**THORNBURY GOLF CLUB**

**TERMS OF COMPETITION**

***Purpose***

1. England Golf and Gloucestershire Golf Union encourage all affiliated clubs such as Thornbury Golf Club to adopt Terms of Competition. The purpose is to provide clarity for Club Members taking part in official competitions organised by the Committee and to provide certainty in the case of a dispute which, having exhausted the Club’s dispute resolution procedure may escalate into the appeal procedures of, and then be determined by, GGU in the first instance or, ultimately, by England Golf.
2. To be clear, these Terms of Competition apply only to those competitions arranged by the Committee. They do not apply to ‘general play’ rounds or rounds played in social competitions arranged by Members independent of the Club Committee or in other more formal arrangements such as the Sunday Club and L Busters.
3. Nevertheless, if such rounds are to be submitted as ‘general play’ scores for Handicap Index purposes within the World Handicap System (WHS), they must be played according to both the Rules of Golf and the Rules of Handicapping. **Club Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with both documents. The Rules of Golf may be downloaded to your phone from the R&A web site (**[**https://www.randa.org/en/rules/rules-of-golf-home**](https://www.randa.org/en/rules/rules-of-golf-home)**). The Rules of Handicapping can be downloaded from the England Golf web site** [**(https://static.whsplatform.englandgolf.org/clubs/1000-1/uploads/downloads/whs/rules-of-handicapping-17-12-20.pdf**](https://static.whsplatform.englandgolf.org/clubs/1000-1/uploads/downloads/whs/rules-of-handicapping-17-12-20.pdf)**).** Both England Golf and GGU encourage the submission of ‘general play’ scores as the aim of WHS is to reflect accurately a player’s current playing standard at any given time.
4. These Terms of Competition apply to all sections of Thornbury Golf Club EXCEPT the Junior Section. Junior Competitions are arranged by the Junior Organiser and the Terms of Competition applicable will be communicated as appropriate.

***Terminology***

1. In this document, specific terms used have the following meanings unless otherwise explicitly stated:

“Rules of Golf” *The R&A USGA Rules of Golf January 2023 and any successor Rules.*

“Rules of Handicapping” *The R&A USGA WHS Rules of Handicapping effective January 2020 and any successor Rules.*

“Committee” *The section committee organising the Competition, in practice often the individual competition organiser supported by other section committee members as appropriate*.

“Competitions Committee” *The Club Handicap Secretary and one nominee from the Ladies, Men’s, Seniors and Juniors Sections.*

“Competitions” *Competitions organised by the Committee such as medals, Stablefords, matchplay knock out and social competitions.*

“Boarded Competitions” *The premier Club Competitions where the annual winner(s) generally wins a trophy and has their name(s) recorded on the Club Honours Boards.*

***General Considerations***

***Rules applicable***

1. Competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf and any Local Rules approved by the Committee unless explicitly varied by the Committee and stated on the Competition start sheet. An example would be a variation to the Winter Rules in extreme adverse course conditions.
2. To be what is commonly known as a ‘qualifying competition’ for WHS purposes the Competition must also be played in accordance with the Rules of Handicapping. In summary, an ‘acceptable score’ is one from an ‘authorised format of play’ as determined by the ‘authorised association’ (the R&A). Team Competitions are not ‘authorised formats of play’ as defined in the Rules of Handicapping (Rule 2.1a) and are not therefore ‘qualifying competitions’.

***Transportation policy***

1. The use of motorised transport is permitted by the Rules of Golf (Rule 4.3b) for medical reasons. Such use must be approved by the Committee prior to the player, caddie or aide starting the Competition round. Only the person(s) subject to the medical exemption may use the motorised transport. Where the means of motorised transport is provided by Thornbury Golf Centre (TGC) the player, caddie or aide must abide by any rules or restrictions advised by TGC as to its use.

***Caddies and aides***

1. The use of aides in accordance with Rules 10 and 25 of the Rules of Golf is allowed but a player must not have a caddie during a round[[1]](#footnote-1).

