**NEW MILLS GOLF CLUB – TERMS OF COMPETITION**

The following General Terms of Competition apply at New Mills Golf Club, in accordance with the Rules of Golf, Committee procedures Section 5A (<https://www.randa.org/rog/committee-procedures/5#5a>)

Additional conditions may apply for specific competitions, and these can be found in the appendices at the end of this document

Note: Where the term Competitions Committee is used, it refers to any member of the New Mills Golf and Handicap Committee, or it can refer to the person responsible for organising a competition. The committee (a minimum of 3 to provide a quorum) or the person responsible for organising the competition is in charge of the competition, whose decision shall be final

**ELIGIBILTY**

* Full members, Country members, 3 Month Trial members and Junior members, who have a WHS Handicap Index, are eligible to enter weekly competitions and majors
* Full members include: 7 Day, 5.5 Day, 5 Day & all Intermediate categories
* If a member who has a 5.5 Day or a 5 Day membership wishes to play in a competition being held on a Saturday, they can do so, but they must pay a green fee

**MAJORS**

* In Gents majors the maximum playing handicap is 22
* In Ladies majors the maximum playing handicap is 36
* A player who has a playing handicap greater than the maximum major playing handicap can play in the competition and win the Major, but they must play off the maximum playing handicap (Note: Handicap calculations will be made using the player’s course handicap)
* Country members and 3 Month Trial members cannot win a major
* A player must have a complete playing record of at least 20 acceptable scores from general play or competitions to win major competitions
* 3 of these must have been returned within the 12 month period before the competition date
* Players who enter the competition but cannot fulfil the above criteria will be eligible to win any other prizes awarded on the day

**WEEKLY COMPETITIONS**

* A player must have returned a minimum of 3 acceptable scores from general play or competitions in the 12 months prior to the competition date, to win weekly competitions
* A player without the requisite number of acceptable scores may sign up and play alongside the competition to get a qualifying score at no cost
* Country members and 3 Month Trial members can win weekly competitions

**EXCEPTIONS**

* Consideration for an extension to the 12 month period for counting acceptable scores will be given for members who have been unable to play for 6 months or have been on medical hold. This will be on an individual basis and subject to the approval of the Competitions Committee. The extension would be based on the length of time the member has not been able to play, up to a maximum of an additional 12 months
* In the case of a golfer with a disability, Rule 25 which provides modifications for players with specific disabilities will apply. Further guidance on player eligibility can be found under Section 5B of the Committee Procedures (<https://www.randa.org/rog/committee-procedures/5#5d>)

**WINTER COMPETITIONS**

* All competitions in the ‘winter season’ are run by the Professional
* All competitions are team based over 13/14 holes and are Non-Acceptable for Handicap
* These competitions are played on a Saturday and open to all Full members, Country members, 3 Month Trial members and Junior members, who have a WHS Handicap Index
* Full members include: 7 Day, 5.5 Day, 5 Day & all Intermediate categories
* If a member who has a 5.5 Day or a 5 Day membership wishes to play in a competition being held on a Saturday, they can do so, but they must pay a green fee
* Entries are accepted on BRS

**ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN OPEN COMPETITIONS & INVITATION DAYS**

* All players must have a valid WHS Handicap Index and have submitted 6 Acceptable Scores (including a minimum of 3 in Competition play) within the 12 months prior to the Open Competition or Invitation Day
* Players that have not submitted the required number of Acceptable Scores may still play, but they are not eligible to win prizes

**ENTERING A COMPETITION**

* New Mills Golf Club runs competitions for Gents, Ladies, Gents & Ladies (Mixed), Seniors and Juniors
* Age Limits - For Senior Competitions the minimum age is 55 years. For Junior Competitions the age limit is 18 years
* The age of 55 & 18 comes into play on the day of the competition
* Players who hold Amateur or Professional status can play in competitions providing they have a WHS handicap index
* In mixed gender competitions the mix of the teams is decided by the competition organiser

