



Internal Club Rules

For members of the Worldwide Golf Society

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1 MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership is open to anyone of good, honest and sporting character, prepared to observe the rules, etiquette and spirit of the game of golf. Membership is open to junior, senior ladies and men.

Application is made via the website and any membership queries can be addressed to info@worldwidegolfociety.com

1.1 Conditions

Each person, on becoming a member, agrees to observe the internal rules as well as the rules of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and to strictly follow the conditions governing his/her membership category.

1.2 Membership Categories

1.2.1 Gold Membership

This category requires the online purchase of a membership. The benefits of membership are outlined on the website and the Worldwide Golf Society reserves the right to amend the benefits for this category of membership.

1.2.2 Platinum Membership

This category requires the online purchase of a membership. The benefits of membership are outlined on the website and the Worldwide Golf Society reserves the right to amend the benefits for this category of membership.

1.3 Annual membership fees

Annual membership fees are set by the management of the Worldwide Golf Society and are always subject to change. Members are required to pay annual fees upon expiry of their current membership in order to continue to benefit from the golf diary, scorecard calculator, handicap recording and statistics.

Should an annual fee remain unpaid after 1 month following the renewal date, then the management of the Worldwide Golf Society reserves the right to suspend membership and all details and records held on the database, including all handicap records, golf diary entries and statistics.

2 GOLF SUBJECTS

2.1 The Rules of Golf

The game shall be played in accordance with the rules of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. These rules shall be supplemented, where necessary, with local rules applicable to the course played. All members shall ensure that both members and non members in their group abide by the etiquette and rules of the game.

All players (members and non-members) must respect, and in no way endanger, personnel working on the course.

Green-keepers have priority at all times, unless stated otherwise by the course management. They will endeavor to minimize delays to players and, where possible, allow play to continue on a hole.

All players are requested to respect and comply with all instructions. In addition, every player is required to follow the guidelines and instructions of the Club that is being visited.

With the exception of the club management, it is strictly forbidden for any player, without authorization, to move or interfere with any course fixtures (such as tee markers, benches, direction signs, colored posts, waste bins etc.).

All members are requested to consider that if a hole has no flag or tee markers then the hole is closed for play unless informed otherwise when registering at the Secretary's office of the club visited.

A player may only search for a ball in a hazard or on the course as detailed in the rules and etiquette of golf. Collecting balls from hazards is a right of the green staff.

The management of the Worldwide Golf Society reserves the right to terminate membership upon receipt of any complaints from the club visited. Any prejudice caused to the Worldwide Golf Society may result in a fine proportional to the damage caused. All legal fees and costs will be for the account of the member.

2.2 Driving-Range

Any member wishing to practice the art and technique of golf are encouraged to use the driving range on payment of the appropriate fees.

The use of practice balls is only normally allowed on the driving range.

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2.3 Tees

It is always good practice to check which tees are open for play. Most clubs will expel without refund of the green fee, any player that tees off from an unauthorized tee.

Unless otherwise specified, the following tees are indicative of their applicability; Players are requested to verify the use of tees corresponding to their category.

Exceptions can be granted by the club visited and need to be verified.

Example:

Tee	Markers	Category	Age	Handicap	
				From	Till
Back tee	White	Men		0	15.4
Front tee	Yellow	Men		15.5	36
Back tee	Blue	Ladies		0	24.4
Front tee	Red	Ladies		24.5	36
Front tee	Red	Men	< 14†	28.5	36

† Junior tees vary according to club rules. Please verify before play.

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2.4 Practice on the course

Practice on the club's course is normally not permitted.
Non compliance with this rule is regarded as a breach of etiquette.

In some clubs practice swings are forbidden on the tees.

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2.5 Causing damage

Any member or visitor causing damage to the property of the club visited or to other members shall be automatically required to make immediate payment for the damage caused. The management of the Worldwide Golf Society reserves the right to terminate membership upon receipt of any complaints from the club visited. Any prejudice caused to the Worldwide Golf Society may result in a fine proportional to the damage caused. All legal fees and costs will be for the account of the member.

