**Ballyliffin Golf Club**

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**Conditions of Competitions (Rule 3)**

The Ballyliffin Golf Club Council has approved the following conditions under which Club competitions are to be played. Members are required to know and comply with them.

1. **The Rules of Golf**

The Rules of Golf as approved by R & A Rules Limited and the U.S.G.A and in addition the Local Rules as made and published by the Ballyliffin Golf Club Council shall apply to all competitions. (Players should familiarise themselves with these rules, particularly Rule 6 of the Rules of Golf: Player's Responsibilities).

1. **Eligibility**
   1. Only players who meet the eligibility criteria for certain competitions, as laid down by the Competitions Committee, may enter those competitions. (The Committee may waive restrictions in certain circumstances).
   2. To be eligible to compete in a Singles Qualifying Competition at an Away Club, except for all events listed in Golf Irelands Tournament Conditions Book, a Member of a Golf Ireland Affiliated Golf Club must have returned at least three scores in a Singles Qualifying Competition at his Home Club, at any time on or after the corresponding date one year before the Singles Qualifying Competition at the Away Club.
   3. Junior members shall be eligible to play and win in Members/Open Competitions in accordance with the Junior Eligibility Rules as set out by Club Constitution, Council decision and Golf Ireland Junior Policy.
2. Juniors who have met the criteria set out by Council and Golf Ireland Junior Policy may book through the Pro Shop i.e.
3. Junior boys who have reached a H.I. of 19.9 at any time.
4. Junior Girls who have reached a H.I. of 39.9 at any time.
5. All other Juniors may play in club competitions on Saturdays / Midweek by booking through the Pro shop 24 hours after the timesheet has become available to members if there are available spaces.
   1. Only members of recognised golf clubs will be eligible to enter open competitions in Ballyliffin.
6. **Motorised Buggies.** 
   1. Motorised golf buggies may only be used with the permission of Council.
   2. If a member is using their own buggy, a copy of the relevant insurance certificate must also be submitted.
   3. The use of golf buggies may be restricted during adverse weather conditions/winter periods.
7. **Entry to Official Club Competitions.**

Time sheets will be available online prior to the following weekend or as deemed necessary by the Competitions Committee. The Competitions Committee will set out the specific conditions for each competition. Unless a notice is displayed to the contrary the following general conditions will apply:

* 1. For all competitions requiring entry through the computer, each competitor must enter his number at least 10 minutes before his tee-off. Latecomers may not start until the next vacant time.
  2. Before commencing play, each competitor must ensure that their names are entered in the computer as maintained by the Golf Pro or his designated assistant and the appropriate entry fee is paid as specified. Failure to comply with either entry or fee requirements means a player is not entered in the competition.
  3. Persons in arrears of the annual subscription (after 1st May) are not allowed to enter any competition and cannot represent the Club in inter-club competitions while they remain in arrears.
  4. The Ballyliffin Golf Club Council will determine competition entrance fees and the manner of their application.
  5. The use of a Golf Ireland Member Card is mandatory for members of clubs affiliated to Golf Ireland for entry into all Open Singles Qualifying Competitions, which shall be by Computer Entry and uploaded to the WHS following close of Competition.
  6. Each competitor is required to enter their name, member number, the date and the tee used on the scorecard. In instances where a printed label is available, each such scorecard shall be deemed to have been correctly issued by the Competitions Committee pursuant to Rule 3 of the Rules of Golf.

A player can check their Handicap Index in the following ways:

