

WOODSIDE GOLF CLUB

Competition Rules and Conditions

The R&A Rules of Golf (2023), World Handicap System (WHS) Rules (2024) and those drawn up by the Woodside Members General Committee will apply to all competitions, unless otherwise stated.

Player handicap requirements for entry to club competitions are specified on the Competition Entry Sheets.

(a) Woodside Golf Club members holding a WHS handicap index are eligible to play in all club competitions.

(b) Players without any handicap may play in the monthly 9-hole competitions in order to gain a handicap index.

Only players with a handicap index who enter a competition will qualify to win the competition prizes. Please remember that it is the responsibility of each player to know his or her current handicap index. Under the WHS, changes to handicap indices are calculated overnight so accurate figures are only available on the day of a competition. Any player using an incorrect, higher handicap index will be disqualified.

All Competition Entry Sheets will be removed from the notice board one day prior to the day of the competition. After that, any member wishing to play (Reserve List has precedence) in that competition **must** contact the Reception Desk and will only be allowed to play on Thursdays if a tee time is available within the competition reserved tee time slots.

Once the sheet has been taken down, players themselves will not be permitted to change their tee time within the block booked tee times, nor will players be permitted to scratch from the Saturday Competition and play in the same competition on the Sunday or vice-versa. Any member doing so will be disqualified. After removal from the notice board prior to the day of the competition, the sheet will be placed in the Scorecard Box to enable the Handicap Secretary to ensure that this rule is being complied with.

Competition results will be based on playing handicaps which include a factor dependent on the type of competition being played. E.g. For singles stroke play a factor of 95% of course handicaps and for singles match play 100%. Please see Appendix B and the competition noticeboard for details for all competitions.

Juniors competing in Adult Competitions

Juniors aged 8-14 years are permitted to play in club competitions provided their parent/legal guardian accompanies them throughout the round.

Juniors aged 15-17 years are permitted to play in club competitions with written consent from their parent/legal guardian and provided they are accompanied by 2 adult members, excepting in singles competitions where the junior would be permitted to play with 1 adult.

N.B. This rule is included in the Club's constitution.

Members wishing to acquire a WHS handicap

Members wishing to acquire a WHS handicap must submit scorecards totaling 54 holes in any combination of 9 hole and 18 hole rounds. The rounds must be played under Rule 2 of the WHS Rules of Handicapping - Scores Acceptable for Handicap Purposes. All scorecards must be marked by a member with a WHS handicap Index. All completed scorecards must be posted in the Handicap box. At least one of these scorecards should be marked by a club official from the list held at reception. This will allow the member the opportunity to meet an experienced member of the club who is familiar with the rules and etiquette of golf and with the club's own local rules and traditions.

Dress Code

All players must ensure that they are dressed in appropriate golf apparel, including shoes. This does not permit the wearing of denim jeans, football/logoed shirts and shorts other than accepted golf shorts and this dress code will be strictly enforced. Hats should not be worn in the Clubhouse.

Final Arbiter

If for any reason any of the Competition Rules are in dispute or if a situation arises which is not covered by the Rules, the Competition Secretary will consult with the Club Captain to determine the way forward and their decision will be final.

Scorecard Entries

The player's name, competition name, date and start time, gross score for each hole and player and marker signatures are the minimum required and must be recorded on the scorecard. Handicaps, Stableford points and total scores may also be recorded but are not mandatory. Gross scores should be recorded under the columns A, B, C and Marker, relating to the player's name. If a player fails to start a hole then they should enter NP against that hole. If a player starts but fails to complete a hole then they should enter a 0 against that hole.

It is the player's responsibility to ensure that all scores are correct before signature by the player and marker. **In accordance with the R & A Rules of Golf an incorrectly completed card will result in disqualification.**

Woodside uses a computer player entry system to record scores. On completion of a competition round members must input their gross scores for each hole on the computer provided in the clubhouse. Completed cards must then be deposited in the box provided to enable cross-checking. Failure to deposit a card will result in disqualification and potentially a penalty score. Members will not be disqualified for incorrect entries to the computer.

If the player entry computer is not available or there is a significant wait for the computer then an alternative system using the Master Scoreboard app should be used. New members should contact the handicap secretary for instructions on the use of Master Scoreboard.

Players who are uncertain on how to complete a scorecard correctly should seek guidance from the Competition Secretary, Handicap Secretary or any other experienced member.

