



GENERAL CONDITIONS 2025

Applicable to all England Golf Championships and to be read in conjunction with the England Golf Hard Card, the Championship Entry Policy (General Play Scores), and Championships specific Terms of Competition

1. Rules of Amateur Status

All players must be of Amateur Status as defined by The Rules of Amateur Status.

2. Rules of Golf

All Championships shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf and such Local Rules and Terms of the Competition as shall be approved by England Golf.

3. World Handicapping System™

A Handicap Index® must be issued from a “golf club” (as defined in the WHS™ Rules of Handicapping book) that is authorised to use the WHS Rules of Handicapping. England Golf accepts an up-to-date handicap issued from the international body of golf that would be equivalent to a Handicap Index within the prescribed limit for entry into the Championship.

WHS™ requires a golfer to be identified as male or female, and an individual can only hold one gender category of WHS™ handicap at a time.

4. Gender Eligibility

Competitions are categorized as either handicap or elite competitions:

4.1. Handicap Competitions

Handicap Competitions are either male competitions, female competitions or mixed competitions:

- For male competitions, competitors are required to hold a WHS™ handicap which identifies that they are a male golfer.
- For female competitions, competitors are required to hold a WHS™ handicap which identifies that they are a female golfer.
- For mixed competitions, competitors may compete in the gender in which they hold their WHS™ handicap.

4.2. **Scratch Competitions**

Scratch competitions are either male competitions, female competitions or mixed competitions.

- i. For male competitions, players may compete in a competition if any of the following circumstances apply:
 - their Sex Assigned at Birth is male
 - they identify as a Transgender Man
 - they identify as Non-Binary
- ii. For female competitions, players may compete in a competition if any of the following circumstances apply:
 - their Sex Assigned at Birth was female, **and** they have not undergone or commenced any process to transition to a Transgender Man
 - they identify as Non-Binary, but their Sex Assigned at Birth was female **and** they have not undergone or commenced any process to transition to a Transgender Man
- iii. For mixed competitions:

a player may only compete as a female golfer if any of the following circumstances apply:

 - the Sex Assigned at Birth was female, **and** they have not undergone or commenced any process to transition to a Transgender Man
 - they identify as Non-Binary, but their Sex Assigned at Birth was female **and** they have not undergone or commenced any process to transition to a Transgender Man

a player may compete as a male golfer if any of the following circumstances apply:

 - their Sex Assigned at Birth was male

- they identify as Transgender Man
- they identify as Non-Binary

4.3. **Combined Competitions – Scratch and Handicap Combined**

Where there is a competition that allows individuals to play for both prizes (scratch **and** handicap), the eligibility requirements for players to win in either section of that competition will continue to apply. For example, a Transgender women would be permitted to play in a combined competition but would only be eligible to compete for the Handicap competition prize, and not for the Scratch prize.

Please refer to the England Golf Gender and Fairness in Competition Policy for further information.

5. **Behaviour**

All players, officials and supporters are expected to comply with the England Golf Code of Conduct and are requested to familiarize themselves with this policy in advance of competing in an England Golf championship.

6. **Practice Round Conduct**

During practice rounds, one ball may be played with the following exceptions:

- if a player misses the green with their shot to the green, they may play one additional shot.
- Where the Rules of Golf apply (e.g., provisional ball).
- A player may practice putting (but not chipping or bunker play) provided play is not unduly delayed.

Note: breach of the regulations is covered within the England Golf Code of Conduct.

7. **Entries**

- 7.1. All entries into England Golf Championships, where over-subscribed, shall be subject to review as outlined within the Championship Entry Policy (General Play Scores).

