

HALESWORTH GOLF SENIORS' SECTION COMPETITION RULES Ver 1.9

(commencing 01/04/23, up-dated 21/06/24)

1. COURSE OPENING / CLOSURE

The opening/closure of the course will be at the sole discretion of the Proprietors. Where the course is temporarily closed before or during a competition, due to weather or ground conditions, e.g., fog, frost, ice, snow, hail, flooding or a thunderstorm, or immediately before the start of a competition the course being declared open by the Proprietors, it will be for any member of the CLUB COMMITTEE or SENIORS' COMMITTEE to decide, whether the competition shall commence or resume as the case may be. The general rule will be that, if the conditions prevent safe play generally or normal play for in excess of one hour, the competition will be deemed cancelled or abandoned.

2. DESIGNATED PRACTICE AREAS

Practice on the day of the competition before any stroke play/Stableford competition (or between rounds in the Seniors' Club Championship) will not be permitted on any area of the course, except as provided in the Rules of Golf. Designated practice areas shall be as follows:

- (a) the driving range,
- (b) the practice putting green (outside the bounds of the 18th hole),
- (c) the practice chipping green adjacent to the Club entrance driveway, and
- (d) the 9-hole Valley Course when not forming part of the Competition.

Penalty for Breach - disqualification from the Competition and forfeiture of the entrance fee.

Practice on the course is permitted for any match play competition including the summer and winter knock out competitions.

3. COMPETITION ENTRY RULES

i) Tee times allocated by the Proprietors for all competitions must be strictly adhered to. In normal circumstances tee times will range from 08.32 – 11.28 in winter (December – January when sun rise is after 8am) and from 07.28 - 10.40 in summer.

ii) Competition entry will open on IG, at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the competition. This will be extended to at least three (3) weeks for some competitions when teams are drawn and/or tee times are allocated. Seniors are invited to enter their own name only (in most but not all competitions it is possible to select a tee time). Seniors, however, may enter the names of other members but only at the request of the Senior Members concerned. Entries may be accepted via the professional shop.

Entries will close at 9am on the day of the competition after which time entries will not normally be accepted. Any late entries after 9am on the day must be agreed by the Competition Admin (as per the IG entry) as it would be no longer possible to enter through IG.

iii) Senior Members wishing to play outside the allocated competition tee times may be permitted to do so subject to arranging an alternative tee time (within thirty minutes of the allocated slots) and contacting the Competition Admin (as per the IG entry) before the day of the competition. Allowance beyond this may be permitted in exceptional circumstances with the approval of the Competition Admin for that competition. Senior Members who are not in the competition are not allowed to play in tee times reserved for the competition without agreement from the Competition

Admin for that competition. Senior Members must have their card signed by another Senior Member in that competition.

iv) Senior Members who find that they are unable to play in a given competition are permitted to withdraw from the competition, without penalty, ensuring that their name is removed from the entry list on IG before the closure of entries to the competition (i.e. 9am on the day of the competition). This will remind the Competition Admin to refund that members card with their entry fee.

v) Unless otherwise specified no group shall exceed three (3) players unless agreed with the Competition Admin.

vi) Where a Senior Member fails to appear for a competition or fails to withdraw themselves in IG before 9am on the day, that member will be expected to pay the entry fee which will be retained in Seniors funds. In repeated or serious cases this may also result in disqualification from a subsequent competition. Where representations are made relating to exceptional circumstances the Committee may waive this penalty. It is not sufficient to solely withdraw via a message on WhatsApp.

vii) Entry fee for monthly Medal and Stableford competitions is £2.50 and £1 per player for non-trophy competitions; for trophy competitions entry fees vary; see below.

4. SENIORS COMPETITION RULES

i) The Rules of Golf as laid down by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and Local Rules for the time being in force, will be applied to all knockouts, trophy, monthly Medal and Stableford competitions including non-qualifiers. The penalties for breaches of these rules will be applied by the Seniors Committee.

ii) Where specific format, qualification or handicap rules apply to a particular competition these will be advised under competition rules in IG.

iii) Senior Members should be on the appointed tee at least five (5) minutes prior to the allowed tee time.

Penalty for Breach - Medal - 2 strokes; Stableford - 2 points - at the discretion of the Seniors Captain.

iv) It is mandatory that score cards shall be signed by marker and player and returned by the participating Senior Member whether completed or not. (An upload of a photo of the score card may be the requirement of the competition at times). Participants should enter scores on the touchscreen.

Penalty for Breach - Disqualification and/or disqualification from entry to a subsequent competition. Where representations are made relating to exceptional circumstances the Committee may waive this penalty.

v) It is expected that having started a round the Senior Member will complete the round. Walking from the course without completing a round can be disconcerting for other players in the group and is discouraged. However, there may be acceptable reasons for leaving the course.

