

Essex Ladies' County Golf Association (ELCGA)

RULES AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY 2017

All players must be Full or Associate Members of the Association. The Management Committee reserves the right to exclude Clubs or individuals that have not paid their England Golf Affiliation fees

A CDH ID Number must be provided on Entry
Each Player is responsible for playing off their correct Handicap where appropriate

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS: SILVER SHIELD, SILVER TROPHY, BRONZE SHIELD AND HARRIS BOWL

All are stand-alone competitions. All individual matches played off scratch except Harris which is off Handicap. Buggies are not permitted unless sanctioned firstly by the County Association (ELCGA) and then the host club. (See Use of Buggies rules paragraph).

- a) Clubs shall, for each team entered, pay an amount as approved by the Management Committee, and entries to be made by a date determined by the Committee. Clubs must be affiliated to the County Association.
- b) A player may represent ONE club only in all inter club competitions during any season.
- c) The number and composition of leagues shall be decided by the Committee according to the number of entries received.
- d) Handicap restrictions: Silver Shield – none; Silver Trophy – 10+; Bronze Shield – 19+. Harris Bowl - + 30 (ladies with a higher handicap must play off 30). Handicap allowance for Harris Bowl as per CONGU rules.
- e) Juniors under the age of 18 are permitted to play in the Inter Club Competitions. If matches are played on a school attendance day, parents must have received permission from their school to allow their participation.
- f) No club may enter more than one team in Silver Trophy, Bronze Shield and Harris Bowl, but clubs are allowed to enter more than one team in the Silver Shield.
- g) **Silver Shield Only:** Clubs may enter more than one team as 1st team and 2nd team. Clubs who have two teams drawn in the same league must play each other first (both home and away) before their other matches. The 1st team (5 lowest handicap players) must be nominated before the date of their first match. Any one of these 5 nominated players is ineligible for the 2nd team. Non-nominated players: if a player has played twice for the 1st team, she is no longer eligible to play for the 2nd team, and if a player has played twice for the 2nd team, she is no longer eligible for the 1st team.
- h) **Bronze** players may play in Silver Shield/Silver Trophy matches without affecting their eligibility for Bronze Shield.
- i) Any lady with a handicap of 18.4 and below who plays in any Silver Shield and/or Silver Trophy match is ineligible to play in the **Harris Bowl**. Any lady who plays in the **Harris Bowl** is ineligible to play in the Silver Shield/Silver Trophy/Bronze Shield, except under rule (j).
- j) Any Harris Bowl player with a handicap of 18.5 and above, who is required to play in her club's Silver Shield, Silver Trophy or Bronze Shield teams would be allowed to do so on 2 occasions (in total for any combination) without jeopardising their position in the Harris Bowl team. If she is required to play up on a third occasion, she would then be ineligible to play Harris Bowl matches for the remainder of the season.
- k) Teams shall consist of five players for the Silver Shield, Silver Trophy and Harris Bowl, and seven for the Bronze Shield, with a player's position in the team being determined by handicap, whether or not she is playing as a reserve. Positions of players with the same playing handicap shall be determined by the Team Captain.
- l) Each individual match will be 18 holes match play, starting from the 1st tee of the designated course and played to a conclusion. **Harris Bowl** – Any extra holes to be played from where started and handicap allowance continued.
- m) The Team Captains shall be solely responsible for their teams playing in the correct order according to their correct playing handicap. Captains must exchange their teams and playing order in writing prior to the commencement of the match. Once the teams have been exchanged, no alterations are allowed. If any player knowingly or unknowingly plays in the wrong position, her match and any other match affected through wrong positioning shall be conceded as walkovers to the opposing players. The Team Captain may give advice to team members during play of a match.

n) Should a player fail to be on the 1st tee within 45 minutes (Bronze Shield) or 30 minutes (Silver Shield/Silver Trophy/Harris Bowl) of the agreed starting time of the team match, the opposing Team Captain has the right to claim a walkover in that individual match.

