



## **Birchwood Park Golf Club (BPGC) Members Competition Rules and Eligibility 2019**

### **1. Introduction - The mandatory rules**

This document serves as the rules of eligibility, to enter and proceed, win or be placed in all honour board and knockout competitions organised by the BPGC General Committee, the Ladies Committee and the Seniors Committee. All matches will be played in accordance with the R & A Rules of Golf, Burhill local rules, and the following specific rules drawn up by the Committee.

### **2. What constitutes an eligible round?**

**2.1** All Birchwood Park Golf Club competitions played from the white tees for gentlemen (but refer to 3.3 for seniors) and red tees for ladies and where an individual round is recorded, will be deemed as an 'eligible round'. This stipulation covers both weekend and mid-week medal and stableford competitions. Pair's competitions will also be considered to be an eligible round.

**2.2** Match Play, any form of Better Ball, Foursomes and Greensomes, prior rounds of any knockout competition or any form of "fun" competition, will be deemed as ineligible rounds as they are not quantified by the requirement of an individual score.

**2.3** Eligible rounds will consist of a recognized and completed round of 18 holes. If a player submits an NR (non-return) card, he/she will be deemed a non-entrant in that competition and therefore cannot class the competition as one of their qualifying rounds, unless under exceptional circumstances and on appeal, the committee decides otherwise.

**2.4** In conditions where the course has been shortened by more than 100 yards and therefore deemed as non-qualifying for the automatic handicap adjustment, rounds will still count as eligible for the above purpose as playing handicaps may be adjusted by the handicap committee thus recognizing a player's current ability.

**2.5** If a competition is declared void by the organizer, for example; insufficient players or adverse weather conditions but a competitor having started his or her round without knowledge of the decision and on finishing the round, has a properly recorded and signed card, completed on the competition day; their round will be considered eligible. A record of the entry field, held by the Committee will be used as evidence of the circumstances. Insufficient players in normal cases will stand at 19 or lower.

### **3. Eligibility for Competitions**

**3.1** To be eligible for Honours Board and knockout competitions, all members must have completed four eligible rounds in the previous three months from the calendar date of the competition. Members must be qualified by the specified date on the knockout entry form for both 5 and 7 day knockout competitions. In the case of 5 Day Singles, 5 Day Pairs and Winter Greensomes only two eligible rounds are required to validate entry.

**3.2 Ladies** both seven day and five day members are allowed to enter any of the honour board competitions dedicated to the ladies, the Mixed Pairs Knockout, and the Mixed Foursomes competitions. Five day ladies playing in all ladies honour boards must attain seven-day eligibility, i.e. have completed four eligible rounds in the previous three months from the calendar date of the competition and must be prepared to play at weekends and pay the appropriate green fee.

**3.3 Seniors** members who have five-day membership are ineligible for main club honour boards except the Men's 5 Day Pairs Knockout, Men's 5 Day Singles Knockout, Mixed Pairs Knockout, and Mixed Foursomes or when invited by the BPGC Committee to do so, such as the Masters Trophy. Eligibility for these four excepted competitions can be attained by seniors playing competitions from yellow tees provided that such competitions are those officially arranged by the Seniors Committee. All senior members are eligible to enter all senior honour board competitions if the member is deemed qualified by the Seniors Committee.

**3.4 Five Day Members** cannot enter any honour board competitions other than the Five Day Pairs Knockout, the Five Day Singles, Mixed Pairs and Mixed Foursomes or when invited by the BPGC Committee to do so, such as the Masters Trophy. Five Day members will have to meet the eligibility requirements as specified in 3.1 above. Five day members entering the Mixed Pairs Knockout and Mixed Foursomes events must achieve four eligible rounds (in accordance with these being 7 day honour boards), be prepared to play at the weekend and pay the appropriate green fee.

**3.5 Junior Members** must have the permission of the BPGC Committee to enter any competition and must abide by the rules relating to Seven Day members. The Committee will ensure that they will play with any junior member wishing to participate to ensure etiquette and golf fundamentals are adhered to.



