

NEATH GOLF CLUB COMPETITION HANDBOOK 2012

Introduction

The Rules of Golf define the Committee as “the Committee in charge of the competition” and rule 33-1 states that “the committee must establish the conditions under which a competition is to be played”. This handbook is therefore designed to help both experienced and new golfers enjoy competitions in the full and certain knowledge of how competitions will be administered at Neath Golf Club.

All references to “the Committee” mean the Greens Committee, with ultimate recourse to the General Committee if required in exceptional circumstances. In all cases the Rules of Golf take precedence over this Handbook.

The Handbook relates to Club competitions as arranged and managed by the Committee but holds no relevance to informal ‘roll-ups’ and the like operated by groups or individuals.

1. Entry, eligibility and inactive handicaps

The conditions for entry and eligibility relate mainly to “Club” and “Men’s” competitions. For conditions of entry to Ladies’ competitions guidance should be sought from the Ladies’ Competition Secretary.

The Committee will determine the eligibility of who may participate in the competition, i.e. men, women, juniors, seniors etc. The competition may also have handicap restrictions which will be clearly displayed on the entry sheet.

Members will have to have an “active” handicap to be eligible to enter Club Match Play & Winter League competitions. Players who have not submitted three Qualifying Scores (including NR’s, away, 9-hole qualifying competition and supplementary scores) during the calendar year 2011 will have their Handicap designated Inactive as from January 1st 2012. Players who have submitted 3 or more qualifying scores will have Active handicaps. Further guidance for new members, away and injured players is available from the Club Secretary.

A player with an Inactive Handicap wishing to revert to Active will be required to submit 3 new qualifying scores. “Topping up” is not permitted (i.e. a player returning 2 Qualifying scores in the calendar year will not have the designation removed by submitting 1 new score in the following year).

An Active handicap is required to qualify for winning/prizes in handicap qualifying competitions. Players with an Inactive handicap will be eligible to enter handicap qualifying competitions but will be unable to win any prizes. Scores from players with an Inactive Handicap will not be included in the CSS calculation. A CONGU® Handicap designated Inactive will be suffixed by the letter i: Example: 14i.

Entry for start sheet competitions is normally by adding your name to a start sheet which is displayed in the Professionals Shop. Entry sheets are normally available at least two weeks prior to the actual competition, with pre allocated time slots depending upon the type of competition. Members should request that the Professional enter their names on the sheet and alterations should be kept to a minimum. The Committee also ask that names are not entered to hold spaces without the prior permission of those entered. The Committee reserves the right to disallow entry to future competitions if it feels that the system is being abused in any way.

For some events a ‘closing date’ may be applied after which any player removing their name or failing to attend will be held responsible for payment of the full entry fees (including two’s). This will not necessarily prevent late entries to whom the same condition would apply. The application of a closing date will be indicated on the start sheet for the event. Any member required to pay fees in such circumstances will be notified of such by the Committee and will be excluded from entry to any competition until such payment is made.

Entry fees are to be paid to the Club Professional prior to playing. If for some reason this is not possible then the competitor should pay immediately on completion of the round after indicating to the Professional before play that they will be playing and will have been deemed to have entered all parts of the competition, such as two’s, unless prior arrangement has been made with the Club Professional.

Junior boy members are eligible to enter men’s competitions, excluding better ball competitions, playing from the men’s tees providing that they play with an adult member of the Club and hold a handicap of 18 or less.

2. Format

Matchplay

This format can either be singles, foursomes or four-ball matchplay and can be either on a scratch or handicap basis. If the format is on a handicap basis it will clearly be displayed what stroke allowance should be given. Dates for completion of such matches will be clearly displayed and in the event that the match is not played by that date then both competitors will be disqualified from the competition. It is the responsibility of all players to arrange a suitable time and date for the match to be played. The Greens Sub-Committee will arbitrate in exceptional circumstances but only where all players have tried and been unsuccessful in agreeing a tie and date. Disqualification for all players is still an option under arbitration.

Stroke Play

This format can either be singles, foursomes or four-ball stroke play. In addition it can be on the basis of stableford or bogey/par.

Different handicap classes may be established and the Greens Sub-Committee will determine classes in advance of entry. These classes for the monthly medal and most stroke play competitions will be on the following basis:

Division 1 - Handicaps up to and including 12

Division 2 - Handicaps 13 to and including 28

Other formats

The Greens Sub-Committee may decide to use a form of play not recognised by the Rules of Golf such as greensomes or scramble. The Greens Sub-Committee will establish rules and conditions which will be specific to those events and such conditions will be displayed on the entry sheet.

3. Decision of ties

In the case of matchplay competitions ties will be decided by playing over the first three holes commencing at the first hole after if still tied following these 3 holes by a sudden death playoff commencing at the fourth hole and continuing until there is a winner. In case of a handicap competition strokes will be awarded as they were for the first 18 or 36 holes depending upon the length of the match.

In strokeplay competition ties will be decided on the basis of the lowest gross or nett score for the last 9 holes of golf of the course played, regardless of the starting tee box dependent upon if the competition is played on a gross or nett basis. If this still results in a tie then the last 6 holes will be used and if necessary the last 3 holes or last hole used to determine a winner.

4. Practice

Practice is not allowed on the course prior to a competition on the day of the competition.

