

2016 GENERAL RULES FOR ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS

General

- 1) Competitions shall be organised and run as set out in the NAPGC competition specific rules, NAPGC general rules and NAPGC rules on dress code.
- 2) 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.

The Committee

- 3) At all NAPGC Competitions there shall be a "Competition Committee", comprising NAPGC Board Members and duly appointed Committee Officials.
- 4) The term "Competition Organiser" used here in, or in the Rules and Conditions of any specific competition, relates to a person duly appointed by the NAPGC Board or Competitions Committee to organise a specific competition.
- 5) The NAPGC is duly authorised to run competitions in accordance with CONGU. All stroke play competitions where players return individual scores shall be run in accordance with CONGU and counting for handicap purposes.
- 6) Any cases of dispute shall be referred to the Competition Organiser as soon as possible (this is important as any subsequent action by the Committee is dependent on the nature of the incident, timelines of reporting and whether the result has been announced).
- 7) In respect of Rule 33-7 and any other Rule requiring the Committee in charge of the competition to act as a whole the quorum shall be three. Their decision will be final and binding on all parties.

Entry to competitions

- 8) Players in all competitions organised by the Association shall be amateur in status and have a 'competition' handicap. There is no upper or lower age limit for players, except as stated in the conditions of specific competitions.
- 9) A player must be a member of the Club they are representing or their entry will be void. Any entries inadvertently accepted from such players will subsequently be voided and any scores returned cancelled. In addition, within a competition year a player may not represent more than one club in team competitions or play for more than one team within a competition.
- 10) Closing Dates and Entry Fees shall be as laid down by the Board of the Association or its Competition Committee. Entry forms must be submitted before the published closing date. Entry fees and any green fees shall be paid to the Competition Organiser or Secretary as laid down on the competition entry form. No competitor will be permitted to start in any competition unless the appropriate entry and green fees have 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.
- 11) Players qualifying to represent Clubs at individual event national finals will be notified directly with Club contacts also advised.
- 12) The Competition Committee reserves the right to alter or amend the conditions or dates of any competition or to reject any entry.

Competitor information

NAPGC attended events

- 13) For all competitions run by NAPGC officials, Club officials or individual players must provide CDH and home club details to the competition organiser in advance. This should be done at the time of entry. The competition organiser will then verify against the CDH system.
- 14) On the day of any competition run by NAPGC officials, at the time of registration players should confirm their CDH number, the name of the Club they are representing and, if different, their Home Club for handicapping purposes.

- 15) Players are responsible for knowing their handicap. If they have played recent competitions which are not reflected on their CDH record, where they scored below handicap against the SSS (or CSS if known), then these must be reported to the Committee at registration. More generally if a player knows that the CDH is higher than their current playing handicap this must also be reported. Based on information provided handicaps will be adjusted and agreed in line with CONGU guidance.
- 16) In all NAPGC Competitions, except the Junior Championships, the word "Junior" shall refer to players who are aged Under 18 on the day of play. Junior players must produce completed parental consent forms when playing in any NAPGC Competition and be accompanied at the event by an adult who shall be responsible for them.

Events not attended by NAPGC officials

- 17) When NAPGC competition events are played without the presence of an NAPGC official (e.g. play in the Team Series competitions prior to the National Final) team captains will be responsible for confirming the handicaps of their players. These shall be as recorded on score cards and as shown and signed for on the team result sheet (printed certificates will not be required).
- 18) Any further verification of handicaps should be done by observation of a Club's published handicap list. Issues or queries arising should be raised and clarified with the opposing side prior to play.
- 19) Juniors must be accompanied by an adult who shall be responsible for them.

For all competitions

- 20) In all competitions administered by the NAPGC, if it is subsequently discovered that a player has returned a score through playing off a handicap higher than their entitlement, they and any team they are representing shall be liable to disqualification.

Withdrawn Entries

- 21) Any competitor (individual or team) who -
 - a) withdraws from an event after the draw has been published, or
 - b) for whatever reason fails to appear on the tee at or within five minutes of their appointed starting time, or
 - c) having qualified to continue in the event fails to do somust 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. In such circumstances, the player (or a club in a team competition) will remain responsible for the payment of any outstanding green or entry fees.

Starting Times and Tees

- 22) 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, two strokes at the first hole in stroke play or in accordance with Rule 32-1b/b two points off the total score in stableford events.
- 23) In team stableford events, where a pair is disqualified for failing to arrive within five minutes of their starting time they shall be awarded zero points, the pair drawn to play them shall be awarded twenty points.
- 24) All play shall be from the competition tees of the course unless specifically allowed otherwise by the rules of a particular competition. In mixed events players shall commence play from the tee relevant to their gender.