**HOW TO ENTER A COMPETITION**

**STROKE PLAY**

* Entries are accepted for all stroke play competitions on BRS
* Entries for Saturday competitions open at 12 noon on the Friday 2 weeks and 1 day prior to the competition
* Entries for all other competitions open at 12am two weeks prior to the day of the competition
* Competitors must sign in, prior to playing in the competition, using the touch screen in the Pro’s shop and have paid the appropriate competition fee before commencing play
* The appropriate competition entry fee is shown on the appendices attached at the end of this document
* Entry fees are payable by cash or card in the Pro’s shop

**MATCH PLAY**

**Gents Section**

* Entries for all match play knockout competitions should be made on the Members Hub
* Entry fees must be paid in the Pro’s shop before the first round is played
* The Pro will send out an email when entries are due

**Seniors Section**

* The singles and doubles match play competitions are arranged by, and the draw is done by, the section treasurer who is the competition organiser, and the section secretary will notify the members of:
	+ Date of entry to the competition
	+ Entry fee
	+ Dates by which each round must be played
	+ The draw will be posted on the notice board and players need to arrange their own matches within the allocated dates

 **Ladies Section**

* Entries for the Kitchen trophy, the Ladies match play knockout, should be made on the Members Hub
* The entry fee must be paid before the commencement of the first round match

**Mixed Foursomes**

* Entries for the Mixed Foursomes should be made on the Members Hub
* Either the Gent or the Lady can choose to tee off on the odd numbered holes or the even numbered holes

**TIME OF PLAY**

* All players in singles competitions and at least one player in a team competition must report to the Pro’s shop and must pay the appropriate entry fee before playing.
* They must also sign in and collect their scorecard
* For singles competitions a label can be produced with details of the competition and handicap index/course handicap/playing handicap
* Players must be on their allocated tee and ready to play 5 minutes before the allocated starting time. The penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification except when the player arrives ready to play within 5 minutes after the starting time or plays no more than 5 minutes early, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of two strokes at the first hole (stroke play) or loss of the first hole (match play). If the Competition Committee decides there are exceptional circumstances that stopped the player starting on time there is no penalty

**HANDICAP ALLOWANCES**

* New Mills Golf Club uses WHS mandatory handicap allowances for different forms of play (<https://static.whsplatform.englandgolf.org/clubs/1000-1/uploads/downloads/whs/whs-playing-handicap-allowances-table.pdf>)
* Playing Handicaps are used for competition result purposes only
* Playing Handicap allowance tables are available in the Pro’s shop and Locker rooms and by accessing the following link (<https://eagleplus.uk.com/n/new-mills/>)
* When a player plays from a lower handicap than their entitlement eg playing off 22 in a Gent’s Major, the full course handicap will be used by the computer for handicapping purposes and the restricted handicap is only for the competition result
* Please refer to the appendices, at the end of this document, listing individual competition details for the handicap limits relating to that competition
* In a competition, such as a 36 hole competition, played over the same or successive days the handicap index of a player applying at the beginning of a competition shall apply throughout the duration of the competition
* In a match play competition in which the individual rounds have to be played by a date over an extended period of time, a player should play from the handicap index current at the time of the match

**NUMBER AND ORDER OF HOLES PLAYED**

* The Definitions in the Rules of Golf 2023 provides a definition of Round: 18 or fewer holes played in the order set by the Competition Committee (<https://www.randa.org/rog/definitions#definition-R>)
* All rounds of golf in stroke play competitions must commence from the first tee, unless a Term of Competition necessitates starting elsewhere on the course (for example a shotgun start)

