

1 General Terms of Competition

1.1 Introduction

The conditions set out will apply, unless varied by specific conditions published by the Competitions Committee prior to the event. Members will be advised through an update on BRS of any changes in advance of the competition.

Competitions organised by Rosslare Golf Men's Club shall be played using the recommended 'Committee Procedures' as set by the R & A Rules of Golf. The R&A - Committee Procedures (randa.org)

All Rosslare Golf Men's Club competitions are played under the "Rules of Golf", which include the "Terms of Competition", as covered in this manual, plus any additional terms or variations introduced for individual competitions. The "Rules of Golf" also includes the Rosslare Golf Men's Club Local Rules, as published on the club's noticeboard and on the club website.

If a decision on any Rules matter is required, whether covered in this manual or not, a ruling can be made by a member of the Rosslare Golf Men's Club Competitions Committee, or by anyone else authorised by the Competitions Committee to make rulings.

If a member disputes a decision, it will then be reviewed by a special meeting of a minimum of three Rosslare Golf Men's Club Competition Committee members, one of whom must be the Club Captain or Vice-Captain and one from the relevant membership section affected.

As a final recourse, a member may appeal to the Rosslare Golf Men's Club Committee, within seven days of receiving the review judgment, by setting out in writing, by email or letter, the basis of their appeal. The decision of the Rosslare Golf Men's Club Committee will be final. If the Committee itself cannot agree a ruling, it may refer the matter to the Golf Ireland's Leinster section Rules Committee for a ruling, which will then be final.

1.2 Rules of Golf

All competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A and any specific conditions of the competition. Competitors should familiarize themselves with these relevant golfing rules, particularly **Rule 5** and **Rule 3**.

Rule 3 Covers the three central elements of all golf competitions:

- Playing either match play or stroke play,
- Playing either as an individual or with a partner as part of a side, and
- Scoring either by gross scores (no handicap strokes applied) or net scores (handicap strokes applied)

It also defines the responsibilities of the player and marker with regard to the players scorecard.

Rule 5 Covers how to play a round – such as where and when a player may practice on the course before or during a round, when a round starts and ends and what happens when play has to stop or resume. Players are expected to:

- Start each round on time, and
- Play continuously and at a prompt pace during each hole until the round is completed.

When it is a player's turn to play, it is recommended that he or she make the stroke in no more than 40 seconds, and usually more quickly than that.

In addition, players should familiarise themselves with the general rules of golf as laid out in the **Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf (2023)**, available at <https://www.randa.org/en/rog/players-edition>

1.3 Competition Eligibility

1.3.1 General Conditions

Paid-up Full, Honorary, Life Honorary, Prestige (with exceptions) and Junior (with exceptions) members of the club may enter competitions.

The category, handicap limit, age range, gender and number of members, permitted to participate in a competition, will be determined by reference to the specific rules for that competition.

Players must have amateur status and a WHS Handicap Index to compete in any club competition.

1.3.2 Minimum Number of Players for valid competition

In order for a competition to be deemed valid there must be a minimum number of valid scorecards returned:

- 25 for singles
- 12 Pairs in fourballs/greensomes

If the number is below the minimum above the competition reverts to a sweep. If less than 10 Valid Scorecards Returned there is no sweep and the competition fee is returned to all players.

1.4 Competition Entry and Fees

Entry to competitions can be made via the Members Area of the BRS Timesheet Booking system. Please note any member using the Visitors Area of the BRS Timesheet Booking system will be charged at the visitor rates.

Payment of the appropriate competition fee (normally €5) will be through the BRS ePurse and members must have sufficient funds in their ePurse in order to make the relevant booking.

If a green fee is required from a member playing in a competition, e.g. a Burrow Course Member playing a Main Course competition, this must be paid before starting their competition round. The penalty for failure to do this is disqualification.

1.5 Member Competition Prizes

Members prizes will be credited to their BRS Competition ePurse. This will generally be done within 5 working days from the date of the competition. The exceptions to this process are:

- when the competition sponsor provides their own prize(s)
- Wednesday Multi Tee singles will be credited to the members Pro Shop account. Notification of the prize amount will be made through an in/out entry on the members ePurse account.

