



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions & General Play





County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Table of Contents

Page

Introduction.....	3
Handicaps	4
Timesheets.....	5
Competition Entry.....	6
Requirements.....	6
Eligibility.....	6
Competitions Results	8
Recording Score & Scorecard.....	8
Use of computer	9
Closing Competition.....	9
Prizes and Presentations.....	10
Appeals Process	10
Practice & Alternate Day.....	11
Pace of Play.....	12



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Introduction

Competitions organised by County Louth Men's Club shall be played using the recommended 'Committee Procedures' as set by the R & A Rules of Golf. [The R&A - Committee Procedures \(randa.org\)](https://www.randa.org)

This document outlines the general competition rules as adopted by the Men's Committee in February 2023 and in force from 1st March 2023. All players entering a competition under the control of the County Louth Men's Club shall abide by these rules.

Rules of Golf

All competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A Rules Limited and the specific conditions of competition. Competitors should familiarise themselves with these relevant golfing rules, particularly **Rule 5**.

Rule 5 Covers how to play a round – such as where and when a player may practice on the course before or during a round, when a round starts and ends and what happens when play has to stop or resume. Players are expected to:

- Start each round on time, and
- Play continuously and at a prompt pace during each hole until the round is completed.

When it is a player's turn to play, it is recommended that he or she make the stroke in no more than 40 seconds, and usually more quickly than that.

Please note: Carrying and use of a Divot Bag is mandatory for all players.

Please remember the 3 R's - Repair Pitch Marks, Rake Bunkers after use and Replace divots with Divot Mix.

In addition, players should familiarise themselves with the general rules of golf as laid out in the **Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf (2023)**, available from the club or available at <https://www.randa.org/en/rog/players-edition>



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Handicaps

All handicaps shall operate using the World Handicapping System (WHS). Scores from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales can be returned directly via the respective club's computer system whereas scores from other countries need to be return directly to the player's home club. More information on WHS is available at <https://www.golfireland.ie/handicap-system>

Players are required to return all acceptable scores from away competitions and general play. Failure to do so may have a penalty score being applied or if repeated, result in the suspension of handicap.

All competition entrants must hold a valid WHS handicap to be eligible to win a prize.

All competitions formats are subject to the specified handicap allowance.

General Play

Players may return general play score from a **Qualifying Course Only** subject to the following:

- A General Play score cannot be accepted from within a Competition.
- A General Play Score must be completed in Singles format.
- The Player must declare their intention to play a General Play Score **before** playing by registering their intent by signing in on the Club's computer system. The Pro Shop will advise which qualifying courses are available.
- The round must be played under competition conditions, i.e. Player may not take advice, receive coaching or practice on the course prior to playing the General Play round.
- The marker who must hold a WHS Handicap Index, must sign player's card.
- On completion of play, the score must be entered as soon as possible using either the computer in Locker-room or through ClubNet App.
- The scorecard must be returned to the Club as soon as possible within 4 days and placed in the box in Locker Room. Failure to do so will result in player being barred from General Play for the following week.
- Only One round per day and a maximum of three per week (Monday to Sunday) may be entered as General Play. **N.B.** A 9-hole entry counts as one round.
- Failure to comply with the above conditions will render the score Non-Acceptable for Handicap Purposes.
- In instances of persistent failure to comply, further penalties as decided by Men's' Committee will apply.

Away & Overseas Scores

- All Competition and pre-registered General Play from away and overseas scores are to be returned to the "Home" club promptly for immediate Handicap Index adjustment as appropriate.
- Evidence of pre-registration for General Play Scores must be supplied by the player.



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Timesheets

All competition timesheets will be available 6 days prior to the competition and will go live on BRS at 8:00pm. Members may book a tee time on the club's BRS Golf application either via computer or mobile phone app and subject to the member having sufficient credit in their competition purse to cover the competition fee.

Alternate Day competitions will be available for a range of competitions. Players can check the **Fixtures List** available in the Member's area of the club's ClubNet app for details of these competitions.

Where a player chooses to play a competition on an Alternate Day, they may **NOT** take a tee time within the times assigned for the main competition day. Failure to observe this will result in that player being ineligible for the next **Singles Competition** and any score returned is deemed not acceptable for handicap. (See Local Rules – Alternate Day & Practice). For **the avoidance of doubt** an Alternate Day and Main Day competition is deemed be one and the same competition.

Members who wish to withdraw their names from a timesheet must do so not later than 6.00pm the evening before their tee time in the competition. Failure to do so will result in the appropriate competition fee being deducted from their purse. They must ring the Pro Shop with a valid reason as to why they can't attend.

A waiting list will be used to fill any vacancies. Members can add their name on the waiting list if they are unable to book their desired tee time. The BRS Golf system will then automatically assign a vacant time slot to the first member on waiting list. The waiting list will **continue** up to the day of the competition. Any vacancies arising on the competition day will be filled on a first come first served basis.