**STROKES INDEXES**

* Stroke indexes will apply to holes as designated by the Committee

**TEES**

* At New Mills Golf Club:
	+ Gents Major competitions are played from the white tees in the summer
	+ Seniors competitions can be played from white, yellow or red tees in the summer, with the exception of the Vets Cup and the George Scott trophy, which are played off the white tees and the Marcliffe Cup which is played off the yellow tees
	+ Ladies Major competitions are played from the red tees
	+ Mixed stroke play competitions are played off the White, Yellow & Red tees by both Gents & Ladies giving a choice of which tee to play off
	+ General play rounds are available from all tees for all genders
	+ Winter competitions are played off the Yellow tees & Red tees for both Gents & Ladies giving a choice of which tee to play off
* The tees to be used will have a Slope Rating allocated, with appropriate stroke indexes
* Playing Handicap allowance tables are available in the Pro’s shop and Locker rooms and by accessing the following link (<https://eagleplus.uk.com/n/new-mills/>)
* At New Mills Golf Club in the Mixed Foursomes competition, either the Gent or the Lady can choose to tee off on the odd numbered holes or the even numbered holes
* In the Mixed Foursomes competition the Gents play off the White tees and the Ladies play off the Red tees
* See the appendices at the end of this document to see which tee is allocated to a respective competition

**PRIZES & HOW THEY ARE AWARDED**

**DIVISIONS & VALUE OF PRIZES**

* For Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday weekly Mixed competitions the prizes are awarded by divisions
* The split of divisions is: Playing Handicaps +5 to 12, 13 to 20 and 21 and above
* On Saturday the prizes are 1st £35, 2nd £25 & 3rd £15 per division, £20 is awarded for the best gross score
* On Saturday £1 of the entry fee is allocated to the 2’s competition. All monies collected is paid out as prizes
* On Sunday and Wednesday the prizes are 1st £25, 2nd £15 & 3rd £10. If entry fees do not cover the prizes the payouts will be adjusted accordingly
* On Wednesday there is a Mixed 9 hole Stableford competition, with no divisions
* The prize for the Mixed 9 hole Stableford competition is 1st £10
* Gents Major prizes are 1st £60, 2nd £50, 3rd £40, 4th £30 & 5th £20, £20 is awarded for the best gross prize & £20 is given for the best round by a player with a playing handicap of more than 22
* Ladies Major prizes are 1st £30 & 2nd £20
* Payment of prizes will be awarded on closure of the competition
* A monetary prize will be added to a member’s account in the Pro’s Shop
* Major trophies will be presented on Presentation evening
* Any variations of this will be shown on the appendices

**Seniors Section**

* Not all entry fees are paid out as prize money
* Some is held back for other prize purposes and any surplus may be gifted to the club
* The George Scott, VETS Cup and the Singles Champion will be presented on Presentation evening

**RETURNING SCORES & WHEN A SCORECARD IS CONSIDERED TO BE RETURNED**

* The scorecard MUST be checked & signed by the Player and the Marker
* Players should enter their scores via the computer touch screen located in the Club Foyer, before officially returning their scorecard
* A player’s scorecard is deemed officially returned to the Committee when a player has left the recording area situated in the Club Foyer
* Players must return their scorecards promptly after play
* Scores must be entered before midnight on the day of the competition
* Scorecards from club competitions and general play scores are deemed to be returned when they have been posted into the locked scorecard box in the Club Foyer
* It is not necessary for a competition to be closed for WHS handicap changes to be calculated in time for the following day’s play

**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON THE SCORECARD**

* It is the player’s responsibility to enter the following information onto their scorecard – name, date, name of the competition, handicap index, course handicap, playing handicap, gross score, net score, whether the hole was won or lost or tied in par/bogey and to work out and total their Stableford scores
* A label printer is located in the Pro’s shop and for most competitions a label containing relevant information is produced when signing into a competition and this should be affixed to the player’s scorecard
* However, the Committee will not disqualify a player, under the Rules of Golf if he/she fails to comply with the above request for detail
* It is, however, essential that the scorecard of a player can be identified and the name of the player and the gross score MUST be recorded
* If a player at the end of their round fails to enter their score in the computer system, they may be penalised using the New Mills Golf Club procedure for Players who Do Not Complete a Round / Submit a Competition Score
* New Mills Golf Club procedure for Players who Do Not Complete a Round / Submit a Competition Score can be found in the Club Systems / Members Hub in the Documents section