Competition Entry Fees and Awards:

Unless otherwise specified the entry fee to all competitions is £2 per player.

Winners and runners-up of competitions, including the medal and stableford leagues and Directors Cup, will receive a prize either in the form of a trophy, a combination of medal and voucher, or a voucher as mutually agreed with the competition secretary. These will be presented at the mid-year and end of year presentations. The appropriate club trophy will be engraved with the winner's name. For prize values see Appendix A.

After publication of the results for all Thursday and Weekend Individual Competitions the winner of a draw, based on the order in the results sheet, will receive a bottle of wine. Any player scoring a hole-in-two will receive a sleeve of balls.

Thursday Competition Rules.

18 Hole Singles: No play outside the Competition's allocated tee times including where late tee times are reserved during the summer months. Play shall be in a three ball wherever possible but two balls are permitted. No four balls at any time.

9 Hole Singles: No play outside the Competition's allocated tee times. Play shall be in a three balls wherever possible but two balls are permitted. The last tee time may be played as a fourball. Players who wish to complete 18 holes should not start their second nine holes until all competitors have started their round. As a courtesy the second nine should be booked with reception.

Thursday Monthly Medal: Players finishing in the first eight positions in each Monthly Medal will receive points: 10 points for first place, down to 3 points for eighth place. The Thursday Medal League winner will be the player with the most accumulated points throughout the membership year.

See Masters Trophy Rules for which competitions qualify for entry to the Masters Cup and for points awarded in the Race to The Masters.

Weekend Competition Rules

Pre-booked tee times are available on the Saturday morning for members wishing to enter these competitions. Only those members playing in the competition are permitted to enter their names in a pre-booked tee time. This is to protect these times for other members who wish to play in the competition where otherwise they would not have a playing partner. Social golfers/markers are not permitted to play in these pre-booked tee times.

If by the Monday before the competition there are still vacant tee times amongst the pre-booked tee times then the Club has the right to use them for other members/customers not in the competition. In this event the pre-booked tee times may not be fully protected from mixing with non-competition players. Competition players may also find a small number of non-competition players ahead of them on the back nine, in a maximum of 3-balls.

Members can also book their own competition tee times at reception for the remainder of Saturday or for Sunday morning. Members who book their own tee time must then enter their name and tee time in the appropriate spaces provided on the Competition Entry Sheet.

Be aware that bookings outside of the pre-booked times will not be protected from mixing with non-competition player groups.

Unused spaces at these tee times will be kept free until the Tuesday before the competition to enable other members the opportunity to play in the competition. If at that stage spaces remain then other non-competition members may book at these tee times but must also add their name to the competition entry sheet to avoid double bookings and annotate it as non-comp (NC). Failure to enter your name on the competition entry sheet will invalidate the booking.

Once the weekend competition sheet has been taken down from the notice board members will not be permitted to scratch from the Saturday Competition and play in the same competition on the Sunday or vice-versa. Any member doing so will be disqualified.

See Masters Trophy Rules for which competitions qualify for entry to the Masters Cup and for points awarded in the Race to The Masters.

a) Weekend Monthly Medal Competitions

Play shall be in groups of three wherever possible but groups of two are permitted. Groups of four should be avoided for pace of play reasons, but nevertheless are permitted at times outside the pre-booked tee times.

Players finishing in the top eight positions in each month's competition will receive points: 10 points for the player finishing 1st, 9 for the player finishing 2nd, and so on down to 3 for the player finishing 8th. The Weekend League Medal is awarded to the player accumulating most points throughout the membership year.

b) Weekend Mid-Month Stableford Competitions

Play shall be in groups of three wherever possible but groups of two are permitted. Groups of four should be avoided for pace of play reasons, but nevertheless are permitted at times outside the pre-booked tee times.

The Mid-Month Stableford League prize is awarded to the player with the best 8 results from a possible 12 played throughout the membership year.

c) Changes in Course Conditions over the Weekend

If the course changes between normal and temporary greens over the weekend then the Saturday course conditions will define the whole competition. Therefore, in the event of more than two temporary greens being in play on the Saturday, for Sunday players to be allowed to take part in the competition the same temporary green conditions must be in play. If Sunday reverts to normal green conditions, then all Sunday competition players are excluded. Also, whilst the competition itself proceeds with appropriate prizes awarded, it is non-qualifying for handicap purposes.