Non-appearance on competition day without a reasonable explanation will result in that member being ineligible for the next **Singles Competition** together with a fine equal to the competition fee missed.

Players should be on the 1st tee and ready to play not later than 5 minutes before their assigned tee-off time,
Rule 5.3a

Players may **NOT** start their round before their official start time or enter the competition after the last timesheet tee time unless authorised by the Competitions Secretary or their nominee.

Players must remain with their assigned partners throughout the round unless authorised by the Competitions Secretary or their nominee **Rule 5.4.**

A person left on their own on a timesheet may take the next available time or if a person is left on their own due to bad weather or by playing partners who do not wish to play, they may take the next available time on the timesheet.



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Competition Entry

Requirements

To enter a competition, a player must:

- Have paid their annual club membership subscription or have a payment plan in place.
- Hold a valid and current WHS handicap Index.
- Not be suspended or ineligible to play.
- Is entitled to enter the competition subject to the competition conditions.
- Have entered their name on the timesheet.
- Have paid the appropriate competition entrance fee.
- Register their competition sign-in via the Club's computer system where available.

Failure to follow the above requirements will render the player's score not acceptable for handicap or the competition.

Eligibility

Junior Boys

Junior boys who have a handicap index of 18.0 or better are eligible to play in all Senior competitions with the exception of the Captain's Prize, President's Prize and Hampers.

Junior Girls

Junior girls who have a handicap index of 18.0 or better are eligible to play in Ladies and Men's combined competitions (Kevin Garvey Trophy, Nelson Trophy, Team events etc.), subject to maximum of 2 Junior Girls per group. (As per Rules of Ladies Club)

Eligible Juniors may ONLY take a place on the timesheet in the 48-hour period before the timesheet is closed. They are allowed to put their name on the waiting list 48 Hours before the competition

Students

- Student members are eligible to play in all Senior competitions apart from the Captain's Prize, President's Prize and Hampers.
- May play in the Captain's Prize to Students & Intermediates.



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Intermediate Members

- Intermediate members are eligible to play in all Senior competitions apart from the Captain's Prize, President's Prize.
- May play in the Captain's Prize to Students & Intermediates.

5 Day Members

- May play in open competitions.
- May play in the Captain's Prize to 5 Day members.
- May play in a mid-week competitions and win a 5 Day prize subject to a minimum of 20 entries.
- May not play in Saturday and Sunday club competitions.
- May not play in Match Play competitions.

Please note: Penalty for breach of any of the eligibility requirements is **disqualification.**



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Competitions Results

Competitions Committee

The Competitions Committee reserves the right to:

- Set and/or amend the terms of a competition.
- Set and/or amend the format of a competition.
- Set and/or amend the handicap limits for a competition.
- Cancel or suspend a competition due to adverse weather, insufficient entries or exceptional circumstances.
- Amend and correct players' scorecards where errors are detected.
- Set and amend the level of prizes.
- Refuse an entry.

Recording Score & Scorecard

It is the player's responsibility to ensure that their name, competition date and correct handicaps are recorded on their scorecard even where a printed label is available. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. Handicap conversion charts are displayed on the club notice board.

To assist in the efficient running of competitions, competitors are requested to total up each nine holes on their scorecards. **In Stableford competitions please calculate the Stapleford points.**

Scorecards must be completed and returned before leaving the course.

Rule 3.3 Scoring in Stroke play

A) Recording Scores.

After each hole the marker should check with the competitor and record their score. On completion of the round the marker should sign the scorecard and hand it to the competitor. If more than one marker records the scores, each should sign for the part for which they are responsible.

B) Signing and Returning Scorecards.

After the completion of the round, the competitor should check their score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the committee. They must ensure that the marker has signed the scorecard, sign their own scorecard and return it to the committee as soon as possible. Penalty for Breach of Rule 6.6b is **Disqualification**.

C) Alteration of a scorecards.

No alteration may be made on a scorecard after the competitor has returned it to the committee.

D) Wrong Score for a Hole.

The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on their scorecard. If they return a score lower than actually taken, they are **disqualified**. If they return a score higher than actually taken, the score returned will stand.



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Returning Scorecard

It is the competitor's responsibility to return their scorecard to the Committee. Scorecards for all competitions should be returned in the appropriate box within **30 minutes** of the end of play in that particular competition. Failure to return scorecards within the stipulated timeframe may result in **Disqualification**.

Failure to return a scorecard will result in the player being deemed ineligible for the next TWO Singles Competitions. Continued failure to return scorecards may result in suspension of handicap.

Use of computer

Where the computer system is available, failure to input scores through the computer system will result in that player being ineligible for the next **Singles Competition**.

