**Gillingham Golf Club**

**Local Rules & Conditions of Competition**

The Rules of the R & A govern play. The standard Local Rules and Conditions of Competition apply. See applicable competition's "Notice to Competitors (Players)" for additional Definitions, Local Rules, and Conditions.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: Match Play - Loss of Hole; Stroke Play - Two Strokes.

**CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION, GILLINGHAM GOLF CLUB**

It does not fall within the remit of the competitions committee to waive, alter or otherwise make amendments to any competition conditions once a draw is made and the competition has started except, when appropriate, as laid out below.

For the purposes of this document, the competitions committee will be the appropriate club committee e.g. the Club Captains Committee, Lady Captains Committee or a collaboration of the two committees.

**Draws for Competitions.**

Unless specifically stated otherwise, all competitions are subject to the player being and remaining a Full Playing Member of Gillingham Golf Club at the time of entry and for the duration of the competition

Match play & stroke play singles and pairs knockout & single entry competitions.

Unless specifically indicated on the calling sheet, the draws for all club match play and stroke play knockout competitions will be decided by lot. Players may not choose their partners unless the specific conditions of a competition allow for this.

It is a player responsibility to ensure that he fulfils the criteria for entry into any given competition. Including the payment of any entry money. After the draw is made, any player who does not comply with the conditions of entry will be disqualified, subject to: In the event that a player’s handicap is adjusted after a draw is made for any given club competition. Providing that player was unaware of any impending adjustment, he will be allowed to continue in that competition as if he fulfilled the criteria for entry with no penalty. (Exception: handicap limit: a. A player must play to the given maximum handicap for any relevant competition. b. Where there is a minimum handicap limit, the player must play to his correct handicap).

When a competition requires entry in pairs or teams, it is the pair’s or team’s responsibility to ensure that all players are available on the day of competition or that a suitable replacement is found before any competition begins. Failure to do so may result in that pairing or team being prevented from entering the competition or disqualified. A single player may enter a pairs or team competition and the Committee will endeavour to find suitable partners from the entry sheet but will not guarantee entry irrespective of any entry monies paid.

**Monthly Club Medal Competitions**

Monthly club medal competitions are only open to Full Playing Members who possess a competition handicap(c). Monthly club medal competitions may be entered as a single player or in groups of up to 4 players. The Committee reserve the right to amend or adjust the groups for the efficient running of the competition. Where a group or single player indicate a preference for time, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate such requests but no time is guaranteed. Any payments due must be made prior to play.

From time to time, the committee may decide that the draw for a medal competition will be decided by lot. Players must enter as a single player only.

**Midweek Medal Competitions**

Midweek medals may be entered by any player with a competition handicap(c) providing he meets the criteria for entry and subject to any limitations on the players playing rights. Midweek medal competitions may be entered on an ad hoc basis (turn up and play). It is the player’s responsibility to ensure that he has a responsible marker for the event. This will normally be a fellow competitor. No player may submit a card for a competition without the round being verified by a marker. Any payments due must be made prior to play.

From time to time, the committee may decide that the draw for a medal competition will be decided by lot. Players must enter as a single player only.

**9 Hole Competitions**

The Committee may from time to time indicate that a 9 hole competition is being played either as a separate event or in conjunction with an 18 hole event. Any player wishing to enter such an event must clearly indicate that they are entering the 9 hole competition and a standard scratch for those 9 holes will be applied for handicap purposes. Any player with a competition handicap(c), providing he meets the criteria for entry and subject to any limitations on the players playing rights may enter a 9 hole competition. When an 18 hole and a 9 hole competition are played in conjunction, the player must indicate clearly which event he is entering before starting his round. A player may not, under any circumstances, enter two events or change events after starting his round. Any payments due must be made prior to play.

**Handicap Limits & Allowances**

A handicap limit (high or low) is a criteria for entry into a competition and will be posted as such. No player may enter a competition to which a handicap limit applies unless he fulfils the criteria.