1. On the Golf Ireland website.
2. On the Golf Ireland App.
3. On the Club App.
   1. All competition scorecards must be returned and entered on the computer within 30 minutes of finishing play. Failure to do so may disqualify cards from the competition. Persistent non-return of scorecards may result in the application of a penalty score or the suspension of a player’s handicap. NRs are unacceptable. Players should not enter 18 zeros onto the App or onto the terminal. **Use the designation for Hole not Played or Hole not Completed**. **(PU).**
   2. Reserving a starting time on the competition time sheet obliges a member to enter the competition of that day. Casual golf is not permitted before 12.30 p.m. on competition courses during winter rules periods and 2.00 p.m. during summer period. At all other times competition courses are closed to non-competitors, except designated green fee visitors (who have pre-booked a time on the competition course before it has become available to club members.) This includes members who have not paid their subs in full after 1st May.
   3. A competitor may not take more than one main prize in any competition. Novelty prizes such as nearest the pin, longest drive, etc are not generally considered as main prizes, unless otherwise specified prior to the competition commencing.
   4. Competitions will be suspended/abandoned/cancelled only in exceptional circumstances. The decision to do so can be taken, at any time on the day of competition, by the Competitions Committee. Where a competition is cancelled or abandoned, entry and green fees (where applicable) will be refunded. Where a competition is suspended and resumed there will be no refund.
   5. On the day of competition, the Golf Pro or their delegated representative will have authority to substitute or combine players or to take any other appropriate action which will facilitate the smooth running of the competition.
   6. Where a player makes a late cancellation, the Club and his playing partners must be informed immediately. Any player who fails to turn up without informing the club and their playing partners in advance will be liable to sanction at the discretion of the Council.
   7. Where any issue or dispute arises in relation to any competition, the decision of the Competitions Committee will be made with full regard to the Rules of Golf, the Competition Conditions, and Equity. Such decision will be final.
   8. Where a time slot becomes available in a fourball, an immediate family member (one) may play in that space, where the time sheet allows and at the discretion of the Pro shop. Abuse of this privilege would be reported to Council and may be withdrawn.
   9. International / Overseas members must have their Golf Ireland Affiliation Fee paid to be eligible to play in Club competitions.
   10. Only Full members with a fully developed handicap index are allowed to play in President’s and Captain’s Days. All other members are classed as non-qualifying and must play on the other course from the main competition. 3 qualifying Ballyliffin Golf Club competitions, after 17th March each year, must be played to be eligible to compete for Captain’s / President’s prizes. (any change to the number of qualifying competitions will be posted on the Notice Board).
   11. Competitors must complete or attempt to complete the competition round in order to be eligible for any prize.
4. **Dress Code**

Smart casual dress is essential and must be neat, clean, and tidy. Footwear and headwear worn on the course is not acceptable in the clubhouse. The following are deemed unsuitable: -

Untailored Shorts

Singlets

Sleeveless Shirts

Tracksuit Bottoms

Football Shirts.

1. **Distance-Measuring Devices.**

In all competitions organised and run at Ballyliffin Golf Club, by Ballyliffin Golf Club Competitions committee, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

1. **Handicaps**

Handicaps will be operated and maintained in accordance with the current World Handicapping System.

* 1. Players are reminded that failure to report all Qualifying Scores returned away from their Home Clubs (including 'No Returns' and Disqualified Scores) as required by the WHS could lead to the suspension of offending players' handicaps under the provisions of the World Handicapping System.
  2. Members of an affiliated golf club are responsible for returning scores from any organised competition which is played in an authorised format, from a rated set of tees, on any golf course, including when that competition has been organised by an unaffiliated organisation i.e. an Alliance, Society or Internal Club Group.
  3. General Play Rounds are allowed at Ballyliffin Golf Club in accordance with Rule 2 which covers the conditions a score must satisfy for it to be acceptable for handicap purposes, providing confidence that it will produce a reasonable evidence of the player’s ability and, ultimately, a Handicap Index that reflects this. Such rounds must be pre-registered with the pro-shop in accordance with Rule 2.1a (iii) according to the requirements or conditions established by the Handicap Committee and/or the Authorised Association. General Play Rounds are not allowed during competition times.
  4. All competition and pre-registered General Play Overseas scores are to be returned to their homeclub promptly. Pre-registration of overseas General Play rounds must be with the members Homeclub and the card must be returned to the Handicap Committee with the date, tee used, slope rating and course rating for those tees with markers, signature, and membership number.
  5. The National Handicapping Committee will apply an Automated Penalty Score for unsatisfied scores from 31st March 2022.

1. **Handicap Rules and Allowances** 
   1. The rules and allowances that shall apply for handicapping are those prescribed by the Golfing Unions and set out in the World Handicapping System (latest revised edition). Players should familiarise themselves with the handicap system particularly Rule 1.3 - Responsibilities of the Player. It should be noted that a player who fails to carry out any of the responsibilities imposed by the WHS is not entitled to a Handicap Index.
   2. In all Club Competitions and Open Competitions, as organised by the Competitions Committee, the only handicaps acceptable and recognised for prize eligibility, shall be for players of recognised golf clubs.
   3. Under the Rules of Golf (Committee Procedures 5A) and Rules of Handicapping (Rule 7.2a), the competitions committee may set a maximum limit for play within their Terms of Competition either as: -

