



## Sussex County Ladies Golf Association

### INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RULES 2020

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### Format

1. There will be five divisions: Division 1 Scratch - no handicap limit; Division 2 - no player under 14 playing handicap; Division 3 – no player under 21 playing handicap. Clubs fielding any players with a playing handicap lower than that permitted will forfeit the entire match for that day. All matches for Division 1 Scratch and Divisions 2 and 3 will be played off scratch.
2. For Division 1 Handicap there is a handicap limit of 16 and matches will be played off handicap. Players with a handicap of 17 or higher may not play in Division 1 Handicap. Ladies playing in Division 2 with a handicap of 14 – 16 may also play in Division 1 Handicap.
3. For Division 4 there is a handicap limit of 36 and matches will be played off handicap. Players with a handicap of 37 or higher may not play in Division 4. Ladies playing in Division 4 may not, in the same season, play for Divisions 1, 2 or 3. Similarly ladies who play in Divisions 1, 2 or 3 may not play in Division 4. Any player not complying with this rule will be disqualified for that match and her game will be awarded to the opposing team.
4. Each club may enter one team in Divisions 1 to 3 and up to two teams in Division 4. Clubs may enter **either** Division 1 Scratch **or** Division 1 Handicap – they may not enter both Divisions. In any one year no player may represent more than one team in Division 4. A team will consist of 7 players for the Scratch Divisions and 5 players for the handicap Divisions (Division 1 Handicap and Division 4).
5. Announcement of the draw will take place at the AGM. Each club will play the other clubs in its group at home and away. Clubs **must** play all matches, as the quarter-finalists or semi-finalists for Division 1 may not be known until all the matches have been completed. Therefore no walkovers or concessions are allowed.

### Arranging the matches

6. Matches should be played between 1 March and 30 June 2020. It is the home clubs' prerogative to play matches either on weekdays or weekends.

### Who is eligible to play?

7. Any playing member of her club, for whom the Club has paid a per capita levy, is eligible to play for her club whether she lives in Sussex or not and whether her home club is in Sussex or not. No player may represent more than one Sussex club in a season in any division.
8. All players must hold a current CONGU Competition Handicap.

### On the day

9. A team captain must be appointed for each match who must be present for the duration of the match. On the day of the match, captains will simultaneously exchange lists of players in order of play. **Players must be listed in playing handicap order**, but not necessarily exact handicap order. Failure to nominate in playing handicap order will result in disqualification of those who went out in the incorrect order. Substitutes will not be accepted once the lists have been exchanged.
10. Players can go out later or earlier with their opposite number, but opponents must be informed prior to the date if this is likely to happen. Should a player have failed to be on the tee within 45 minutes (30 minutes for Division 1 Handicap and Division 4) after the first tee off time, then that game will be conceded. All other matches remain in playing order as per the team lists exchanged.
11. All matches must be over 18 holes (unless Rule 30 applies) and start from the 1st tee. The course of the day must be used, and the visitors must be advised of any local rules. The winning team captain, or the home team captain in the case of a draw, must report the complete results of each match immediately to the Division Secretary.
12. Unless the course is closed or deemed unfit for competition, clubs are expected to play all their matches on the dates provided to the Division Secretaries. Bucket holes may not be used.
13. Buggies may be used by those players who can provide a valid current medical certificate of disability (including temporary disability). The policy on buggy use is in line with the England Golf "Policy on Use of Golf Buggies". A Club may decide that on the match day buggies may not be used due to Health and Safety considerations. The use of buggies is subject to availability.

14. Distance Measuring Devices (DMDs) may be used which comply with the Rules of golf.
15. Mobile phones may be used on the course as (DMDs) and for accessing the R&A Rules app. Phones should be set on "silent" and may not be used except in an emergency. Infringement will be loss of hole.
16. No caddies will be allowed in these championships.
17. No pets will be allowed to accompany players during matches.

#### **Progression to quarter-finals (Divisions 2, 3 and 4)**

18. The team with the most match points in the group will go through to quarter finals. If there is a draw on match points, individual game points will count followed by individual away game points. If there is still a draw situation, a play-off on a neutral course will be arranged by the Division Secretary.
19. If the full draw has fewer than 8 groups, the best runner/s up will go through to the knock-out stage. The best runner/s up is the team (excluding those who have won their group) who have the highest average number of match points per match played and if two or more teams have the same average it is then the team with the highest average number of game points per match played. If there is still a tie it is the highest average number of away games points per match played.