1.6 Withdrawal from Competition

A player may withdraw his or her name from the Time Sheet at any time up to their tee time on the day of the competition. Players who have not removed their names from the Tee Sheet in advance of their tee time will be charged for the competition.

Due consideration must be given to the impact that late withdrawals can have on the other members on the Timesheet Line. This is especially important in Fourballs and Greensomes.

1.7 No-Shows

Any player whose name appears on the Time Sheet and who fails to play, having failed to give notice of withdrawal before their tee time, will be required to pay the entry fee, unless the Competitions Chairman deems there to be exceptional circumstances. If a player fails to pay entry fees due, or repeatedly “no-shows”, the Competitions Committee may suspend their eligibility to enter future competitions.

No refunds will be due to players who have paid to enter a competition and then do not turn up to play without proper notification of withdrawal. However, the Competitions Chairman and Treasurer may, at their discretion, decide to make a refund, depending on the circumstances. A refund may also be appropriate if the start of the competition is delayed or rescheduled for a future date.

1.8 Tee times complaints

In the event of a member or visitor not turning up for their tee times the member(s) abandoned on the timesheet should complete the complaints form available in the Pro-shop and send this to the Men’s Honorary Secretary. The matter will then be dealt with by the Men’s Golf Committee.

1.9 Tee times and Starting Tees

Players must start at the time stipulated on the draw sheet or, in the case of match play knockout competitions, at the start time previously agreed with their opponents.

All competition rounds and matchplay competitions will start at the first hole, unless stated otherwise for an individual event.

1.10 Delayed Start / Abandoned Competition

In the event of adverse weather or course conditions, (flooding, ice, lightning, fog, etc.), it may be necessary to delay the start, to suspend play, or even to abandon a competition.

Some weather conditions may be deemed to be a Health & Safety issue and, in such cases, the decision and responsibility as to whether play can start, continue or resume, after a suspension of play, rests solely with the **Course Superintendent**.

When it is decided to use temporary greens, players must use these greens for the entire competition, even if the weather improves and normal greens are once again playable.

When a decision is made to delay opening of the course in the morning, but the Course Superintendent reviews the situation later that morning, the tee times allocated before the time of the review are cancelled and thereby the first tee time booked after the review has taken place, and the players who booked that time, will commence the competition. The cancelled tee times will be removed from BRS by the Pro Shop Staff.

When the decision is made to close the course, the course will remain closed for the entire day. This will be notified to members via Clubnet Course Status and via BRS Timesheet note for visitors.

1.11 Scorecards

Following the completion of a competition round, scores should be entered by the player into our competition software Handicap Master, either via the App or via the Terminals in the Club.

Scorecards must then be placed in the “Competitions” box provided in the clubhouse located at the entry to the Men’s Locker Room. A scorecard placed in the box is deemed to be officially returned by the player, under the Rules of Golf.

It is each player’s responsibility to ensure that their scorecard contains the essential

correct information and that all details are clearly legible: the competition name, date, Course Handicap, player's name and marker's name, tees played and gross score for each hole, in the appropriate place on the scorecard. The scorecard must be signed by the player and by the player's marker.

To assist the efficient closing of competition, players are also required to include their final score (points or strokes) in the place provided on the scorecards. **This reduces the amount of time taken to close the competition and should be done as a courtesy to your fellow members that provide their time to the club for all competitor's benefit.**

In foursomes, Greensomes and Fourball competitions, the scorecard need only be signed by one of the playing partners and by their marker.

In four-ball stroke play and stableford competitions, the gross scores to count must be individually identifiable to the player who made the score; otherwise the side will be subject to disqualification, see Rule 23.2b(1).

1.12 Stroke Allowances

The following table contains competition stroke allowances as used by Rosslare Golf Men's Club in the various competitions.

Match Play Shots Given (overview – see above for reference details)	
Singles	Course Handicap (CH)
Foursomes	Team CH = (Player A's CH + Player B's CH)/2
Four-Ball	Each player's CH = 90% of CH
Greensomes	Team CH = Lower CH x 0.6 + Higher CH x 0.4.

