

Conditions Governing Men's & Women's Competitions (including conditions for Junior Competitors)

Approved by St Helen's Bay Golf Committees: Effective from 1 April 2026

(Note: In general, these conditions apply to all St. Helen's Bay Golf Club (SHBGC) club competitions, however, any variance specific to Women's competitions are printed in **Red**).

As a general principle, competitors should ensure they are familiar with these conditions prior to entering any Club Competition.

The committees reserve the right to alter the conditions of any competition appearing in the fixture list. Notice of such alterations will be displayed on the Notice Board or in the pro-shop.

Other events such as charity days, sponsored events and other special events may have specific conditions which apply only to those events.

Club Competitions

The definition of a Club Competition is a competition that is being organized by and is taking place in SHBGC. All Club Competitions will be played as per the **Rules of Golf**. It is each competitor's responsibility to be familiar with and knowledgeable of the Rules of Golf and apply them to their game and actions on the golf course. It is the responsibility of all competitors and members to provide advice as to the Rules of Golf to less experienced golfers and to bring attention to any breach and the resulting penalty. Application of the Rules of Golf is the responsibility of everyone involved.

The Rules of Golf are available at the following link:
<https://www.randa.org/rog/the-rules-of-golf>

Official Competition

An official competition may be undertaken if there is a minimum of 6 players who have paid the competition fee for the said competition. **For women, this is a minimum of 4 players.**

The following procedures apply to all competitors entering all Club Competitions organised by the Men's and Women's committees (and will be regarded as conditions of entry):

Competition Fees

Competition fees for all Club Competitions are set by SHBGC and must be paid via the member's golf purse, or, in the case of visitors, in the Proshop.

Tee Times

Members must book tee times through the Club Booking System only, (i.e. Clubnet). Click on the competition fee icon and click “2 Club” option if desired. Payment of the entry fees will be processed through the member’s Clubnet Purse. Entry to the “2 Club” is restricted to “**members only**” for all Club Competitions.

If a member wishes to cancel a tee time, this must be done by 9.00pm on the day **before** the competition; otherwise, the player will be charged their entry fees.

Starting Times

A competitor’s “starting time” is the tee time chosen by the competitor when booking on ClubNet.

Starting times should not be changed after the commencement of any competition. In the event of a competitor changing their tee time after commencement of the competition, the relevant committee reserves the right to apply whatever sanction, (if any) it deems appropriate up to and including disqualification.

Competitions to run on a daylight rule. Any variations of tee times will be announced in advance of the competition.

Note: Where a competitor has been left alone on their tee time, such a competitor may change their starting time on the day of a competition.

Day of Competition

Competitors must, before starting their round, enter the competition on the computer screen in the Pro Shop. **Affix the printout to your scorecard.**

For insurance purposes, all members and visitors must report to the Pro Shop prior to commencing their round. Latecomers shall not be allowed to play until a vacancy occurs on the timesheet and are subject to starting time rules.

Competitors must, having completed their round:

- Enter their scores on the computer screen and place completed score cards in the box provided.

The score card must be signed by both the player **and** the marker, both of whom must hold a Golf Ireland, or other official Handicap Index, or be a full adult member of SHBGC.

Note: A junior golfer signing a card in an adult competition must hold a Handicap Index of 19.9 or less (Boys) or **39.9** or less (**Girls**).

- If there is a problem with either sign-in and/or score-entry regarding the computer screen, the player should indicate in writing on his/her scorecard that it was not possible to sign in and/or enter his/her score.
- Failure to enter a score card in a qualifying competition is a breach of the WHS handicapping regulations and may result in a suspension of the offending competitor's handicap.

Handicaps

Allocation of playing handicaps will be applied by the club system on the day of the competition based on the tees in use for the competition and the World Handicap Index for each competitor. A competitor must play off the system allocated handicap. Handicaps will be updated automatically overnight by the relevant systems.

If a competitor competes in 2 competitions on the same day, the overnight calculated Handicap Index applied by the system will apply in both competitions.