## **4. Matchplay Knockout Competitions**

**4.1** The 'play by dates' that are set for all rounds are determined and published by the Committee and are sacrosanct. 'Eligibility' must be achieved by the date specified on the competition entry form. Once a player is deemed 'eligible' he or she will be considered qualified for all consequent rounds for the duration of the competition. These dates will be set by the BPGC Committee and shown on the draw sheets. If you are unable to comply with the specified dates do not enter the competition. There will be no extensions given, unless extreme compassionate grounds are given by the participant and is approved by the BPGC Committee. It is therefore imperative to keep yourself available to play during the selected period. If either you or your partner is unable to commit to play within the specified dates of the first round, you or your partner will be expected to play the first round as a single player until the semi-final and final where both players must participate. All players throughout the competition are responsible for contacting their opponents to arrange matches by the due date. Players shown on top **do not** have priority over times or dates. Thereafter the same rule applies in the subsequent rounds of the competition.

**4.2** If both players in a pair are unable to play by the final date of the round, they must give a bye to their opponents. If there is a dispute as to who is responsible for delaying a match, this should be flagged to the organizer immediately, who will act as referee and whose decision will be final. There will be no appeal available on such decisions. Three dates should be given to your opponents within the period of the specified round. If both teams find this unacceptable, then both teams will automatically be disqualified.

The decision will be made by the organizer and will be binding. The organizer will resolve matches not completed by the play by date in one of three ways. Firstly, if none of the players have notified the organizer they will all be disqualified; secondly if one player or a player from one team notifies the organizer, the opponents will be disqualified; thirdly if both players / teams have notified the organizer the decision who goes through will be made on the toss of a coin.

**4.3** The organizer when acting as referee will rule on any question and the decision made will be binding to all concerned. Once a decision is made it cannot be changed or amended by any person involved, including the decision maker.

**4.4** Partner Substitution will only be permitted prior to the commencing date of a competition by agreement with the organizer. The original partner will forfeit his match fee and the substitute and the substitute's partner will be required to pay a further match fee. A playing partner cannot be changed at any time after the commencement date of the competition, except by circumstances found to be exceptional by the Committee, such as physical injury, ill health or unexpected membership termination.

**4.5** Handicap changes during the competition. The handicap of a competitor on the commencing date of a competition is subject to amendment as the subsequent matches or rounds are achieved. If a handicap is altered through play in another competition, the revised handicap must be used in any and all future events, even if the event is already in progress. If there are specific reasons and there is a dispute, it will be resolved by the organizer.

If a match having commenced cannot be completed because of circumstances beyond the control of the competitors, it will be resumed and continued from the point at which it was abandoned, at a time and date acceptable to both sides and the organizer. The same handicaps will be used when the match is resumed as they stood at the outset of the game even if in the interim there has been a revision to a player's handicap standing and eligibility achieved at the outset of the competition will remain valid.

**4.6** Stroke allowance will be the full difference in handicap in all singles matches and 90% handicap difference in pair's competitions with the lowest handicapper playing off scratch. If the lowest handicap is a lady the red stroke index will be used in that match. If a player in a pair's competition is unable to play through long term illness or injury, or ceases to be a BPGC member, the pair must withdraw from the competition.

**4.7** All knockout matches will be played until there is an outright winner. Any decision from the referee in the final is made in good faith and must be accepted by the finalists.

**5. Complaints** should be put in writing to the Committee but will not change any prior decisions. All rulings are made in good faith and even when a judgment is found to be incorrect will not be subject to amendment during the competition.

**6. Spirit of the game.** Honesty, integrity, courtesy: three words that have come to represent the spirit in which the game of golf should be played.

**7. Monitoring.** The above Committee rules for competitions are not exhaustive and may require amending when situations arise that are not fully covered by these regulations. In the interest of fair play the Committee reserves the right to amend and update rules at any time.