



## **GENTS COMPETITION RULES**

**Updated April 2017**

### **General Rules**

All competitions are played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, as laid down by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. Rule books are available in the clubhouse and local rules are displayed on the club notice board.

A local rule permits the use of distance measuring devices during club and Open competitions provided the device is only capable of measuring distance.

The maximum playing handicap in all club competitions is 28 (with the exception of Summer League where members with a club handicap of 29 to 54 may play) and the Committee will publish the maximum playing handicap permitted in Open Competitions. Junior members with a handicap of 28 or less may enter Club Medal competitions and Summer League but only if accompanied by a Gents Member and may enter Club Match Play competitions.

In the event of a tie in stroke play competitions, the winner will be decided by the normal count back rules.

In all competitions decided over more than one round of stroke play, the final round will decide in the event of a tie with the usual count back rules then applying if necessary.

In match play competitions, matches which end all square will be played off hole by hole until one side wins a hole. If lack of daylight prevents a match being played to a conclusion, players are required to arrange ASAP a date to complete the tie re-starting where match stopped. The play off will start at the 1<sup>st</sup> hole and strokes given or received are as in the original round.

### **Entry to Club Competitions**

Entry to all medal competitions can be made up to 11 days in advance via the online booking system or in person at the Golf Shop. Entry by telephone to the Golf Shop can be made up to 6 days in advance.

Entry to Saturday competitions will be to a 30 minute time slot and a draw will be made for tee times. Members should only enter their own name for a Saturday Medal competition.

Entries should normally be made no later than 12 noon on the Thursday but, in exceptional circumstances, members may enter a Saturday competition via the Golf Shop no later than 12 noon on the Saturday. Late entries between 12 noon on the Thursday and 12 noon on the Saturday will be monitored and no member will be permitted more than 2 late entries per season.

The draw for Saturday competitions will be posted in the Golf Shop and on the club website on the Thursday prior to the competition. Entry to other medal competitions will be for a specific tee time.

Members who have booked, and subsequently cannot make their tee time must advise the Golf Shop of their cancellation at least 30 minutes prior to their actual tee time. Members who fail to cancel will on the first occasion be written to noting the failure to show without cancellation. Subsequent occasions will result in sanctions being applied by the Committee – a 1 competition ban increasing to a 3 competition ban for further occasions unless mitigating circumstances can be presented.

When a player pays their entry fee on the day of a club medal competition they are deemed to have entered the competition and must return a score. If the player subsequently fails to tee off or fails to complete their round due to illness/injury or any other factor except abandonment of the competition, a no return must be submitted and a handicap increase will be applied. Players who are not on the tee for their tee time will not be permitted to play.

### **Delayed Start**

Where the start of play is delayed due to inclement weather, the order of play when play starts will be as per the original draw. If the start of play is delayed for more than 2 hours the competition will be abandoned.

### **Suspension of Play**

When the Committee considers it necessary to suspend play immediately, the signal will be a SINGLE CONTINUOUS NOTE of the siren. When play is suspended but the player has the option to complete the hole being played the signal will be 3 NOTES of the siren. Resumption of play will be two short notes of the siren, repeated. When play is suspended the player should mark their ball (if it is in play) and on resumption of play the ball should be replaced and continue play. If the player decides not to continue after play has resumed then a no return must be submitted and a handicap increase will be applied.

The maximum period of suspension will be 1 hour – if play is still not possible the competition will be abandoned.

In normal circumstances the decision to suspend or abandon play will be taken by the Green staff, Club Manager or a member of the Committee. In the event that none of the above is present at the club when the course becomes unplayable, the players (minimum 4) from 2 tee times on the course at that time can between them agree that the course is unplayable because of flooded greens / lightning and that play should be suspended. If the course remains unplayable after 1 hour they can agree that play is abandoned. In these circumstances all the players should sign a declaration to that effect and place it in the scorecard box. Players should be aware of the impact of abandonment (see below) and this decision should only be taken if absolutely necessary.

### **Abandoned Competition**

In the event of a Medal competition being abandoned, the Competition Standard Scratch Score for completed rounds will be the Standard Scratch Score for the course (69 for White Tees, 68 for Yellow Tees). Players who have completed their rounds and have returned scores less than the Standard Scratch Score will have their handicaps reduced accordingly but no handicap increases will be applied. No prizes will be paid, all entry fees for the competition will be refunded and the competition will be rescheduled.

