

BUCKS CHALLENGE SHIELD 2023

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

1. The Competition shall be played according to the Buckinghamshire County Ladies Golf Association (BCLGA) Local Rules and Terms of the Competition.
2. The Competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to the BCLGA. Players must be members of the Club they are representing and may only represent one Club in this Competition within any calendar year. Clubs with smaller ladies' sections (up to 40 members) may join with another "small" Club to create a 'composite team' - the Club to be used for home matches must be recorded on the Entry Form.
3. The Management of the Competition shall be vested in the Organiser appointed by the Executive Committee. Any dispute must be put in writing to the Organiser, who may refer to the Executive Committee for a decision, whose decision will be final.
4. To be played as an Inter-Club Singles Knockout Competition.
5. Teams to consist of seven-a-side. The team must play in handicap order, where Handicap Index is used to determine the order. A Club may vary its team from match to match and from the Home leg of the match to the Away leg. Each member of the team is required to have played in at least two matches prior to the Final. The home and away legs of a match each count as *separate matches* for the purposes of qualification for the Final.
6. The home team must notify the away team of the course, tees and slope rating for the course to be used for the match and the tee times allocated for each game. The away team must confirm receipt of this information.
7. Each team must submit a team sheet at least 15 minutes before the first tee time for a match, which must show name, handicap index and course handicap for the course to be played for each player.
8. If a team sheet is not received in time, the opposing team can claim those games where the tee time is less than 15 minutes before the time that the team sheet was submitted. The remaining games will go ahead, with both teams able to select which of their team to stand down.
9. If one player or more players in a team are unavoidably detained and not ready to play when it is their tee time, the two captains can agree to rearrange the order of games, but each game must still be between the players as assigned in handicap index order. In the event of this happening in the Final, then this decision will be at the discretion of the Referee.
10. Rule 5.3a of the R&A Rules of Golf applies to a player who is not on the tee at the time agreed for their game (which may be a rearranged time) - loss of the first hole (walk to the second tee) if they arrive within 5 minutes of their tee time and loss of the game if they arrive more than 5 minutes late. If a game is forfeit due to a player being late on the tee, the result of that match is recorded as 10&8, but both players are deemed to have played in the match.

11. All rounds and the semi-final are to be played Home and Away legs.
12. If a player has a walkover then that player is deemed to have played a match. The result of the match will be recorded as 10&8. The person giving the walkover will not be deemed as having played a match.
13. If any game in the first 4 rounds finishes "All Square" on the 18th green, the game is halved. For the Final the players must proceed without delay to continue play from the 1st tee of the stipulated course of the day and continue until one player wins the game.
14. The Club going through to the next round shall be decided:
 - When one team wins 7½ or more games over the combined home and away legs of the match, play can be stopped in subsequent games.
 - In the event of a tie, there will be a countback on the number of holes won by each Club over the total from all 14 games played. (An example is given on the "Sample Result Sheet".)
 - If there is still no clear winner, the team qualifying for the next round shall be decided by sudden death play-off. The lowest handicap players from each team in the second leg shall play sudden death play-off from the first tee to a conclusion.
15. The Course Handicap for each player shall be determined using her Handicap Index on the day of the match and the Slope rating of the course to be played.
16. The maximum Handicap Index for the Competition is 22.0, players with a higher Handicap Index may play, but will be allocated a Handicap Index of 22.0 for the purpose of the Competition.
17. Handicap allowances are calculated according to the WHS handicapping system as implemented by England Golf. Stroke allowance is 100% of the difference between the Course Handicaps of the players.
18. The draw for each round will be made at a County Delegates, Vice Captains or Executive Meeting. If there is no meeting at a suitable date, the draw can be made by two Executive Members who must be members of different Clubs and neither of their Clubs may be involved in the draw.
19. The Final will be played at a venue which is arranged and publicised at the beginning of the Competition. If the Final venue is the home Club of one of the finalists, the venue WILL NOT be changed.
20. The entry fee, as determined by the Executive Committee, shall be paid before the draw.
21. **For the first 4 rounds, the Captain of the winning team must send the result of the match to the Organiser within 48 hours of completion of the second leg of the match. Teams not complying with this rule will be disqualified.**
22. Advice in Match Play Team Competitions:
 - Each team may name one Advice Giver from whom team players may seek advice during the match.
 - 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 game. The team may change its Advice Giver during the match but must tell the opposing team and Competition Organiser when it is doing so. A different person may be appointed for each leg of the match.
 - 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 game in the match.
 - The Advice Giver has the same status as a member of the team in relation to each member of his or her team.
23. The home team must offer three dates, to cover both weekend and weekday dates with no more than two dates in the same seven-day period. Bank holidays count as weekend dates. The Home and Away legs of the match can be played in any order.
 24. Extensions will not be given unless both courses are closed or unavailable on the last day of the round, in which case the Competition Organiser must be contacted to approve an extension.
 25. If an Amber or Red Heat Health Alert has been issued that covers the scheduled date for a match, the match must be postponed if ONE team requests postponement. If the match cannot be rescheduled before the end of the round the Competition Organiser must be contacted to approve an extension.
 26. If a match has not been played by the last day of the round, BOTH teams will normally be disqualified following consultation with the Competition Organiser.
 27. A match may only be suspended in the event of the course being closed or due to thunder and lightning. If the course is not closed but the conditions are considered by both teams to be dangerous e.g. strong gales or extreme fog, then the match may be suspended. Matches cannot be suspended for any other reason – e.g. too hot, cold or wet.
 28. If the match is suspended after a ball has been played in any game, the results of any completed games shall stand. Any incomplete games shall continue from the place of suspension. Play should resume later, on the same day or, if necessary, as soon as possible after the original date of the match. Only the original seven players who were involved on each side are to take part in the match on the rearranged date.
 29. If the match has been suspended before any shot has been played, then the match may be rearranged on a new date with a new team.
 30. Competition dates for 2023 are as follows:
 - Round 1 must be played between Monday 20th March and Sunday 30th April.
 - Round 2 must be played between Monday 3rd April and Sunday 11th June.
 - Round 3 must be played between Monday 12th June and Sunday 30th July.
 - Semi-finals must be played between Monday 31st July and Sunday 10th September.
 - The final will be played between 19th September and 8th October, date and venue to be advised.