The evidential finding of handicap manipulation is viewed as a serious form of cheating and members will be subject to disciplinary action by the relevant committees if found to have engaged in such actions.

Eligibility

Eligibility details for all competitions (Men & Women) are outlined in the matrix below.

	Membership Category			
	Full	New	Junior	Other Categories
Enter Club Competitions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Win Captain's Prize *	Yes	No	No	No
Win President's Prize	Yes	No	No	No
Win Men's Captain Prize to Women	Yes	No	No	No
Win Women's Captain Prize to Men	Yes	No	No	No
Win Club Championship	Yes	No	No	No
Enter Club Matchplay Competitions	Yes	Yes	No**	No
Play on Adult Inter Club Teams	Yes	Yes***	No	No
Play in Winter League	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Win Golfer of the Year	Yes	No	No	No

* See specific criteria for **Women's Captain's Prize** under "**Women's Competitions**" section.

** Can play in Foursomes or Fourball Matchplay with an adult member.

*** Eligible for Interclub provided the new member complies with Golf Ireland eligibility rules

Membership Categories

Full: Ordinary, Honorary Life, Over 80s, (includes a returning member who has been absent from the club for no more than 12 months).

New: Joined within 12 months prior to the Competition date.

Other: 5 Day Member, Pay & Play Member, Overseas Member (or any other category which does not comply with conditions to be a Full Member).

Junior: Aged under 18 on 1 January in the year of Competition.

To be eligible to win any Club Competition prize, a member must be a **paid-up** member of the club.

To be eligible to win any of the following competitions, competitors must have played in **3 Singles qualifying competitions** in the current year.

Men's Captain's Prize

Women's Captain's Prize

President's Prize

Club Championship

Sponsored Competitions

Sponsors may dictate their own criteria for the competition they sponsor.

Professionals

Professionals are NOT permitted to enter amateur events, except Pro-Am competitions.

Junior Eligibility

Juniors entering adult competitions must have a Handicap Index of 19.9 or less (Boys) or 39.9 or less (Girls).

Divisions & Countbacks (Men)

An overall winner will be announced for each competition unless otherwise stated. This will be followed up by divisions which are dictated by the number of competitors in the competition.

In Division 1 there will be a requirement of 6 players to be eligible for 1 prize with a requirement of 20 players or more for a second prize.

In Division 2 there will be a requirement of 8 players to be eligible for 1 prize with a requirement of 20 players or more for a second prize.

In Division 3 there will be a requirement of 8 players to be eligible for 1 prize with a requirement of 20 players or more for a second prize.

There will be a Best Gross prize in all Club Competitions.

Countbacks and positioning will be as per the computer system used.

Divisions to be applied under "Winter Rules" will be displayed in the Locker Rooms and Proshop.

Competition Prizes

Competition prizes (vouchers) will be paid into each member's Clubnet purse. Physical prizes will be presented by sponsors on the night of the competition or left in the Proshop / committee room to be collected.

Separate Junior category prizes will be awarded for competitions where a Junior is not eligible to win such competitions, i.e.

Men's Captain's Prize

Women's Captain's Prize

President's Prize

Club Championship

Captain's Prize to the Men

Captain's Prize to the Women

In sponsored competitions, a Junior Category prize may be awarded at the discretion of the sponsor.

Junior Competitors (Under 18 on 1 January 2026)

Singles Competitions:

1. When a specific Junior Competition has been set up for a competition day, Junior players **must** enter the Junior Competition and play from the designated tees for the competition which will be outlined on the sign in system.
2. When playing in a Junior Competition, a Junior player's scorecard can be marked by another Junior player.
3. Where no specific Junior Competition has been set up for a competition day, a Junior player may enter the **adult competition** for that day subject to the following.
 - Handicap Index on the day of the Competition must be 19.9 or less for Junior Boys and **39.9** or less for **Junior Girls**
 - Junior scorecards must be signed by an adult member or visitor who must hold a Golf Ireland Handicap Index.
 - Junior players must play from the designated tees for the adult competition.
 - A Junior player may sign an adult player's scorecard.