***Suspension and resumption of play***

1. Before a Competition starts, the Committee may suspend play if the course appears to be temporarily unplayable due to adverse weather conditions such as, but not limited to, fog and heavy rain. The Competition may resume once the course becomes, in the opinion of the Committee, playable subject to agreement with TGC as to the availability of later tee times. Any player unable to play at their revised (delayed) tee time due to other commitments later in the day may withdraw from the Competition without penalty.
2. Once a Competition or a match play round has started, stopping play and resuming play should be in accordance with the Rules of Golf: Rule 5.7.
3. There is no means, such as a claxon, at TGC of notifying players on the course of imminent danger due to thunder, lightning or fog (see Rule 5.7b(1)). Players must comply with the Local Rule on the scorecard in such circumstances and the Committee will apply the discretion permitted within Rule 5.7b.
4. If, having stopped play in accordance with paragraph 12 above, the course becomes unplayable and is closed OR the Committee determine that resumption in accordance with paragraph 11 is not practicable, the Competition shall be abandoned and may be rearranged.

***Alternate day Competitions***

1. In the event that either the main or the alternate day of a Competition is cancelled the scores from the day played will stand (a) for recording of scores on WHS and (b) as the Competition result, provided there is the minimum requirement of eight players for Ladies section Competitions. However, for Ladies section Boarded Competitions the Committee reserves the right to reschedule the whole competition so the scores from the day played would be submitted for recording on WHS only.

***Eligibility***

***General***

1. Subject to any gender and/or age restrictions which may be applicable, Competitions are open to all Members of Thornbury Golf Club (hereinafter referred to as ‘Members’) other than Par 3 Members who cannot play in Competitions.

***Amateur status***

1. All Members participating in Competitions organised by the Committee must hold amateur status as defined in the R&A Amateur Status Rules (Rule 2).

***To play in all Competitions***

1. Competitions are open to Members with a WHS Handicap Index on the date of the Competition.

At the discretion of the Committee, Members without a WHS Handicap Index may take part in the Competition for the purposes of obtaining an initial handicap index but cannot win a main/voucher prize. Where a “twos” prize is available within the Competition, they may, with the agreement of the Committee, enter and compete for a share of the prize pot subject to payment of the appropriate entry fee for that pot.

***To play in Boarded Competitions***

1. In addition to the requirements set out in paragraph 17, at the date of the Competition being played and throughout the duration of multi day/round Competitions
	1. players must have Thornbury registered as their “Home Club” with England Golf.
	2. players must have a WHS Handicap Index, based on at least seven qualifying scores in their record.
	3. players must have played in at least three singles Competitions (that is weekend and mid-week medals, Stablefords and bogeys) organised by and for the Section running the Competition since that Boarded Competition was last played. In the case of knock-out Competitions the three Competitions are since that knock-out Competition last commenced. The Men’s Section allow **all** Club Mid-Week competition rounds to count towards the “three competitions”. The Seniors Section **do not** allow Club Mid-Week Competition rounds to count towards the “three competitions”. The Ladies section allow **one** Club Mid-Week Competition round to count towards the “three competitions”. For the Club, Ladies, Seniors, Veteran’s, and Par 3 Championships and the Club Hodgson Trophy **any** three singles Club Competitions will suffice.

***To play in Seniors Section Competitions***

1. Members participating in Competitions organised by and for the Seniors Section must be aged 55 or over on the day of the Competition.

***The Mid-Week Competition and the Mid-Week Order of Merit***

1. The Mid-Week Competition is open to Members of all sections. To play in the Mid-Week Competition, Members must satisfy the criteria in paragraph 17. In addition to prizes awarded as set out in paragraph 48 below, points are also awarded to the top ten places in each Mid-Week Competition. They accumulate towards a player’s overall points total in a season-long Order of Merit. The Mid-Week Order of Merit is a Boarded Competition. To be eligible for points to be awarded, a player must therefore also satisfy the criteria in paragraph 18 (a) and (b) above and have played in three singles Competitions as defined in paragraph 18c above in the 12 months preceding the date of the Mid-Week Competition being played in.