The opposite scenario of normal greens on a Saturday and more than two temporary greens on a Sunday means that the competition will already be qualifying for handicap purposes and all Sunday players entered will automatically be excluded. Wherever possible, Reception staff will make this clear to Sunday players although players themselves would do well to ask for confirmation following freezing conditions on the Saturday.

Failure to Finish or Play in a Competition

The World Handicap System has strengthened the rules regarding failure to submit a score for a competition. Nil returns for reasons other than illness, an emergency, dangerous weather conditions, or for any other reason the committee considers valid, is considered to be against the spirit of the game of golf. Depending on the reasons for the nil return committees are now authorised to try to determine the score and submit it for handicap purposes if the minimum number of holes have been completed. If the minimum numbers of holes has not been completed or it is considered that the failure to submit a score has been for handicap manipulation purposes then a penalty score can be submitted. If a member repeatedly fails to submit cards and verbal warnings are ignored then the committee is authorised to consider stronger sanctions.

Any cancellation of tee times that have already been booked in a competition should be notified to reception no later than the day before the competition. Due notice will, of course, be taken of health issues should cancellation on the day be unavoidable. Again, if a member cancels repeatedly, the Competition Secretary will refer the matter to the General Committee.

Directors Cup

The Directors Cup consists of four rounds played alongside two pre-selected Thursday Medal and two pre-selected Weekend Medal competitions. The best two nett scores for each player are counted.

Lowest Gross Cup

The Lowest Gross Cup competition is restricted to members who have scored a lowest gross score in a Thursday or Weekend 18-hole stroke play competition over the preceding 12 months.

George Ross Scratch Cup

The George Ross Scratch Cup competition is open to members who have a recognized WHS handicap index of 18 or below. The Trophy is awarded to the player with the lowest gross score.

Winter and Summer Leagues

These competitions are organized independently from the formal Thursday and Weekend competitions. Details of entry conditions and format will be available on the competition board in the corridor and by newsletter.

The Sir Thomas Henry Cotton Masters Trophy Rules

The Masters is an Honours Board Competition comprising two 18-hole stroke play rounds of golf played on two consecutive days over a weekend. Entry to the competition is restricted to those members who have qualified over the previous 12 months and winners from the previous 3 years. The winner is the player with the lowest aggregate nett score over the 36 holes.

1. Competition Format. For day 1 of the competition those members who enter the competition are drawn into groups of three (or groups of two where necessary) and allocated tee times within their chosen band. The top 12 players from Day 1 go through to play on Day 2.

2. Players' handicaps are not adjusted until the competition is complete. The twelve players progressing to Day 2 will play in four groups of three and will be allocated tee times in reverse order to their position in the Day 1 results such that the Day 1 leader tees off last. The winner is the player with the lowest aggregate nett score over the 2 days. In event of a tie the winner will be decided on countback of Day 2 scores.
3. Prizes. The winners name will be engraved on the Masters trophy and entered on the Honours Board. The winner will also receive a small replica of the trophy and automatically qualifies for the following 3 years of Masters Trophy competitions.
4. Qualifying Rules.

Members may qualify for entry by winning one of the following individual 18-hole competitions played over the previous 12 months:

- The Captain's Day Honours Board Competition
- The President's Day Honours Board Competition
- Weekend Monthly Medal Competitions
- Weekend Mid-Month Stableford Competitions
- Thursday Monthly Medal Competitions
- Thursday 18 Hole Stroke Play Competitions
- Thursday 18 Hole Individual Stableford Competitions
- Ladies Monday Monthly Medal Competitions (April to October inclusive)
- The Directors Cup
- The Lowest Gross Cup
- The George Ross Scratch Cup
- The Winter League Singles Knock-out
- The Summer League Singles Knock-out
- The Weekend Medal League
- The Thursday Medal League
- The Weekend Mid-Month Stableford League

Winners of the Masters Trophy from the previous 3 years will gain automatic entry to the competition.

5. The Race To The Masters.

Points in the 'Race To The Masters' are awarded to the top five players in each of the above Thursday and Weekend competitions who have not already qualified for entry. These top five players receive 5 points, 4 points, 3 points, 2 points and one point respectively. A member who receives 20 or more points over the previous 12 month qualifying period will qualify to play in the 'Masters Cup'. The Competition Secretary will determine whether a competition has been completed sufficiently to allow points to be awarded.

