

Halesworth Golf Ladies Competition Rules

(updated April 2024)

England Golf (EG) Ladies Qualifying Competitions

1. Competition Days

Ladies' Competition Day is Thursday. The alternate day for play is Sunday. Only members of the Blyth Course are entitled to enter Competitions held on the Blyth Course. Competitions held on the Valley Course are open to members of both the Valley course and the Blyth Course.

Thursday and Sunday EG Competitions scores are combined, and first, second and third prizes awarded, dependant on entry numbers. If fewer than six ladies enter the combined EG Competition no prizes will be allocated, and no fees taken.

There are two divisions. These are based on Course Handicap as follows:

Silver = 0 to 26 (up to 24.1 handicap index)

Bronze = more than 26 (from 24.2 and above handicap index)

The divisions can be reviewed to balance the number of players per division .

Ladies may play in the monthly EG Competitions on both days (Thursday and Sunday) but only one of the days' scores will count towards the Ladies EG Competition and only one entry fee needs to be paid. Ladies need to specify in advance to the Lady Competition Secretary which day they wish to count towards prize allocation. If none is selected then by default the first score will apply for prizes, however, both scores will be recorded for handicap purposes.

If a lady is playing on both days then she must only enter a card for the one that is specified towards prize allocation.

All Ladies Trophies (except the Sunday Trophy and Medal of Medals) are played on a Thursday.

2. Competition Subs

An online prepayment scheme has been introduced for all Ladies Competitions. Cash will no longer be used. Please ensure that you have sufficient funds in your account prior to entering a competition. If there are insufficient funds to cover competition entry, then a lady is still able to play on the day but will not qualify for any prize money. Entry fees are divided between prize money and supporting the Ladies' Section.

3. Tee Times

For all EG Competitions tee times should be adhered to.

Both Thursdays and Sundays have tee times allotted by the proprietors as indicated on IG.

Normally: Thursdays 8:32 to 10:00 am

 Sundays (October 1st to March 31st) 11:00 to 11:30 am

 Sundays (April 1st – September 30th) 10:32 to 10:48am

However, ladies unable to play within the allotted EG Competition tee times must confirm their intention to play in the EG Competition with the Ladies Competition Secretary (or in her absence the Ladies Handicap Secretary), as well as their intended time of play with an IG tee booking, at least 24 hours prior to play. Cards must be marked by a lady HG member with a valid handicap and with the approval of the Ladies Competition Secretary (or in her absence the Ladies Handicap Secretary).

4. Sign Up

EG Competition sign-up opens on IG at least 21 days prior to the EG Competition date. On Thursdays, ladies are encouraged to play EG Competitions in threes. All entrants should sign up for EG Competitions through IG using the Enter Competition button found under competition details. Ladies are invited to enter their own name only against a selected tee time. Name or names of other competitors may be added, but only at the express request of the player(s) concerned. If you are unable to use IG to register then please contact the Ladies Competition Secretary (or in her absence the Ladies Handicap Secretary).

Any lady who requires assistance to play should seek advice from the Committee to understand how their needs can be met.

EG Competition signup closes at 12 noon the day before each competition after which time entries will not be accepted. However, ladies may turn up on the day although they may not join in the competition nor join a team in the competition. However, they may fill any available tee times within the allotted ladies times but after the competition field.

5. Registering your intention to play in the EG Competitions

Ladies must pre-register their intention to play in the EG Competition by selecting 'Check In' on the IG App either using the HG computer or their phone before commencing play. The fact that they have signed up before the day of play is not itself pre-registration and failure to check in on the day will result in disqualification from the EG Competition (however your card will count for handicap purposes).

6. Marking and signing your card

Score cards must be signed and submitted immediately after play onto IG even if the round was not completed. Completed cards should then be left with the Ladies Handicap Secretary or placed in the wire cage located in the ladies changing room.

Care must be taken when submitting **stableford** scores. A "blob" (or no points) should be entered as a 0 (zero) or NR.

NS should only be used when an injury has occurred or you are called off the course such as due to lightning.

If, for any reason, another lady HG member cannot be found to mark a EG Competition card within the allotted tee times then a card may be marked by any HG member with a valid handicap.

