



Howth Golf Club

Conditions of Competitions (Rule 33-1)

The Men's Executive Committee has approved the following conditions under which Club competitions are to be played. Members are required to know and comply with them.

1. The Rules of Golf

- 1.1. The Rules of Golf as approved by R & A Rules Limited and the U.S.G.A and in addition the Local Rules as made and published by the Men's Executive Committee shall apply to all competitions. (Players should familiarise themselves with these rules, particularly Rule 6 of the Rules of Golf: Player's Responsibilities).

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. Only players who meet the eligibility criteria for certain competitions, as laid down by the Competitions Committee, may enter those competitions. (The Committee may waive restrictions in certain circumstances)
- 2.2. Junior & Intermediate Members are not eligible to play in either the Captain's Prize or The Lady Captain's Prize to the Men.

3. Motorised Buggies

- 3.1. Motorised golf buggies may only be used with the permission of the Men's Executive Committee and provided the player is in possession of a current medical certificate of disability.
- 3.2. If a member is using his own buggy, a copy of the relevant insurance certificate must also be submitted.
- 3.3. The buggy may only be used by the person named on the certificates and may carry only his equipment and caddy. (Penalty for breach of condition - Disqualification)

4. Entry to official club competitions: - See Bye-Law 7.0 (7.1 to 7.6) in the Fixtures Diary and Bye-Laws

Time sheets will be available through the Booking Reservations System (BRS). Full details of access to the BRS booking system are contained at item 10 below. The Competitions Committee will set out the specific conditions for each competition. Unless a notice is displayed to the contrary the following general conditions will apply:

- 4.1. For all competitions requiring entry through the computer, each competitor must swipe his card or enter his number at least 10 minutes before his tee-off time. Persistent non-compliance with this 10 minutes rule will incur suspensions from

- future competitions. Latecomers may not start until the next vacant time.
- 4.2. Competitors unwilling to commence play at their designated time due to fog may enter their names on the timesheet and play at a later available time.
 - 4.3. Before commencing play, competitors must ensure that their names are entered in the computer and/or the competition book and the appropriate entry fee is paid as specified. Players should ensure that their GUI swipe cards are in credit (men's competitions account) for the competition being played when entry and payment is through the computer. Failure to comply with either entry or fee requirements mean a player is not entered in the competition.
 - 4.4. The Competitions Committee will determine competition entrance fees and the manner of their application. Payment will be by swipe card unless otherwise stated. In invitational competitions members will pay for their guests.
 - 4.5. Each competitor is required to enter their name, the date, and correct playing handicap on the scorecard. Each such scorecard shall be deemed to have been correctly issued by the Executive Committee pursuant to the first paragraph of Rule 33.5 of the Rules of Golf. (See item 15 below)
 - 4.6. After play ALL score cards for Handicap Qualifying Competitions, correctly completed and signed by both competitor and marker, must be returned as soon as possible through the computer and the competition box (penalty disqualification or, for persistent non-returns, possible suspension from future competitions for a period as determined by the Committee)
 - 4.7. Unless otherwise specified, reserving a starting time on the time sheet does not oblige a member to enter the competition of that day but compliance with the format and course of the day is mandatory
 - 4.8. A competitor may not take more than one prize in any competition
 - 4.9. Competitions will be suspended/abandoned/cancelled only in exceptional circumstances. The decision to do so can be taken, at any time on the day of competition, by any two members of the Executive Committee or of the Competitions Committee. Where a competition is cancelled or abandoned, entry and green fees (where applicable) will be refunded. Where a competition is suspended and resumed there will be no refund.
 - 4.10. On the day of competition the duty officer will have authority to substitute or combine players or to take any other appropriate action which will facilitate the smooth running of the competition.
 - 4.11. Where a player makes a late cancellation his playing partners must be informed immediately. Any player who fails to turn up without informing their playing partners in advance will be liable to sanction at the discretion of the Committee
 - 4.12. Where any issue or dispute arises in relation to any competition, the decision of the Competitions Committee will be made with full regard to the Rules of Golf, the Competition Conditions, and Equity. Such decision will be final.
- 5. Distance-Measuring Devices**
- 5.1 In all competitions organised and run at Howth Golf Club by Howth Men's Golf Club, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-

measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

6. Golfer of the Year

6.1. The golfer with the greatest number of points derived from his best 12 or fewer results from all Golfer of the Year qualifying competitions¹ will be awarded the Paddy McDonald Trophy. Each 18 holes of a 36 holes competition, where designated as golfer of the year qualifying, will be classed as a separate competition for the calculation of points for golfer of the year.

