



Competition Rules

1. Introduction & Application

This document provides guidance and rules for running competitions and holding a handicap at Pyecombe Golf Club ('PGC'). It applies to all competitions and handicaps; irrespective of the type of competition or the Section under which the competition is being played. It is hoped that this universal application creates consistency across the board.

2. The 'Golf Committee'

The Captain's Committee delegates responsibility for application of this document to the following (known as the 'Golf Committee'):

- (a) Head of Golf
- (b) Club Captain
- (c) Head Professional
- (d) Managing Secretary

The Golf Committee will endeavour to make decisions that are both fair to the player concerned and also to ensure fairness to all competitors.

Where there is no clear precedent in the "Decisions on the Rules of Golf", guidance will be sought from other appropriate sources.

Where possible the Golf Committee will make collective decisions, with the Head of Golf having the casting vote in the event of a tie. However, there will be circumstances where a collective decision cannot be made and with that in mind, any of the above ((a)-(d)) can make a decision on the Competition Rules on an individual basis.

Decisions which relate to the Rules of Golf or to handicapping infringements fall within the England Golf Disciplinary Framework and are subject to a right of appeal as set out below:

Matter arising at ↓	Disciplinary body at first instance ↓	Appeal level ↓
Club	Club	County
County	County	England Golf
National	England Golf	England Golf Appeals Panel

3. Rules

All Competitions are played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as set out by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. Where there is any conflict between those rules and this document, the Rules of Golf take precedence.

Local Rules are adopted by the Club and are subject to change from time to time. They are displayed on the sign next to the first tee and also on the Club's website and should always be checked before play commences.

4. Tees for competitive golf

Unless otherwise directed by the Golf Committee:

- All competitors will commence play from the first tee.
- Men's competitions are played from the white tees.
- Seniors' competitions are played from the yellow tees (with the exception of the Seniors' Championship, SCGU Cyril Blake / Gilbert print knockout / Seniors Scratch League and SLOGG, which are played from the white tees).
- Ladies' competitions are played from the red tees.
- Mixed competitions (i.e. Club Salvers, Lynn Goblets are played from the reds and whites.
- Players will tee off at the time indicated on the draw sheet / online tee booking system.

5. Drawn stroke play competitions (medal / stableford etc)

- A poster will be displayed in both the clubhouse and Professional's shop.
- The entry sheet will be available in the Professional's shop.
- Each competitor should enter their name on the entry sheet.
- The draw will be made by the Managing Secretary and posted on BRS, on the date notified on the entry sheet.
- Any adjustments to the draw must be made through the Professional's shop.
- Once the maximum number of players has been reached / the draw has been made, the Professional's Shop / Managing Secretary will hold a reserves list, which will be addressed on a 'first come, first served' basis where players withdraw.
- Competitors that persistently withdraw or fail to turn up for competitions may be prevented from entering future competitions.
- On the day, competitors are required to report to the pro shop and pay their entry fee.

6. Drawn Knock Out competitions

- A poster will be displayed in both the clubhouse and Professional's shop.
- An entry sheet will be available in the Professional's shop.
- Each competitor should enter their name on the entry sheet. The entry fee is payable at this stage. Until the entry fee has been settled, the player has not entered the competition.
- The draw will be made by the Head Professional on the date notified on the entry sheet.
- A copy of the draw will then be posted on the Club's website.
- Any adjustments to the draw must be made through the Professional's shop.
- Where the draw has taken place for a pairs knockout, but it then transpires that a competitor cannot participate, that competitor can withdraw and be replaced by another competitor before their first match. Once the first match has taken place, no changes can be made.

7. Competitions entered 'on the day'

- The majority of our competitions are run in this way.
- Competitors will book their tee time in the usual way.
- On the day, the competitor will report to the Professional's shop, to express their intention to play in the competition. The entry will be recorded in the competitions book and the entry fee will be settled.
- Until the entry fee has been settled, the player has not entered the competition.

8. General play cards (previously known as supplementary scorecards)

- On the day, the player must report to the Professional's shop, to express their intention to submit a general play card.
- The entry will be recorded in the competitions book and the player can then proceed to the first tee.
- After the completion of a competition round, the player must submit their scorecard to the Professional's shop as soon as possible.
- All General play cards must be played:
 - In accordance with The Rules of Golf
 - In an authorised format of play
 - Over a minimum number of 10 holes

9. Competition eligibility

- Standard competitions (such as weekly stablefords) can only be entered by competitors that have:
 - a. A playing rights membership at PGC* and
 - b. A bona fide handicap.
- All board / trophy competitions can only be entered by members that have:
 - a. A playing rights membership at PGC*
 - b. A bona fide handicap and
 - c. Submitted at least 9 competitive scores, over 18 holes, within the preceding 12 months.