7. Withdrawing from a EG Competition

If a lady must withdraw from an EG Competition, she must withdraw from competition on IG and inform her playing partner(s) as well as the Ladies Competition Secretary (or in her absence the Ladies Handicap Secretary), by 12 Noon the day before. Failure to do this will mean that the non-player will still be charged. If the withdrawal was due to an unavoidable event, the Competition Secretary or the Handicap Secretary may allow the charge to be refunded.

Likewise, if a member starts an EG competition but then decides to leave the field for whatever reason, a refund will not be given.

It is not acceptable to use the Halesworth Ladies WhatsApp Group for this purpose. Where a member fails to appear for a EG Competition without informing the said Committee Member and their playing partner, then that lady will be expected to pay the entry fee.

If a player must withdraw from a Mixed Trophy Competition due to illness or family emergency, then it is acceptable for another player to take their place on that day, except for knockout competitions. For full details of knockout competitions please refer to rule sheet relating to the appropriate competition or contact the Competition Secretary for clarification.

8. Maximum Score EG Medals.

Any lady with a handicap index above 40.6 – 41.4 will be capped at playing handicap 45, however they can play under the ruling of a maximum score competition which sets the maximum hole score on any hole for handicap purposes. This is to improve pace of play and encourage ladies to enter medal formats being reassured that any high score will be 'capped' at the maximum handicap ruling. If a player picks up their ball after too many shots on any hole, then the player needs to enter NS (not started) onto their cards and when entering their score onto IG. It is important to remember that it is not acceptable to enter a number on the scorecard or IG unless you actually completed the hole. Please remember if you sign for an incorrect score on your scorecard, then you will be disqualified from the competition. The card will count for handicap purposes only provided all the above has been adhered to. A player who records an NS on their card will be recorded as NR for the competition. What this means is that if you are having a particularly bad day and then run the risk of double figures on a hole you can pick up your ball, carry on playing and still submit your score using the maximum hole score. You will however not be eligible for the Ladies Competition prize should you be in contention.

9. Trophy Competitions

All trophies are played for annually.

When the Thursday EG Competition is played alongside a Trophy Competition, then ladies who enter on both the Sunday and Thursday will, by default, be entered into the Thursday Trophy Day Competition. The Sunday EG Competition will then be recognised as a separate competition for ladies who only play on the Sunday and prizes awarded for the Sunday EG Competition winners if the number of entrants is more than six, otherwise entry fees will be refunded to competitors.

Some Trophy Competitions have a set handicap index limit. When a Trophy Competition is played alongside an EG Competition, all ladies, regardless of their handicap can enter and play; however, for the purposes of the separate Trophy Competition only, all handicaps will be manually capped for the Trophy Competition by the Ladies Handicap Secretary. This will not affect the EG winners on the day.

Anyone wishing to enter a Ladies Trophy Competition, or a Mixed Ladies Trophy Competition played in accordance with the Ladies Competition Rules, must have submitted scores from **three EG Competitions during the preceding twelve months from Halesworth Golf.**

Exceptions to this are:

Williams Cup; Addison Rabbits Trophy; Addison Mixed Trophy and the Past & Present Captains Trophy. Also, the Ladies Club Championship (Johnny Johnson Trophy and Originals Cup) which require three EG Competition cards submitted since January of the same year at Halesworth Golf.

10. Mixed Tee Individual Competitions

Scores from mixed tee individual competitions will count towards prizes and playing handicaps only.

11. 9 Hole EG Qualifying Competitions

A 9-hole Qualifying Round was introduced in 2013 which allows ladies to maintain their handicap indexes by playing 9-holes.

12. Pace of Play

Golf should be played at a prompt pace and ladies are encouraged to play ready golf. They should allow faster groups to play through at the earliest opportunity. Three balls should let faster two balls to play through even if they have not lost a hole. IG is able to monitor pace of play and ladies will be informed of any concerns.

13. Fun Competitions

The above rules apply except when playing fun competitions in teams on Thursdays and Sundays, when teams of three: low, medium, and high handicap are often drawn and allocated tee times by the Ladies Competition Secretary. Sign up for these competitions closes three days before the competition allowing teams to be drawn with confidence of no late changes. Late entries will only be accepted if there are spare spaces on a team.

