

WINTER LEAGUE RULES - 2025/26

The 'H.G.C. Notice Board' WhatsApp group will be used 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 £3.00 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. Payments should be made by bank transfer and should be referenced with your name and 'Comp Fees'. Bank details are as follows;

NatWest Bank

Account Name: Hoylake Golf Club

Sort Code: 60-05-07

Account No: 22976566

There will be a maximum of 20 weeks (All Stableford competitions).

Wirral Borough Council score cards are to be used.

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

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in weekly competitions, the value of which will be determined by the number of players each week. In the event of tied scores, card play-offs will be used (last 9,6,3, then final hole if required) to decide positions.

Points will be awarded as follows: - 1st 6pts, 2nd 5pts, 3rd 4pts, 4th 3pts, 5th 2pts & 6th 1pt. In the event of a tie on points, card play-offs will be applied (last 9, 6, 3, then final hole if required).

THERE ARE NO TWOS SWEEPS. All competition entry fees will be paid out in 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Preferred Lies and Local Rules

Fairway:

Place on the fairway within six inches, no nearer the hole.

Rough:

A ball plugged in the rough, can be lifted, cleaned and dropped in the rough within one club length, no nearer the hole. If the ball is plugged in an unplayable situation (eg. In a bush), then no relief is granted and the normal penalty applies.

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 the bunker, then 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 the bunker at a point on a line from the flag to the original ball position, with no penalty.

Lost Ball / Out of Bounds Speed of Play Rule:

Players may use the R&A 'alternative ball' rule with a TWO shot penalty, dropping on the fairway near to where the ball was lost, no nearer the hole. This cannot be used if a provisional ball has been played.

A ball cannot be lost on the fairway if witnessed by a marker. If the ball cannot be found, it may be dropped without penalty at the agreed spot.

Member handicaps at the start of the Winter League will be their World Handicap Index at the end of the summer season. Playing handicaps will be adjusted manually and published weekly.

Handicaps will be adjusted each week using the old CONGU system. Reductions and increases will be determined by a player's score against the Competition Standard Scratch (CSS), not by finishing position. Any player scoring better than CSS will have their handicaps reduced according to their handicap category. Players scoring worse than CSS will have their handicap increased by 0.1, subject to the buffer zone for their category.

Handicap Categories and Adjustments:

Handicap Category	Handicap Reduction	Buffer Zone
1 (0 – 5.4)	0.1 x shots below CSS	1
2 (5.5 – 12.4)	0.2 x shots below CSS	2
3 (12.5 – 20.4)	0.3 x shots below CSS	3
4 (20.5 – 28.4)	0.4 x shots below CSS	4

5 (28.5 – 36.4)	0.5 x shots below CSS	5
6 (36.5 – 54.0)	0.6 x shots below CSS	6