

Competition Rules & terms of reference

– Revised and issued Jan 2026 v1

1.0 DEFINITIONS

1.1 Rules of Golf

As published by England Golf and the R & A.

1.2 Local Rules

As published by the company and displayed on the course Notice board and Gaudet Luce website

1.3 Temporary Rules of the day

As published by the company and displayed on the course Notice board, communicated by the Coursemate or Elite apps, or the Gaudet Luce Website, or notified directly by the Pro Shop.

1.4 Members

Members are persons who have been accepted for membership of Gaudet Luce Golf Club. Included in the membership fee is both Club Capitation and Worcester Golf Union/Worcester & Hereford Association fees for the current year. There are several grades of membership available. It is the Member's responsibility to ensure that their grade allows them to play on a specified day, on an applicable part of the course or to enter a specific event.

1.5 Dress code

As published in the Member's Handbook.

1.6 Competition Organiser

Where a rule refers to a Competition Organiser, this is a member of the Competition Sub-Committee and usually the section Competition Secretary. Authority may be delegated. But in such circumstances, this will be clearly stated in the entry details.

1.7 Committee

Where rules refer to the Committee, this is referring to the Competition Sub-Committee.

The Competitions Sub-Committee comprises the following persons:

- Competition Chair
- Gents Competition Secretary
- Ladies Competition Secretary
- Seniors Competition Secretary
- Juniors Competition Secretary

2.0 PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. To know the Rules of Golf. Local Rules, Temporary Rules of the day and Entry Conditions of the Competition being played.
- b. To enter and play club competitions in accordance with the rules.
- c. To arrive at the tee within 10 minutes of the tee time.
- d. To observe the authority of the Competition Organiser, Pro Shop and Course Marshal and proceed as directed.
- e. To complete the scorecard as directed.
- f. Enter Acceptable Scores onto the computer and return the completed physical scorecard into the box provided.

All rules of golf to apply, as laid down by England Golf & R&A

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Acceptable Score Round:

These were previously known as a “Qualifier”.

These may be listed as Trophy, Medal or Stableford competitions as relevant to appropriate sections, open to any member of the section holding an active WHS handicap (Capitation and Union/Association fees must be fully paid) A non-competition round (known as a “General Play Round”) may also be played off any tees under Acceptable Score conditions and the score may be entered for handicap purposes only.

3.2 Trophy Competitions

Trophy entries are as relevant to appropriate sections. Players must check entry conditions before playing. These are open to all members of the relevant section.

A World Handicap System (WHS) handicap is required to win any Club competition. Entry into section trophy competitions may have specific conditions and handicap limits applied. But for all Trophy competitions where it is not stated, players must have played a minimum of 3 x 18 hole acceptable score Section Competitions (not casual rounds, nor all-sections) at Gaudet Luce within a rolling year of the trophy competition being played. A Trophy competition may be entered for handicap purposes only and for qualification of a future competition, although members will not be eligible for prizes, but will still be required to pay the entry fee.

3.3 Non-Acceptable Score Rounds

These were previously known as a “Non-Qualifier”.

Played from non-medal tees, or on a non-measured course, under conditions as deemed by the Competition Organiser. These do not constitute a

qualification round for a future Trophy competition.

3.4 Fun Competitions

Eligibility entry and format as deemed by Competition Organiser

4.0 ENTERING COMPETITIONS

4.1 Entry

In order to enter any Gaudet Luce Golf Club competition, the entrant must be a member of the club as stated in 1.4. Unless specified in the competition description (i.e. Seniors Open, Gent's Invitational etc.).

Where a competition is run over several rounds (i.e. Gent's Summer knockouts, Winter League etc.) an entrant must ensure their membership is current throughout the full duration of the competition. Any player whose membership lapses between rounds will be withdrawn from the competition and not allowed to re-enter.

For most Section competitions, entry must be made on the HowDidIDo website. Some Charity events or Fun Competitions may have a signing up sheet in the Locker Room.