Adverse Weather/Course Conditions arising before and during a competition

Situations that lead to the suspension or abandonment of a competition and player actions are addressed in Rule 5-7 of the Rules of Golf.

Other than for Honours Board Competitions there is little option to extend or reschedule a competition at Woodside in the event that it is cancelled or abandoned due to bad weather. Therefore, every effort will be made to run competitions as scheduled.

a) Unplayable and unsafe playing conditions:

Should the weather deteriorate significantly during play to cause concern for the safety of players e.g. fog, thunder and lightning, or the course becomes unplayable due to standing water, then the horn will blast continuously warning members that the competition is suspended and play discontinued immediately. This decision will be taken by either Club Captain or in their absence a committee member, Director or experienced member player.

b) Temporary water on the course:

Players may take relief under Rule 16-1b until the game is suspended. In the first instance the Green Keeper will determine whether the course is playable. In the absence of the Green Keeper the Club Captain, a committee member or Director will make this decision. In the event the course is determined not to be playable the competition will be abandoned.

c) Special Relief Procedures (Winter Rules):

The committee may allow relief from adverse ground conditions on all or any part of the course at any time between the 1st October and 30th April inclusive, in accordance with Local Rules Section 8E of the Committee Procedures for Rules of Golf, without referral to the County. Relief can only be given outside this period with County permission. This allows players to mark, lift, clean and replace their ball without penalty. The Club Captains will determine if and when a local rule is to apply and notices will be posted to inform members.

Players are recommended to first phone reception (01477 532388) if the weather conditions are such that there appears to be a reasonable chance of a competition being cancelled or abandoned.

In the event of a competition being cancelled or abandoned:

If a competition is cancelled or declared abandoned then irrespective of how many players start or finish there will be no prizes awarded and the entry fees will be returned.

a. Individual Competitions:

Where the competition is abandoned an individual's scores will still be valid for handicap purposes if they have completed all holes in a 9 hole competition or at least 10 holes in a longer competition in accordance with The Rules of Handicapping Section 3.2.

b. Draw for the winner of the wine:

A number will be drawn for the winner of the wine after the last group of players have started play. If the competition stands the winner of the wine will be the player whose position in the results table corresponds to the number drawn. If the competition does not stand the wine will not be awarded.

c. Other Competitions:

Occasionally other competitions may be arranged for which the above rules relating to handicap

adjustment, prizes and the return of entrance fees do not apply. Players will be notified in advance of the competition when these rules do not apply.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Competition Prizes

1. Thursday and Weekend Individual Competitions:

a. Prizes awarded for individual 18-hole competitions with more than 25 entries:

Winner: Award to the value of £25.

Runner Up: Award to the value of £20.

b. Prizes awarded for individual 18-hole competitions with fewer than 25 entries:

c.

Winner: £15 voucher.

Runner Up: £10 voucher.

d. Prizes awarded for Thursday individual 9-hole stableford competitions:

Winner: £15 voucher.

Runner Up: £10 voucher.

2. Thursday and Weekend Team competitions:

a. Prizes for team competitions with 36 or more entries:

3-Ball Texas Scramble: Winners - £15 voucher each (total of £45).
Runners Up - £10 voucher each (total of £30).

Stableford Better Ball Pairs Winners - £20 voucher each (total of £40).
Runners Up - £15 voucher each (total of £30).

Greensome Pairs Winners - £20 voucher each (total of £40).
Runners Up - £15 voucher each (total of £30).

b. Prizes for team competitions with between 24 and 36 entries:

3-Ball Texas Scramble: Winners - £15 voucher each (total of £45).
Runners Up – Sleeve of balls each.

Stableford Better Ball Pairs Winners - £15 voucher each (total of £30).
Runners Up - £10 voucher each (total of £20).

Greensome Pairs Winners - £15 voucher each (total of £30).
Runners Up - £10 voucher each (total of £20).

c. Prizes for team competitions with fewer than 24 entries:

3-Ball Texas Scramble: Winners - £10 voucher each (total of £30).

Stableford Better Ball Pairs Winners - £15 voucher each (total of £30).

Greensome Pairs Winners - £15 voucher each (total of £30).

Runners up will receive a sleeve of balls.