6.2. Points will be awarded on the basis of the following **Golfer of the Year Points Table**

Qualifying Competition Placing (based on net scores)	Points Awarded
1st	20
2nd	15
3rd	12
4th	10
5th	8
6th	7
7th	6
8th	5
9th	4
10th	3
11th	2
12th	1

6.3. Where a tie arises the tying competitor with the least number of counting cards wins. Where this does not produce a result, the decision will be made by eliminating, one by one, the worst counting cards of each tying competitor until all competitors but one are eliminated.

7. Handicaps

7.1. Handicaps will be operated and maintained in accordance with the current CONGU Unified Handicapping System.

¹ The Golfer of the Year competitions are denoted with “§” in the fixtures diary. All GOY competitions are played from the white tees.

7.2. All AWAY scores, including No Returns, in qualifying & non-qualifying competitions must be returned to Howth Golf Club.

8. Times of Starting and Groups: (Rule 33-3)

8.1. The player (s) shall start:

8.1.1. At the time laid down by the Competitions Committee, or if permitted by them:

8.1.2. At the time reserved on the BRS (electronic) time sheet, or

8.1.3. In the absence of 8.1.1 or 8.1.2, in turn, on the basis of pairing off upon arrival.

8.2. Players shall not compete in a competition prior to the official start time, unless with advance permission from the Competitions Committee. Normal weekend starting time is 6.30 a.m. in the summer or the later set time shown on the booking system in the autumn, winter and early Spring.

8.3. Players shall not compete in a competition after the last tee-time indicated on the time sheet, unless with advance permission from the Competitions Committee.

8.4. Competitors shall remain throughout the round in the group arranged by the Competitions Committee or booked on the timesheet (BRS) unless that Committee authorises or ratifies a change. (See Byelaw 7.1.3)

9. Match Play:

9.1. All matchplay competitions will be run subject to the rules of golf and in accordance with the rules, bye-laws & the conditions of competitions of Howth Golf Club.

9.2. Entry is open to all full, 7-day, & intermediate members and to junior members with handicaps of 12 or less at the deadline date for entry or on the date of the qualifying competition.

9.3. Pairings can be arranged without handicap restrictions.

9.4. A qualifying round over 18 holes (if required) will be played (strokes format for singles and foursomes and V-par format for fourball).

9.5. The holder(s) if entered with entry fee paid and, in the case of fourball and foursomes entered and playing together, will not be required to qualify.

9.6. The leading 64 players in the singles qualifier (63 if holder entered) and the leading 32 pairings in the fourball and foursomes qualifiers (31 if holders entered) will qualify for inclusion in the matchplay draws.

9.7. The general numerical draw will be used with the holders seeded at number one and the leading qualifier(s) at number two.

9.8. All matches will be played over 18 holes.

9.9. All players shall be equally responsible for arranging time of play, unless fixed arrangements operate.

9.10. In all matchplay competitions no extension of time shall be granted. The deadline for the playing of each round of a matchplay competition will be set out on the draw sheet.

- 9.11. Players' current handicaps (current on the date of the match) shall apply in all matches.
- 9.12. Matches shall be played from the back stakes as indicated by the white markers, unless otherwise mutually agreed.
- 9.13. In the event of a match being tied after 18 holes, play shall continue until a hole is won, with the 19th hole being the hole at which the match commenced.
- 9.14. The winner(s) of any match shall be responsible for recording the result.
- 9.15. If no result is entered on the draw sheet by the due date, or if the result has been altered, save than by the Matchplay Convenor/Referee² or Competitions Committee, all players shall be deemed to have scratched.
- 9.16. In the event of failure to agree a date for a match, then the match will be played at 3pm on the Saturday immediately preceding the closing date, or if there is a competition timesheet or Tee Reservation on the day, then immediately after the completion of the time sheet or reservation, as the case may be.
- 9.17. Any dispute concerning the arranging of a match or any other matter relating to a match, should be promptly referred to the Matchplay Convenor/Referee. The decision of the Matchplay Convenor/Referee on these matters shall be final (Rule 34-3).

10. Time Sheets: The Electronic Booking Reservations System (BRS)

10.1. Weekends (incl. Bank Holidays):

- 10.1.1. Time sheets for weekend golf competitions (including bank holidays) will open at **7a.m.** on the **Friday of the preceding week.** (i.e. 8, 9, or 10 Days prior to the Competition Day).
- 10.1.2. This applies to: Members Competitions, Members Mixed Competitions, Semi-Open Competitions, and Semi-Open Mixed Competitions.

