



# HENLOW GOLF CLUB



## COMPETITION RULES

### GENERAL:

All competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as defined by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

In addition, all competitions shall be subject to the following specific conditions and Local Rules as defined below or as set out on the rear of the scorecards. Further or revised Local Rules or other such conditions of a specific competition may be introduced at the discretion of the committee from time to time and will be displayed on the competition notice board.

All competitors are expected to familiarise themselves with these rules and ignorance of any specific competition rule or Local Rule will not be accepted as an excuse for failing to comply.

No competitions shall be arranged or played by members within the club except with the approval and under the control of the competitions and handicapping committee.

### ENTERING A COMPETITION:

Unless otherwise stated, competitions will only be open to fully 'paid-up' members of Henlow Golf Club who are in possession of a WORLD HANDICAPPING SYSTEM/CONGU handicap index, which has been registered with the Handicap Secretary.

Members whose home club for handicapping purposes is not Henlow Golf Club must produce a 'Competition Handicap' certificate from their home club to the Club Manager prior to starting a competition. They must also inform the Handicap Secretary at Henlow Golf Club of any changes to their handicaps.

The competitor's name must be entered on the competition entry sheet prior to the closing date as defined for any particular competition. Entry to the competition will not be allowed after the closing date.

The entry fee for the competition must be paid prior to tee off at the 1<sup>st</sup> tee.

### SCORECARDS:

The competitor / team is responsible for accurately recording the following information on the scorecard:

Name or names  
Current handicaps  
Name and date of competition  
White \ Yellow Tee's

The competitor will ensure that the marker has entered the correct gross score for each hole played and that both the player and marker have signed the card prior to returning it to the committee or placing it in the competition box.

**Note:** Scorecards must be placed in the competition box or handed directly to a member of the committee if there is one so delegated to collect the cards for a specific competition. On no account should a player hand his card to a third party. In the case of a betterball competition the marker should clearly identify the player whose score is to count on each hole.

All scorecards must be checked and signed prior to leaving the course.

All competitions other than 3-player or 4-player teams MUST have a marker. That can be any person with a golf handicap, member, guest or visitor. If you do not have a marker you should NOT sign the markers section of the scorecard.

If you pay the competition fee and then have no-one available to score your card, a full refund will be given. If however you choose to play the game and submit your card you will be disqualified without refund.

Unless you have an independent marker there should not be a signature in the "marker" signature section of your scorecard, to do so is to knowingly break rule 6-6 of the R&A Rules of Golf.

### **THE COMPETITION:**

Each competitor having placed his name on the competition entry sheet will be expected to attend on the day of the event. Tee off at the allotted time, complete the stipulated round without delay and return his scorecard to the committee.

**Penalties:** Failure to pay the entrance fee, the return of an incorrect, incomplete or unsigned scorecard will result in disqualification.

In stroke play if a competitor tees off up to five minutes late for his allotted tee time a two shot penalty will be added to his score for the 1<sup>st</sup> hole. If, one of the playing partners has played a second stroke on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole the latecomer will be disqualified from the competition.

In match play if a competitor tees off up to five minutes late for his allotted tee time the penalty will be the loss of the 1<sup>st</sup> hole. If a competitor is more than five minutes late for his allotted tee time he will be disqualified and will not be eligible to play at a later time.

If a competitor fails to turn up for a competition without good reason or repeatedly arrives late or fails to finish the stipulated round, he will be banned from taking part in **three club competitions**. If a competitor persists with these offences a further penalty of a **five competition** exclusion will apply. Further penalties may include the suspension of handicap.

If a competitor discontinues play for reasons other than those stipulated under Rule 6-8 of the Rules of Golf, and abandons a fellow competitor on the course without a scorer he will be banned for **three matches**.

A competitor should not discontinue play for reasons other than those stipulated under Rule 6-8 of the Rules of Golf. Persistent failure to finish a competition round without good reason being offered to the Club Committee may result in exclusion from competitions.

Any competitor in a club stroke play competition who fails to return his card will be disqualified.

**Exceptions:** A player who is unable to attend for genuine reasons should try to give at least twenty-four hours notice of his inability to play to a committee member or contact the Club Manager to ask for their name to be removed from a start sheet. It will always remain the players' responsibility to ensure their name is removed from any start sheet. Doing so within the timescale above will incur no penalty. Where possible the player should also notify his playing partner(s) at the earliest opportunity. Please note that adverse weather other than lightning is not a valid reason for not playing or for failing to complete a round.