A handicap allowance is normally limited to a maximum. Any player may enter a competition with a maximum handicap allowance but they will be limited to that maximum allowance where appropriate for the purposes of the competition. For Handicap Adjustment, the player’s full handicap will be applied.

**Substitutions**

If, before the play of his or their first match, a player becomes unfit to play or unavailable to play, he must inform the Committee. The Committee may, in a singles competitions, substitute a player from any reserve list or find a player willing to act as a substitute, providing that the substituted player meets the conditions of entry for that competition. In the event that no substitute can be found, the opponent will be given a bye into the next round. In a pairs competition, with the agreement of the injured player, the Committee may substitute a player from any reserve list or find a player willing to act as a substitute, providing that the substituted player meets the conditions of entry for that competition. In the event that no substitute can be found, where the playing conditions of the competition allow ie four ball better ball, the partner of the player may elect to play the match as a single player or withdraw from the competition. A player opting to play the match as a single player may have his partner join him at any point during the play of their first round and any subsequent rounds. In the event that an alternate is found, the partner must accept the substituted player and that player will remain in the competition for all subsequent rounds. A player may not elect to play as a single player in any foursomes or greensomes competition or variant thereof.

National competitions are subject to the conditions of entry stipulated by the Managing Committee.

In the event of the winner of a National Competition qualifying round being unable or ineligible to play in any subsequent round, the Committee may appoint a substitute to represent the Club. This will normally be, but not limited to, the runner up in the qualifying competition subject to his eligibility.

**Registration**

When registration is required as a condition of participation, it is the player’s sole responsibility to ensure that they present for registration at the appropriate time. Failure to register in person will result in disqualification.

**Stipulated Dates.**

All competitions are determined by the dates stipulated on the draw sheet only. Where specific dates are applicable, players must ensure that they are available to play on all dates. Failure to meet this requirement will result in disqualification from singles or foursomes events. In pairs events, if a partner is unable to play on a stipulated date, the remaining partner must play as a single player or withdraw from the competition. No substitutions are allowed once a pairing has played in their first round.

In Knockout Competitions, for all rounds where a ‘play by’ date is given, it is the responsibility of the top player or pairing to arrange the match with their opponents. The top match must offer 3 alternative dates, at least 2 of which must be on a weekend. Failure to complete the tie by the specified completion date on the draw sheet could result in disqualification of one or both pairings.

In the event of prolonged inclement weather preventing the play of a given match, the Committee may use its discretion or decide the tie by lot.

Where injury to a player or other incapacitation exists, the player may make an appeal to the committee for an extension subject to the agreement of his/their opponents.

No final of a knockout competition may be decided by lot.

**Stipulated Times & Tees**

Unless directed to do so by the official starter, play must not commence before the stipulated times on the draw sheet. Failure to observe this rule will result in disqualification. In the absence of an official starter, it is the player’s responsibility to ensure they observe this rule. (see: Rule 6-3a/5)

Players must ensure they are ready to play at their allotted time. Exception: In the case of a delayed start due to inclement weather or the like. Players must ensure they are ready to play at their adjusted time. (see: Rule 6-3a/4)

Unless directed to do so by the official starter, play must commence from the stipulated tee.

Unless directed to do so by the official starter or member of the competition committee, players must remain in the group determined by the draw sheet.

**Use of Caddies.**

The use of caddies is strictly prohibited in any club competition. It is permissible for players to be accompanied during a round providing that the accompanying person does not offer assistance or advice on the playing of a hole at any time. Penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification.

**Use of Buggies**

The use of buggies during any competition is subject that player being eligible to use a buggy on medical grounds or through reasons of disability. Players may share a buggy during a competition provided that both players are entitled to exemption on medical grounds or disability. In the normal course of events except where specific competition conditions dictate, a player’s statement to exemption will be deemed proof of that entitlement.

**Pace of Play.**

The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the [Committee](http://www.randa.org/RulesEquipment/Rules/Rules-Of-Golf-Definitions/#committee) may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next [teeing ground](http://www.randa.org/RulesEquipment/Rules/Rules-Of-Golf-Definitions/#teeing-ground), the player must not unduly delay play.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

Bogey and par competitions – See Note 2 to Rule 32-1.