Stroke Play	
Singles	95% of CH
Foursomes	1/2 of aggregate CHs of the partners
Four-Ball	Each partner receives 85% of CH
Stableford	
Singles	95% of CH
Foursomes	1/2 of aggregate CHs of the partners
Four-Ball	Each partner receives 85% of CH
Greensomes	Lower CH x 0.6 + Higher CH x 0.4
Team of 3	2 Scores to Count – 100% of Handicap
Team of 4	2 Scores to Count – 100% of Handicap

1.13 Stableford Scoring

The scoring in Stableford Competitions is made by points awarded in relation to par at each hole. The player or team's net score is used to calculate the points. The Stroke Index at each hole is used to determine how many shots a player/team deducts from their gross score, depending on their handicap allowance for the competition.

E.G. A player or team receiving a handicap allowance of 12, receives one shot on holes with Stroke Index 1 to 12.

A player or team receiving a handicap allowance of 20, receives two shots on holes with stroke indexes 1 and 2, and one shot on each of the other holes.

Points are awarded as follows, according to the net score at each hole:

- Net Bogey = 1 Point
- Net Par = 2 Points
- Net Birdie = 3 Points
- Net Eagle = 4 Points

The winner is the player who scores the highest number of points. The marker is responsible for recording the gross number of strokes at each hole where the player's net score earns one or more points.

1.14 When result of a stroke play competition or match is final

The result of a match is final when it has been entered on Handicapmaster subject to the Committee's resolution of any valid appeal made by one of the players.

The result of a stroke play competition is final when the competition has been closed and results published on Master Scoreboard (this is the published results page from Handicap Master). The Committee always reserve the right to amend the competition results where information is brought to their attention after the results have been published.

1.15 Competition Handicap Divisions

If there are at least **Fifty (50)** players in the competition, competitions will have at a minimum winner and runner-up prizes for **three** divisions. The three divisions are determined according to the players' WHS Playing Handicaps and will be balanced automatically by the competition software - Handicap Master. The exceptions to this format are when the Competition is being played for a Club Cup, Captain's Prize, Presidents Prize or a Sponsored event.

1.16 Resolution of Ties

In all stroke play and stableford competitions, other than matchplay competitions, ties for winner of the competition will be resolved by the following **"countback" procedures**, in accordance with R&A recommendations, as implemented in Handicap Master.

For **single-round competitions**, ties will be resolved by applying "countback" comparison, in the following order: last 9 holes, last 6, last 3, last 1, then front nine: last 6, last 3, last 1. If there is still a tie for winner, after countback, then the winner will be resolved by random "coin toss", as implemented in Handicapmaster.

For **multi-round competitions**, ties will be resolved by countback, in the following order: last round, then the same process as for single-round competitions, on the last round's hole scores. If there is still a tie for winner, after countback, on the final round, then the winner will be determined by random coin toss.

For **"best of series" competitions**, such as Player of the Year, Gaynor Cup, Hogan Cup and the Burrow Player of the Year, ties are resolved by the rules under each of these competitions.

For all **Matchplay** competitions, if a match is all square after 18 holes, the winner is decided by extending the round into additional holes, in the same order and with the same stroke allowances as the first 18 holes, until a hole is won - R&A Rule 3.2a(4).

1.17 Mixed Competitions

- Ladies: Always play from the Red Tees.
- Men: Unless specified otherwise play from the White tees.

For mixed Stableford competitions for ladies and men, players may receive extra shots, in addition to their Course Handicaps, after applying the appropriate stroke allowance %. These extra shots are determined, principally, by the difference between the Course Ratings (CR) of the different tees used in the competition.

In mixed gender Greensomes, Scrambles, Foursomes stroke play and Foursomes Stableford competitions, the stroke index will be the men's stroke index.

1.18 Four-Ball, Foursomes & Greensomes Rules Reminders

1.1.1 Foursomes (R&A Rule 22.3)

In **Foursomes**, during any stipulated round the partners must play alternately from the teeing grounds and alternately during the play of each hole. Penalty strokes do not affect the order of play. If a player plays when his partner should have played, his side incurs the General Penalty (two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play).