*<https://www.pyecombegolfclub.co.uk/membership-categories>

- The 12-month period mentioned above applies as follows:
 - a. Stoke play competitions
The 12 months immediately preceding the date of the board / trophy competition being played.
 - b. Match play competitions
The 12 months immediately preceding the date of the match to be played.
- Concerning representative matches, for example:
 - a. SCGU Handicap
 - b. SCGU Cyril Blake
 - c. SCLGA Divisional matches and other fixtures
 - d. Pitcher

- e. MSL
- f. Bucks
- g. Slogg
- h. Friendly matches (men's / ladies' / mixed)
(this list is not exhaustive)

The Captain of the team is encouraged to select players that adhere to the above-mentioned requirements, only reaching out to players that don't meet the requirements as a last resort.

- It should be noted that competitions run for specific sections of the Club or with handicap restrictions cannot be entered by players that are not a member of the section or do not meet the handicap restriction.
- For the avoidance of doubt, Independent Golfers with a handicap through England Golf are not permitted to participate in any of PGC's competitions.
- Unless specified otherwise, the following maximum handicap limits apply:
 - a. For trophy / board competitions, the handicap index limit is 28.0 for men and 36.0 for women.
 - b. For standard competitions such as Wednesday / Friday stablefords, the handicap limit is 36.0 for men and 54.0 for women.
 - c. The same handicap limits apply for Junior members.

10. Entry fees

With the exception of discontinuance of play, as set out below, entry fees are not refundable. For example, it is the responsibility of each competitor to:

- Observe weather forecasts and make their own decision as to whether competitive play is viable.
- Ensure that they have sufficient time to complete their round before darkness.

11. Onesie

A separate set of rules applies to the Onesie. See appendix 1 below.

12. Scorecards returned by single players

All scorecards must be verified by a marker. As such, scorecards returned by single players will not be accepted for competitive or handicapping purposes.

13. Pace of Play

Players are required to maintain a good pace of play. They must keep up with the group in front and failing this, allow other groups to play through as soon as it is safe to do so.

14. Suspension of Play

Competitors may discontinue play due to dangerous conditions, as set out in the Rules of Golf.

Where competitors have entered post midday and are unable to complete their round by 7pm, the competition will be declared null and void and all entry fees will be refunded and the competition will be re-scheduled.

Any competition which is cancelled because of poor weather or where there are fewer than five competitors will be declared null and void and will not be re-played. In these circumstances competitors who had already played will be refunded their entry fee.

15. Course Maintenance / New Hole

Competitors must accept the condition of the course as they find it and may not suspend play because of green keeping work being carried out during their round.

16. Tied Competitions

Unless specified otherwise, to resolve any ties countback is used. Countback is worked out over the:

- Last 9 holes,
- Last 6 holes,
- Last 3 holes,
- Last hole

Handicaps will be applied proportionately. If this does not provide a clear winner the last 12 & 15 holes will be similarly used to decide. Where the competition is played over 15 holes the best score over the last 7, 6, 3 holes or last hole will be used to decide.

Ties in the Club Championships (scratch) will be decided by a sudden death play-off, commencing from the 1st tee and taking the holes in the usual sequence.

17. Handicaps

A member obtains a handicap by:

- Presenting a handicap certificate from another Club or CDH / EG membership number or
- Submitting 3 scorecards (signed by another member) to the Professional's shop.

Members with prior golfing experience are expected to inform the Club Secretary of this prior to being allocated a handicap.

All players who begin play in any singles stroke play competition will be subject to handicap revision.

The World Handicap System and Congu rules will be adhered to as regards adjustment of handicaps.

The Golf Committee will carry out a review of handicaps in February each year.

Handicap allowances will be consistent with those set out by the WHS / Congu.

18. Returning scorecards

All cards must be returned in accordance with the Rules of Golf. Cards must be handed in to the Professional's shop or, if the shop is closed, posted in the Competition Box.

19. Officials

The Professional's shop will be primarily responsible for access to the first tee and will be empowered to decide on any problems which may arise such as, starting times, provision of markers or handicaps.

20. Closing the Course

Closure of the course is addressed in a separate document which is available on the website.

