

Whitstable and Seasalter Golf Club (covid-19 safe)

(DRAFT – JULY 2020)



Terms for Competitions (Men's Sunday) + HANDICAP POLICY

Introduction

The club's main committee is responsible for ensuring appropriate arrangements for all golf competitions at Whitstable Golf Club. Responsibility for Men's Sunday morning competitions rests with the Competition Committee comprising of the Club Captain, Club Competition Secretary; Club Secretary and Club Handicap Secretary.

General Terms for Competitions

Failure to Arrive

A player is deemed to have "Failed to Arrive" if they do not turn up and fail to give notice by deleting their name from the booking list within twenty-four hours of their start time. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the Committee will suspend the player concerned from competing in two subsequent Club Competitions. The player concerned will be provided with written notification of the dates of any suspension imposed.

Players Withdrawing from Competitions

A player wishing to withdraw from a competition up to twenty-four hours before the start-time must delete their name from the booking list. If withdrawing within twenty-four hours of the start time a player must delete their name from the booking sheet and notify one of their playing partners and/ or a member of the competition committee.

Pace of Play

A four-ball group is required to complete their round of golf within three hours + 20 minute for a break between the 9th green and 10th tee. This pace of play is essential to avoid delays for players booked to start their rounds later in the day.

Players booking to play competitions on Sunday mornings must be prepared to complete their round within the time allocated and should not book to play unless they are prepared to do so. Players who consistently fail to complete their rounds within the time allocated may be asked by the Committee to explain the reason for their slow play and may be requested not to enter future Sunday morning competitions unless they agree to achieve the pace of play required.

Teeing Ground

All Club Competitions or Matches in the Club's Knock-Out Competitions will be played from White Tee Markers unless temporary local rules are in force requiring the use of Winter Mats or Yellow Tee Markers.

Markers

Fellow competitors will normally act as markers to record scores and certify scorecards. In the unusual event of a player wishing to play in a competition alone, it will be that player's responsibility to find a suitable person to act as their marker. Any such person must be a playing member of the Club with a current handicap and a sound knowledge of the rules of golf.

Course Closure/Use of Trolleys and Buggies

Decisions concerning course closure and use of Trolleys, Electric Trolleys and Buggies rest with the Head Green-keeper in liaison with the Greens Director and Club Secretary. The Head Green-keeper will determine the condition of the course and his decision on closure and the use of trolleys and buggies will be final. In his absence the Greens Director, the Secretary or the Assistant Greenkeeper will make that decision.

N.B. Any Board Member may close the course, if In exceptional circumstances they deem conditions unsafe.

Use of Buggies for competitions

The use of buggies (i.e. ride-on motorised vehicles) is permitted for all competitions except at times when course conditions prevent their use.

Abandoned/Suspended Competitions

The Club Captain will make the decision in consultation with one or more members of the Competition Committee as to whether to abandon or postpone any competition in circumstances of bad weather or poor course conditions. If a competition has started and play has to be suspended or abandoned, those responsible for the decision will take all reasonable measures to notify any competitors on the course. When lightning is present close by, the Club Captain or the Lady's, Old Salt's or Mid Weeker's Captains or their nominated deputies will take the decision to abandon the competition. Except when juniors are present, it remains each player's ultimate responsibility to ensure their own safety.

Halved Matches and Ties

Unless otherwise stated in the terms for specific competitions described in subsequent sections, ties will be settled by comparing scores for the last nine, six, three, or last hole. In Medal / Strokeplay competitions, the net score will be calculated using the appropriate portions of each player's handicap. If the scores for the last nine holes are identical then the same procedure will be applied to the results for the first nine holes.

In Stableford events the points scored over the last nine, six, three and final holes will determine the winner in the event of a tie. If the scores still remain tied then the same procedure will be used for scores on the front nine holes.

NB. Irrespective of the order in which holes are played, the holes used to determine results in the event of a tie, will be the last nine, six, three and final holes as shown on score-card returned to the Committee.

Competition Eligibility

All competition entrants must hold a current handicap allocated under the World Handicap Scheme.