**HOW TIES WILL BE DECIDED**

**MATCH PLAY**

* Any tied matches must be played until a winner is determined. Under Rule 3.2a(4), the match is extended one hole at a time (beginning at Hole 1). See Section 5A(6)A of the Committee procedures (<https://www.randa.org/en/rog/committee-procedures/5#5a_6>)
* When the match is extended the Stroke Allowance will continue to apply on the extra holes played
* Please see the appendices at the end of this document for any specific details regarding playoffs

**STROKE PLAY**

* Men’s trophy ties are decided by a full 18 hole play off
* Ladies trophy ties are decided by a card play off, except the Warren Cup and the Club Trophy which will be an 18 hole play off
* The normal procedure for Saturday, Sunday and Midweek competitions is a scorecard play off using net scores
* If the points are equal, first of all use the back 9 (holes 10-18), and if they are still equal then use the back 6 (holes 13-18), then the back 3 (holes 16-18) and the back 1(hole 18)
* 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 round. If this process does not produce a winner, the competition will be considered a tie
* If the tie for first place is to be decided by a sudden death playoff, it will be start at hole no 1 (one) and continue over consecutive holes until there is a result
* Please see the appendices at the end of this document for any specific details regarding playoffs

**WHEN THE RESULT OF A COMPETITION IS FINAL**

**MATCH PLAY**

* The result of a match is final when the result is recorded on an official scoreboard or on the New Mills Golf Club Members Hub / Knockouts
* Match play competition results must be posted on the official scoreboard or on the New Mills Golf Members Hub / Knockouts by the closing date for playing the round. Failure to do so will result in disqualification for both competitors.
* It is the winner of the ties responsibility to post the result of the competition on the New Mills Golf Club Members Hub / Knockouts or on the official scoreboard

**STROKE PLAY**

* The result of a competition will be final when the competition has been closed

**CHANGING THE TERMS OF COMPETITION ONCE THE COMPETITION HAS STARTED**

* Terms of Competition should only be altered after the competition has started in very exceptional circumstances (<https://www.randa.org/rog/committee-procedures/5#5a_8>)
* The Competitions Committee or the competition organiser may only make such decisions, in exceptional circumstances. The Pro’s shop staff can be involved in the decision but only after consulting the Pro
* The number of holes in a round may not be reduced once play has started. This is a Rule of Golf

**CANCELLING A ROUND**

**MATCH PLAY**

* A match should not be cancelled once play has begun as both players in a match are playing in the same conditions, without one having an advantage over the other
* If the players stop play by agreement as allowed in Rule 5.7a or the competition organiser feels that conditions are such that play should be suspended, the match should resume from where it was suspended (<https://randa.org/rog/committee-procedures/6#6e_4>)
* (<https://randa.org/rog/the-rules-of-golf/rule-5#5_7a>)

**STROKE PLAY**

* A decision to cancel a competition depends on the circumstances of each case and should be left up to the judgement of the competition organiser (<https://www.randa.org/rog/committee-procedures/6#6e_4>)
* Bad weather may affect the number of rounds that can be played in the time available. If 50% or less competitors have completed their round the competition will be cancelled
* If more than 50% of the competitors have completed their round when the competition is abandoned, then the competitors who have not completed their round will have their fee refunded or carried forward to the next competition
* If the competition is cancelled completely, competition fees will be refunded or carried forward to the next competition

**ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY**

Due to adverse Course or Weather conditions – Deciding when to suspend play due to adverse course or weather conditions is the responsibility of the competition organiser . The Seniors committee will be responsible for decisions regarding Seniors competitions (*Exception – A player may stop play if they reasonably believe there is a danger from lightning, but must report to the Competition Organiser as soon as possible)*

Guidance on stopping and resuming play is provided under Section 6E of the Committee Procedures (<https://www.randa.org/rog/committee-procedures/6#6e>)

