

# NAPGC

## GENERAL RULES FOR ALL ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS

1. All play shall be in accordance with the Rules of Golf as laid down by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, the Local Rules of the Club at which the competition is played and any local rules stipulated by the NAPGC or its Competition Organiser.
2. The ball the player uses shall be named on the current list of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.
3. All play shall be from the competition tees of the course unless specifically allowed otherwise by the rules of a particular competition.
4. Players in all competitions organised by the Association shall be amateurs and all stroke play competitions shall be counting for handicap purposes. In team competitions, a player may not play for more than one team/club in any one competition year.
5. At all competitions players must have verification of their current CONGU playing handicap from their "home" club. This verification must be provided to the Competition Organiser, or to the opposing team captain of the day before play commences. Acceptable forms of verification are:
  - a) an individual handicap certificate signed by the player's "home" club Secretary or person responsible for maintaining the "home" club's handicaps.
  - b) a printed record of the playing handicaps of all the "home" club's members from an "approved" CONGU software system (eg Club 2000, DJB, Club Minder, GC Gold etc.)  
Current verification must be dated no earlier than ten days prior to the competition.
  - c) In accordance with CONGU Regulations from 1 January 2010 all players in NAPGC competitions must have an Active Handicap.
  - d) Lists of players with handicaps signed by club officials are NOT acceptable.
6. A player whose "Home Club" for handicapping purposes is not an NAPGC member club shall provide evidence of their membership of the NAPGC club for which they are playing.
7. There is no upper or lower age limit for players, except as stated in the conditions of specific competitions.
8. Closing Dates and Entry Fees shall be as laid down by the Executive of the Association or its Competition Committee. Entry fees and any green fees shall be paid to the Competition Organiser as laid down on the competition entry form. No competitor will be permitted to start in any competition unless the appropriate entry fee and/or green fee has been paid. There will be no refunds of entry fees after the closing date; after a start sheet has been issued, all players and/or clubs appearing on the start sheet will be responsible for paying green fees.
9. The Competition Committee reserves the right to alter or amend the conditions or dates of any competition or to reject any entry.
10. A competitor who provides evidence of disability within the meaning of the Disability Act 2005 and is unable to play golf without the use of a buggy may use an on course buggy if available or their own personal buggy unless precluded from doing so following a decision of the Course Management Authority.
11. Winners of trophies and/or prizes, both teams and individuals, who do not remain for a presentation which follows a competition will remain entitled to receive any trophy awarded but will forfeit their right to any prize that may be awarded, except in the Junior Championships.

12. Any cases of dispute shall be referred to the Competition Organiser no later than within 48 hours of the dispute arising. The decision of the Competition Organiser shall be final subject to an appeal being received in writing by him within 5 days of his decision. The Chairman (or the NAPGC Chairman in the event that the NAPGC Competitions Chairman is the Competition Organiser) and at least two other members of the NAPGC Competitions Committee (not including the appropriate Competition Organiser or a member of the club(s) involved) shall resolve any such appeal. Their decision will be final and binding on all parties.
13. Any competitors who:
  - a. withdraw from an event after the draw has been published , or
  - b. for whatever reason fail to appear on the tee at their appointed starting times, or
  - c. having qualified to continue in the event fail to do so must, furnish to the NAPGC Competitions Committee an explanation, in writing, to the satisfaction of the Committee. If they do not do so they will be debarred from entering or taking part in any NAPGC event for such period as the Competitions Committee may decide.
14. Any competitor who during the course of a competition, including between rounds, misbehaves by, for example, swearing, throwing clubs, or vandalising the golf course or club house, or acts in any manner which might bring the name or the NAPGC into disrepute may be debarred from entering or taking part in any NAPGC competition for such period as the NAPGC Competitions Committee may decide.
15. The term "Competition Organiser" used above, or in the Rules and Conditions of any specific competition, includes any person duly appointed by the NAPGC Competitions Committee to organise or assist in the organisation and/or administration of a specific competition.
16. In all competitions the term "Current Handbook" shall refer to the NAPGC Handbook published in the year in which a specific competition closes its entries. All entry forms and draw sheets will be accompanied by a copy of the Rules relating to that specific competition.
17. If a course is open as agreed by the CMA, then play in any competition must take place as arranged, unless the competition organiser is present and rules otherwise.
18. **Distance-Measuring Devices** - in all NAPGC organised competitions a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (eg gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc) the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used. MOBILE PHONES WITH GPS CAPABILITY ARE PROHIBITED IN ALL NAPGC COMPETITIONS (see rule 20)
19. **Drug Testing** - Random drug testing may take place at nominated NAPGC competitions. As a condition of entry into NAPGC competitions, all competitors agree to comply with the EGU. Anti Doping policy which the NAPGC unequivocally supports. Any competitor who is found guilty of possessing, administering or using any substance or method on the WADA Prohibited List will be subjected to disciplinary measures by the NAPGC in line with the EGU Anti Doping Policy. The full list of prohibited drugs is available from UK Sports ([www.ukспорт.gov.uk](http://www.ukспорт.gov.uk)).
20. **Mobile Phones** - Mobile phones (players and caddies) MUST be switched off and their use is prohibited AT ALL TIMES on the course during a competition EXCEPT FOR AN EMERGENCY ON THE COURSE. All players will be informed on the start sheet of a contact telephone number for an NAPGC official present at the competition that can be used by family/friends etc. in the event of an emergency; the NAPGC official will then notify the player.
21. Any decision to award a trophy (or any other suitable memento) to keep to any player/club winning a competition on four consecutive occasions will be made entirely at the discretion of the NAPGC Competitions Committee regardless of any previous decisions.

22. **Caddies** - all players may use a caddie as defined in the R & A Rules of Golf (see Rule 6-4) - in the Junior Championships a parent or guardian may not act as a caddie for the player but may view play from a reasonable distance but must not offer advice.
23. In accordance with the note to Rule of Golf 6-3 if a player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes of his starting time, in the absence of circumstances that warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is **loss of hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play** instead of disqualification.
24. At all NAPGC Competitions there shall be a "Competition Committee", maximum three officials, formed from the NAPGC officials present on the day.
25. In all NAPGC Competitions, except the Junior Championships, the word "Junior" shall refer to players who are aged 17 or under on the day of play. Junior players must produce completed parental consent forms when playing in any NAPGC Competition.
26. Unless otherwise agreed between the two clubs, no matches in the Team Series Competitions may be played on days when there are NAPGC Regional, Regional or National Finals being played.
27. The penalty for failure to comply with any of these General Rules or Rules on Dress Code shall be disqualification from the appropriate competition.