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## COMPETITION POLICY & RULES

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This document sets out the competition policy, competition rules and general conditions for competitions at Libbaton Golf Club.

This document is subject to routine review by the Handicap Committee for approval by the Main Club Committee.

Where necessary, committees will need to take account of the R&A's Modified Rules for Disabilities.

## **2. COMPETITION GENERAL**

- a. All competitions are open to all club members subject to status.
- b. Competitions will be posted Electronically or on the Competitions Notice Board prior to the event, with results posted at the earliest opportunity. It is the competitor's responsibility to confirm their starting time and where required, register on the PSI.
- c. The competition organiser(s) shall specify the conditions under which the competition will be played. The conditions will be specified on the entry sheet. Competition conditions may be varied on the day of the competition by the organiser(s), if adverse course and/or weather conditions dictate.
- d. The entry fee for all competitions will be specified by the relevant section and shall be paid in advance of play. Entry fees will only be reimbursed in exceptional circumstances.
- e. Local rules, when in force, will apply to all competitions.
- f. All competitions will be from the specified tees. Stroke allowances will relate to the course card and shall adhere to local rules and other conditions governing players at that time.
- g. All competitors scores, **including nil returns must be returned on completion of the round** and in accordance with the WHS Rules of Handicapping. Failure to do so will be noted on the handicap record.
  - If a player fails to complete their round for a valid reason but has completed the minimum number of holes for an acceptable score **the score must be posted.**

- If a player fails to complete their round for a valid reason but has **not** completed the minimum number of holes for an acceptable score **the score must NOT be posted.**
  - If the committee determines that there is no valid reason for a score not having been returned, then measures shall be taken in accordance with the WHS Rules of Handicapping, including applying a penalty score.
  - Continual non-return of scores may result in disqualification from competitions.
- h.** All players entering competitions must have a valid and recognised handicap index unless sanctioned by the organising committee.
- i.** All queries, disputes and rulings concerning competitions will be decided by the relevant Club Committee, whose decision is final. An appeals procedure is available through Devon County,
- j.** With the exception of players over the age of 80, buggies may only be used in competitions with prior permission. **This applies to ALL COMPETITIONS.** Other members are required to inform the relevant organising committee of any illnesses or injury that requires the use of a buggy and a record of members requiring the use of buggies is to be maintained by the office and relevant section. Members who become injured or require a use of a buggy in the short term prior to a competition due to a medical issue **MUST** contact the relevant organising committee a minimum of 24 hours in **ADVANCE**, not on the day of the competition to receive approval. A minimum of 2 committee members is required to approve the request. In the event of adverse course conditions, the greens staff have authority to ban or limit the use of buggies.
- k.** Questions, queries, and suggestions should be addressed to a member of the relevant Competitions Committee.

### **3. COMPETITION POLICY**

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution the following rules apply to club competitions.

#### **a. Men's Competitions**

- i.** Entry shall be open **ONLY** to Males. The E.G. rules and regulations shall apply to all arrangements. Men includes junior boys with a handicap index of 54 shall play from the appropriate tees unless a particular competitions terms of entry state otherwise. A junior

may not play in the same group as another junior unless accompanied by at least one adult member.

**b. Ladies Medal Competitions**

- i. Entry shall be open ONLY to Ladies. The E.G. rules and regulations shall apply to all arrangements. Ladies includes junior girls with a maximum handicap index of 54 shall play from the appropriate tees unless competition terms of entry state otherwise. A junior may not play in the same group as another junior unless accompanied by at least one adult member.

**c. Men's and Ladies Individual Competitions**

- i. All mixed competitions unless specified on the entry sheet, will be open to all qualifying members regardless of gender.
- ii. The sections committees shall state the rules and regulations for each competition with the entry sheets when these are posted electronically or on the Notice Board. **The Committee will take account of the mandatory Stroke Allowances as stated in the rules of the WHS.**
- iii. The arrangements for each competition shall state the tees to be used and the stroke allowances to be made. Depending on the type of competition and number of entrants, there may be separate prizes for Men and Women, and handicap indexes. In some cases prizes may be awarded irrespective of gender.
- iv. The precise arrangement and conditions of entry for each competition will be identified with the entry sheet when they are posted electronically or on the Notice Board.