14. Prizes

If the Fun Competition is a team game of 3 then there will be one prize of money credited to the club card for each member of the 1st team. If the competition is individual, prizes will be first, second and third.

If this is an EG qualifying competition, three prizes of money credited to the club card are paid per division.

15. General Play Scorecards

WHS encourages golfers to enter as many scores as possible to maintain a handicap that reflects their playing ability. General Play Scorecards can be entered for any 9-hole or 18-hole round played in accordance with the rules of golf.

Pre-register the round using the IG App/computer or tell the Club Pro that you intend to submit a score. Enter the score using IG at the clubhouse immediately after the round is completed whilst still at the golf club. Inform the Ladies Handicap Secretary that a General Play Score has been submitted. Place the score card in the metal cage located in the ladies changing room.

Please note: In order to protect the integrity of the handicap system, there is a time lag in operation from the point where intent to play a round is registered, to the stage when a score can be accepted. A golfer's final score must be verified by a playing partner who has witnessed the round and is an HG member with a valid handicap.

You can also use the England Golf App to register a General Play Scorecard. Follow the instructions on the screen after logging on. You must have a playing partner to verify your score.

16. Submitting cards from abroad

Anyone asking for a card to be entered as a score as they are abroad, must scan or photograph their attested card and send it to the Handicap Secretary as soon as possible after their round and not later than one week.

17. Use of Transportation

Any individual who wishes to use a buggy or similar in a competition must provide a valid doctors certificate. Alternatively they can Self Certify using the following link from SLCGA (which requires a Clinician's signature). Players who require a buggy for medical reasons may submit online. <https://form.jotform.com/231662619413354>.

The certificate will be kept on file for a period of three years.

Additionally, abled-bodied caddies must carry or use a trolley for the players clubs. Caddies with a disability may ride in the buggy with player.

In **exceptional** circumstances for a Club competition only, if an individual has a legitimate reason as to why they need to use a buggy but are unable to provide a certificate temporarily, then the Captain, Competition Secretary or another member of the committee can give permission.

18. Use of GPS Devices

In Club or County competitions, GPS devices are permitted for distance, however **tournament mode** must be disabled (ie: the type that indicates wind speed and/or “plays as” information and similar is not allowed).

19. Policy to support Teams in County Competitions.

- Expenses incurred such as tea/coffee/soft drinks to be paid by the Ladies Section
- The meals for the players will be paid for by the ladies section
- The meals for the caddies will be paid for by the player.
- The Team Captain has their food paid for.
- No expenses for travel will be paid.

The above has been compiled to the best of our ability however, if you have any concerns or questions about the rules, please contact the committee for clarification.

Version 11 April 2023

- Para 11 – remove reference to 9 hole eclectic
- Replace EWGA with EG
- Remove heading re specific competitions as sometimes trophy may not be a qualifier
- Remove items in bold and red.
- New explanation of divisions and prizes
- Clarification of allotted tee times
- Clarification of registering a zero score in a Stableford competition

Version 12 June 2023

Additional items relating to:

- 16. Submitting cards from abroad.
- 17. Using Transport
- 18. Using GPS Devices

Version 13 July 2023

- 19. Policy on teams in County Matches

Version 14 – January 24

- Amendment due to changes to prizes to be cash for all competitions.

Version 15 – April 24

- Removal of permission required to allow men to sign ladies cards for competitions

Version 16 - June 24

- Update to the refunds if a player has started an EG competition

Appendix 1

Race to Woodhall Spa

Participation in the club qualifying rounds is open to female amateur golfers of all ages, who are members of England Golf and in possession of an individual up-to-date Handicap Index.

- There will no longer be an upper handicap limit to compete in the EG competition.
- Club qualifying rounds will no longer need to be medal rounds.
- All forms of individual club stroke play competitions will be included in the calculation of the club winner, including Stableford, medal, maximum score and par/bogey.
- Competitions will no longer need to be nominated as EG qualifiers. Instead, all competitions meeting the eligibility criteria will be included in the calculation of the club winner (player with the lowest aggregate differential of four best scores). There will no longer be a maximum number of competitions included in the calculation to determine the club winner.
- Result is calculated automatically by WHS.