## **Completion of Round**

All cards must be signed by the player and marker, score entered into the computer in the clubhouse and card placed in the scorecard box. Failure to sign the card or deposit it in the box **will** result in disqualification. Failure to enter the score into the computer will on the first occasion be brought to the player's attention but subsequent failures may result in suspension from the next competition.

## **Entry Fees**

Details of entry fees for all club competitions are posted on the notice board in the clubhouse and on entry sheets for match play and Open Competitions.

## **Prizes**

In all competitions players may win only one prize. Where a player has more than one potential prize winning score they will receive the highest prize with Scratch taking precedence over Handicap. In Summer and Winter Leagues, where prizes are awarded for Scratch, Handicap and Eclectic scores, the highest prize is awarded with Scratch taking precedence before Handicap and then Eclectic. All club competition prizes will be paid onto your club card – members may request an SGU voucher for sums in excess of £50 or may use winnings towards annual membership fees.

## **Handicaps**

Players who are members of more than one club must nominate which club holds their handicap. For information on obtaining a handicap please speak to the Managing Secretary or the Match Secretary.

Details of how handicaps are reduced and increased for each of the 4 handicap categories are posted on the notice board.

Every player is personally responsible for knowing what their correct handicap is and for applying that handicap to their competition scores.

Although the new Central Database of Handicaps should ensure that scores from competitions played at courses away from your home course are returned automatically, it is every player's responsibility to check that their handicap is correctly adjusted if they have played at another course. Until the new system is fully operational throughout the country it is best to continue to return away scores on the slips provided in the clubhouse.

Details of the Central Database for Handicaps are available in the clubhouse and every player should know their lifetime CDH number, which will be required when playing competitions at other courses.

## **Maintaining a Handicap**

All members with a handicap at 1<sup>st</sup> April are required to complete a minimum of 3 qualifying competition cards during the season. Failure to do so means that the handicap lapses at the end of the season and 3 merit cards will have to be submitted next season. Medical exemptions may be allowed in exceptional circumstances.

Members who have difficulty playing in official competitions are allowed to submit supplementary scores in order to maintain their handicap (see notice re rules for return of supplementary scores).

## **Individual Competition Rules**

### **Club Championship Winner-Championship Trophy/Runner Up – D C Howie Trophy)**

The 16 best scratch aggregate scores from two 18 hole qualifying rounds qualify for the match play draw. The draw for the match play stages will be seeded and all players must be available to play in all rounds. Match play rounds will be over 18holes (36 holes in the final) and extra holes to be played until a decision is reached.

### **J S Miller Shield**

Awarded to the leading qualifier in the Club Championship provided he plays in the match play.

### **Handicap Club Championship (McRobert Thistle Cup)**

The 16 best nett aggregate scores from two 18 hole qualifying rounds qualify for the match play draw. Current handicap applies to both qualifying rounds. All other rules are as per the Club Championship.

### **Stroke Play Championship (Dewar Cup)**

Best scratch aggregate score from 72 hole stroke play competition. .

### **Handicap Stroke Play Championship (Island Trophy)**

Best nett aggregate from 72 hole stroke play competition. Current handicap applies to all rounds.

### **Youth Stroke Play Championship (J Zucconi Trophy)**

Best scratch aggregate from 72 hole stroke play competition. Entry is open to members who are under the age of 22 on the date of the last round of the competition.

### **Wilson Cup, Calcutta Cup, Dunsmore Trophy, Loving Cup, Coronation Cup**

16 best nett scores qualify from 18 hole qualifying competitions. Match play to be decided over 18 holes with current handicaps on date of match applying. In the event of a tie, extra holes to be played with strokes taken as in first 18 holes.

### **Spring Meeting**

18 hole stroke play.

Best scratch score	Imrie Cup
Best nett score	Pullar Inkstand

2<sup>nd</sup> best nett score            Kinnaird Cup

### **Summer Meeting**

18 hole stroke play  
Best scratch score            Gold Medal  
Best nett score                Kyd Medal

### **Autumn Meeting**

18 hole stroke play  
Best scratch score            R Hay Robertson Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> best scratch score        Silver Medal  
Best nett score                R H Robertson Medal

### **Alan Chalmers Memorial Trophy**

Awarded to the player with the lowest scratch aggregate score over the Spring, Summer and Autumn Meetings.

### **J S Galletly Memorial Trophy**

Awarded to the player with the lowest nett aggregate score (based on current handicaps at the date of each competition) over the Spring, Summer and Autumn Meetings.

### **Winter Medal**

18 hole stroke play. Best nett score wins.