- 7.2. Entries may be made online at the England Golf website (www.EnglandGolf.org). In order to enter online, a competitor must possess a Federation ID number to verify their Handicap Index (Membership number or equivalent).
- 7.3. Payment details will be taken and stored at the time of entry. Following any ballot, successful entrants will be charged the entry fee. Players must ensure that card details are valid and there is sufficient funds to process the payment. Failure to process in payment will result in the player forfeiting their entry.
- Exception: Payment Terms may be different for England Golf handicap competitions. Please read individual competition terms for any updates.
- 7.4. Entries by telephone are not accepted.
- 7.5. When entering any England Golf event a player's exact Handicap Index must be recorded. Any entry ballot will be based on the exact Handicap Index of the relevant players on the day following the closing date.
- Note: For players in England, it is the player's responsibility to ensure that their Handicap Index on the WHS Platform is up to date. England Golf shall take no responsibility for any out-of-date Handicap Index calculations used for balloting purposes.
- 7.6. Should there ever be a discrepancy between a player's Handicap Index as issued by England Golf and a different Authorized Association, the Handicap Index issued by England Golf must be used. When holding a Handicap Index outside of England Golf, in two different associations, the lowest Handicap Index should be used.
- 7.7. Under WHS Rules of Handicapping (Rule 1.4b), should a player reside for a period of time abroad they must return a copy of their playing record for scores to be input at their home club. England Golf reserves the right to refuse or cancel an entry where the handicap on the home system has not been adjusted accordingly.

- 7.8. Overseas entries will only be accepted when the player's Handicap Index has been verified by their Home Union/ Federation/ Association.
- 7.9. All entries shall be subject to the approval of the Championship Department, which reserves the right to accept, refuse, or cancel an entry without giving reason for its decision. The decision shall be final. Where required, any entry fee will be refunded.

8. Withdrawals

- 8.1. Withdrawals will only be accepted if written confirmation is received in to championships@englandgolf.org.
- 8.2. If a player withdraws prior to the closing date their entry will be deleted and no payment will be taken. In the event of a competitor withdrawing after the closing date the entry fee will not be refunded.
- Exception: Players who have entered an England Golf championship and subsequently get selected for an England/GB&I team will receive a refund.

Exception: Withdrawal Terms of Competition may be different for England Golf handicap competitions. Please read individual competition terms for any updates

- 8.3. Any player who:
- i. withdraws from an event after the draw has been published, or
 - ii. fails to register at the England Golf Championship Office or other designated location, or online or by telephone by 12:00 on the day before a Championship starts, or
 - iii. fails to appear on the tee at their appointed start time, or
 - iv. having qualified to continue in an event, fails to do so*
- may be subject to an automatic ban from entering or playing in England Golf Championships for such period as the Championship Department may decide.

*If a competitor withdraws from the competition before the cut is made the players score shall still be included in determining the cut mark.

9. Reserves

- 9.1. A reserve list will be maintained and managed by the Championship Department. Should a place or places in the draw become available, reserves will be invited to play in the order they are listed on the reserve list. Entry fee payment will then be processed once a reserve accepts their place in the championship.
- 9.2. To ensure a full field for a Championship and at the sole discretion of the Championship Department, a reserve or reserves may be offered a place depending on whether they can be contacted, i.e., irrespective of their place on the reserve list.
- 9.3. At appropriate stroke play Championships, in the event of a late withdrawal of a player in the draw, a reserve who has entered the event in accordance with 7 above and is present at the venue on the first day of the Championship may be offered the vacated start place. Should there be more than one reserve in attendance, such reserves will be invited to play in the order they are listed on the reserve list.
- 9.4. At the discretion of registration officials at the venue, and depending on a practice round space being available, a reserve who is present at the venue may play a practice round. They may also use practice facilities at the venue.

10. Registration

Players must register their intention to compete in a Championship by 12:00 on the day before the event starts, either in person at the Championship Office or by telephone.

11. Caddies

Caddies are permitted subject to any restrictions imposed within individual Championship Terms of Competition.