Penalty for leaving the course before completion - disqualification from entry to a subsequent competition. Where representations are made relating to exceptional circumstances the Seniors Captain or delegate may waive this penalty.

vi) Slow play is a major problem in the game of golf and is to be widely discouraged. It is accepted

that at an amateur level, searching for balls is prevalent and cannot be avoided but should be within the Rules of Golf (3 minutes). Senior Members, however, should always endeavor to ensure that the following groups are not unnecessarily delayed. The rule to be applied therefore is that where a group has lost a complete hole on the preceding group and the group behind is being held up then that group shall be called through at the earliest opportunity.

The Seniors' Committee will investigate any complaint regarding lack of courtesy in this respect and may apply a penalty to a maximum of disqualification from a subsequent competition for all the Senior Members involved.

5. WINTER RULES

Winter Rules will apply to all competitions between November 1st and March 31st inclusive. In addition, where course conditions dictate, the Proprietors or the Seniors' Committee may declare the imposition of Winter Rules for any competition throughout the remainder of the year.

6. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES

Devices for measuring distances only will be permitted in all Trophy, Medal and Stableford competitions. The use of a device capable of giving indication of gradient, wind speed or direction etc, will only be allowed for distance measuring, where gradient has not been applied (Tournament mode).

Penalty for Breach - Disqualification

7. RIDE ON BUGGIES

Senior Members must walk the course in all Trophy, monthly Medal and Stableford competitions. Where a Senior Member produces a current medical certificate, however, supporting an injury or disability, the use of a ride-on-buggy will be permitted. A copy of such a certificate should be lodged with the Club Manager's office. Any member intending to use a ride-on-buggy shall seek authority before use. This should be obtained from the Proprietors who will retain the right to prevent the use of ride-on-buggies where the course conditions or other issues demand.

8. COMPETITION QUALIFYING STATUS

To be eligible for prizes in qualifiers and trophy competitions competitors must have completed a combination of 3 previous qualifying competitions in the previous 12 months. For some competitions the completion of 5 qualifying competitions is required (see details of each competition below) There is a maximum handicap allowance in some competitions (see below for details).

All individual single player trophy, monthly Medal and Stableford competitions will be regarded as qualifying competitions under the WHS, unless course/weather conditions make this non-viable. Where such extreme conditions exist the decision as to whether the competition shall be a qualifier or not will be made by the Seniors' Committee member(s) present and Senior Members will be informed before commencing their round if possible. Where a competition has been declared 'non-qualifying' any Senior Member has the option of submitting the card as a pre-registered round under the rules governing such submissions.

9. COMPETITION RESULTS

Results of competitions will be posted on IG and/or sent to all participants in normal circumstances within 48 hours of the event. Handicap adjustments will be available the day following the competition and can be seen in IG.

10. CHANGES TO NORMAL PLAYING PROTOCOL

If national or local events result in a change to normal playing protocol, the Senior's Captain in consultation with others on the Senior's Committee can make temporary adjustments to Seniors' Competitions Rules.

11. PLAYING HANDICAPS

Unless otherwise stated below all qualifiers and individual non-qualifying competitions (Stablefords and Medals) will have a handicap allowance of 95% of course handicap.

12. TEES

Unless otherwise stated below all monthly Stableford and Medal Qualifiers from March to October will be played off white tees and from November to February off yellow tees.

13. DIVISIONS

Monthly qualifiers and individual competitions will be split into divisions which may change (infrequently) at the discretion of the Seniors' Committee.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION PARAMETERS

Open to all Seniors who have reached the age of 55 – applies to all following competitions:

Senior Club Championship

Conditions	Handicap and gross competition only open to those with an active competition handicap and have played 5 qualifying rounds in the preceding 12 months. Maximum playing handicap 24. Playing handicap 90% of course handicap.
Entry Fee	£5
Format	Medal over Blyth (white tees) and Valley (yellow tees) courses. Count back on Valley. Gross and net prizes. Playing order; lowest handicap first starting at 8.00 or earlier (second round starting hours later).

Memorial Trophy

Conditions	Handicap competition only open to those with an active competition handicap and have played 5 qualifying rounds in the preceding 12 months. Maximum playing handicap 24. Playing handicap 95% of course handicap.
Entry Fee	£5
Format	Medal off white tees. Prizes for net plus any exceptional gross scores not gaining a net prize.

Spring Trophy

Conditions	Handicap competition only open to those with an active competition handicap and have played 5 qualifying rounds in the preceding 12 months. Maximum playing handicap 24. Playing handicap 95% of course handicap.
Entry Fee	£5
Format	Stableford off white tees. Prizes for net plus any exceptional gross scores not gaining a net prize.

Blyth Trophy

Conditions	Handicap competition only open to those with an active competition handicap and have played 5 qualifying rounds in the preceding 12 months. Maximum playing handicap 18. Playing handicap 95% of course handicap.
Entry Fee	£5 including 50p for twos
Format	Medal off white tees. Prizes for net plus any exceptional gross scores not gaining a net prize.

Wolfe Cup

Conditions	Handicap competition only open to those with an active competition handicap and have played 3 qualifying rounds in the preceding 12 months. Minimum playing handicap 19. Maximum playing handicap 28. Playing handicap 90% of course handicap.
Entry Fee	£5
Format	Stableford off yellow tees. Net prizes

Gilson-Wright Salver

Conditions	Open to all Seniors over 70 years old with an active competition handicap. Non-qualifier. Full course handicap.
Entry Fee	£5
Format	Stableford off red tees (odd numbered holes) and yellow tees (even numbered holes) using yellow stroke index. Net prizes plus a prize for best score for Senior over 80 years old.

