

WINTER LEAGUE RULES - 2023/24

The 'Hoylake Golf Club Members' Whatsapp group will be utilised to notify competitors of the weekly competition format along with handicaps and results. Members must register to play in each weekly competition using Masterscoreboard. All scores are to be returned via Masterscoreboard.

There is NO entry fee for the winter league. All players are welcome.

Weekly competition entry fee is £2.50 per person, failure to pay by the commencement of round will result in disqualification in any competitions entered, irrespective of finishing position and NO points or Prizes will be awarded. To minimise administration players are requested to pay in advance a minimum of £10. Any unused entry fees will be reimbursed at the end of the winter season. Payments should be by bank transfer and should be referenced with your name and Comp Fees. Bank details are as follows;

Bank: Natwest

Account Name: Hoylake Golf Club

Sort Code: 60-05-07

Account No: 22976566

There will be a maximum of 20 weeks (8 Medal & 12 Stableford).

Wirral Borough Council score cards are to be used.

All competitions will be from the YELLOW tee markers. For stableford competitions the yellow tee stroke indices shall be used.

Should the golf course be closed on Friday, Saturday or Sunday and there are members registered on Masterscoreboard to play on the day the course is closed then the competition for that week-end will be cancelled.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in weekly competitions, value of which will be determined by the number of players each week, players finishing with equal scores will receive equal share of prize allocation. Prizes will be awarded for the Medal, Stableford & Overall points totals (winners only).

Points will be awarded as follows: - 1st 6pts, 2nd 5pts, 3rd 4pts, 4th 3pts, 5th 2pts & 6th 1pt, tied scores will have equal points awarded.

Twos will be paid out on ALL holes, value will be a portion of the total weekly entry fee.

Preferred Lies :- Fairway:- Place on fairway within one club length, No nearer the hole.

Rough:- Ball plugged in rough, can be lifted and dropped in rough within one club length, no nearer the hole.

Bunker:- Ball in bunker, Players are allowed to lift the ball, smooth the sand and replace the ball in its original position, without penalty. If there is water in bunker, drop at the nearest point of relief within the bunker, even if it is nearer the hole. If the bunker is full of water and there is no place to take relief within the bunker, then the ball should be dropped within one club length outside of the bunker at a point on a line from the flag to the original ball position, with no penalty.

All other areas of the course the normal rules of golf apply.

A ball cannot be lost in the fairway and in circumstance where a player's marker confirms that a ball landed in the fairway, and it cannot be found, the player may drop a second ball without penalty at a place where he and his marker believe the original ball to have landed

Players will have the option, when a ball is known or virtually certain to be lost or out of bounds, to play a second ball under the R&A "alternative ball" rule, which carries a TWO shot penalty but which allows the player to play his next shot from the fairway. Players must agree with their marker the point where the ball is believed to be lost. Then find the nearest fairway edge, not nearer the hole. The ball may be dropped within two club lengths of this point, again not nearer the hole. You CANNOT use this rule if a provisional ball has been played. However, if your provisional ball is also lost or out of bounds, you may use this Local Rule with respect to your provisional ball.

Members handicap at the start of the winter league will be their World Handicap Index at the end of the summer season. Playing handicaps will be published each week. Handicaps will be manually adjusted during the winter. Handicaps will be reduced based on the number of points awarded in the competition e.g. if you won 6 pts then your handicap will be reduced by 6 times your handicap category reduction.

Competition standard scratch (CSS) score will be one stroke more (medal) or one point less (stableford) than the score achieving 1 point in the competition. Players scores outside of the CSS + or – Handicap buffer zone will have their handicaps increased by 0.1. There will be NO Rule 19 reductions applied during the winter league

Handicap Category	Handicap Reduction	Buffer Zone
1 (0 – 5.4)	0.1 x No of points won	1
2 (5.5 – 12.4)	0.2 x No of points won	2
3 (12.5 – 20.4)	0.3 x No of points won	3
4 (20.5 – 28.4)	0.4 x No of points won	4
5 (28.5 – 36.4)	0.5 x No of points won	5

6 (36.5 – 54.0)	0.6 x No of points won	6
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