Closing Competition

All competitions are deemed closed 30 minutes after the last player group has completed their play and no further returns will be accepted. The Competitions Committee will then process the returned scores and generate a competition result.

All **TIES** will be decided by **Countback** using the following process.

18 Hole Competitions

- Best Back 9 then
- Best Back Last 6 then
- Best Back Last 3 then
- Best Back Last 1
- If still tied the same process is repeated using scores from the **Front 9**
- If still tied, then draw lots.

9 Hole Competitions

- Best Last 6 then
- Best Last 3 then
- Best Last 1 then
- Draw Lots



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Once a competition is closed and the results published, the result shall stand, and no amendments may take place except to correct an error made by the Competitions Committee.

Prizes and Presentations

All competition entrants must hold a valid WHS handicap to be eligible to win a prize.

Prizes to be awarded for all competitions shall be at the discretion of the Competitions Committee. Where an error has been made in awarding a prize, the Competitions Committee will correct the error and republish the results.

Prize winners are expected to attend presentations. If players are unable to attend in person, they should nominate someone else to collect their prize.

Appeals Process

If there are circumstances, unknown to the Competitions Committee or Handicap Committee, where a member feels they have been incorrectly penalised or disadvantaged, they may appeal their case as soon as possible but before the next competition.

An appeal can be made by contacting reception on 041-9881530 or by E-Mail to comp@countylouthgolfclub.com or hand@countylouthgolfclub.com



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Local Rules

Players should refer to the local rules outlined on the back of the scorecard for information on current rules. They should also check the club notice board for any amendments or additions to these rules.

Practice & Alternate Day

A player may not return a general play and competition score on the same day except where one of the returns was recorded at another golf club.

Due to the number of members wishing to play in competitions, the committee has found it necessary to introduce Alternate Day competitions to meet demand. This raises the issue of practice on the course prior to a competition.

For the avoidance of doubt an **Alternate Day and Main Day competition is deemed be one and the same competition.**

Practice on the course and Alternate Day competitions.

You must not practice on the course before a round, except that you may practice putting or chipping on or near the first teeing area and practice on practice area.

You may practice on the course after completing play of your final round for that day.

For breach of the above please see below link,

[Playing the Round \(randa.org\)](http://www.randa.org)

Rule 5.2b/2 Practicing may be allowed on course before a round in a competition that covers consecutive days.

When a competition is scheduled on a course over consecutive days and the committee schedules some players on the first day and others to play on a later day, a player is allowed to practice on the course on any day that they are not scheduled to play their round.

For example, if a competition is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday and a player is only scheduled to play on Sunday, that player is allowed to practice on the course on Saturday.

For clarification, please see below link,

https://www.randa.org/rog/interpretations/rule-5#5_2b_2



County Louth Golf Club

Rules of Competitions

Pace of Play

Rule 5.6a outlines the requirements and penalties for slow play where players may be penalised by the Committee if deemed to have unduly delayed the pace of play.

Penalty are as follows:

- 1st occurrence One stroke in both Match Play and Stroke Play.
- 2nd occurrence Loss of hole in Match Play and two strokes in Stroke Play.
- 3rd occurrence Disqualification.

Watch the Ball

Assist your playing partners by making an effort to watch each other's shots as carefully and as often as possible. This should result in less time searching and fewer lost balls.

Lost & Provisional Ball

Always have an extra ball with you to use as a provisional in the event that your shot may be lost or out of bounds. If in any doubt, play a provisional. You should then not have to leave and return to the tee or go back to the spot of the previous stroke to put another ball into play. Go to your own ball, hit and then come back to help look for a lost ball. Remember a maximum of **3 minutes** is allowed to search, after which the ball is deemed lost. Be aware of the group behind and consider calling them through while your looking for your ball. Players should be aware of the requirements of **Rules 7** and **18**.

- **Rule 7** **Covers finding and identifying the player's ball.**
- **Rule 18** **Covers a lost ball, a ball out of bounds and a provisional ball.**

Marking Scorecards

Mark the scorecards on the way to or on the next tee. The player who is first to play from the next tee should play first and then mark the scorecard.

Play Ready Golf

On the Tee, the player who is ready should hit first. Tee-off as soon as the group ahead is clear and it is safe to do so.

On the Fairway, be prepared to hit by the time you reach your ball. Hit when ready and it's safe to do so. Minimise time spent determining precise distances for shots when approximate distances would suffice.

On the Green

Place your clubs between green and next tee. Study your putt while others are putting. Minimise studying the line of putt from multiple angles, or marking, lifting and replacing a ball that is close to the hole before holing out. Continue putting until holed out. First to hole out should pick up the flag stick.

Finally

Keep up with the group ahead and don't forget to enjoy your round.