o) A team may play only if it can provide a minimum of four players (Bronze Shield) or three players (Silver Shield/Silver Trophy/Harris Bowl).

p) In the event that a full team cannot be fielded on the day, players in that team must fill positions 1 to 4/5/6 (Bronze Shield) or 1 to 3/4 (Silver Shield/Silver Trophy/Harris Bowl). The opposing team will receive a walkover in the remaining matches, i.e. the empty position(s) has/have to be the last match(es).

q) Any club unable to play on the agreed date or giving a walkover to the opposing team will be withdrawn from the league and all matches played cancelled.

r) Matches must be played on or between dates arranged by the Committee. When the dates for the league matches have been arranged, they and any subsequent changes must be confirmed in writing by the home Team Captain to their opposing captain and the relevant Organiser. **No match dates may be altered after 1st April** except under rules (s) and (t) below

s) Matches must be played on the designated course. Clubs with more than 18 holes should make it clear which holes will be used. These Clubs are required to use the same 18 holes for each of their home league matches. If the course has been declared unplayable, or deemed unfit for a competition by prior agreement of the County Organiser, or is otherwise unavailable, the match must be re-arranged. In the event that some holes are closed, 18 holes must be arranged in the best way possible. If advisable, nine holes may be placed twice. In the event of continuous bad weather, clubs should try and give notice the day before if play is unlikely.

t) If play cannot begin at the appointed time or is suspended in accordance with Rule 33-2d of the Rules of Golf, and play cannot be started/resumed that day, a future date should be amicably arranged by the two Team Captains. However, if no play is possible upon arrival or play is suspended due to sudden bad weather, no decision to rearrange may be taken until a minimum of 2 hours have elapsed, during which time all players are required to remain at the club. If a match has to be rearranged after the teams have been exchanged, the teams must be represented by the same players who must resume their matches in accordance with the Rules of Golf (see Rules 6-8 and 20-3) at whichever hole they were playing when the suspension occurred. Should a player on either side be unable to attend she must give a walkover to her opponent. If players occupying the same position on both sides are unable to play, both teams may use a new player in the last position, ensuring correct handicap order is maintained. Any reduction in a player's handicap in the interim period is ignored for the purposes of completing her match.

u) Depending on the number of leagues, and as previously determined by a draw, the winners of each league will play quarter, semi-finals or finals.

v) The team with the greatest number of wins will be the league winner. In the event of a tie in the number of wins, the number of individual matches won will be the deciding factor. If there is still a tie, an extra point will be awarded for each away team win. If there is still a tie, the winner will be determined by the results between the teams in the league matches. **Silver Shield Only:** if there is still a tie after the above, the league winner will be decided by the differential of holes won between the **two tied** teams.

w) Should there be an uneven number of leagues, after determining the winners as described above, the best runner(s)-up will be determined: i) When there are the same number of teams in each League, the team with the greatest number of wins will be the runner-up. In the event of a tie in the number of wins, the number of individual matches won will be the deciding factor. If there is still a tie, an extra point will be awarded for each away team win. If there is still a tie, the runner-up will be determined by a play-off between the two teams on a neutral course. (ii) When there are a different number of teams in each League, the team with the least number of lost matches will be the runner-up. In the event of a tie in the number of losses, the number of individual matches won will be the deciding factor, determined by expressing the matches won as a percentage. If there is still a tie, an extra point will be awarded for each away team win. If there is still a tie, the runner-up will be determined by a play-off between the two teams on a neutral course.

x) The Committee shall decide the dates of the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. The clubs involved will be notified of the venue and starting times. **Note: Clubs who qualify for quarter or semi-finals are expected to make their courses available for another match in that round or later rounds. Any lack of availability must be notified to the appropriate Organiser as soon as possible.**

y) No courtesy round may be requested at any time for Silver, Bronze or Harris Bowl league matches, and no green fees are payable by an away team, if unavoidable the home club should bear the cost.