The maximum course handicap permitted for Sunday Morning Men's competitions will be 28 unless individual competition conditions state otherwise. Any player with a course

handicap greater than 28 will be permitted to enter competitions using a course handicap of only 28.

Entry Fees & Prize Monies

For Sunday Morning Competitions, competitors will pay an entry fee of £2. Payment arrangements will be notified in advance of each competition.

Prizes will be awarded as vouchers or credit for bar use – the value of prizes will be determined by the competition secretary and will be in the region of -

1st Place-£35

2nd Place £25

3rd Place £10

Medal scratch prize £10

The competition secretary will maintain a written account of all monies received and paid and details of this account will be made routinely available to the Club Committee.

Completion of Score Cards – temporary arrangements

SCORE CARDS MUST NOT BE EXCHANGED BEFORE OR AFTER THE ROUND AND MUST BE RETAINED BY THE PLAYER AT ALL TIMES

Score cards, (including nil returns) must show date, players name and handicap. Players must record details of their scores on their own card. Scores should be checked verbally with their playing partner/marker.

Submission of Scores to Committee

Scores for each hole should be submitted using the HowDidIDo “Mobile Score Input” system. If necessary, scores may be sent by email to handicapsec@whitstable-golfclub.co.uk. Scores must be submitted before 12.00 midday on the day after the competition. E-mailed scores must include clear details of the player’s name, the marker’s name as well as the individual scores for each hole - scanned /photographic images of scorecards are preferred.

Failure to submit scores using the send score details by email within the time allotted will result in automatic disqualification.

Presentation of Prizes

Trophies and prizes will be presented one week after competitions are held. The final decision concerning the presentation of trophies and prizes will rest with the Competition Committee.

The Competition Committee will be responsible for recording details of competition winners etc. on the honours boards in the Clubhouse. The cost of engraving trophies will be met from competition entry fees.

COMPETITION BOOKING SHEETS

Booking sheets for competitions will be posted on the How Did I Do website / App five days before the competition date. The President and Club Captain have the privilege to choose a regular starting time if they so wish.

Although a member may book for up to three friends using the How Did I Do booking system they should not do so unless they are certain that those other individuals intend to play.

A member, who wishes to be considered for any vacant slot that may arise if another member withdraws, should book a tee time after 12.00 on the same day and advise a member of the competition committee by email or WhatsApp.

DRAWN COMPETITIONS

Competition booking sheets for drawn competitions will be posted on the How did I Do Website / App using the same method used for non-drawn competitions.

Approximately 48 hours prior to the date of competition an automatic random revision of names booked to play will be conducted by the competition secretary.

During the period after the draw has been conducted, additional entries will only be permitted at the discretion of the competition committee.

SPECIFIC COMPETITION TERMS – Revised for 2020 - 21

COMMITTEE CUP

The Committee Cup will be presented to the player who accrues the highest number of points each year in the following competitions: -

March Hare	Stableford
Frend Cup	Stableford
Canterbury Cup	Medal (36 holes)
Harry Johnson Cup	Medal
Medal competitions x 2	Medal
September Monthly Medal	Medal

Points will be allocated on the basis of: -

1 st place - 12 points	4 th place - 6 points
2 nd place - 10 points	5 th place - 4 points
3 rd place - 8 points	6 th place - 2 points

Following completion of the six events, if more than one player finishes with the same points total then the players involved will compete in a play-off. The Committee will determine the format and date of any such play off.

For each of the competitions that count for Committee Cup points, drawn partners and starting times will apply. Competitors will not be allowed to change their starting times or partners once drawn.

N.B. Maximum course handicap for Committee Cup competitions entrants will be 21.

MONTHLY MEDALS

Monthly Medal Competitions will be arranged from March to October - results for monthly medal competitions held in April and September contribute towards Committee Cup points. Competitors will be permitted their full “course handicap” allowance for all medal competitions apart from the two that count towards the Committee Cup for which the maximum handicap permitted will be 21.

Starting times for all monthly medal competitions will be arranged on Sunday Morning. The winner of each monthly medal competition will be eligible for entry to the Club’s “Medal Winners Cup” event.