**d. Knockout Competitions**

- i. Knockout competitions are open to all members who are able to conform to the entry requirements.
- ii. The Ladies and Men's Handicap Committees shall deal with handicap strictly in accordance with WHS rules, regulations and procedures.
- iii. The WHS instructions referred to in this notice are available in the clubhouse or on line for perusal by any member.
- iv. Nothing contained in this notice shall curtail the activities of the Men's, Ladies, Senior or Junior Sections in running their own internal competitions.

**4. COMPETITION RULES****a. General**

- i. Before any member can take part in a Club Competition, they must have a valid and recognised handicap index prior to the closing entry date for that competition - A player with a suspended handicap cannot enter a Club Competition.
- ii. In all competitions the onus lies with the player(s) to sign in and pay the appropriate entry fee before start of play. Failure to do either will result in automatic disqualification.
- iii. In certain circumstances, players entering competitions and failing to appear without prior notification (24hrs) maybe liable for the cost of entry.
- iv. It is the responsibility of players to return their cards either electronically or to the organising committee in a timely manner. All cards on completion of a round must be returned to the appropriate committee including those entered electronically. Action may be taken against members who fail to return cards after competition as per the rules of the WHS.
- v. In all competitions, players must play from the handicap index prevailing on the day of play.

**b. Attendance on the Tee and Late Start**

- i. Competitors in any competition with starting times must be on the tee and ready to play 5 minutes before their designated starting time. The penalty for lateness on the tee shall be for up to 5 minute late:
  - a. Stroke Play - 2 shots added
  - b. Stableford - 2 points deducted
- ii. Competitors will be disqualified when over 5 minutes late.
- iii. Matchplay - Opponents not on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee at the allotted time will be deemed to have lost that hole. If opponents have not arrived by the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee they will be deemed to have lost the match.
- iv. Where only one player of a team (4 ball event) tees off at the allotted time the late player may join the match at any later hole and play from there without penalty.

- v. In a league based match play competition when none of the players arrive both players/team will be deemed to have lost the match.

**c. Deciding Competition Places**

- i. For all competitions, the places will be decided on countback over the last 9, 6, 3, 2, 1 holes, with further countback on the front 9 holes if required.

**d. Match Play and Knockout**

- i. All matches in knockout competitions shall be played by the dates designated for each competition. Failure to play matches by the due date will result in elimination from the competition. In all matchplay knockout competitions, it shall be the responsibility of the first named player(s) to offer the opponent(s) 3 times and dates. If these are not acceptable the second named player(s) shall offer 3 alternative times and dates. Where there is a failure to agree a time and date both parties shall approach the relevant Committee for a ruling **before** the date that the match was due to be played. The ruling of the relevant Committee will be final. Special arrangements shall apply for the final and play-off matches where these are due to be played on a set date. If either player(s) are unavailable on the set date then the match may be re-arranged to be played on a mutually acceptable date with the agreement of the relevant Committee.
  - ii. All match play competitions shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> tee and be played to a finish. In the event of a match being halted for a reason provided under the "Rules of Golf" or due to course closure by a club official, it shall be re-started as soon as practical from the point at which the match was suspended.
  - iii. In the event of a tie after 18 holes in matchplay knockout competitions, the match will continue on a 'sudden death' basis on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> etc. holes.
- e. Conflicting Fixtures**
- i. Where a knockout or league match has been scheduled for a specific date and one or more players is representing the club in a conflicting fixture, the match shall be re-scheduled to the mutual convenience of all players concerned. This shall be played as soon as possible after the date, in order that the following round can be completed on time.
- f. Competition Tees**
- i. Competitions, including matchplay, may start from the 10th tee.