**Slow Play:** Causing delay (slow play) has a detrimental effect on the game of those who are following. To eliminate this at Henlow Golf Club, the following sequence will be adhered to:

In the first instance the following group should take responsibility and speak to the offenders (unfortunately we do not have course marshals).

If they persist with slow play and do not call following players through, they will be reported to the management.

If they still persist, the committee will be informed and the members in question will receive a letter from the committee and a possible disqualification from the competition.

## **DECLARING WINNERS:**

**Players Eligible to Win Competitions:** To win a competition, players (both home & away) must hold a 'Competition Handicap'<sup>1</sup>. To win Cup, Trophy or Shield competitions players must also have played in three Henlow Golf Club qualifying competitions prior to the event (Monthly Medal/Stableford). The three qualifying events must be played in a rolling year. For match-play knockout competitions both criteria must be in place before the start of the first round. This was agreed at AGM in 2013 by all members to encourage members to play in competitions.

Players with a 'Non-Competition Handicap' may only play in 'non-board' competitions, until their handicap becomes a 'Competition Handicap'.

Players entering the IGC Cup team event should ensure they have an 'Active' handicap. Players wishing to achieve an 'Active' handicap should speak to the Club Manager or the Handicap Secretary for further advice.

Players entering a competition that incorporates two competitions ie Club Championship Gross and Nett will be eligible to win both competitions but will only receive prize money for one competition.

**Club Championship:** Medal Competition played with 95% handicap allowance. Following the stipulated number of rounds, the player with the lowest gross score wins the Club Champion Trophy and the player with the lowest nett score wins the Nett Trophy. The same player can win both. In the event of a tie for the Club Champion Trophy only, a sudden-death play-off will take place immediately by replaying the 1<sup>st</sup> hole, then if still tied proceeding to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc until the winner prevails. If abnormal conditions prohibit immediate play, then it must be completed at the very earliest opportunity. In the event of a tie for the Club Champion Nett Trophy then count back conditions will be enforced. If a winner cannot be announced via a count back then a sudden-death play-off will take place immediately by replaying the 1<sup>st</sup> hole, then if still tied proceeding to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc until the winner prevails. If abnormal conditions prohibit immediate play, then it must be completed at the very earliest opportunity.

**Matchplay Competitions:** The normal R&A rules apply for matchplay competitions. Players may practice on the course prior to their match as per Rule 7-1 (a). It is up to the individual players in the match if they wish to concede the match, the hole or his opponents next shot Rule 2-4. In the event of a tie after the stipulated number of rounds, players must immediately proceed back up the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> etc on a sudden-death matchplay basis with the original handicap allowances in place until the winner prevails. If abnormal conditions prohibit immediate play, then it must be completed at the very earliest opportunity.

**Stroke Play Competitions Medal and Stableford:** Players cannot practice on the course prior to their round of golf Rule 7-1 (b). Under no circumstances are any concessions to be

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<sup>1</sup> To hold a 'Competition' handicap a player must have returned 3 qualifying scores per annum, if not it is deemed as a Non-Competition Handicap.

given under stroke play conditions failure to comply could lead to disqualification Rule 3-2. In the event of a tie after the stipulated number of rounds, all winners and subsequent places shall be decided by count back (Except Club Champion Trophy).

#### **COMPETITION GUIDANCE:**

**Texas Scramble Competitions:** Teams will consist of two, three or four players depending on the competition. Handicap allowance will be as follows: for four players 25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap, three players 30%/20%/10% from lowest to highest handicap, and 2 players 35% of low handicap/15% of high handicap. The minimum number of drives each player must make is normally **four** for all competition formats. Players may tee off in any order but for all subsequent shots the player of the chosen 'in-play' ball after each shot, must go first, until the hole is completed.

**Knockout Competitions:** The opening round of matches will be drawn and subsequent rounds will be as published. The top player / team in each match is expected to make initial contact to arrange the match, all matches must be played by the published date; matches not played by that date will result in both players / teams being disqualified. Players / teams may apply for an extension to the date applicable for that round, in writing to the playing committee for consideration, but this must be submitted prior to the deadline date. Individual Matchplay is 100% handicap allowance, Fourball Matchplay is 90% handicap allowance.