The winners of medal competitions will be the players with the lowest net score in each competition. In the event of any ties, winners will be decided on the basis of count-back using the method described in the “General Conditions” section. A “Scratch Prize” may be awarded to the player with the lowest gross score unless that same player is already eligible for a place prize. In the event that there is more than one player with the same

lowest gross score, then any scratch prize will be awarded on the basis of gross score count-back.

Monthly Medal Competitions will usually be played from white medal tees and will be "Acceptable Scores" for handicap purposes. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the World Handicap System.

MEDAL WINNER'S CUP

Entry to this event will be reserved exclusively for winners of the Club's eight prior monthly medal competitions. The cup will be presented to the winner of a medal competition played on a Sunday morning following the last monthly medal competition (usually held in October).

Start times and playing partners will be drawn. Competitors will be permitted their full course handicap allowance. Winner will be the player with the lowest net score. In the event of a tie the winner will be decided on the basis of count-back using the method described in the "General Competition Conditions" section.

The competition will provide "Acceptable Scores" for handicap purposes. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the World Handicap System.

SCRATCH CUP

The Scratch Cup competition will be played during July, in conjunction with the monthly medal. The winner of the Scratch Cup will be the player with the lowest gross score. In the event of a tie, the result will be decided on count-back taking account of gross scores only. The winner will be regarded as the Club Champion, eligible for entry in the Watson Trophy held at Dartford. The winner's name will be entered on the Club's honours board.

The monthly medal played in conjunction with the Scratch Cup will provide "Acceptable Scores" for handicap purposes. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the World Handicap System.

PRESIDENT'S PRIZE??

The Club President will present a prize each year to the winners of a Greensome's Medal Competition played over thirty-six or twenty-seven holes. The names of the winning pair will be recorded on the Club's honours board.

Players and starting times will be drawn. Names of competitors will be drawn from two groups to ensure that each pair is composed of a high and low handicap player. The handicap for each pair will be calculated on the basis of 0.6% of the low handicap added to 0.4% of the high handicap. Greensome's Competitions are non-qualifying competitions for handicap purposes.

The type of competition to be played and the conditions of the competition may be varied by the President. All prizes will be awarded at the sole discretion of the President and in the event of a tie; the winners will be decided on the basis of the count-back method described for the Canterbury Cup in the previous section.

MARCH HARE TROPHY

Presented annually to the winner of an 18-hole Stableford Competition, usually played on a Sunday morning in March. The results will count towards points for the Committee Cup (Max handicap 21). Winners' names will be entered on the Club's honours board.

Start times and playing partners will be drawn. The winner will be the player with the highest number of Stableford points. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places. In the event of a tie the winner will be decided on the basis of count-back using the method described in the "General Competition Conditions" section. The competition will provide "Acceptable Scores" for handicap purposes. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the World Handicap System.

HARRY JOHNSON CUP

Presented annually to the winner of an 18-hole medal competition played on a Sunday morning as determined by the Committee. The result will count towards points for the Committee Cup (Max handicap 21). Winners' names will be entered on the Club's honours board.

Start times and playing partners will be drawn. The winner will be the player with the lowest net score. In the event of a tie the winner will be decided on the basis of count-back using the method described in the "General Competition Conditions" section.

The competition will provide "Acceptable Scores" for handicap purposes. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the World Handicap System.

FREND CUP

Presented to the winner each year of an 18-hole Stableford competition played on a Sunday morning as determined by the Committee. The results will count towards points for the Committee Cup (Max handicap 21). Winners' names will be entered on the Club's honours board.

Start times and playing partners will be drawn. The winner will be the player with the highest number of Stableford points. In the event of a tie the winner will be decided on the basis of count-back using the method described in the "General Competition Conditions" section.

The competition will provide "Acceptable Scores" for handicap purposes. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the World Handicap System.

CANTERBURY CUP

Presented to Whitstable Golf Club by the original Canterbury Golf Club when it closed (formerly located at the site of Barton Court School). The trophy is awarded annually to the winner of a 36-hole medal competition results will count towards points for the

Committee Cup (Max handicap 21). Winners' names will be entered on the Club's honours board.

Start times and playing partners will be drawn. In the event that one of the rounds on the day of the competition is not played or abandoned for any reason, then the result will be determined on the basis of just the single completed round.