10.2. Exceptions

- 10.2.1. Captain's Prize - timesheet open 30 days in advance on a Thursday at 9 pm
- 10.2.2. Flo Noonan Cup - timesheet open 23 days in advance on a Thursday at 7am

10.3. Mid-week Competitions - Open Week, Senior Opens, Tuesday Opens & Thursday Semi-Opens

- 10.3.1. Open Week - timesheet open to members 31 days and to public 24 days in advance of first day of open week (Thursdays at 7am)
- 10.3.2. Senior Opens (50+) & Tuesday Open Singles - timesheets open 2 Weeks prior to Competition Day at 7am
- 10.3.3. Thursday 4ball – timesheet open 8 days in advance at 2pm on the Wednesday of the previous week

² The Matchplay Convenor/Referee shall be a member of the Men's Executive Committee.

10.4. Booking Process

- 10.4.1. Members may not make a booking for any competition until the relevant time sheet opens.
- 10.4.2. Competition Team Leaders can request, prior to the time sheet opening, a time that facilitates their team duty roster for the specific competition day. (List of team leader names to be provided to the Office)
- 10.4.3. For singles competitions - members may book only one name at any one time.
- 10.4.4. For fourball & foursomes competitions: - members may book two names at any one time.
- 10.4.5. For Team Competitions members may book four names at any one time

11. Junior & Intermediate Members

11.1. Junior Golf

- 11.1.1. Both the men's executive committee and the ladies executive committee run junior golf.
- 11.1.2. Junior members with a handicap of 18 or less may enter their names on a competition time sheet only after 48 hours have elapsed after the time sheet has opened.
- 11.1.3. Junior members with a handicap of 12 or less are eligible to play in all men's competitions except the Captain's Prize and the Lady Captain's Prize to the men.
- 11.1.4. Junior members with a Handicap between 13 and 18 are eligible to play in all men's competitions except the Captains Prize, the Lady Captain's Prize to the men and the matchplay competitions.
- 11.1.5. Junior members with a handicap of 19 or more are not eligible to play in non-junior competitions.
- 11.1.6. Junior members must declare for Howth Golf Club unless written permission to declare for another club is obtained from the Men's Executive Committee

11.2. Intermediate Golf

- 11.2.1. Intermediate members are eligible to play in all competitions except the Captain's Prize and the Lady Captain's Prize to the men.
- 11.2.2. Intermediate members may enter their names on a competition time sheet only after 24 hours have elapsed after the time sheet has opened.
- 11.2.3. Intermediate members may play in midweek competitions without restriction, provided they meet the handicap & age conditions of the particular competition, if any.

12. Handicapping Rules and Allowances:

- 12.1. The rules and allowances that shall apply for handicapping are those prescribed by the Golfing Unions and set out in the CONGU Unified Handicapping System (latest revised edition). Players should familiarise themselves with the handicap system.

- 12.2. In all Club Competitions, including Semi-Open, Invitation, and Open Competitions, as organised by the Competitions Committee, the only handicaps acceptable and recognised for prize eligibility, shall be for players of affiliated golf clubs.

13. Teeing Grounds

- 13.1. The competition tees are those as indicated in the official competition entry book or the on the computer entry screen or the competition notice or on the BRS system.
- 13.2. All golfer of the year qualifying (GOY) competitions are played off the white tees
- 13.3. The stipulated round commences from the first tee and consists of playing the holes of the course in the sequence prescribed by the Competitions Committee, unless otherwise authorised by them.
- 13.4. In mixed foursomes competitions, the man shall tee off at the 1st hole unless otherwise indicated by the organising Committee

14. Etiquette

- 14.1. The rules regarding etiquette, as contained in SECTION 1 of the Rules of Golf, should be complied with at all times. In addition:
- 14.1.1. Competitors playing in an Inter-Club or Club Championship Match should, if practical, be extended the courtesy of being called through a slower group.
- 14.1.2. Players in a Club competition shall have priority over players who are not competing.
- 14.1.3. The maximum grouping allowed is four players, unless otherwise authorised by the Committee.

15. Pace of Play:

- 15.1. Be on time & ready to play at your designated tee time. Competitors must register (swipe-in) at least 10 minutes before tee time. (Bye-law & 7.1.1i)
- 15.2. Be ready to play every shot when it is your turn.
- 15.3. Do not wait for greens to clear when they are beyond your range.
- 15.4. Leave your bag at the side of the green nearest the next tee.
- 15.5. Line up your putt while others are putting and be ready to putt in turn.
- 15.6. If you cannot score or improve your team's score on any hole, pick up.
- 15.7. First player to putt out should be ready to replace the flag.
- 15.8. Do not mark cards on or near the green. Mark at the tee-box while other players are teeing off.