12. Inclement Weather, Cancellation, and Force Majeure

- 12.1. If, in the opinion of England Golf, it becomes impossible to complete a Championship in accordance with that Championship's conditions because of adverse weather or other circumstances, England Golf may vary the format to the extent necessary to achieve a result within the time available.
- 12.2. England Golf reserves the right to cancel, or postpone indefinitely, the event at any time if required to do so, or if in its opinion it is reasonable in the circumstances to do so, due to events beyond its reasonable control.

13. Returning Score Card

A player's scorecard is deemed officially returned to England Golf when they have left the designated scoring area.

14. Winner, Prizes and Decision of Ties

- 14.1. Ties for first place will be decided by a sudden death play-off over holes to be determined by England Golf.

Note: If a play-off involves more than two players, those eliminated will be deemed to have tied for second place, regardless of the order in which they were eliminated, and will receive second place prizes of equal value.

- 14.2. Ties for prizes (with the exception in 14.1 above), will be decided as follows:
 - i. Shall be decided on the 4th round then the 3rd round, then the 2nd round and then the 1st round.
 - ii. Should that fail to produce a result, ties shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the last completed round. If a tie still arises it shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the first nine holes of the last completed round. If a tie still arises, each of the preceding rounds played shall be treated in the same way (taking each round in

the reverse order to that in which they were played) until a decision is reached.

14.3. Voucher/Cash Prize Redemption

Claimants must contact the England Golf Championship dept. to claim their prize by 31st December in the year in which the championship is played.

15. Results of Match or Championship – Competition Closed

15.1. Match Play

The result of a match is final once it has been recorded in the Championship Office.

15.2. Stroke Play

The competition is closed when the trophy is presented to the winner.

16. Photography Consent

England Golf seeks media coverage and publicity for the above Championship around and during the Championship via both the written press and via broadcast and audio-visual media. Each competitor by entering the Championship and by agreeing to these Terms of Competition assigns to England Golf and its assignees and licensees the right in perpetuity throughout the world to make, use, edit, exhibit and reproduce (and to authorise others to do so) in any and all media (whether Press, radio, television, internet or otherwise), whether now known or hereafter devised for commercial and/or other purposes from time to time and at their discretion, any and all pictures, coverage, recordings and any other reproductions of any description of the competitor made during or in connection with the Championship (including, without limitation, during practice and play) without compensation for the competitor or the heirs, successors, executors, administrators or assignees of the competitor. The competitor also assigns the right to use and reproduce their name, voice, likeness and biographical material in any way now known or hereafter devised by England Golf for the purpose of promoting the Championship, any

subsequent Championships and the activities of England Golf, without compensation for the competitor or the heirs, successors, executors, administrators or assignees of the competitor including in circumstances where it may include the logo of a third party or of a sponsor or patron of the Championship or any subsequent Championship. Competitors shall be responsible for ensuring that their caddies (if applicable) will assign to England Golf and its successors and licensees equivalent rights in relation to the caddie. Notwithstanding the foregoing grant of rights, England Golf and its assignees and licensees agree that, other than as permitted above, they will not authorise any company contractually associated with England Golf to use the competitor's name, voice, likeness and biographical material in a way which constitutes the endorsement of a product or service, without first requiring such associated company to obtain the competitor's authorisation.

Please contact the Championship department at championships@englandgolf.org if you have any queries.

17. Rule 25

If any player believes they are eligible to use the Modification for Players with Disabilities (Rule 25), they should contact championships@englandgolf.org when submitting their entry to use the specific modifications in Rule 25.

18. Policies & Procedures

All England Golf policies apply, as appropriate, to England Golf Championships. They include but are not limited to:

- i. Code of Conduct
- ii. Pace of Play Policy
- iii. Transportation Policy (including provisions for people with disabilities)
- iv. Equality & Diversity Policy
- v. Gender & Fairness in Competition Policy

- vi. Safeguarding Adults Policy
- vii. Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy
- viii. Anti-Doping Regulations

All relevant policies are available to be viewed at

www.englandgolf.org/competition-policies

19. Liability

Neither the Club nor England Golf can be held responsible for the loss of or damage to, equipment or personal possessions.