



Buckinghamshire County Ladies Golf Association

LOCAL RULES, TERMS OF THE COMPETITION AND REGULATIONS

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL RULES, TERMS OF COMPETITION, REGULATIONS AND SAFETY ADVICE APPLY TO ALL BCLGA COMPETITIONS.

THE WORD “COMPETITIONS” INCLUDES ALL BCLGA EVENTS, e.g. “CHAMPIONSHIPS”, “MEETINGS”, “MATCHES”, “KNOCKOUTS” and “LEAGUES”.

A. Local Rules

1. The Local Rules of the host course shall be used for all competitions, with the following exceptions:
 - Any Local Rule limiting relief for an embedded ball to closely mown areas is not used.
 - Any Local Rule prohibiting the use of distance measuring devices is not used.
 - Any Local Rule allowing Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Out of Bounds is not used.

B. Additional Local Rules

1. Appointment of Advice Giver in Team Competitions:

Each team may name one Advice Giver whom players on the team may ask for advice and receive advice during the round.

The team must identify the Advice Giver to the opposing team and to the competition organiser (if applicable) before any player on the team begins her round. The team may change its Advice Giver during the round but must tell the opposing team and competition organiser when it is doing so.

The Advice Giver must not point out a line of play or walk on the putting green when the ball of a team player lies on the putting green.

Note that if a team's Advice Giver is also a player or caddie in the match, she is not allowed to act in that role while playing a round in the match.

The advice giver has the same status as a member of the side in relation to each member of his or her team.

2. Use of Audio and Video Devices:

Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round a player must not listen to music or watch video on a personal audio or video device, including a mobile phone.

3. Caddies:

In Junior Competitions:

Rule 10.3a is modified in this way: A player must not have a caddie during the round.

4. Practice:

Rule 5.2a (Practicing on Course Before or Between Rounds in Match Play) is modified in this way: On the day of a match-play competition, a player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds, **except** that the player may practise putting or chipping on or near her first teeing area and practise on any practice area.

5. Suspension of Play:

A suspension of play will be signalled by the normal method used by the host course.

6. Round:

Play is over the stipulated 18-hole course of the day.

7. Transportation:

Players and caddies shall walk at all times during the stipulated round, unless authorised by the organising committee.

A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorized to ride on motorized transportation.

BCLGA is mindful of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. If any player feels that due to a disability, they are unable to play in a competition without the use of a golf cart they are asked to refer to the BCLGA Transportation Policy. This is available from the Competition Secretaries or the website: www.bclga.org.uk

8. Greensomes Competitions:

As the Greensomes format is not officially recognised by the R&A, there are no Rules that can be referred to. Please note the rules below for “Provisional Ball from the Tee” and “Selection of Tee Shot”, which are to be used in all BCLGA Greensomes Competitions:

PROVISIONAL BALL FROM TEE

A provisional ball can only be played if BOTH balls may be lost outside a Penalty Area or Out of Bounds. Only ONE of the players may play a provisional ball and the provisional ball must be played after BOTH players have teed off. In a Greensomes competition, the provisional ball must be played from the tee of the partner. If EITHER of the original balls is found in bounds or is lost in a Penalty Area, the provisional ball must be abandoned.

SELECTION OF TEE SHOT

The player must declare which of the tee shots they have selected. If Player A's tee shot is selected, Player B must play the second shot and vice versa. As soon as a tee shot has been selected and played, that ball is the ball in play, and the other ball is a wrong ball. If one of the tee shots is lifted and the other tee shot cannot be found or is out of bounds, then the players may choose:-

- a) to proceed under the stroke and distance rule (returning to the tee) OR
- b) to replace the lifted ball under a penalty of one shot.

C. Terms of the Competition

1. General Condition:

All competitions shall be run in accordance with the R&A Rules of Golf and the WHS system of Handicapping as implemented by England Golf.

2. Handicaps:

Players must provide a CDH number to verify their Handicap Index.

3. Oversubscribed Competitions:

Unless otherwise specified in the Terms of the Competition:

Entries for all annual meetings are limited by course capacity. If oversubscribed, entries will be accepted in order of receipt.

4. Eligibility, Entries and Withdrawals:

Refer to the Terms of the Competition for each individual competition. NOTE the general ruling that:

i) For the “club” competitions (e.g. Bucks Shield, Interclub Foursomes, Leagues) players must be members of a Club affiliated to the County. For each competition, a player may only represent one club in any one season.

ii) Playing as an Individual:-

(a) Full Members are entitled to play in all County Competitions and for the County Teams, including friendlies, and in County Championships. The current England Golf regulations on County Qualification describe the requirements for Full Membership.

(b) Associate Members who are Full Members of another County:- Associate Members are entitled to play in all County Competitions including inter-club matches but excluding County Teams and County Championships.

5. Inclement Weather:

If, in the opinion of BCLGA, it becomes impossible to complete a Competition in accordance with that competition’s Conditions because of adverse weather or other circumstances, BCLGA may vary the Conditions to the extent necessary to achieve a result within the time available.

6. When Scorecard Returned:

For strokeplay competitions, a scoring area will be defined, and scorecards returned to a referee or recorder in the scoring area. A player is allowed to make changes to her scorecard up until she has left the scoring area.

7. Decision of Ties:

Unless otherwise specified in the Terms of the Competition:

In a two round Championship, ties shall be decided on the 2nd round and then the 1st round. Should that fail to produce a result, ties shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the last completed round. If a tie still arises it shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the first nine holes of the last completed round.

In a one round event, ties shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the round. If a tie still arises it shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the first nine holes of the round.

8. Results of Match or Championship: Competition Closed:

a) Match play: The result of a match is deemed officially announced when it has been returned to the Organising Committee.

b) Stroke play: The results of the competition are deemed officially announced and the competition is closed when the Trophy is presented to the winner.

9. Trophies & Prizes:

A winning Club or Individual will be responsible for a trophy from the time it is presented until it is relinquished and shall ensure it is returned to BCLGA in time for presentation at the following year's competition.

Unless otherwise specified in the Terms of the Competition, a player may win more than one trophy but not more than one prize.

10. Disputes will be settled by a committee, formed by the Organiser of the Competition (three to form a quorum). That Committee's decision shall be final.

D. General Regulations

The following regulations, together with any additions or amendments published at the course, will apply to all BCLGA competitions, including practice days.

1. Dress Code:

Players and caddies must adhere to the dress code in place at the host club. Correct attire and footwear must be in line with the regulations of the host club.

2. Mobile Phones may not be used on the course. If switched on players and caddies must have their mobile phones on silent mode.

Use of mobile phones in and around the clubhouse must be in accordance with the regulations in place at the host club.

E. Safety Guidance in the Event of a Dangerous Situation

The following guidance is taken from the England Golf “Hard Card”. It is designed to assist; it is not an instruction or a Term of Competition. People on the course are responsible for their own actions in such a dangerous situation and BCLGA is not liable for any injury or damage caused by following this guidance.

When the signal is given to suspend play for a dangerous situation you are you are advised:

- Not to stand under overhead power lines.
- Not to shelter under trees or on high ground.
- Not to take cover in wooden or metallic shelters, unless the shelter is fully enclosed and properly earthed.
- Not to exit the course by walking under trees if at all possible.
- To keep as low as possible and, if necessary, crouch in the nearest bunker or other low point on the golf course.
- To switch off and most certainly do not use a mobile phone.
- Not to put up your umbrella under any circumstances.
- Not to stand near your golf clubs; they act as a magnet to lightning.
- If you are leaving the course, you are strongly advised to leave your clubs behind.
- To remove any headgear which may have metal in or on it.