(a) a maximum Handicap Index for entry/eligibility or

(b) a maximum Playing Handicap or both

1. **Times of Starting and Groups: (Rule 5-3).**
   1. The player(s) shall start at the time laid down by the Competitions Committee, or if permitted by them, at the time reserved on the time sheet, or on the basis of pairing off upon arrival if there is no time sheet in operation.
   2. Players shall not compete in a competition prior to the official start time, unless with advance permission from the Competitions Committee. Normal weekend starting time is 7.00 a.m. in the summer or the later set time shown on the booking system in the autumn, winter and early spring.
   3. Players shall not compete in a competition after the last tee-time indicated on the time sheet, unless with advance permission from the Competitions Committee.
   4. Competitors shall remain throughout the round in the group arranged by the Competitions Committee or booked on the timesheet unless authorised to do so.
2. **Adverse Weather Conditions - Safety Considerations.**

Prior to commencing play, players should check with the Club Professional or their nominated assistant that the course is open and fit for play. The following regulations have been adopted for use when Adverse Weather Conditions exist:

**Ballyliffin Golf Club- Greens Policy.**

It is club policy that the Head Greenkeeper or their delegated representative has the final call on the playability of the links during inclement weather conditions.

This decision is made in the morning before any play and the decision is final and must be respected by all. The decision to put play onto temporary greens is made in the best interests of protecting our courses and is not taken lightly.

The decision should not be questioned and is made by a qualified person.

Competitions started on frost holes will remain on frost holes for the day.

Buggies/carts will not be permitted on the links if the Head Greenkeeper or their delegated representative believes they will cause damage to the course in adverse weather conditions.

This policy has been put in place to ensure the long-term health and performance of our greens/courses at Ballyliffin Golf Club. The Club appreciates the understanding, patience and co-operation of both members and visitors during these periods.

The Club operates a Klaxon/Hooter to indicate suspension or resumption of play, depending on the circumstances. The following signals have been adopted by the Club:

(a) One blast of the Klaxon/Hooter indicates that play is suspended but the player has the option of either finishing out the hole they are playing, or they can mark their ball and take shelter, if available.

(b) Two blasts of the Klaxon/Hooter indicates that the player MUST mark their ball and leave the course immediately.

(c) One long continuous blast of the Hooter/Klaxon indicates resumption of play.

Players should be aware that they have a duty of care to all golfers, all staff and all others who may be on the course at any particular time and should not behave in such a way as to place them in any danger. Golfers should not commence play or continue to play when the decision to cease play has been made.

1. **Match Play.**

The conditions under which Club Match Play Competitions are to be played shall be laid down by the Competition's Committee and displayed on the advance time sheets and draw sheets.

1. **Time Sheets Opening and Closing.**

The following are the current opening and closing times for club competitions. The Competitions Committee reserve the right to change time sheet opening and closing times in exceptional circumstances but will give sufficient notice to members should they so decide,

* 1. **Weekends**-Time sheets for weekend competitions will be available from 8.30 am on the Wednesday and Thursday, online, before that weekend commences.
  2. **Open Week, Mid-week** and other ad hoc competitions opening of time sheets will be notified to the members in good time by the Competitions Committee.

1. **Time Sheet Etiquette.**

When time sheets (including waiting lists) are in operation the following rules apply.

* 1. Players may reserve only one line i.e. a maximum of four name slots.
  2. Players must reserve slots in members’ names only.
  3. Players shall not insert names in pre-allocated time slots.
  4. Players shall not play unless they have an allocated time slot.
  5. Players should be present at the 1st tee, and ready to play, five minutes before their starting time.
  6. Reserving a time is a commitment to play with and mark the card for the other players in that time slot. Where a player makes a late cancellation, the Pro shop and their playing partners must be informed immediately.
  7. Any player who fails to turn up without informing the Pro shop and their playing partners in advance will be liable to sanction at the discretion of Council. Failure to notify their opposition and partner(s) in the time slot in good time will allow the pro shop, opposition or partner(s) the right to report them to the Competitions Committee.
  8. Should a member of the Club be reported to the Competitions Committee for breach of Clause 13.6 of the Conditions of Competition, the Council has the right to discipline the offending member.
  9. Members who wish to book visitors on the time sheet may do so by contacting the pro-shop. If a member wants to use concessions, they must play with the visitors.

**14. Teeing Grounds.**

14.1 The competition tees are Glashedy Course ‘Gold’ and Old Course ‘White’ unless informed otherwise.

14.2 The stipulated round commences from the first tee and consists of playing the holes of the course in the sequence prescribed by the Competitions Committee, unless otherwise authorised by them.

14.3 In mixed foursomes competitions, the man shall tee off at the 1st hole unless otherwise indicated by the organising Committee.