APPENDIX B: Playing Handicap and Rules For Different Competition Formats

The playing handicap only has relevance when determining who wins nett score competitions or for calculating strokes received in match play. It plays no part in handicap index calculations. There is no requirement for players to record their playing handicaps

PLAYING HANDICAP CALCULATIONS CAN BE COMPLICATED SO IF IN DOUBT SIMPLY NOTE YOUR COURSE HANDICAP ON YOUR CARD AND LET THE COMPUTER DO THE WORK!

- Medal. For singles stroke play the stroke allowance is 95% of the Course Handicap. An adjustment is made for the difference in PARs after the stroke allowance is applied e.g. Ladies add one stroke to the playing handicap if playing from orange tees.
- Gross Score (Scratch). It is often incorrectly assumed that handicap is irrelevant in a mixed/multi-tee scratch event. This is not the case, instead, such an event can be considered as one in which the players' Course Handicaps are all 0.0 so that the Playing Handicap calculation becomes: Playing Handicap = Difference in Course Ratings.
- Stableford & Par/Bogey . As the format is singles stroke play, the stroke allowance is 95% of the Course Handicap. No further adjustment is necessary.
- Singles Matchplay Competitions. For singles match play the stroke allowance is 100% of the Course Handicap. An adjustment is made for the difference in PARs after the stroke allowance is applied e.g. Ladies add one stroke to the playing handicap if playing from orange tees.
- Four Ball Better Ball. In a 4BBB tournament, pairs of golfers tee off in groups of four, and each golfer plays his own ball throughout. So there are four golf balls in play on each hole, but only one ball (the better ball) counts per team per hole. The calculation of the Playing Handicap for each participant is as for the individual form of stroke play, using 85% handicap allowance. For medal formats only, an adjustment is made for the difference in PARs after the stroke allowance is applied e.g. Ladies add one stroke to the playing handicap if playing from orange tees. Players should pick up if they cannot better their partners score. **Only the best score for each hole is to be recorded on the scorecard.**
- Four Ball Better Ball Match Play. For 4BBB Match Play the differences from the lowest full course handicaps are calculated and then 90% (rounded) of those differences (or subtract 10%) give the individual stroke allowances. The lowest plays off scratch.

- Foursomes. Golfers compete in teams of two, using only one ball per team, and taking alternate shots until the hole is completed. Team members take turns in teeing off on each hole, i.e. one player will take the tee shot on odd-numbered holes, and the other on even-numbered holes. Playing Handicaps for each side in Foursomes are 50% of the combined Course Handicaps of the two players concerned. For mixed tees the tee with the highest PAR is used for all players so no further adjustment is necessary.
- Greensomes. This competition is very similar to foursomes. The only difference is that both players hit a tee shot. The best tee shot is then selected and alternate shots are played until the completion of the hole. Similar principles are used in determining the Playing Handicaps for Greensomes as for Foursomes, using 60% of the lower course handicap plus 40% of the higher course handicap in the team. For mixed tees the tee with the highest PAR is used for all players so no further adjustment is necessary.
- Texas Scramble. In Texas Scramble all members of the team, normally of 3 or 4 players, tee off. Then one of these drives is chosen to be used for the next shot and all members of the team place their balls where the chosen drive ended up and all the team play a second shot from this spot and so on until the ball is holed. Each team returns one score for each hole and the team with the lowest score for the round wins. Balls should be placed except in the rough where they are dropped. The formula for a 4-player team scramble allowance is 25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest Course Handicap, for a 3-player team 30%/20%/10% and for a 2-player team it is 35%/15%. For mixed tees the tee with the highest PAR is used for all players so no further adjustment is necessary.
- Best of 3 Formats. The following stroke allowances should be used. Best 1 of 3 use 70%, best 2 of 3 use 85% and all 3 of 3 use 100%.
- Stableford Waltz. The stroke allowance is 95% of the Course Handicap. No further adjustment is necessary. On hole 1 the best individual score is counted, on hole 2 the best two scores are counted, on hole 3 all Stableford scores are counted (e.g. 1-2-3 as in waltz time). Play continues in this sequence until the round is completed.

Updated April 1st 2024

Changes

Masters winners from previous 3 years have automatic entry to the competition.

Removal of minimum number of entrants/finishers for a competition to qualify for the award of prizes.

For nine hole competitions players should not start a second nine until all competitors have started their rounds and should book at reception.

Changes to handicap allowances to conform to WHS 2024 changes.