***Handicap limits***

1. While Competitions are open to players with any Handicap Index, maximum stroke allowances will be applied to all Boarded Competitions (except Best of Series and eclectics) and other Competitions as may be stated on the entry and start sheet. Unless otherwise stated, the maximum stroke allowance will be 28 (Men) and 36 (Ladies).
2. A player’s WHS Handicap Index on the first day of play in the Competition is converted to a course handicap according to the Rules of Handicapping and as shown on the table displayed by the first tee on the Marlwood Course and in the Club House. Any further adjustment to the stroke allowance, including where a maximum handicap limit is being applied, will be dependent on the format of the Competition and will be stated on the entry and start sheet.
3. In a Competition such as the 36-hole Club Championships played over the same or successive days, the WHS Handicap Index of a player applying at the beginning of a Competition will apply throughout the duration of the Competition.
4. In a match play Competition in which the individual rounds have a “to be played by” date over an extended period of time, a player should play from the WHS Handicap Index current at the time of each match.

***Entering competitions***

1. All Competitions must be entered via Masterscoreboard where they are available to enter generally at least three weeks in advance of the Competition date.
2. If the entry sheet is full a reserve list may be created and additional tee times made available, subject to agreement with TGC.
3. The entry sheet will, as a minimum, include details of the Competition format, the tee being used, whether or not the Competition is a qualifier for handicap purposes, any playing handicap adjustments and limits being applied, how playing handicaps will be calculated in pairs and team competitions, the entry fee and how it should be paid.

***Competitions other than match play***

1. If Section Treasurers are unable to collect an entry fee from a player who has taken part in a stroke play Competition, the player may be subject to a sanction, including disqualification, at the discretion of the Committee.
2. As soon as possible after the closing date a start sheet will be produced, emailed to all competitors and published on Masterscoreboard. The Committee recognises that for reasons beyond a player’s control it may be necessary to withdraw from the Competition after the start sheet has been published.

In those circumstances, the player should inform the named Competition organiser by the method stated on the start sheet as soon as possible to allow a revised start sheet to be issued.

1. Other than where the Competition is organised by and for the Ladies section, having entered the Competition (paragraphs 25-27 above), failure to play (‘no show’) will result in an entry fee being required to be paid and the player will not be allowed to enter further Competitions until it has been. A penalty score may also be applied. However, the Committee recognises that exceptional circumstances may apply and may therefore waive the sanctions set out in this paragraph having considered any explanation given by the player for not taking part.

***Match play competitions***

1. Failure to pay the entry fee as stated on the entry sheet (that is by the stated closing date in Men’s Section Competitions, and following the draw in Seniors’ Section Competitions) in a match play Competition will result in the player (and, by default, the player’s partner in a pairs format) being excluded from the draw/competition.
2. As soon as possible after the closing date for entries, the draw will be published which will include the dates by which each round must be completed. No extensions beyond the stated dates will be allowed other than at the discretion of the Committee.

***Playing in competitions***

1. In addition to playing in accordance with the Terms set out in paragraph 6 above, players shall also comply with the policies of TGC relating to:
	1. Code of Conduct/Disciplinary Policy;
	2. Etiquette;
	3. Pace of Play;
	4. Child Welfare Policy;
	5. Dress Code;
	6. Photography Consent.

All relevant policies are available on the TGC web site.

1. Players should be at the starting tee 10 minutes before their scheduled start time.
2. Players should play in the group and at the time as published on the start sheet unless otherwise advised by the Committee for any reason including, but not limited to, a delay due to adverse weather conditions or a need to balance groups as a result of late withdrawals and/or ‘no shows’ on the day.