1. **Etiquette.**
   1. The rules regarding etiquette, as contained in Rule 1 of the Rules of Golf, should be complied with at all times. In addition:
   2. Competitors playing in an Inter-Club or Club Championship Match should, if practical, be extended the courtesy of being called through a slower group.
   3. Players in a Club competition shall have priority over players who are not competing.
   4. The maximum grouping allowed is four players, unless otherwise authorised by the Committee.
   5. Three balls and four balls only are permitted to enter in competitions. Two balls are not permitted without special permission.
2. **Pace of Play.**

Slow Play will be penalised under Rule 5-6a of the Rules of Golf which states that the player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish. The Competitions Committee has established the following pace of play guidelines.

* 1. Be on time and ready to play at your designated tee time. Competitors must register at least 10 minutes before tee time and players should be present at the 1st tee, and ready to play, five minutes before their starting time.
  2. Be ready to play every shot when it is your turn.
  3. Do not wait for greens to clear when they are beyond your range.
  4. Leave your bag at the side of the green nearest the next tee.
  5. Line up your putt while others are putting and be ready to putt in turn.
  6. If you cannot score or improve your team’s score on any hole, pick up.
  7. First player to putt out should be ready to replace the flag.
  8. Do not mark cards on or near the green. Mark at the tee-box while other players are teeing off.
  9. Encourage your playing partners to keep up with the group in front.
  10. If someone is slowing things down, TELL THEM.
  11. WALK AS YOU TALK - Do not delay play for conversation.
  12. If you are falling behind for any reason, invite the group behind through.
  13. Keep just behind the group ahead, not just ahead of the group behind.
  14. Play a provisional ball if you think your ball is lost outside a hazard, or out of bounds.
  15. Find your own ball first before you go searching for others.
  16. Call the players behind through when you have to search for a ball – not after 3 minutes are up. A ball not found within 3 minutes is lost and out of play (Rule 18-2).
  17. See rules of Golf on slow play (Rule 5-6).
  18. There should be no undue gaps between groups on the course.
  19. **REMEMBER**: If your group is a hole behind, it is your fault.
  20. Pace of Play – Glashedy 4 ¼ hours & The Old Links 4 hours.

**17.Ready Golf.**

Ready Golf is a common-sense approach to improve the pace of play.

Ready golf means thinking ahead so that you are ready to play when it is your turn.

**General Rules:**

* Keep up with the group in front of you.
* If the group in front is on the fairway, your group should be on the tee.
* Be ready to hit when the group in front moves to the next shot.
* Whoever is ready, plays when safe to do so, there are no honours.
* Keep your pre-shot routine short – aim to play in 20 seconds. Limit practice swings.
* If you are falling behind the group in front- let the group behind through.

**On the Tee:**

* No honours – hit when ready.
* Shorter hitters should hit first if longer hitters are waiting.
* Watch other players’ shots to avoid looking for balls.
* Carry an extra ball in case you need a provisional.

**On the fairway:**

* No honours – hit when ready.
* Go directly to your ball and get ready to play- don’t wait until others have played- be ready to play.
* Play then Search- all players should hit then assist in search.

**On the Green:**

* Park your clubs between the green and next tee.
* Study your putt and repair pitch marks while others are putting.
* Be ready to putt before it is your turn.
* First player to hole-out replaces the flag.
* Continue putting until holed out-avoid marking.
* Mark scores on way to next tee.

“Ready Golf” is not appropriate in matchplay due to the strategy involved between opponents.

**Remember only play when it is absolutely safe to do so.**

1. **Score Cards: (Rule 3).**
   1. In the absence of the Competitions Committee issuing score cards containing the date and competitor's name, all competitors are required, by the Competitions Committee, to put their name, member number, indicate the tee and the date on their own scorecards. Where the Competitions Committee issues stick on labels with the player’s name, date and handicap it is deemed to have been correctly issued by the Competitions Committee pursuant to Rule 3 of the Rules of Golf.
   2. In all competitions the person who records the score must be a fellow competitor except by special permission from a member of the Competition Committee.
   3. A competitor must not mark or alter his own scorecard. (A fellow competitor is responsible for checking and recording the competitor’s score and for any alterations to the recorded scores). Scorecards should be exchanged before commencement of play.
   4. Scores should be recorded on the scorecards after each hole.
   5. Scorecards must be marked and signed before entering the locker room or Clubhouse. **Markers should put their membership number on the card along with their signature**.
   6. Returned scores must not be disclosed to a player who has not started in the competition.
   7. All scores must be entered into the computer and the card returned to the Committee as soon as possible after the round whether the round is completed or not.
   8. In accordance with Rule 3.3b (2) of the Rules of Golf no alteration (of any kind) may be made on a score card after the competitor has returned it to the Committee.
   9. The Competitions Committee is responsible for the addition of scores and application of the handicap recorded on the score card (Rule 3).
   10. All competition scorecards must be returned and entered on the computer or via the App immediately after play. Failure to do so may disqualify cards from the competition. Persistent non-return of scorecards may result in the application of a penalty score or the suspension of a handicap.
   11. All competitors are responsible for checking that scores returned on the computer are correct. **The Competitions Committee is not responsible for errors to scores entered on the computer by the player**.
2. **Close of Competitions.**