2.6 Putting greens

Access to the putting greens on a course is only granted to players able to use it without causing damage. Beginners and children can normally only use the putting green under the supervision of an experienced player. Only golf shoes and sports shoes without heels are permitted.

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2.7 Bunkers

After use, rakes should be replaced in the bunker in the direction of play.

2.8 Handicap Adjustment

Handicap adjustments, whether up or down, are made in accordance with the rules applicable in the Country of play. This will be either in accordance with CONGU (Great Britain) or the slope system (rest of the world).

If a member enters scorecards for handicap purposes they need to enter them in order of date of play.

Example: A member participates in competitions whilst on holiday

The member will need to enter the cards in the correct order of date of play as soon as possible. The reason being that if you would have entered a card on the 15th of the month with handicap of 23.4 your handicap would have been adjusted up or down (either way). You could not then play off a different handicap any time before the 15th. This would be against the rules of golf as a player would have played off a false handicap in the previous competition or round, which would mean the player would have got disqualified. For this reason the member will need to enter cards for handicap purposes in the right order of play as the scorecard calculator will automatically (as in any golf club) select the handicap the member is currently playing off.

Should the member exceptionally make a mistake, they will need to contact the Worldwide Golf Society and submit the scorecards. The handicap committee will then decide if they can adjust the handicap. However, members are reminded that this can only be done in exceptional cases. The player is responsible to know his/her exact handicap at any time as in any golf club.

The Worldwide Golf Society gives its members the freedom to enter them at later dates (if, for example, you are playing on holiday and have not access to the internet), but we do expect our members to obey by the rules of golf.

All cards that are submitted for handicap adjustment, via the website "For Handicap calculation", need to be sent to the handicap committee of the Worldwide Golf Society (or at least a scan of the scorecard). The cards need to be duly signed by the player and marker. The handicap committee of the Worldwide Golf Society reserves the right to refuse any scorecards for handicap adjustment that are only entered via the website.

Any queries regarding handicap issues should be directed to the handicap committee of the Worldwide Golf Society (info@worldwidegolfsociety.com)

3 VISITORS

3.1 Players

As a member of the Worldwide Golf Society you are responsible for the behavior of your guests on any course.

Clearly your guests may only play on the course if they meet the following conditions:

Guests must possess a certificate of competency and membership of a recognised golf club or society. A minimum handicap of 36 is normally required.

Each guest wishing to play at a club or the driving range or the pitch & putt course shall pay the green fee (or practice fee) applicable on the day and register in the guest book.

3.2 Non-Players

Normally non-playing guests are welcome at golf clubs that you visit. All members of the Worldwide Golf Society are asked to ensure that you have secured permission of the club you visit to gain access to private areas of the club.

4 General

4.1 Pets

Pets are not normally permitted on the course, in the club house or on any other part of the complex that you visit.

4.2 Vehicles

Players are usually permitted to use the car park of the club that you visit. Please adhere to the signage for visitors and do not park in spaces marked for the management and players of the club.

It is normal that the club you visit will not be held responsible for damage, no matter how caused.

Members hiring a golf cart may only drive on the designated paths or fairways. It is forbidden to drive through rough, bunkers, tees or greens. Signs on the course must be strictly obeyed.

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4.3 Clothing

4.3.1 General

Only players wearing suitable golf attire are allowed access to the course.

4.3.2 Course

All members are requested to adhere to the clothing code for the club that they visit. Different clubs will define suitable golf attire.

The following clothing is not suitable for access to the course or to any club facilities.

For gentlemen and ladies

- blue jeans
- jogging or track suits
- tee shirts and brief shorts

For ladies in particular

- Low cut blouses
- Leggings, skimpy tops and hot pants.

4.3.3 Prize giving and official functions

Golf shoes are not permitted during a prize giving.

The management of the Worldwide Golf Society will state the type of clothing required for the prize giving at any of the events organised by the Worldwide Golf Society. The designations are formal or casual.