In **Stroke Play**, the side must correct the error by playing a ball in the correct order, from as near as possible at the spot from which it first played in incorrect order.

If the side makes a stroke on the next teeing ground without first correcting the error or, in the case of the last hole of the round, leaves the putting green without declaring an intention to correct the error, the side is disqualified.

In **Stableford** competitions, the above disqualification rule is not applied, but the team will score no points for the hole where the infringement occurred.

1.1.2 Greensomes

Greensomes is a variation of foursomes (two-person teams, each playing one ball). In Greensomes, both players of a team tee off at each hole. The team then selects one of the two balls and that ball is then played alternate shot, as in Foursomes, until it is holed. In most Greensomes competitions, each member of the team is required to have a minimum number of their tee shots selected during the round.

The same penalties apply as for foursomes (match play and stroke play).

1.1.3 Four-Ball

Stroke Play

General - In four-ball stroke play two players play as partners, each playing his own ball. The lower score of the partners is the score for the hole. If one partner fails to complete the play of a hole, there is no penalty. (R&A Rule 23.1)

Representation of Side - A side may be represented by either partner for all or any part of a stipulated round; both partners need not be present. An absent player may join his partner between holes, but not during play of a hole. (R&A Rule 23.4)

Scoring - The marker is required to record for each hole only the gross score of whichever partner's score is to count. The gross scores to count must be individually

identifiable; otherwise the side is disqualified. (R&A Rule 23.2)

For four-ball Stableford competitions, if the player whose gross score is chosen to count is not clearly identifiable, a score of zero points will count for that hole.

Order of Play - Balls belonging to the same side may be played in the order the side considers best. (R&A Rule 23.6)

Match Play

Representation of Side - A side may be represented by one partner for all or any part of a match; all partners need not be present. An absent partner may join a match between holes, but not during play of a hole. (R&A Rule 23.4)

Order of Play - Balls belonging to the same side may be played in the order the side considers best. (R&A Rule 23.6)

Wrong ball – If a player incurs the penalty, under rule 6.3c, for making a stroke at a wrong ball, he is disqualified for that hole, but his partner incurs no penalty, even if the wrong ball belongs to him. If the wrong ball belongs to another player, its owner must place a ball on the spot from which the wrong ball was first played. (R&A Rule 23.8)

1.19 Two's Pot

Alongside most competitions, a two's competition is run by the Pro Shop. A €2 entry fee is paid directly in the Pro Shop.

The twos pot is shared between players scoring twos or holes in one during their round. The share for each hole-in-one is equal to the share which is divided equally between any twos that are scored. The prizes are paid in the form of credits added to the member's Pro Shop Account.

Should there be no twos and no hole-in-one's scored, the pot will be carried forward to the next competition day of the same format. For example no 2's in Fourball on Saturday will not carry over to the Singles on Sunday but the next Fourball. Otherwise, 100% of the pot is always awarded.

1.20 Buggies

Players are permitted to use course appropriate golf buggies in competitions.

1.21 Caddies

Caddies are allowed in competitions, unless stated otherwise in any additional terms of an individual competition.

1.22 Hole in One Book

If a member scores a Hole-in-One in either a qualifying singles stroke play club competition (Medal, Stableford or par/bogey), or in a Rosslare Golf Men's Club Matchplay competition, the event will be recorded in Rosslare Golf Men's Club's "Hole in One Book". The member will be awarded a trophy at the end of season awards evening.

1.23 Course Records

Course records for lowest gross score will be recognised only if played in a singles qualifying club competition, from the blue tees (men) or red tees (ladies).

2 Etiquette

Members are to adhere to these rules of etiquette.

2.1 The Spirit of the Game

The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, always demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship, irrespective of how competitive they may be.

2.2 Safety

Players should ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club, the ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs when they make a stroke or practice swing.

Players should not play until the players in front are out of range.

Players should always alert green-staff nearby or ahead when they are about to make a stroke that might endanger them.

If a player plays a ball in a direction where there is a danger of hitting someone, he should immediately shout a warning. The traditional word of warning in such situations is “fore!”.

The throwing of or any other abuse of equipment is prohibited.

