disqualified. His card will not be entered into the competition and will be deemed neither a score for the competition or for handicapping purposes, nor will he be eligible for the twos competition. However: early starters i.e. those who Tee off before Pro Shop / Golf Reception is open may clarify in advance to pro that they are entering competition and whether or not they are entering 2s sweep before the day of the competition and therefore will be liable for the entry fees involved.

### **3 Handicaps.**

All cards must have the current course handicap appended and signed by the competitor and the marker. Failure to comply with the above will result in disqualification. Printed competition labels contain Handicap Index (HI), Course handicap (CH) and Playing Handicap (PH) printed on them.

It is the players responsibility to ensure they are playing off the correct Handicap and if they believe their Handicap is inaccurate the Handicap Secretary should be informed.

Any handicap queries should be notified to the professional prior to commencement of play.

All cards must be returned in competitions (including NRs) and entered into the computer in the pro-shop, clubhouse lounge or Spike Bar. Anyone who has a “no return” on a hole must continue to enter his scores on the following holes making full use of DID NOT START (DNS) and DID NOT FINISH (DNF) functions in compliance with handicapping rules. This will protect the handicaps of the concerned player and avoid penalties. Each competitor is responsible for his own card.

Any player who fails to return his scorecard in a competition will be subject to a Penalty Score which is automatically applied by England Golf and furthermore fails to enter the score in the computer on more than one occasion, may be asked to appear before the competitions sub-committee when sanctions may be applied. If the non-returned card is found to be for the reason of handicap manipulation then a score as recommended by England Golf may be applied.

Scores on scorecards must be legible and any cards that are re-written must have the original attached. Accurately completed cards remain the top level priority of competitions entry information and establishing disqualification as well as identification of the member and marker. It would also assist the competition secretary if the marker printed his /her name on the card as well as signing.

Any player in qualifying competitions away from Whitburn golf club will be responsible for informing the competitions convenor of any score that will affect his handicap. Away scores should be returned within 7 days for chronological handicapping record maintenance. Failure to do so could lead to a suspension of his handicap

All players are requested to circle twos on their scorecards

#### **4. Sweeps and Prizes.**

Players cannot enter the sweep or twos without entering the competition and paying the entry fee.

Entry to the 2s sweep is optional.

Prize money will be paid out as follows:

Sunday Club Competitions: These are split into 2 divisions. Prize money will be equally divided between the 2 divisions and on Places 1 to 4. There will be an added bonus allocated to the overall winner and the player with the lowest gross score.

Midweek Medals will be paid on the places 1 to 4.

Prize money is paid out in the form of vouchers which may be added onto their bar card or onto their account with the professional.

2s Sweep prize money is added onto a members account with the club professional.

When a competition in progress is cancelled all monies will be refunded. A record of all fee paying players in cancelled competitions will be kept.

## **5. Penalties and Violations.**

All penalties for competitions and handicaps violations will be dealt with by the competition secretary in accordance and guidance of Durham County Golf Union and England Golf rules and requirements.

Handicaps of members will be scrutinised on an ongoing basis by the Club and it is the right of a member to request a review at any time. Appeals may be made to the handicaps committee or competition secretary and if no resolution can be agreed can be referred to the relevant governing body who's decision will be final.

Violations of competition rules and the rules of golf during competition must be reported on the day of the competition where the offence should be noted and the names of the playing group involved. An investigation will then be instigated.

Regular offenders of the competition rules, in the competition committee's opinion may be subject to further penalties.

Members playing in a competition when serving a ban will incur a further ban of another singles competition suspension and are disqualified from the competition.

## **6. Miscellaneous**

In the event of lightning or adverse weather conditions making the course unplayable, a klaxon will be sounded with one prolonged distinct blast. Players must mark their ball and leave the course. Play will be resumed once the danger has passed or conditions improve and the klaxon will be sounded with two short distinct blasts to restart play. It may be necessary to abandon the competition, this will be decided by the committee taking into account the weather forecast, the remaining period of light, the numbers of players completed and the state of the course, this will be signified with three distinctive blasts.

The use of buggies is allowed in competitions only after production of a valid Doctors note has been approved by the Committee. No passengers or other players clubs/bags are to be carried unless also covered by a registered Doctors note.

**The Competitions Sub-Committee will make final decisions on all matters related to the Competition Rules as shown in this document.**

**Competitions / Handicap Secretary**

**7 April 2022**