Formal means jacket and tie (men), preferably a blazer, beige trousers, white shirt and tie.

Casual means smart casual and not golf clothing.

Members and visitors not observing the required dress code can be refused admission to the prize giving and forfeit their prizes.

4.4 Infrastructure

Each member shall ensure that damage is not caused to fixtures and fittings in the bar, locker rooms, toilets. Golf clubs are not permitted in the club house. Trolleys and golf bags must be left outside or in designated places without blocking the entrances or pathways to club facilities. Players are requested to clean their golf shoes before entering the club house or other internal facilities.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times unless otherwise permitted by the club visited.

4.5 Insurance

Each member is encouraged to purchase golf insurance from a recognised supplier or broker. Numerous suppliers offer this service. A vast number are also able to do this online.

4.6 General

4.6.1 Slow play

It is good practice that the player with the lowest handicap in a flight is designated as the flight leader when playing in a competition. All members should refer to the competitions rules. It is often that in a competition that the competition committee sets the maximum time. The maximum permitted times for the following formats are typically:

- 4 ball: 4 hours 48 minutes or an average of 16 minutes per hole.
- 3 ball: 4 hours 12 minutes or an average of 14 minutes per hole.
- 2 ball: 3 hours 36 minutes or an average of 12 minutes per hole.

These times are indicative and might vary depending on the course visited.

Members are reminded that in a stableford format competition, if the member is unable to score on a particular hole, the member shall pick up the ball and consider the hole as a "no score" hole. This is good etiquette to keep the pace of play up.

Penalties: The competition committee or its delegate can impose one or two penalty strokes on one or more players in the flight if this flight does not maintain its position relative to the group in front.

4.6.2 Score cards

Players have sole responsibility for their handicaps. In case of doubt they must immediately consult the secretary at info@worldwidegolfociety.com

Score cards must be signed by a marker holding a handicap. The scorer may not necessarily be a member of the Worldwide Golf Society.

Only score cards bearing the gross score per completed hole and signed by the player and the marker will be accepted unless the format is stableford.

4.7 Conduct

4.7.1 Withdrawal from competition

Withdrawal has to be reported at least 30 minutes before the start of the competition (1st tee off) except in the case of exceptional circumstances.

A sanction will be applicable for breach of this rule.

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4.7.2 Discontinuing play without reason

Any player discontinuing play without reason during a competition will receive an official warning. Repetition will lead to suspension from the following four weeks of competition. Every effort shall be made to ensure that the remaining player can continue in the competition. The captain or his deputy (= member of the club committee) can make exceptions for urgent reasons such as sickness, injury, emergencies.

In the case of an infringement the handicap of the player will increase by 0.2.

4.7.3 Dishonest behavior

Any competitor found guilty of dishonest behavior which changes the course of the game will be disqualified and will be suspended from the club for a defined period to be decided by the committee of the Worldwide Golf Society.

Breaches of the rules of golf and etiquette observed by players on the course must be reported to the captain or secretary of the club visited.

The captain (or secretary) can subsequently discuss the breach with the player and can impose a penalty.

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4.7.4 Complaints

A complaint by the player or marker can only be dealt with if made before the card is signed. Complaints by third parties have to be lodged at the latest 30 minutes before the prize giving. In such cases the complaint must be lodged with a member of the club committee. The accused and possible witnesses will be interviewed.

After due consideration, the committee will rule on the validity of the complaint and any measures to be taken. Naturally, these will be communicated to the parties concerned.

4.7.5 Display of temper

During moments of frustration whilst playing, it is strictly forbidden to scream, to swear or to throw clubs or other golf equipment. This can not only cause damage to the course but is also very unpleasant for fellow players.

Any incidents reported to the Worldwide Golf Society will lead to sanctions.

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4.7.6 Mobile Phones

The use of mobile phones during competitions is strictly forbidden unless in case of emergency or with the approval of a member of the competition committee of the club visited.

Penalty for breach: usually *disqualification*.