#### **Progression to semi-finals (Divisions 1 Scratch and Handicap)**

20. There will be no quarter finals for these Divisions. The team with the most match points in the group will go through to semi- finals. If there is a draw on match points, individual game points will count followed by individual away game points. If there is still a draw situation, a play-off on a neutral course will be arranged by the Division Secretary.
21. If the full draw has fewer than 4 groups, the best runner/s up will go through to the knock-out stage. The best runner/s up is the team (excluding those who have won their group) who have the highest average number of match points per match played and if two or more teams have the same average it is then the team with the highest average number of game points per match played. If there is still a tie it is the highest average number of away games points per match played.

#### **Knockout matches**

22. The team captain must provide proof of the current CONGU competition handicaps for all players in their team for quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. For the quarter finals, semi-finals and finals all matches should be played to a result, no halving, until one team has won 4 matches (3 for Division 1 Handicap and Division 4).

#### **Additional notes**

- The County Executive Committee may alter the playing conditions of the competition.
- The Division Secretaries' Committee will manage the Inter-Club Championship under the direction of the County Captain and the County Executive Committee.
- It is recommended that players use their County Cards if they wish to arrange practice rounds.
- Photographs of the winning teams at the knockout stages may be published on the website. Any player who does not wish her picture to be on the website should opt out of the photo.
- Team captains are advised to take a copy of these rules to matches.

#### **Frequently asked questions**

##### **What if the match date needs to be changed?**

23. In the event of the original match date having to be changed, **before 1 March**, if the change is requested by the host club they must offer 3 alternative dates. If the change is requested by the away club, the host club must offer one alternative date. The Division Secretary must be advised immediately.
24. From **1 March** only in exceptional circumstances and by agreement, may clubs rearrange their matches, provided a new date can be agreed within 5 days. The Division Secretary must be notified immediately. If agreement cannot be reached, the Division Secretary must be consulted, and her decision is final.

##### **What if a club cannot field a full team?**

25. In the event of a club being unable to produce a full team on the day of the match, the match is valid if four (three for Division 1 Handicap and Division 4) or more players play. The opposing team will score one point for each absent player. Clubs are expected to inform their opponents in advance if they cannot field a full team to avoid unnecessary travel for those players who will not have an opponent.
26. Should a club be unable to produce four players (three players for Division 1 Handicap and Division 4) at the time of the match, if a revised date is not possible the team should play with the number of players available.

##### **What if electric trolleys are not allowed?**

27. If the course is "carry only" then either team captain may insist that the match is rearranged. If both team captains agree, the match may go ahead on the original date with players carrying clubs. If pull trolleys are allowed but not electric trolleys, the match should go ahead as scheduled.

**What if a match is cancelled or abandoned?**

28. If clubs are not able to complete all matches by 30 June deadline, for example due to a cancellation because of adverse weather, then both clubs will be disqualified. Clubs should, therefore take this risk of disqualification into account when agreeing to match dates close to the deadline.
29. If for any reason a match is abandoned, and both captains of the day agree it will not be possible to resume play that day, then date options for replay must be agreed within 5 days and the whole match must be restarted at the 1st tee. In the event of a result already having been achieved, i.e. 4 matches won (3 matches won for Division 1 Handicap and Division 4), the result of the unfinished matches will be as they stand when play is abandoned - a win for any player who is up, and a half for any player who is all square. This rule does not apply to the subsequent knockout rounds, when any decision will be made by the Division Secretary and the Committee of the Day.
30. If there is a possibility that the whole match will not be completed (e.g. due to lightning, fog or heavy rain) and **if both captains agree before commencement of the match**, the match result may be taken as the result when play is abandoned, provided that all players have completed a minimum of 9 holes. The team captains should agree how to communicate to players on the course that the match has been abandoned.

**What if a Club withdraws part way through Group matches?**

31. If a Club withdraws from the Championship having played some matches but is unable to complete the remainder, all results for matches involving that Club including points won by opponents will be removed from the Group table.

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