Competitions are generally visible on HowDidIDo website 2-3 months in advance of the competition. Booking opens 4 weeks prior to the event (in some cases longer) and closes 2 weeks prior to the competition date. Late entry will be at the discretion of the section Competition Secretary and will be subject to available tee spaces. A reserve list operates for most competitions.

Entry is deemed to be made by the competitor themselves. A confirmation email is sent upon booking.

Any player who thereafter has to withdraw prior to the event must inform the Competition Organiser and/or the Pro shop. Failure to comply - see 4.4.5 in Starting Times and Groups.

Tee times are allocated by the Competition Organiser, they are only available to entrants in the competition. If an entrant withdraws from a competition, the entrant loses their entitlement to the tee time.

4.2 Payment

Must be paid on day of competition, (unless specified in competition entry) and prior to start of round. Any player who commences a competition round without pre-payment is subject to disqualification.

4.3 Format

As competition title or as stated on the start sheet

4.4 Starting Times and groups

4.4.1 Competition Rounds

Times may be adjusted for best use of tee times.

Once a player has entered their start time it has the status of being fixed by the Competition Organiser. It can therefore not be altered without the permission of the Competition Organiser.

It is the player's responsibility to know their tee time **(R&A Rule 5.3)**

4.4.2 Trophy

Gents Generally to be drawn but may be run as booked

Ladies: Generally to be drawn but may be run as booked

Seniors: Generally to be drawn but may be run as booked

Juniors: Generally to be drawn but may be run as booked

Tee times may be adjusted to compact the competition.

It is the player's responsibility to know their tee time **(R&A Rule 5.3)**

In order to win both the Club Championship and section Champion of Champion competitions, players must have Gaudet Luce as their Home club. Away members may be allowed to enter but are ineligible for the Trophy.

4.4.3 Non Acceptable Score rounds

As for Acceptable Score competitions

4.4.4 Fun competitions

As determined by the Competition Organiser.

4.4.5 No-Shows and Late Arrivals

Any player who fails to show at the 1st tee at the appointed tee time, having neither informed the relevant Competition Organiser or the Pro shop will be **Disqualified and may be Banned** from all Stroke Play Competitions for a period of 4 weeks. The ban will take immediate effect. The player may enter competitions the day after a 4 week ban e.g. banned Saturday, 4 week ban, re-enter Sunday 4 weeks later.

Any player with a valid reason to appeal the ban should contact the Competition Chair.

4.5 Handicap restrictions

As competition title or as stated on start sheet.

4.6 Decisions of ties

Stroke Play

Count back will be used based on best back 9,6,3,1 under guidelines of England Golf. e.g. Best Nett (unless Gross competition).

4.7 Prizes

Prizes will be added to a Member's Levy once results are confirmed from the Competition Organiser to the Section Finance Officer.

Some Charity/Fun events may issue prizes specific to the event. (see entry form)

4.8 Practice

Stroke Play

Practice is not permitted on the course on the day of any stroke play competition under **R&A Rule 5.2b**

A Player is prohibited from:

- a. Practice putting or chipping on or near the green last played
- b. Rolling a ball on the green last played. **Note R&A Rule 5.2**

4.9 Caddies & Accompanied Players

The use of caddies in stroke play competition is prohibited.

In certain circumstances a caddie may be used e.g. ill health. Prior permission must be granted from the section Competition Secretary or Competition Chair.

A Caddy's duties may be restricted.

During organised club competitions, members are not permitted to be accompanied on the course by non-participants (excluding Caddies stated above) unless the escort is specifically allowed under the competition rules i.e. Junior Chaperones or Blind Golfer's assistants etc.

In any other situation, the non-participant will be asked to leave the course and the player disqualified from the competition.

4.10 Golf Carts (Buggies) & Measuring devices

Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised in advance by the section Competition Organiser. **R&A Rule 4.3b** applies. A register of approved Buggy users is held by the Club Secretary.