**Qualifying Competitions:** Competitions are deemed as non qualifying competitions if the conditions of the course ie frozen greens do not allow for the proper playing of the game. Qualifying competitions may be run according to Clause 13.1 of the CONGU UHS if there are temporary tees and not more than two temporary greens in play; the adjusted length however must not vary by more than 100 yds from the courses official measured length. A qualifying competition may stand if some but not all bunkers are classed as GUR, they may also be played using preferred lies but only during the period 1<sup>st</sup> Oct – 30<sup>th</sup> April, medal play conditions do not apply if preferred lies are in operation outside of this period unless the consent of the union or Area Authority has first been obtained.

**Handicap Adjustment for Mixed Competitions:** As there are different Standard Scratch Scores (SSS) between the men's and ladies tees a SSS adjustment of +3 shall be applied to ladies' handicaps when playing in Mixed Competitions. The adjustment shall be applied before any calculations required by the competition are applied. Ladies shall play from the ladies' tee using the Men's Stroke Index (SI).

#### **COMPETITION FORMATS:**

**Past Captains Challenge:** Gross Eclectic competition comprising of the best scores per hole achieved during all individual medal and stableford competitions in each calendar year.. Does not include midweek or board competitions.

**Monthly Medal:** Normal rules of golf apply. Handicap allowance is 95%

**Monthly Stableford:** Normal rules of golf apply. Handicap allowance is 95%

**IGC Cup:** Three man Texas Scramble stableford competition drawn in categories for each round. The number of rounds will be determined by the committee each year. Prizes will be awarded each week to the winning teams.

The teams will be drawn each week based on handicap categories with a handicap allowance for teams of 3 being 30%/20%/10% from lowest to highest handicap, and for teams of 2 players 35% of low handicap/15% of high handicap (if numbers do not allow for all teams to have 3 players, a team of 2 will be formed).

Each member of the team must take at least 4 drives.

Each week the team score will be given to each team member and carried forward to achieve an aggregate score – with the lowest round being dropped in the case of 5 or 6 rounds being played (otherwise all weeks will count).

Ties will be decided on countback determined by the final 18 holes or 9, 6, 3 & 1 to determine winners.

**Kestrel Cup:** Foursomes stableford competition, chosen pairs. Handicap allowance will be 50% of combined team handicap.

**Lest We Forget Trophy:** Winter Stableford competition played for on Remembrance Sunday each year. Handicap allowance of 95%.

**Captains Charity:** Format and rules chosen by the Captain.

**Club Championships (Gross):** Medal competition, Handicap allowance of 95%.

**Club Championships (Nett):** Medal competition, Handicap allowance of 95%.

**Jim Huckle Memorial:** Summer Stableford competition, Handicap allowance of 95%.

**Ron Grant Trophy:** Fourball Betterball medal competition. Drawn pairs with 85% Handicap allowance.

**Seniors Championship & Super Seniors Championship:** Stableford competition, Handicap allowance of 95%. Only open to members aged 55 and over at or on the date of the competition for the Seniors and aged 70 for Super Seniors. Entry will be based on age at the date of the competition and Super Senior competitors will be entered into both competitions and can win both events.

**Club Versus Seniors:** Matchplay team competition, format decided by the team Captains

**Sole Survivor:** 18 hole Stableford competition. Handicap allowance of 95%. Top six qualify for the following 5 hole knockout competition.

**Norman Reynolds Shootout:** Greensomes medal competition, chosen pairs. Handicap allowance is 60% of the low handicap plus 40% of the high handicap.

**Jim Clark Texas Scramble:** Three or four man teams medal competition. Teams are drawn and consist of one player from each pre-determined handicap division. Four drives per team member, handicap allowance will be for teams of four, 25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap, teams of three 30%/20%/10% from lowest to highest handicap.

**John Fosters Masters:** Medal competition. Handicap allowance of 95%. The top fifteen players from results achieved in all Monthly Medal and Monthly Stableford competitions in the period March – September inc. will be invited to enter. No extension of the qualifiers will be allowed for any non-attendees from those who qualify.

**Last Chance:** Stableford competition with a Handicap allowance of 95%. Only open to players who have failed to win any type of competition throughout the year. Other players may participate as a casual player but do not pay an entry fee and are not eligible for prizes

**Turkey Trot:** Format chosen by the outgoing Captain.

**Singles Knockout:** Matchplay competition. 100% Handicap allowance. Full difference between the two handicaps.

**Doubles Knockout:** Four-ball Matchplay competition. 90% difference between handicaps taken from the lowest handicap.

Please note that the committee reserve the right to alter, amend or rescind any of the aforementioned 'local' conditions of our competitions at our discretion. However any such alteration will be duly published and posted on the notice board. The committee's decision will be final on all matters.

Henlow Golf Club  
Competitions Secretary