Scorecards for all competitions must be returned within 30 minutes of completing the round of golf. The Penalty for returns posted after Close of Competition is Disqualification.

1. **Non-Returns in Qualifying Singles Competitions.**

The CONGU WHS recommendations will be enforced. You can view these online on ‘CONGU WHS Rules’. Players should be fully aware of Rule 1.3 of the CONGU WHS Manual - Responsibilities of the Player. In entering a competition, you are confirming that you are aware of your responsibilities as a player and comply with both the Rules of Golf and the CONGU WHS Rules.

Please note that it is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that all competition cards in handicap qualifying competitions, whether or not complete, are returned to the competitions committee correctly and to make such computer entries as may be required. The Competitions Committee wish to inform all Golf Ireland members that on reaching the limit of 3 Non-Returns of scores in Singles Qualifying Competitions the player may be disciplined, resulting in timesheet suspension/penalty score applied.

If for a genuine and unforeseen reason you have to terminate your round early you should submit a written explanation to the Handicap Secretary within three days (handicapconvenor@ballyliffingolfclub.com). Brief excuses written on Score Cards are not acceptable. If a hole or holes are not played they should be entered as DID NOT PLAY on the computer.

1. **Disputes and Rules of Golf.**

Any dispute or doubtful point on the Rules shall be referred to the Competitions Committee, as soon as possible, whose decision shall be final (Rule 20.2b).

1. **Decision of Ties.**
   1. Ties are decided by matching the tied scorecards to determine the winner based on countback, as approved by R & A Rules Limited.
   2. For 36-hole competitions a tie is decided on last 18 holes and if still tied, proceed as for 18 holes matching below.
   3. For 18-hole competitions decide on last 9 holes, then last 6--3--2--1 and if still tied, decide on last 3 holes-7--8--9 of first 9.
   4. If this procedure does not produce a result, then the winner will be determined by lot.
   5. In the event of the Competitions Committee permitting play to start at the 10th tee, or 1st and 10th tees simultaneously, the last nine holes, for the purpose of deciding ties, will be from the 10th to 18th hole.

**23.Golfer of the Year.**

23.1 Golfer of the Year (GOY) competitions are those competitions designated as such from year to year in the Annual Fixtures Card.

23.2 The Golfer of the Year shall be the player with the most Stableford Points from a maximum eight cards from the ten designated qualifying competitions.

23.3 Ties shall be decided as follows:

(a) Discard the card which has the lowest points score and take the remaining cards.

(b) If still a tie, continue this procedure, if necessary, until only the best card of each player remains.

(c) Then proceed as for 18 holes.

**Main competitions are from Gold / Red on Glashedy and White / Red on The Old Links**. **Trophies / Cups are presented to the winner of the main competition.**

23.4 Only members playing in the main competition and having a fully developed handicap can win a Golfer of the Year competition.

23.5 In order to win a most improved Senior or Junior Competition, the member must have a fully developed handicap before the commencement of the competition.

23.6 Glashedy Winter League Competition Rules will be posted on the notice board each year.

**23.6 Prizes and Prize Presentations**

23.6.(1) Prize winners are expected to attend Prize Presentations as a courtesy to our Officers, Members, and Sponsors whose generosity is much appreciated. If, due to exceptional circumstances, players are unable to be present to receive their prizes they should nominate another person to collect their prizes on their behalf.

23.6.(2) Prizes not collected within three weeks of competition will be returned to the Pro shop and vouchers issued.

**23.7 General Conditions**

The Competitions Committee reserves the right to:

23.7.(1) Refuse any entry without assigning a reason.

23.7.(2) Alter the published competition or conditions of competition if it is deemed necessary.

23.7.(3) Cancel a competition due to insufficient entries or to postpone or abandon it at any stage in exceptional circumstances if the Competitions Committee so decides.

**By order of Council.**