2.3 Consideration for Other Players

2.3.1 No Disturbance or Distraction

Players should always show consideration for other players on the course and should not disturb their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise. Players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players.

Shouting on the golf course unless to warn of impending danger is prohibited. Foul, abusive or discriminatory remarks, particularly when shouted, will not be tolerated, and will be considered to be a breach of etiquette

On the teeing ground, a player should not tee his ball until it is his turn to play. Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or directly behind the hole, when a player is about to play.

In the interest of fairness, excessive use of mobile phones, unless used as a distance device, is inappropriate.

2.3.2 On the Putting Green

On the putting green, players should not stand on another player's line of putt or, when he is making a stroke, or cast a shadow over his line of putt.

Out of courtesy, players should remain on or close to the putting green until all other players in the group have holed out.

2.3.3 Scoring

In stroke play, a player who is acting as a marker should, if necessary, on the way to or at the next tee and not the completed green, check the score with the player concerned and record it.

2.4 Pace of Play

2.4.1 Play at a Good Pace and Keep Up

Players should play at a good pace. It is each group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If it loses a clear hole or it is delaying the group behind, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group.

Players in club competitions, including Knockout matches are not exempt from applying the courtesy of allowing following groups to play through, even if they are not playing in a club competition. Players behind may consider their game to be just as important, to them, as players ahead may feel their club competition or match is to them. By refusing to allow the following group to play through, this may also hold up matches playing behind them. It is good practice, for example, to confer with a following two-ball game, if there are multiple three or four-ball groups ahead.

Common sense will usually prevail.

Rule 5.6a of the Rules of Golf outlines the requirements and penalties for slow play. Players may be penalised by the Committee if they are deemed to have unduly delayed the pace of play.

The Penalties available to the Committee are as follows:

- 1st occurrence One stroke in both Match Play and Stroke Play.
- 2nd occurrence Loss of hole in Match Play and two strokes in Stroke Play.
- 3rd occurrence Disqualification.

2.4.2 Be Ready to Play

Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn. When playing on or near the putting green, they should leave their bags or carts in such a position as will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee. When the play of a hole has been completed, players should immediately leave the putting green.

2.4.3 Lost Ball

If a player believes his or her ball may be lost outside a penalty area or may be out of bounds, to save time, he or she should play a provisional ball.

Players searching for a ball should signal to the players in the group behind them to play through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not easily be found. They should not search for three minutes before doing so. Having allowed the group behind to play through, they should not continue play until that group has passed and is out of range.

2.5 Care of the Course

Please note: Carrying and use of a Divot Bag is mandatory for all players.

Please remember the 3 R's - Repair Pitch Marks, Rake Bunkers after use and Replace divots with Divot Mix.

2.5.1 Bunkers

Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. The rakes provided should be used for this purpose.

Preferably, as recommended by the R&A, rakes should be left inside the bunkers in positions where they are least likely to affect the movement of the ball.

Rakes should not be placed outside, or partly outside bunkers, in a position such that a ball entering the bunker would be stopped by the rake or tines and prevented from rolling down into the flatter part of the bunker.

2.5.2 Repair of Divots, Pitchmarks and Damage by Shoes

Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them. To the extent that it does not unduly delay play or hold up any groups playing behind, it is also good practice and a courtesy to other players, to repair damage caused by previous players.

2.5.3 Preventing Unnecessary Damage

Players should avoid causing damage to the course by removing divots when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of a club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.

Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.

In order to avoid damaging the hole, players should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of a ball from the hole. Neither the head of a club, nor the flagstick, should be used to pull a ball from the hole, as this can often damage the side of the hole.

Players should not lean on their clubs when on the putting green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.

The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green.

Local notices, stakes, ropes and lines, regulating the movement of golf trolleys and buggies should be strictly observed.

2.6 Conclusion / Penalties for Breach of Etiquette

If players follow the guidelines in this section, it will make the game more enjoyable for everyone.

If a player consistently disregards these guidelines during a round or over a period, to the detriment of others, the Committee may consider taking appropriate disciplinary action against the offending player.

Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a limited time in a certain number of competitions.

In the case of a serious breach of etiquette, the Competitions Committee may disqualify a player from a competition.