



WHITBURN GOLF CLUB COMPETITION RULES 2026

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 to maintain an accurate measure of true playing ability. Whitburn Golf Club will follow all governing body requirements to preserve the highest level of fair play and support to members possible.

Note: Significant changes to handicapping calculation and course playing conditions came into force on 1st April 2024 and it is recommended that all members familiarise themselves with these changes (see previous page).

Information available at: <https://www.englandgolf.org/2024-whs-update-resources>

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1 General Competition Rules and Information

Only bona fide members with official active handicaps can enter the Club Open competitions. iGolf Handicaps are acceptable for Open Competitions only.

The rules of golf always apply.

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 usually between 06.12 and 13.56 on Sundays (depending on time of year and weather conditions).

Men's Midweek Stableford Competitions are between 06.12 and 17.00 on Wednesdays (depending on time of year and weather conditions).

Ladies Competition Tee times: on Tuesdays between 10.36 and 11.08, and Saturdays and Sundays between 06:12 & 17:00 (dependent on availability on BRS). Full details of Ladies competitions are available from the Lady Captain of the Club.

Senior Men's Competition days and Team Matches are usually on Thursdays between 10.36 and 11.40.

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

Competitions may have a delayed start, postponed or cancelled at the discretion of the Head Green Keeper or Captain 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 fully paid subscription club members are allowed to play in Club Trophy/Board competitions. Flexi members cannot play in competitions on weekends.

It is recommended to read the weekly newsletter and 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 or smart phone 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 and registering on BRS.

Booking and sign in including score entry activities will be via BRS & PSI touch screens, as well as a smart phone for score entry.

Failure to comply may 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 Stableford competitions).

Any member failing to make his starting time on the tee may receive an automatic suspension from the next singles competition, unless previously removed from BRS.

Except for shotgun competitions, competitors must start at the 1st tee in all competitions.

Singles competition qualification: Competition entrants should have a minimum of 3 cards posted on the clubs or England Golf system as a Golf Club member to play in competitions. All singles competitors should go out in 3 balls max. for Sunday Competitions and 4 balls max. on Midweek Stableford 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. Noncompeting members may not join competition groups except where a marker may be required. Visitors and guests may not join competition groups in any circumstances during Sunday club competition hours. 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 may be charged a competition fee.

Junior Player qualification: Juniors over the age of 12 are eligible for competition play with a maximum handicap limit of 28 and have a minimum of 3 qualifying cards (54 holes) posted on the clubs' system (not just on England Golf). Two juniors may play with one adult in competition, if both juniors have a handicap of 13 or less (Division 1). Only one junior is allowed to play in each three ball in competition if they have a handicap of 14 and above (Division 2).

In 4 ball or foursomes/greensomes competitions, a full or senior member must partner juniors if the junior has a handicap of 14 or above (Division 2). If both juniors have a handicap of 13 or less (Division 1), then they can partner each other.

Starting times will not be changed on the day 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 and 6.

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 to resume play. Player's 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 36 holes, should continue on a sudden death basis, hole by hole basis until a winner is decided.

Whitburn Golf Club Competitions Guidelines holds full Matchplay Scoring/Handicap information.

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 two's competition. **Should a technical error occur preventing sign in players must advise the Club Professional if they are entering the competition and the two's sweep.**

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 two's competition. However: early starters i.e. those who Tee off before Pro Shop / Golf Reception is open must notify the pro or Handicap Secretary at least the day before that they are entering the competition and whether they are entering 2s sweep and therefore will be liable for the entry fees involved.

3 Handicaps.

In line with the rules of golf. Entry to a competition confirms that the player will play all 18 Holes of golf and to the best of their ability.

All cards should have, as a minimum, the current competition name, date, handicap index, course handicap, playing handicap appended, all gross scores in player A' column and signed by the competitor and the marker. The markers name should also be printed on the card. Failure of either player or marker to sign the card will result in disqualification. Printed competition labels contain competition name, players name, Handicap Index (HI), Course handicap (CH) and Playing Handicap (PH) printed on them.

It is the club's responsibility to ensure players 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.

Competition Cards should be completed and signed on the course. Filling out cards in the club house and locker rooms is not allowed.

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. Repeat offenders may be subject to a Handicap freeze and/or suspension.

Scores on scorecards must be legible and any cards that are re-written (through loss or damage) should 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 markers name.

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 kindly requested to circle twos on their scorecards.

Handicap Limits: All men's competitions have a Handicap Limit of maximum 28. Anyone with a playing handicap may enter Club Board and Trophy competitions but will be limited to a maximum of 18 shots allowance with respect to winning a Name Board or Trophy Competition.

Full 28 allowance will be used to calculate category prize money vouchers. Prize money categories will be 0-13 and 14-28 where 2 category competitions are stated.

4. Sweeps and Prizes.

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

Entry to the professionals 2s sweep is optional.

No Cash prizes can be paid, Prize Money Vouchers will be paid out as follows:

Sunday Club Competitions: These are split into 2 divisions. Prize money vouchers will be equally divided between the 2 divisions and on Places 1 to 4. There will be a bonus allocated to the overall winner and the player with the lowest gross score (unless lowest nett is already allocated).

Midweek Stablefords will be paid on the places 1 to 4 with only one category, if there are 90 entrants or less. If there are over 90 entrants then there will be 2 divisions with the prize money vouchers equally divided between the 2 divisions and on places 1 to 4.

Prize money vouchers may be added onto their bar card or onto their account with the professional.

2s Pro's Sweep prize money is added onto a members account with the club professional. The sweep is not managed by the club.

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 handicap 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 whose 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. Players should be advised of a violation and given the opportunity where possible to correct their actions or accept the penalty for the error.

Regular offenders of the competition rules, in the competition committee's opinion may be subject to further penalties such as handicap freezing or suspension from competition play. 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

Competition cancellation or start delay is at the discretion of the Green Keeper, the Professional or in some cases the Club Captain and may be decided on the day in weather related circumstances.

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. If a competition delay lasts more than 30 minutes, then the competition will automatically be abandoned. If the competition is abandoned 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. However, this requirement is waived for all members 80 years old and above. 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. 3 minimum members required to form a meeting.

Club Competitions / Handicap Secretary:

Chairman:

Club Captain:

Club Vice Captain:

Ladies Comp. Secretary:

1 January 2025