The use of a Buggy is for the sole use of the registered user and his/her equipment. At no point on the round is the user permitted to carry another player or their equipment. The only exception to this is in a medical

emergency. If a Buggy user player has been found to have broken this rule, both the Buggy user and the playing partner that has benefitted from the use of a Buggy without authorisation, will be disqualified from the competition.

Under **Rule R&A 4.3** measuring devices are permitted, Measuring devices must be for distances only. The device must not measure gradients, wind speeds, temperature etc... Any player with such a device in competition, whether used or not, will be disqualified

4.11 Pace of Play

It is the responsibility of each player within a group to ensure a reasonable pace of play is maintained.

At any time during a competition if 1 clear hole is lost to the group in front the group must immediately catch up, or allow the following group through.

Thereafter **R&A Rule 5.6** may apply. Any group of the competition may be jointly penalised under this rule if the Competition Chair considers the pace of play is not in keeping with the format of the competition or the course and conditions of the day

4.12 Returning score cards

Under the rules of club competitions, a player is obliged to ensure his or her score is entered into the computer terminal upon completion of the round.

Any player who fails to abide by this rule **will be Disqualified and Banned** from all Stroke Play competitions for a period of 4 weeks. The ban will take immediate effect.

Any player with a valid reason to appeal their ban should contact the Competition Chair

A card is considered returned only when the player has entered the score onto the computer terminal **and** posted it into the card box provided

5 INCLEMENT WEATHER

The start of a competition may be delayed by 30 mins. Thereafter, it will be cancelled on the day by the Organiser or the Pro shop.

A competition may be suspended for 30 mins. **R&A Rule 5.7** to apply.

Thereafter, it will be cancelled on the day by the Competition Organiser or the Pro shop.

Please see local rules.

Pin positions i.e. temp greens may only be altered in advance of lead group in the competition.

5.1 Local Rule Inclement Weather - Lightning

5.1.1 General Play

Players are advised to leave the course or find suitable shelter when there is a threat of lightning.

Where possible a continuous note on the klaxon will be sounded and players are advised to leave the course immediately.

5.1.2 During Competition

Players under **R&A Rule 5.7a** may leave the course if they feel there is a danger from lightning.

If there is a continuous note sounded on the klaxon play is immediately suspended. Players must, after marking the position of their ball, leave the course or find suitable shelter.

5.1.3 All other conditions

If there is a need to suspend play for any reason other than lightning there will be 2 sharp blasts on the klaxon. **R&A Rule 5.7** to apply.

Play may resume after 3 sharp blasts of the klaxon.

5.1.4 Klaxon key

Continuous = Lightning – course closed

2 Sharp blasts = Play suspended

3 Sharp blasts = Play may resume

6.0 DISPUTES AND DECISIONS

All matters relating to Rules, Decisions and Disputes must be referred to the Competitions Chair, or persons authorised by the Competitions Sub-Committee **ONLY**. **R&A Rules 20.1, 20.2 & 20.3** apply.

A section Competition Secretary may delegate authority in their absence.

Although members may seek advice from other sources, ratification must be obtained from relevant Competition Secretary or Competition Chair **ONLY**

Any matters concerning a member's conduct whilst on the course will be referred to the Management as stated in the Member's Handbook.

Formulated by all sections and verified by Executive Committee January 2024

7.0 MATCH PLAY COMPETITIONS

Format and entry as per start sheets

In all Matchplay competitions **R&A Rule 3.2** and the statement Disputes and decisions **WILL APPLY**

In single Tee-time match play competitions Competitors have no added status on the course and may be penalised under **GLGC Rule 4.11** if the committee

consider fellow golfers have unduly been affected by their pace of play.

Should deciding hole(s) be required, Matchplay groups do not have priority over booked tees. If required to replay the 1st hole onwards, they should join the tee queue and explain the circumstances. It is courtesy only that allows groups to play through. If it is not possible to play Hole 1, players should agree to play an alternative “play-off” hole(s).

8.0 GENERAL

Rules, formats and dates may be revised or updated at any time. Any alterations must have prior approval of the Competition Sub-Committee