* No competitor can make their own decision that the course is unplayable. They can bring the matter to the attention of the competition organiser or the Seniors committee who will carry out an inspection. If the competition organiser decides the course is unplayable the competition will be suspended
* A player that is not able to complete their round when play is resumed after a suspension will not have their entry fee refunded
* If less than 50% of entrants are able to complete their round the competition will be abandoned, and all entry fees will be refunded or carried forward to the next competition
* A player leaving the course when play has not been suspended by the competition organiser will be disqualified and will not have their entry fee refunded, unless the competition is subsequently abandoned
* Players not completing their round must still return their scorecard to the competition organiser
* When the terms of a competition make scores acceptable for handicap purposes and a player played at least 10 holes prior to the suspension or abandonment of an 18 hole competition (or played all 9 holes of a 9 hole competition), the scores must be submitted for handicap purpose
* See New Mills Golf Club Local Rules Section for more information on the bad weather policy and suspension of play (<https://eagleplus.uk.com/n/new-mills/>)
* If a player becomes unwell or injured during the round and cannot continue or has to leave the course for any other reason determined to be valid by the competition organiser, the player’s score will be excluded from the competition. The player must still return their scorecard to the competition organiser. When the terms of a competition make scores acceptable for handicap purposes and the player played at least 10 holes prior to the suspension or abandonment of an 18 hole competition (or played all 9 holes of a 9 hole competition) the scores must be submitted for handicap purpose
* The decision for suspending play due to fog is made by standing on the Yellow Tee of Hole No 1 (one) and if the Crab Apple Tree in the middle of the fairway is not visible then play will be suspended
* There will be a maximum time of 1 hr for the fog to lift before the competition is abandoned
* The players should mark the position of the ball so play can continue if practical

**HOW PLAY WILL BE STOPPED**

**FOR FOG**

* If the Crab Apple Tree in the middle of the fairway on Hole No 1 (one), cannot be seen when standing on the Yellow Tee the course will be closed and play is not allowed on the course
* The decision for closing and reopening the course when the fog is lifted is the responsibility of the Pro’s shop

**FOR OTHER REASONS**

* In the case of a dangerous situation eg lightning, play will be suspended and will be signalled by using the hooter with one prolonged note. Play must cease immediately
* All other suspensions will be signalled by three consecutive notes of the hooter and players have the option of completing the hole they are on
* When play can be resumed this will be signalled by two consecutive notes on the hooter

**TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES**

* Adverse weather conditions is becoming more prevalent all year round and a number of Temporary Local Rules are available to use throughout the year. Please refer to the New Mills Golf Club Local Rules for more information (<https://eagleplus.uk.com/n/new-mills/>)

**ALTERNATE DAY COMPETITIONS**

* At New Mills Golf Club there is now little need for an Alternate Day as Gents & Ladies can play in all competitions held on Saturdays, Sundays & Wednesdays (except Major competitions)
* If an alternate day competition is arranged the following document should be used <https://static.whsplatform.englandgolf.org/clubs/1000-1/uploads/downloads/whs/alternate-day-competitions.pdf>
* An Alternate day will precede the main competition day
* Alternate days do not apply for Major competitions.
* If the Alternate day is cancelled it will not be re-arranged unless the Main day is also re-arranged

**THE USE OF CADDIES**

* The Committee has the ability to restrict the use of caddies, require the use of a caddie, and limit who can act as a caddie.
* All three options can be found within the Official Guide Rules of Golf 2023, Model Local Rules H-1.1, H-1.2 and H-1.3
* Rule 10.3b defines what a caddie may do for a player (<https://www.randa.org/rog/the-rules-of-golf/rule-10#10_3>) The Competition Committee or the competition organiser may not limit or alter these duties.
* At New Mills Golf Club the use of caddies is allowed unless otherwise stipulated in the appendices found at the end of this document

**OTHER POLICIES**

All New Mills Golf Club policies and procedures apply, as appropriate, to New Mills Golf Club competitions. They include but are not limited to:

* Code of Conduct/Disciplinary Policy
* Child Welfare Policy
* Complaints Policy
* Appeals Procedure
* Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
* Procedure for Players who fail to submit a score

All policies and procedures can be found on the New Mills Golf Club / Club V1 Members Hub / Club Docs / Club Policies or Club Procedures

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