The winner will be the player with the lowest net aggregate total score for the thirty-six holes. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places to the three players with the lowest total net scores. Further prizes will be awarded for the best daily scores and for the best scratch total - N.B. a player will be permitted to win only one prize. In the event of a tie the player with the best net score for the second (final) round will be declared the winner. If these scores are identical the result will be decided by applying the count-back method described in the "General Competition Conditions" section to the second round and then if necessary, the first round.

Player's handicaps will be fixed for the competition. Adjustments will not be made after the first round. Following the completion of both rounds scores for each round will provide "Acceptable Scores" for handicap purposes. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the World Handicap System.

TURKEY TROT

A Sunday morning Stableford Competition played over three rounds during October and November. Players are permitted full "course handicap" allowance. The winner will be judged as the player with the best aggregate Stableford total for any two of the rounds played.

If conditions do not permit three rounds to be played, the result will be decided on the best aggregate total for as many rounds as arranged. In the event of a tie the winner will be decided on the basis of a count-back using the last of the counting rounds for each player involved.

Prizes will be determined by the Committee and awarded for first, second and third places. Additional winner and runner up prizes will be awarded to the player with the best points total in each round. **NB.** A player will only be awarded one prize.

WOOD TROPHY

A Sunday morning Stableford Competition played over three rounds during January and February. Players are permitted full "course handicap" allowance – the winner will be the player with the best aggregate Stableford points for any two of the rounds played.

If conditions do not permit three rounds to be played, the result will be decided on the best aggregate total for as many rounds as arranged. In the event of a tie the winner will be decided on the basis of count-back using the last of the counting rounds of each player involved.

Prizes will be determined by the Committee and awarded for first, second and third places. Additional winner and runner up prizes will be awarded to the player with the best points total in each round. **N.B** A player will only be awarded one prize.

CAPTAIN'S BRANDY STAKES

A Stableford competition arranged for Boxing-Day morning – competitors will play of their full “course handicap” Entry fees and Prizes for this competition will be determined by the Club Captain; The Captain’s decision on all matters will be final.

The competition will provide “Acceptable Scores” for handicap purposes. Handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the World Handicap System.

WSGC - Handicapping

The Handicap Committee - Handicapping responsibilities rest with the clubs handicap committee. The handicap committee is a sub-committee of the clubs main committee; its members will include the men's handicap secretary, the ladies handicap secretary and the club secretary.

To obtain a handicap – A member requiring their first handicap indeed must submit 3 cards over 18 holes or six cards over 9 holes (or a combination of both to return a Total of 54 holes.) using white, red or yellow tees or winter mats; if other tees are not available. Each card submitted must be marked and signed by a fellow Member.

Members without a handicap may play in any of the club's "Acceptable" golf competitions and return their signed score cards for the handicap secretary's attention. The tees used must be clearly recorded on the card, and the card must be dated and signed by the player and their marker.

Scores submitted by members for handicap purposes will be entered into the club's handicapping system by the handicap secretary. When the necessary scores have been entered, the new handicap index will be allocated automatically and will be included on the club's handicap list and posted on the club notice board. Members may also check their handicap on the HowDidIDo website.

English Golf Union Central Database of Handicaps – Details of all handicaps allocated to members of Whitstable Golf Club are calculated using the World Handicap System. The English Golf Union maintains a Central data base of Handicaps (CDH) which is updated automatically when any changes occur. Each member has a unique CDH number that moves with them in the event they transfer to another golf club.

Home and Away Players – Members of golf clubs are only permitted to have one handicap. In the event that a member belongs to more than one club they must nominate one as their "Home" club. Their main handicap record (including their CDH number) will be maintained at the "Home" club - other clubs they belong to will be nominated as "Away" clubs for handicap purposes. All scores recorded at either club will be communicated between the Home and Away clubs automatically to ensure the correct handicap is available at all times.

Acceptable Competitions - Course conditions permitting, acceptable competitions (for handicap purposes) may-be played throughout the year from the white tees or when these are temporary unavailable from the yellow tees. During the winter acceptable competitions may also be played using temporary tee mats. Competitions will not be acceptable for handicapping purposes any tee marker sets when more than two Temporary Green are in use, i.e. more than one temporary for nine holes.