- 15.9. Encourage your playing partners to keep up with the group in front.
- 15.10. If someone is slowing things down, TELL HIM.
- 15.11. WALK AS YOU TALK - Do not delay play for conversation.
- 15.12. If you are falling behind for any reason, invite the group behind through.
- 15.13. Keep just behind the group ahead, not just ahead of the group behind.
- 15.14. Play a provisional ball if you think your ball is lost outside a hazard, or out of bounds.
- 15.15. Find your own ball first before you go searching for others.
- 15.16. Call the players behind through when you have to search for a ball – not after 5 minutes are up.
- 15.17. A ball not found within 5 minutes is lost and out of play (Rule 27).
- 15.18. See rules of Golf on slow play (Rule 6-7).
- 15.19. There should be no undue gaps between groups on the course.
- 15.20. REMEMBER: If your group is a hole behind, it is your fault.

16. Score Cards: (Rule 33-5)

- 16.1. In the absence of the Competitions Committee issuing score cards containing the date and competitor's name, all competitors are required, by the Competitions Committee, to put their name, handicap, and the date on their own scorecards. Where the Competitions Committee issues stick on labels with the player's name, date, & handicap it is the players responsibility to ensure that the details contained therein are correct.
- 16.2. In the absence of the Competitions Committee specifically appointing a 'marker' to check and record a competitor's score, a fellow-competitor or another player may act as marker.
- 16.3. A competitor should not mark or alter his own scorecard. (The appointed marker is responsible for checking and recording the competitor's score and for any alterations to the recorded scores).
- 16.4. Scores should be recorded on the scorecards after each hole.
- 16.5. Scorecards must be marked and signed before entering the locker room or Clubhouse.
- 16.6. Returned scores must not be disclosed to a player who has not started in the competition.
- 16.7. All 'singles' scores must be entered into the computer and the card returned as soon as possible after the round, whether the round is completed or not.
- 16.8. Failure to enter a score in the computer for a handicap qualifying Club

'singles' competition may result in the competitor being suspended from competing in his next 'singles' competition. In the case of a second offence the competitor will be suspended from competing in his next two 'singles' competitions.

16.9. NON-RETURNS IN QUALIFYING SINGLES COMPETITIONS.

16.9.1. The CONGU UHS recommendations will be enforced. You can view these online on 'CONGU UHS Rules'. It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that all competition cards in handicap qualifying competitions, whether or not complete, are returned to the competitions committee and to make such computer entries as may be required. If for a genuine and unforeseen reason you have to terminate your round early you should submit a written explanation to the Handicap Secretary within three days with an email to mensclub@howthgolfclub.ie being the preferred option. Brief excuses written on Score Cards are not acceptable.

17. Disputes and Rules of Golf

17.1. Any dispute or doubtful point on the Rules shall be referred to the Competitions Committee, as soon as possible, whose decision shall be final (Rule 34-3).

18. Decision of Ties: (Rule 33-6)

18.1. Ties are decided by matching the tied scorecards to determine the winner based on count-back, as approved by R & A Rules Limited.

18.2. For 36 hole competitions a tie is decided on last 18 holes and if still tied, proceed as for 18 holes matching below.

18.3. For 18 hole competitions decide on last 9 holes, then last 6--3--2--1 and if still tied, decide on last 3 holes--6--7--8 of first 9.

18.4. If this procedure does not produce a result, then the winner will be determined by lot.

18.5. In the event of the Competitions Committee permitting play to start at the 10th tee, or 1st and 10th tees simultaneously, the last nine holes, for the purpose of deciding ties, will be from the 10th to 18th hole.

19. Prize Presentations

Prizewinners are expected to attend Prize Presentations as a courtesy to our Officers, Members, and Sponsors whose generosity is much appreciated. If, due to exceptional circumstances, players are unable to be present to receive their prizes they should nominate another person to collect their prizes on their behalf.

20. General Conditions

20.1. The Men's and Ladies' Committees have jointly declared, as a Condition of Competition, that on any day when a 'mixed' stroke play competition follows another competition, practice will be permitted on the competition course, prior

to competing in the 'mixed' stroke competition. As per note to Rule 7-1(b) and confirmed by the R & A.

21. The Competitions Committee reserves the right to,

- 21.1. Refuse any entry without assigning a reason.
- 21.2. Correct any mistakes made in the checking of scorecards.
- 21.3. Alter the published competition or conditions of competition if it is deemed necessary.
- 21.4. Cancel a competition due to insufficient entries or to postpone or abandon it at any stage in exceptional circumstances, if the Committee so decides.

HOWTH GOLF CLUB MEN'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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