If one team does not have a BYE in round 1, round 2 cannot be organised and played until the round 1 match is complete

The following dates CANNOT be used for Bucks Shield Matches:

- ***BCLGA Seniors Spring Meeting – 27th April***
- ***BCLGA Spring Meeting 10th May***
- ***County Championships Match Play & Handicap Competition Match Play 13th & 14th May***
- ***BCLGA Par 3 Competition – 22nd May***
- ***Midlands South County Match Week –18th – 21st June***
- ***BCLGA Gala Day – 18th July***
- ***BCLGA Summer Meeting – 28th July***
- ***BCLGA Centenary Trophy – 9th August***
- ***BCLGA Seniors Autumn Meeting – 1st September***

31. The draw for each round will be made as follows:

- *Round 1 and 2 will be drawn at a Zoom Draw meeting on Wednesday 22nd February.*
- *Round 3 will be drawn at the Executives' Meeting on Thursday 4th May.*
- *The Semi Finals will be drawn at the BCLGA Executives' Meeting on Wednesday 12th July.*

32. Each Club must offer the dates for their Home matches to their opponents ON or BEFORE the following dates:

- *Round 1 by Monday 27th March.*
- *Round 2 by Monday 10th April if both teams had a BYE in round 1.*
Round 2 by Monday 1st May if either team did NOT have a BYE in round 1.
- *Round 3 by Monday 19th June.*
- *Semi Finals by Monday 7th August.*

Safeguarding

Clubs who include juniors in their teams are reminded of their statutory safeguarding responsibilities. Please be sure to follow the appropriate guidelines and ensure parental consent is obtained for those juniors involved, particularly if the junior is transported to an 'away' venue.

For each match a 'responsible adult' must be nominated (be it a parent, the team captain or another adult team member) who will be responsible for the junior for the duration of the match. The 'responsible adult' must have details of emergency contact information and any special medical needs of the junior. The captains of both teams, plus the junior and her opponent must be provided with the contact telephone number of the nominated 'responsible adult'.

Note: 'duration of the match' includes the time from a junior being dropped off by parents/guardians to their collection by parents/guardians.

Appropriate advice and/or information can be obtained from your Club's Safeguarding Officer.

Additional Rule for Bucks Shield

In accordance with item B4 in BCLGA Local Rules, Terms of the Competition and General Regulations, a player must not practice on the Competition course before or between rounds.

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