Following all Qualifying Club Competitions, handicaps will be adjusted in accordance with the requirements of "The World Handicap System". Handicaps will only be updated at the end of the day of competition, at which time all acceptable rounds played on the course that day will be processed to determine the "Course Condition Adjustment" for the day.

Nil Returns - The club has sole discretion to refuse a score-card or record a 'no return' when the player has walked in after playing only a few holes. In general, sympathetic consideration will be given to players who have had to discontinue play for any reason considered to be reasonable.

The club may suspend the handicap of any player who persistently submits incomplete cards or makes 'no returns'.

To help ensure score cards are returned correctly a record will be maintained of no returns for all players. This record will be reviewed by the clubs main committee two monthly - players who have submitted incomplete cards and/ or made no returns on four occasions during any two month period will be asked to account for their failure and the Handicap Committee may suspend their handicap if appropriate.

Annual Review of handicaps - Whitstable and Seasalter Golf Club is required to carry out an Annual Review of the handicaps of all Members in compliance with the requirements of The World Handicap System. This review will be conducted by the Handicap Committee during October / November each year.

The purpose of the Annual Review is to identify:

- Those players whose general playing performance and scoring pattern over the year is better than that expected for their Handicap Category and who should be considered for a reduction of handicap.
- Those players whose general playing performance and scoring pattern over the year is inferior to that expected for their Handicap Category and who should be considered for an increase of handicap.

It should be noted that the majority of Members, particularly those who have returned a reasonable number of Qualifying Scores through the year, will probably have had appropriate handicap alterations applied by the system and do not require further adjustment..

The Handicap Committee will conduct the Annual Review using the Club's handicap system generated report that 'flags' those players whose performance over the year is outside the expected scoring pattern for their Handicap level and who should be the subject of further consideration for an increase or decrease in handicap, as appropriate. However this report will not be taken as an automatic authority to adjust the handicaps of the listed players, or as indicative of the only players requiring review.

When carrying out the Annual Review and in giving consideration to possible handicap adjustments arising from the computer generated listing, the Handicap Committee will:

- Take account of the player's achievements in all golf competitions they have played including match play competitions, four-ball better ball competitions and other forms of team events.
- Examine the frequency of Acceptable Scores recently returned by the player to and below his Playing Handicap;

- Possibly deal more severely with a player, whose general standard of play is known to be improving, than it would with a player who it is believed has returned scores below his general ability but whose general ability is not considered to be improving;
- Only adjust a handicap after all information available in regard to the playing ability of the player has been considered. Decisions made on the basis of 'knee-jerk' reactions to a single performance or good score are seldom justifiable;
- Recognise that it is as important to identify players of declining ability who have handicaps that are too low, as it is to identify players who have a handicap that is too high;
- Ensure that the performance of any player who has been allotted a handicap since the last Annual Review is carefully assessed to confirm that his handicap reflects his current ability;
- Not use General Play Adjustments as a 'punishment' (or 'reward') for success in either match or stroke play competitions (unless other evidence exists to support an adjustment); and
- Not apply a formula to make adjustments e.g.the winners of club match play events being the subject of a handicap reduction of two strokes.

Continuous Handicap Review – The Continuous Handicap Review process will run alongside the Annual Review (AR) report to identify those players who may be struggling to play to handicap during the season. The handicap committee will conduct such reviews on a quarterly basis using a computer generated report to identify players that have received at least 7 using consecutive x 0.1 increases. The handicap committee will consider English Golf Union Guidance to determine whether any of the players included on this list should be subjected to a handicap increase.

Exceptional Scoring Reductions (ESR) – For players who are improving rapidly, and whose handicap may not be reducing quickly enough, there is a process included in the club's handicap software that can apply an additional reduction. This is triggered if a player returns two scores of 4 under handicap or better. The reduction is based on the second score within a specified number of qualifying rounds. The handicap committee is offered an option to accept or decline the additional reduction, and in most cases the recommendation is to accept it, but this is not compulsory. It does not apply to "category 1" players.