Stableford competitions – See Note 2 to Rule 32-1.

For subsequent offence – Disqualification.

**Note 1:** If the player unduly delays play between holes, he is delaying the play of the next hole and, except for bogey, par and Stableford competitions, the penalty applies to that hole.

**Note 2:** For the purpose of preventing slow play, the [Committee](http://www.randa.org/RulesEquipment/Rules/Rules-Of-Golf-Definitions/#committee) may, in the conditions of a competition, establish pace of play guidelines including maximum periods of time allowed to complete a [stipulated round](http://www.randa.org/RulesEquipment/Rules/Rules-Of-Golf-Definitions/#stipulated-round), a hole or a stroke.

In match play, the [Committee](http://www.randa.org/RulesEquipment/Rules/Rules-Of-Golf-Definitions/#committee) may, in such a condition, modify the penalty for a breach of this Rule as follows:  
First offence – Loss of hole;  
Second offence – Loss of hole;  
For subsequent offence – Disqualification.

In stroke play, the [Committee](http://www.randa.org/RulesEquipment/Rules/Rules-Of-Golf-Definitions/#committee) may, in such a condition, modify the penalty for a breach of this Rule as follows:  
First offence – One stroke;  
Second offence – Two strokes;  
For subsequent offence – Disqualification.

**NOTE: Pace of Play Guidelines, Definition of Out of Position:**

Note 1: The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed from time to time by the Committee. Any subsequent groups will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play or fail to clear the tee of a par-4 or par-5 hole before that hole is open and free to play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

Note 2: The Committee reserves the right to time a group when the Committee deems it necessary. Further, if a player is determined by the Committee to be unreasonably slow he may be timed individually at the Committee’s discretion, regardless of whether his group is out of position.

Note 3: With the exception of the first group to play, having played the 11th or 18th hole, any group reaching the cabin must continue play if the 12th or 1st hole, whichever is applicable, is clear to play irrespective of the position on the course of the following group.

**Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation.**

Players must discontinue play immediately and not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. Penalty: Disqualification.

All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open for use. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disciplinary action by the Committee.

Prior to a stipulated round in stroke play, a player may only practice on the designated practice areas. Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played and must not test the surface of the putting green of the hole last played by rolling a ball.

**How to Decide Ties.**

Stroke Play: In the event of a tie for first place, the winner will be decided on countback.

In certain stroke play competitions e.g. Bogey competitions, a ‘play off’ may be over 18 holes where the specific conditions of competition dictate.

Match Play: In the event a match ends “all square”, the match will be played off hole-by-hole until one side wins a hole. The play off shall start on the hole where the match began.

A match ending “all square” may be declared halved for the purposes of team competitions, friendlies and league matches.

**Scoring Area.**

The scoring area may include, but is not limited to tents or rooms on the course. A player's score card must be completed, signed and co-signed before he enters the clubhouse unless specifically required to do so. A score has been returned to the Committee when the player has returned the score card to the appropriate box or member of the competition Committee. If a player discovers a mistake has been made on his score card, he must inform the Committee as soon as is practicably possible. The player will be offered the opportunity to make representation to the Committee before the results are posted.

**Close of Competition.**

The competition is closed when all scores have been validated in the scoring system and approved by the Committee. In the event of a playoff, the event shall be deemed to have closed when the playoff scores have been approved by the Committee. Entry into the computerised system alone does not constitute the event being closed irrespective of any computer generated notices received or indications of event closure.

**Disqualification Enforcement or Waiver.**

A penalty of disqualification may in exceptional individual cases be waived, modified or imposed if the committee considers such action warranted. Any penalty less than disqualification cannot be waived or modified.

Before the close of a competition, if the committee considers that a player is guilty of a serious breach of etiquette, it may impose a penalty of disqualification under Rule 33-7.

After the close of a competition, the committee may impose a penalty of disqualification if a breach of the rules was known to the player prior to close or in the case of a serious breach of the rules.

A player or pairing may make an appeal to the full committee only.