Charity Shield

Conditions	Qualifier off yellow tees. 95% handicap allowance. Captain to choose Charity to be supported.
Entry Fee	£5 minimum
Format	Stableford off yellow tees. Senior's Captain to decide prizes.

Eddy Metcalfe Rose Bowl

Conditions	Maximum handicap of 28 for each pair.
Entry Fee	£3 per player
Format	Greensomes Stableford, partners to be drawn (lower handicap, 1 higher handicap) off yellow tees. Entry for this competition will be closed prior to the competition date for the draw to be made. Members not entered by this date may become reserves.

Enticknap Cup

Conditions	Partners to be drawn 1 low, 1 middle and 1 high handicap.
Entry Fee	£3 per player
Format	Texas Scramble, medal play off yellow tees. Handicap allowance 30%/20%/10% from lowest to highest. All players must have to 4 drives to count. Entry for this competition will be closed prior to the competition date for the draw to be made. Members not entered by this date may enter as reserves.

Richard Whiting Memorial Trophy

Conditions	Open to all Seniors and Halesworth Ladies members with an active competition handicap plus invited guests from Rookery Park and Bungay.
Entry Fee	£5 per pair
Format	Foursomes Stableford, partners by choice, white and red tees. 50% of combined handicaps. Maximum handicap 28 for Seniors and 36 for Ladies.

Holton Shield

Entry Fee	£5 per team
Format	Greensomes Stableford. Teams must have 1 lower handicap and 1 higher handicap off yellow tees. Playing handicap is 60% of lower handicap and 40% of higher handicap. Maximum handicap of 28 for each pair. Partners NOT DRAWN.

Wenhaston Trophy

Entry Fee	£5 per team
Format	Foursomes Stableford off yellow tees. Partners drawn. Playing handicap is 50% of combined handicaps. Maximum handicap of 28 for each pair.
	Entry for this competition will be closed prior to the competition date for the draw to be made. Members not entered by this date may become reserves.

Metfield Mug

Entry Fee	£5 per team
Format	Greensomes Stableford off yellow tees. Playing handicap is 60% of lower handicap and 40% of higher handicap. Maximum handicap of 28 for each pair. Partners NOT DRAWN

Pearce Trophy – run by Ladies Captain

Conditions	Open to all Seniors and Halesworth Ladies members with an active competition handicap
Entry Fee	£3
Format	2 seniors and 1 lady member. Team of 3 - 2 balls to count. Stableford off yellow and red tees.

Medal of Medals

Conditions	Open to all Seniors who have won a Seniors' medal in the current year.
Playing Order	Drawn
Entry Fee	nil
Format	Medal off white tees

Stableford of Stablefords

Conditions	Open to all Seniors who have won a Seniors' Stableford in the current year.
Playing Order	Drawn
Entry Fee	nil
Format	Stableford off white tees

Summer Fourball Knock-Out

Conditions	Not Drawn	Choose your own team
Entry Fee	£10 per pair	
Format	4 ball better ball knock out yellow tees. Shots given will be 75% difference of full handicap for each player from lowest handicap. Maximum handicap 28.	

Entry for this competition will be closed approximately 1 week prior to the competition commencement for the draw to be made. Members not entered by this date may not play in the competition.

Summer Knockout

Entry Fee	£5
Format	Singles Matchplay off white tees (unless agreed otherwise). Strokes given 90% difference from lowest handicap. Maximum handicap 28.

Entry for this competition will be closed approximately 1 week prior to the competition commencement for the draw to be made. Members not entered by this date may not play in the competition.

Winter Foursomes Knock out

Partners Pick your own

Entry Fee £10 per pair

Format Matchplay off yellow tees. Playing handicap is 50% of combined handicap. Shots given are full difference between pair's playing handicaps. Maximum handicap 28.

Entry for this competition will be closed approximately 1 week prior to the competition commencement for the draw to be made. Members not entered by this date may not play in the competition.

Winter Singles Knockout

Entry Fee £5

Format Matchplay off yellow tees. Strokes given is 90% difference from lowest course handicap. Maximum handicap 28.

Entry for this competition will be closed approximately 1 week prior to the competition commencement for the draw to be made. Members not entered by this date may not play in the competition.

Quaich Knockout

Entry Fee £5

Format Medal Matchplay off white tees with 90% difference from lowest course handicap. If a play-off is required, it is played over holes 1, 2 and 10 (with 15% difference from lowest handicap). Maximum handicap 28.

Entry for this competition will be closed approximately 1 week prior to the competition commencement for the draw to be made. Members not entered by this date may not play in the competition.

Compiled by Richard Fernley with contributions from John Ashton, Tom Fletcher, John Meggison and Dave Tower. 23/03/2024

Up-dated by John Meggison, agreed with HGC Executive Committee. 21/06/2024