Matchplay Competitions:

Junior players may play in the Club Fourball Matchplay or Club Foursomes Matchplay competitions provided their playing partner is an adult member and must play in accordance with the specific handicap rules designated for these competitions.

Visitors

Visitors may enter club open competitions (and win prizes), by paying both the competition entry fee and the related green fee requested by the Proshop.

Open Competitions are restricted to members of recognised golf clubs who hold a full WHS Handicap.

An alternative competition may be created for visitors if deemed necessary by the committees.

Competition Formats

The format for each competition (tees used / strokeplay / stableford / team combinations etc...) will be published on the Clubnet booking system and will be displayed in the Proshop on the day of the competition.

Captains' and President's Prize competition formats will be determined by the Captains and President of the day.

Matchplay

All Club Matchplay competitions will start on hole one and run until the match is finished. Competition conditions for Matchplay events will be posted in the locker room before the start of each Matchplay competition.

Golfer of the Year (GOY) - Men

Men's Golfer of the Year prize will be awarded based on results in the following 12 competitions.

Captain's Prize, President's Prize, Club Championship, PGA Tankard, Captain's Prize to the Men, Singles Match Play and the six Monthly Medal competitions (April, May, June, July, August and September).

Points are awarded as follows:

1st 12 points, 2nd 10 points, 3rd 9 points, 4th 8 points, 5th 7 points, 6th 6 points, 7th 5 points, 8th 4 points, 9th 3 points, 10th 2 points, 11th 1 point.

Matchplay Points:

Winner 20 points, Runner Up 16 points, Beaten Semi Finalists 12 points, Beaten Quarter Finalists 8 points.

Where a player with a membership category of "Other", (as defined above under Eligibility), accrues points in a GOY competition, the points won will be allocated to the next placed Full or New Member (as defined above under Eligibility) in the relevant competition.

If one or more players are level on points for 1st place in the Golfer of the Year standings (following completion of all relevant competitions) a tie break will be applied as follows: The player with the most wins in individual competitions will be declared the winner. If this still results in one or more player's being level on points, the tie break will be applied to the most 2nd place finishes then to 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th place finishes until a winner is determined. If this process does not result in an individual winner, joint winners will be declared.

Golfer of the Year (GOY) - Women

Women's Golfer of the Year prize will be awarded based on the best 10 results in the following 12 competitions.

Captain's Prize, President's Prize, Club Championship, PGA Tankard, Captain's Prize to the Women, Singles Match Play and the six-Monthly Medal competitions (April, May, June, July, August and September).

Points are awarded as follows:

1st 10 points, 2nd 9 points, 3rd 8 points, 4th 7 points, 5th 6 points, 6th 5 points, 7th 4 points, 8th 3 points, 9th 2 points – and 1 point will be awarded to all other Women who enter the competition and return their cards.

Match Play Points:

Winner – 10 points, Runner Up 8 points, Beaten Semi Finalists 6 points, Beaten Quarter Finalists 4 points.

Where a player with a membership category of "Other", (as defined above under Eligibility), accrues points in a GOY competition, the points won will be allocated to the next placed Full or New Member (as defined above under Eligibility) in the relevant competition.

If one or more players are level on points for 1st place in the Golfer of the Year standings (following completion of all relevant competitions) a tie break will be applied as follows: The player with the most wins in individual competitions will be declared the winner. If this still results in one or more player's being level on points, the tie break will be applied to the most 2nd place finishes then to 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th place finishes until a winner is determined. If this process does not result in an individual winner, joint winners will be declared.

Women's Competitions

Women's Captain's Prize:

To be eligible for all prizes, a player must:

- a) Be a fully paid-up full member of St Helen's Bay Golf Club.
- b) Have returned **three qualifying 18-hole competition cards** in St Helen's Bay Golf Club prior to the competition date.
- c) In the case of a new full member, have completed **12 months of membership** on a rolling basis before the competition date.