21. Use of buggies

Use of buggies or similar vehicles is only permitted for competitive / general play rounds if:

- Ground conditions allow and
- A medical certificate has been provided to the Managing Secretary / Professional. That medical certificate must state that the player is unable to play golf, without use of a buggy (or words to this effect).

22. Men's competitions

Entry / Sweepstake fees:

Entry fee – everyone must pay the entry fee stipulated

Sweepstake –

£3 Men's / Mixed individual competitions

£6 Men's / Mixed pairs competitions

Team competitions vary

Sweepstake vouchers are awarded to the top 3 players in each division who have entered the sweepstake:

- Div 1: Playing Handicaps up to 12.
- Div 2: Handicaps 13 – 54

Small field rule - If the competition doesn't receive many entrants Small field rule will apply (1 division only).

Optional sweepstake – players' discretion. Only players who enter the sweepstake can win vouchers.

Results

Competitions are split into two divisions:

- Div 1: Playing Handicaps up to 12.
- Div 2: Handicaps 13 – 54

23. Women's competitions

Entry / Sweepstake fees

£3 Women's / Mixed individual competitions

£6 Women's / Mixed pairs competitions

Team competitions vary

Generally speaking, the above fees will all go towards sweepstake vouchers, as set out below. The exception is charity competitions; where the entire fee is paid over to the Lady Captain's Charity.

Sweepstake vouchers are awarded as follows:

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|--------------------|---|-------------|---|---|
| - 1 to 5 players | - | 1 division | - | 1 prize – 100% |
| - 6 to 10 players | - | 1 division | - | 2 prizes – 60% / 40% |
| - 11 to 20 players | - | 2 divisions | - | 2 prizes per division – 60% / 40% |
| - 21+ players | - | 2 divisions | - | 3 prizes per division – 43.3% / 33.3% / 23.3% |
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- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| - Div 1: | Playing Handicaps up to 18. |
| - Div 2: | Handicaps 19 – 54 |

24. Juniors

Subject to standard handicap eligibility criteria as detailed above (Section 9), Juniors can take part in Club competitions if the following conditions are also met:

- The Junior must play in a group with at least one adult player.
 - If this adult is their parent, then they can play as a two.
 - If this adult isn't their parent, then a third person (either junior or adult) is required for safeguarding reasons.
- The adult player that the Junior is grouped with must be prepared if necessary to remind the Junior of expectations surrounding etiquette, behaviour and application of the rules of golf.

Appendix 1 – Onesie Rules 1

- The Onesie was introduced by past club captain, Gary Hann.
 - a. For qualifying competitions, the club's professional, Mike Ovett ('Mike') takes a fee of £1.00 per player.
 - b. When that fee is paid over to the shop, it is the player's responsibility to make the necessary entry into the competition book, by ticking under the column 'one'.
 - c. Any such fees are held by Mike in the Onesie pot ('the Pot').
 - d. The Pot grows incrementally, until such time as a player has a hole in one in a qualifying competition.
 - e. The Pot is capped at £4,000.00. At this point, a second pot is created and so on.
 - f. The player that has the hole in one takes the Pot, less 15% which is donated to PGC's Captain's Charity.
 - g. The Pot then starts again from a zero balance.
- Entry into the Onesie is limited to male, adult members (or junior members accompanied by an adult member) participating in qualifying competitions. For these purposes, a qualifying competition is:
 - a. A singles game, and
 - b. Played from the white tees, and
 - c. One of PGC's competitions.
- Once won, the Pot can:
 - a. Be used as credit in the pro shop.
 - b. Only be redeemed with Mike.
- The Pot cannot be transferred:
 - a. Onto a member's club card.
 - b. To any other person.
 - c. To any other club professional.
 - d. Into a bank account or similar.
- Where there are multiple hole in ones in the same competition (note – the Men's Club Championship is played over two days), the Pot is split equally amongst all players achieving the same, irrespective of the timing of the hole in ones.

For the sake of clarity, where there are more than one Pots (see 1 e), if there are multiple hole in ones in the same competition, the first pot is split equally amongst all players achieving this. It is not the case that Player 1 takes the first pot and player 2 takes the second pot.

- Where there are no hole in ones during one Captain's Year period, 50% of the first Pot will be donated to PGC's Captain's Charity. The remaining 50% will 'roll over' and form the opening balance of the Pot for the new Captain's year.
- Any challenge concerning the above rules shall be referred to the Captain's Committee, with that committee's decision on the matter being final.