### **Monthly Medals/Extra Medals**

Played in 2 sections - scratch-12 and 13-28. 18 holes stroke play with best nett score winning medal in each section.

### **Medal Finals**

Winners of Monthly/Extra Medals qualify for 18 hole stroke play competition. Best nett score wins.  
No entry fee

### **Seniors Medal**

Restricted to members who are aged 50 years and over on the date of the competition. 18 hole stroke play and best nett score wins.

### **Ellis Trophy – 4 Club**

18 hole stroke play competition in which competitors carry any 3 clubs and putter. Best nett score wins.

### **Willie Cross Trophy – 4 Ball/Better Ball**

Select own partner and each player receives 90% of full handicap with strokes taken according to the Stroke Index. 18 hole stroke play with best nett score at each hole recorded. Best nett score wins.  
Entry fee as per notice board

### **Team Championship (MacKay Trophy) + Gleneagles Medal**

Enter as team of 3 for 18 hole stroke play in which team members not allowed to play together. Best aggregate 3 nett scores wins. In the event of a tie count back rules apply to all 3 scores.  
MacKay Trophy awarded to team winners and Gleneagles Medal to best individual nett score.  
Entry fee as per notice board

### **Island Centenary Quaich – 4 Man Team**

Enter as a team of 4 and all players receive full handicap allowance. Best nett score recorded for first holes 1-6, best 2 nett scores for holes 7-12 and best 3 nett scores for holes 13-18. Winning team is lowest total nett scores for the 18 holes. In the event of a tie normal count back procedures apply.  
Entry fee as per notice board

### **Direct Entry Competitions**

Enter on sheets posted on the notice board and, where applicable, select partner and enter both names on entry sheet. Entry fee must be paid before closing date or name/names will not be entered in the draw. In the event of a tied match after 18 holes, extra holes will be played, with strokes taken as in first 18 holes, until a decision is reached.

In all match play competitions the challenger/s is the top name/s on the draw sheet. All ties must be played on or before the date shown on the draw sheet for each round. The challenger/s should give their opponent/s the option of 3 dates, at least one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday (all 3 dates must not fall within the same 7 day period). It is in the challenger/s interest to enter the 3 dates in the Challenge Book so that the Match Secretary is aware that dates have been offered to the opponent/s. If the opponent/s cannot play on any of the 3 dates offered then, unless a mutually suitable alternative is arranged, the tie will be awarded to the challenger/s. If the tie is not completed by the due date and these rules have not been complied with, or an extension granted, the challenger will be eliminated. Extensions can only be granted by the Match Secretary ( Managing Secretary in the absence of the Match Secretary) and any requests will be decided on the individual circumstances – normally extensions will **NOT** be granted unless both players can show that failure to play by the due date has been due to circumstances out with their control eg course closure, illness on the date tie had been arranged for, unexpected work/family emergency etc, and an extension will only be granted if the tie can be played within a maximum of 6 days after the due date.

Campbell Trophy - Match play open to all members with handicap of 28 or less. Full current handicap applies in each tie.

Entry fee as per notice board

McDonald Trophy - Match play restricted to members with a handicap of 13 or more and who have not previously won this trophy. Full current handicap applies in each tie.

Entry fee as per notice board

Nairne Campbell Trophies - 2 ball match play with ½ combined handicaps applying. Partners drive at alternate holes and thereafter play alternate shots.

In the event of a second tee shot being required as per rules of golf the playing partner will play from the same tee as original tee shot.

Entry fee as per notice board

Hebner Trophy - Match play restricted to members with a handicap of 12 or less. Full current handicap applies in each tie subject to a maximum of 12.

Entry fee as per notice board

McGlashan Trophies - Mixed Foursome match play with ½ combined handicaps applying. Partners will drive from their medal tee on alternate holes – Gents on odd numbered holes, Ladies on even – and thereafter play alternate strokes. In the event of a second tee shot being required as per rules of golf the playing partner will play from the same tee as original tee shot.

Entry fee as per notice board

Caber- Feidh Trophy - Fourball match play. Competitor with lowest handicap to concede strokes to the other 3 players based on 90% difference between the full handicaps.

Entry fee as per notice board

J West Putting Trophy - 18 hole match play open to all sections.

No entry fee

### Disputes Procedure

Any member wishing to raise a dispute regarding a Competition or Matchplay Tie should speak/write in the first instance to the Match Secretary. If the dispute is not resolved to the member's satisfaction they should submit written details of their concern to the Club Captain to enable the issue to be considered by the Committee.