Eligibility for Limited Prizes

Members who do **not** meet the above criteria will still be eligible for the following prizes:

- 3rd Place
- 4th Place
- Front Nine
- Back Nine
- Nearest the Pin
- Longest Drive

Silver and Bronze Medals: The club winners of the Silver Medal (Handicap Index up to and including 20) and the Bronze Medal (Handicap Index of 20.1 and higher) will be determined by the return of the lowest aggregate of net scores over three of the four monthly medal stroke play competitions played between 1st April and 31st July 2026. For the Silver Medal all three scores must be returned whilst the player has a Handicap Index of 20.0 or under. For the Bronze Medal, all three scores must be returned whilst the player has a Handicap Index of 20.1 or above. The winning of a Silver Medal supersedes the winning of a Bronze Medal. The club winners will be notified by the Competition Secretary and will progress to the regional finals.

Australian Spoons: Players must be female (no age restriction) and hold a valid Handicap Index. The form of play is Greensomes (Scotch) Foursomes, Stableford. The winning pair (net) from each club will qualify to play in the Regional competition area final. The best gross pair from each club will qualify to play in the Regional competition area final provided that at least 10 pairs have entered the competition at club level. The winners, runners-up, gross and 3rd best pairs from each Regional venue will qualify to play in the National Final. Substitutes, in score order, will be permitted.

Ring Competition: Participants in the Ring Competition get three chances per hole on 18-hole qualifying competitions only. All 18 holes must be filled in by the end date. End date is 30th September 2026.

Birdie Tree: The Birdie Tree Competition is open to all members at no charge and will operate from 1st April to 30th September inclusive for all qualifying 18-hole competitions. If you have a birdie or better, please record the date and hole and place on the Birdie Tree in the Women's Locker Room.

Handicaps: Greensomes playing Handicap calculated by adding 60% of the lower Course Handicap to 40% of the higher Course Handicap (no handicap limit). Current handicap index is used in calculating course handicaps on the day of competition.

Ground Under Repair

GUR areas are to be avoided by buggies and trolleys. Free relief is to be taken from GUR with designated drop zones to be used where provided.

Motorised Carts and Distance Measuring Devices

Permission for the use of motorised carts is not a requirement for Club Competitions.

Distance measuring devices can be used in Club competitions.

Extreme Conditions

Player safety is of the utmost importance at SHBGC.

Captains or Greenkeeper may postpone or cancel events, change tee times or close the course at their discretion during extreme conditions. The Captains may also decide to change conditions of play e.g., strokes to stableford, blue to white tees, implement placing etc... at their discretion.

Pace of Play

St Helen's Bay Golf Club implements the R & A Pace of Play Guidelines (Rule 5.6) – i.e. play your shot when **ready** (providing it is safe to do so).

Maintain your position behind the group in front (not in front of the group behind).

If you are holding up the players behind, you **must** call them through.

Local Rules

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18)

Fences and white stakes defining out of bounds are **not obstructions**, therefore cannot be removed.

- a. White stakes define all out of bounds areas.
- b. Over any boundary wall, fence or hedge.

2. Penalty Areas (Formerly Water Hazards) (Rule 17)

- a. Yellow stakes and/or lines mark penalty area.
- b. Red stakes and/or lines mark lateral penalty area.

3. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 16)

- a. Rocks in mounds and fixed boulders (right 1st fairway and behind 16th green).
- b. Sprinkler heads, hydrants, fixed course signs & fences.
- c. Stone pathways, services areas and bridges.
- d. Staked trees.
- e. Well on 16th Fairway.
- f. Steps in the gap on the wall between the 16th and 17th holes.
- g. All fixed course furniture and sleeper steps.
- h. Any ball coming to lie where fencing interferes other than out of bounds fencing.

Note: The stone walls are an integral part of the course and therefore do not constitute immovable objects.

G.U.R.

All marked areas.

DRESS CODE

Neat Golf attire is essential on the course. Refer also to the notice in the reception area of the Clubhouse.