Team Captains – arranging matches

- 25) For each event entered, Clubs shall be responsible for providing the names and contact details of those persons nominated as 'Team Captains'.
- 26) In the knock out stages of team series events, the Team Captain from each Club shall be jointly responsible for arranging matches. Any difficulty in arranging matches should be reported to the competition organiser as early as possible.
- 27) Underpinning this the Captain of the first named team drawn to play another, or the home team in single venue events, shall no later than ten days after the initial draw, or in subsequent rounds five days of the closure of the previous round, offer the opposing team three dates, weekend or bank holiday, on which to

play the match. Of these dates at least one shall be a Saturday and one a Sunday. At least eight clear days advance notice must be given, unless teams agree to a shortened timescale. No match date may be agreed at less than 48 hours notice unless this is the direct result of course closure. The opposing team must respond to dates offered within seven days.

- 28) Whilst it is expected that the home and away legs of matches will be arranged to be played on the same day at both venues, matches may be played on different days and tee times may vary at each venue.
- 29) Unless otherwise agreed between the two clubs, no matches in the Team Series Competitions may be played on days when there are NAPGC Regional or National Finals being played.
- 30) Teams will be withdrawn from competitions if they fail to play a match by the date designated on the official draw sheet. Extensions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances: such as inclement weather causing course closure on the last day of the round or a match having to be replayed. The Competition Committee may reinstate teams if they believe there are extenuating circumstances.
- 31) Team Captains are responsible for finalising and agreeing match details, including food arrangements. For matches played on a home and away basis, the home club will be responsible for paying the green fees of the away team. For matches played at a single venue, each club shall be responsible for its own green fees. Nb. Under the rules of Amateur Status a player may be reimbursed for the costs of green fees, travel, accommodation and subsistence in team matches.

Adverse Weather

- 32) 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 (as part of this discretion, the competition organiser may where necessary move a match or part of a match to an alternative course).

Equipment

Golf balls

- 33) 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.

Distance Measuring Devices (Rule 14-3 and Appendix IV)

- 34) In all NAPGC events, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.

Mobile Phones

- 35) While Mobile Phones (including pagers and similar devices) may be used as distance measuring devices, they must not be accessed on the course by players or caddies for making, sending or receiving calls or texts, except in cases of emergency.

Caddies

- 36) In all competitions except for the Junior Championship, players may use a caddie as defined in the R & A Rules of Golf (Rule 6-4).

Buggies

- 37) The use of an on course buggy if available or their own personal buggy is permitted in ALL NAPGC competitions unless precluded from doing so following a decision of the Course Management Authority.

Advice

- 38) For the team knock out matches and at the finals of these, each team shall be permitted to appoint one person who may give advice (including indicating the line for putting) to members of that team - in accordance with the note to rule 8 of the Rules of Golf. The person shall be made known to the opposing team and to the competition organiser, if present, before the match starts.

Performance Enhancing Drugs

- 39) 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.uk-sport.gov.uk).

Conduct

- 40) 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.

Score Cards

- 41) In accordance with Rule 6 of the rules of Golf, all score cards must be properly completed, signed off and promptly returned after play.
- At NAPGC organised events they shall be to the card return box or as otherwise directed by the Committee.
 - At team knock out matches they shall be returned to respective Team Captains. Each Club must retain the score cards for their team for the duration of the competition (until after the national final has been played).

Resolution of Ties

- 42) Unless otherwise specified in the rules of a competition, tied scores will be determined by way of countback over the last 9, 6, 3, or 1 as necessary.
- For Stroke-play (medal) – the fractional system will be used.
{ie. Gross back 9 less half of the playing handicap (unrounded) to calculate the net back 9. Then as necessary exactly one-third of handicap for the back 6, one-sixth for the back 3 and one-eighteenth for the back 1}
 - For stableford – the number of net points scored with shots taken as per the stroke index table.

Where this does not determine a winner joint winners or places will be announced.

- 43) In the knockout rounds of team events, countback shall be based on the aggregate of all cards for a team. However, where this does not attract a winner the tie shall be replayed and for single venue events home advantage shall switch to the other Club.

Submission of Results

- 44) Winning Team Captains are responsible for ensuring that the results of matches are telephoned or electronically sent to the competition organiser on the day the match is played. If not immediately sent, they are also responsible for ensuring the full and accurately completed result sheet is sent to the Competition Organiser within 48 hours of the match being played.

Closure of Competitions

- 45) For the purposes of Rule 2-5 the result of a match is deemed to have been officially announced once it has been recorded on an open results sheet and that sheet has been publicly displayed.
- 46) For the purposes of Rule 34-1b a stroke play competition is deemed to be closed at the commencement of a presentation ceremony.
- 47) In the case of team knock out matches, it is closed when the individual scores for each game have been agreed, signed off by a representative of each team and reported to the competition organiser.

Prizes and Presentations

- 48) Winners of trophies and/or prizes, both team and individual, 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.
- 49) The NAPGC Board will present any Player or Club that wins a competition on four consecutive occasions a trophy or memento marking the occasion, for them to retain (the choice of award will be at the discretion of the Board).

Breach of General rules

- 50) Any wilful breach of the general rules will be considered by the competition organiser and members of the organising committee in line with equity any may result in disqualification.