5. Caddies & Buggies

Caddies may be used in any competition if so desired. Buggies cannot be used in Club Match Play or Monthly Medal competitions, unless the player has been granted use due to a certified disability.

6. Local Rules

The Local Rules are published on the reverse of the score card and from time to time on Club notice boards. If a doubt rises about the interpretation of a local rule then the Greens Sub-Committee will give a decision.

7. Distance Measuring Devices

A player may obtain distance information by using a device that is designed to measure or gauge 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/her play (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.

8. Handicaps

Players are required to make themselves aware of their responsibilities under Clause 8 of the CONGU Unified Handicapping System. In particular they are reminded that they are responsible under 8.10 for reporting to the Greens Sub-Committee all Qualifying scores returned away from their Home Club. They are also reminded that they should make suitable reduction to their playing handicap if playing in another competition before the Greens Sub-Committee has made adjustment in respect of any Qualifying scores returned (or if they are unable to establish whether the Greens Sub-Committee has done so). Away scores may be reported by returning the card to the Secretary's Office or by advising the Club Secretary in writing or email. Players are reminded that the penalty for playing from a handicap higher than that to which he is entitled is disqualification (Rule 6-2).

The Greens Sub-Committee will review handicaps annually and advise players of any alterations made.

9. Issuing score cards, recording scores and prizes

Score cards will normally be available from the Professional's shop and it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that the following information is recorded on the card before it is handed to another competitor for marking:

Full Name, Date, Start Time, Handicap

On completion of the round the card should be checked and signed by both the competitor and the marker. In individual events the scores should be entered into the Players Score Input (PSI) terminal usually situated in the corridor outside the Men's Changing Rooms. The completed card should then be deposited in the Competition's Boxes which are situated on the wall opposite to the entrance to the Men's changing rooms. For other event the cards should be placed in the competition's Boxes. The Greens Sub-Committee will consider the card returned when it is either handed to a Greens Sub-Committee member or dropped into the box.

In matchplay competitions it is the responsibility of the winning player(s) to enter his/their name(s) on the draw sheet by the closing date of that round. In the event that the tie has been played and no name entered both competitors may be disqualified.

In order to comply with the rules of Amateur status most, but not all prizes will be purchased through the Professional's shop or a credit note will be issued to be added to the members account in the Professional's shop.

A "two's" competition is an optional extra competition run in conjunction with most competitions (but not scrambles and match play events). All competitors who have entered and recorded a gross two on any hole will be entitled to a share of the balls purchased with the proceeds of the entries. A hole in one entitles the player to a share of the balls counting as two "two's". Disqualified cards will not result in disqualification of any two's recorded. The number of balls will always be a whole number and where this results in balls being held over from one competition they will be added to the next "two's" competition. To be eligible to win balls rolled over in this competition the player must have entered the second competition.

10. Presentations

For some events a prize giving ceremony will be arranged for the evening of the event and this will be advertised on the notices posted for the event. All prize winners at such events should attend in person to collect their prize. In the event that winners cannot attend then this should be communicated to the Greens Sub-Committee as soon as possible in order to avoid any embarrassment. Winners who cannot attend should be prepared to forfeit their prizes.

11. Pace of Play

In the interest of all, players have an obligation to play at a reasonable pace. Slow players at the start of a field can ruin the day for all players behind them. Consequently the Greens Sub-Committee will do all it can to ensure that play is conducted at a reasonable pace.

The Rules of Golf provides that "The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines laid down by the General Committee". The penalty for breach of this rule is loss of hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play, and for a repeated offence, disqualification.

The Greens Sub-Committee have therefore decided on the following maximum pace of play guidelines

3 ball stroke play rounds 3.40 hours (nine holes, 1 hour 50 minutes)

4 ball stroke play rounds 4.00 hours (nine holes, 2 hours)

The Greens Sub-Committee will monitor these guidelines, but sincerely hope that it will not be necessary to impose any penalties for slow play.

12. Inclement weather and suspension of play

A competition will not be suspended simply on account of rain, unless the rain is so heavy that it would be unfair to require players to continue. Where rainfall causes the greens to flood, depending upon the severity of the flooding, play must continue until play is formally suspended by the Greens Sub-Committee. Play may also be suspended where the weather conditions render it dangerous to continue, such as lightening or fog. Suspension of play will be announced as effectively as possible, but due to the nature of our course this is not easy. Please see Rules of Golf 6-8 for correct procedures.

In potentially dangerous situations play must be discontinued immediately and if a player fails to discontinue play the he is disqualified, unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided in Rule 33-7.

The following signals will be used:

Discontinue Play Immediately: One prolonged note of siren

Discontinue Play: Three consecutive notes of siren, repeated

Resume Play: Two short notes of siren, repeated

Play Abandoned: A further prolonged note of siren

13. Discontinuation

Players are expected to complete the play of a round other than by reason of illness, injury, inclement weather or emergency. In addition, players entering a 36 hole competition are expected to complete both rounds. Players discontinuing play without good reason risk suspension from future events at the discretion of the Committee.

14. Referees

Referees will be provided and appointed by the Committee for the Finals of the major Matchplay cups.

15. Dress code

Competitors are obliged to abide by the dress code of the Club in operation at the time.

16. Etiquette

All players are requested to familiarise themselves with the Etiquette of Golf. Persistent refusal to comply with the Etiquette will be considered by the Greens Sub-Committee and appropriate action taken.