***Player’s responsibilities at the completion of the round***

***All competitions other than match play***

1. The player must enter their score immediately following the completion of the round using the touchscreen outside the Competition office in the Clubhouse OR, if that is not available, by using the ‘score entry’ facility on Masterscoreboard. The Committee recognise that not all Members may be able to access Masterscoreboard on a mobile device and may have to wait until they have access to a laptop or PC. In that case, the gross scores must be noted, the scorecard posted as stated below and the Competition organiser informed.
2. Once the gross scores have been entered the scorecard must be posted through the letter box outside the Competition office. Failure to do so (which would include posting the scorecard in any of the metal boxes) will be deemed as failing to “promptly return it to the Committee” and will lead to disqualification (Rule 3.3b(2)).
3. The score will be deemed to have been returned when the scorecard has been posted through the letterbox as set out above. At this point no changes may be made to the scorecard.
4. The player is responsible for ensuring that the gross scores for each hole are entered and the scorecard is signed where indicated on the scorecard by both the player and the marker. Failure to do any of these will result in disqualification (Rule 3.3b).
5. The player is also requested to enter their name, the date and tee time, the competition name, their Handicap Index, course and playing handicap, the tee used, the marker’s name and the Stableford points as appropriate. This is only for the assistance of the Committee and failure to do so will not lead to disqualification.

***Match play***

1. Results should be entered as soon as possible and no later than the final date for completion of the round being played through the ‘score entry’ facility on Masterscoreboard or by notifying the Competition organiser.

***Results and prizes***

***Ties: stroke play***

1. Except where otherwise provided in the conditions of a particular Competition, all ties shall be decided on the last nine, six, three holes and finally the 18th hole. The last nine holes refer to holes 10-18. If there is still a tie, then the last six holes, three holes, and final hole of the first nine holes will be considered in turn. If a tie still arises the Committee shall decide the method of producing a result. The decision of the Committee is final.
2. In the Club Championships, ties for first place (gross scores) will be decided by a sudden death play-off over holes 4 and 9 played on a loop as necessary. 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 vouchers of equal value if prize vouchers are being awarded.

***Ties match play***

1. A game that is all square after 18 holes must continue to play until one side wins a hole. The game should continue from the hole where it began (all matches should begin on the 1st hole), and handicap strokes shall be taken in accordance with the stroke indexes on the scorecard (the continuation of the match is a new round for handicap strokes).

***Ties in the final Mid-Week Order of Merit***

1. At the end of the season the final Order of Merit table is compiled. Where two or more players are tied on points within the top 10 places, the number of appearances during the season in the qualifying Mid Week Competitions by each player will determine the order in which they are placed, with the player having the most appearances being placed above those with fewer appearances.

***Results***

1. Results in stroke play Competitions will be posted on Masterscoreboard and emailed to each participant as soon as possible after the result has been confirmed.
2. Results in match play Competitions will be available after each round is completed on Masterscoreboard. The Competition winner(s) will be notified as soon as possible after the finals have taken place and the result has been confirmed by the Committee.

***Prizes***

1. Prizes are generally awarded in the form of vouchers or credits to a player’s Competition fee account. The value and number of prizes is determined by the Committee in accordance with the format of the Competition and the number of players taking part.
2. Where the Competition is a Boarded Competition with a trophy awarded, the winner(s) will be invited to the annual Presentation Evening to be presented with the trophy. The trophy remains the property of Thornbury Golf Club and shall not leave the Club House.

***Dispute Resolution***

1. In the event that a player disagrees with a decision of the Committee in respect of a Competition that the player has entered as set out in paragraph 25 above, the player may, in writing to the Handicap Secretary, appeal to the Competitions Committee for a review of the decision. The player shall be informed of the decision of the Competitions Committee in writing.
2. If not satisfied with the outcome of the review, the player may in writing to the Club Secretary, appeal to the Main Committee for a review of the decision of the Competitions Committee. The player shall be informed of the decision of the Main Committee in writing.
3. That will exhaust the Club’s Dispute Resolution Procedure. Further appeal may be made to GGU.
1. Local Rule adopted by Main Committee of Thornbury Golf Club on 7 March 2023. Penalty for breach of Rule: General penalty for each hole during which they have a caddie and, if the breach happens or continues between two holes, the player gets the general penalty for the next hole [↑](#footnote-ref-1)