

# PONTELAND GOLF CLUB RULES

## CAPTAIN'S BELL

It is a long standing tradition of the Club, that at 1pm each Sunday, the Captain's Bell is rung in the Clubhouse Bar. At this time the Captain takes the opportunity to inform members of any matters of interest as well as announcing the results of the previous week's competitions and matches, other than those that are specifically Ladies.

It is expected that all winners of vouchers attend the Bell to receive them from the Captain. If prize winners are unable to attend, apologies should be conveyed to the Captain. This can be done via the Office, e-mail or phone.

## DEFINITIONS of terms used in this article

**MEMBER:** PLAYING MEMBER aged 18 years and over on May 1st. Within these Rules there may also be specific reference to gender

**JUNIOR:** JUNIOR PLAYING MEMBER aged Under 18 years on May 1st. Within these Rules there may also be specific reference to gender.

**5-day MEMBER:** Playing Members (play restricted to Mon- Fri). This category is now closed. (NB: SENIORS are Playing Members aged 60 years and over on May 1st and are included in the 'MEMBER' or '5-day MEMBER' categories above).

**SOCIAL MEMBERS:** Non-playing Members.

Ponteland Golf Club applies the Rules of Golf as approved by The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and the CONGU Unified Handicapping System.

## 1. THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME OF GOLF.

Unlike many sports golf is played for the most part without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be.

## 2. COURTESY ON THE COURSE

### 2.1 Safety

Players must always give consideration to the safety and schedules of green keepers at work and to other players where in particular the close proximity of tees and greens could lead to the possibility of accidental injury to others by stray golf balls. The matter of holding **Insurance** is one all members are urged to consider.

**Lightning:** In the event of lightning occurring in the vicinity of the course it is Club policy that play **must** be suspended. Any player continuing to play will do so at their own risk. The current rules are posted in the Clubhouse.

## 2.2 Care of the Course

Each day, before the start of play the green keepers will ensure the course is fit for play. Members and guests are requested to respect and maintain the standards of course preparation so that their pleasure is extended to those who follow them. Bunker rakes should be replaced in the holders provided. Playing members are asked NOT to clean their golf shoes etc in the car park.

## 2.3 Preventing Damage to the Course

Golf bags must not be placed on putting greens nor should trolleys and buggies be taken on to teeing areas, Players are required to REPAIR PITCH MARKS, REPLACE DIVOTS and RAKE BUNKERS, thus leaving the course in the condition you would expect to find it.

**DOGS are not permitted on the course, practice ground or on Club premises** (other than those used by green-keepers for pest control etc and guide dogs within the Clubhouse).

## 2.4 Practice

The practice ground is that area of ground lying to the right of the first fairway. It is a facility for Members, managed by the Professional. Those using this facility should have respect and consideration for others and be particularly careful when using it. **Practice is strictly forbidden on the golf course. Repeated practice swings on tees are prohibited.**

## 2.5 Local Rules

Local Rules concerning play and the course are printed on the score cards. Any further amendments or additions are published in the Clubhouse and on the 1st tee notice board.

## 3. TEE TIMES

All playing members' tee times are now booked on-line. The internet is now also freely available in the Clubhouse for members to do this. Clear instructions are provided. Members must first register to book on-line following the links from the Club's web site ([www.thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk)).

For Gents' Saturday Competitions, times become available in the Clubhouse **only** from 8.00pm to 10.00pm on the Friday eight days beforehand. Remaining times go on-line after 10.00pm with a final few (previously 'red') times being released on-line from 8.00pm on the Monday of the Saturday Competition week.

For Ladies' Friday Competitions, times become available on-line from **9.00am 2 weeks** beforehand. A small number of reserved times will be released on the following Monday at 6.30pm. Bookings for all other days (including both Wednesday & Sunday Competitions) are made **up to 8 days** in advance of the day of play. The rules concerning starting times, format of play etc are detailed below.

Members who have times booked receive confirmatory emails. Should players NOT be able to play it is THEIR duty to remove their names from the system.

## 4. COMPETITION RULES

### 4.1 Entry

A player entering a Club competition must be a playing member of the Club on the date of the competition, with an active CONGU handicap. The Entry Fee for a competition must be paid before commencing play.

#### **4.2 Cancellation/Suspension of Play**

The Rules of Golf will be interpreted and applied as appropriate by the Committee. (Rule 6-8, Discontinuance of Play, Resumption of Play and Rule 33-2d, Course Unplayable).

#### **4.3 Scores and the Club's Computerised Scoring System**

All score cards including nil returns, **must** be returned immediately after finishing play. All players entering singles competitions **must** enter their scores into the computer system even when the card records a nil return. Players failing to enter their scores in the computer without good reason will be assumed to be 'nil returns'. Repeated instances of this failure may lead to disciplinary action by the Committee.

#### **4.4 Tee to be used**

Competitions, including Knock-out match play Competitions, must be played from MEDAL TEES (White for men and Red for ladies) unless the rules of the particular competition state otherwise.

#### **4.5 Competition Starting Times, playing format and priority on the Course.**

**4.5.1** The on-line tee booking system operates on 8 minute intervals for individual competitive play and 10 minute intervals for 4 ball competitive play.

**4.5.2** On all Competition days the latest time for starting play is 5.30pm. On Fridays & Saturdays the format of the day is mandatory up to 3.30pm. On Mondays & Wednesdays there is no format of the day but those playing in an individual Competition **must** play in 3 (or 2) balls. After these times any format (including social golf) is permissible other than 4 ball individual play which is NOT permitted. On Fridays, Lady Competitors have priority throughout the whole day- i.e. up to 5.30pm. All players are reminded to avoid slow play.

#### **4.6 Club Stroke Play Competitions**

For Club stroke play competitions other than the Club Championship, in the event of a tie in an 18-hole stroke play competition on handicap terms, the result will be decided on the last 9 holes, 6 holes, 3 holes, 2 holes, 1 hole, in that order. If there is still a tie, it shall be decided on the first 6, 3 in that order. In the event of a competition for a trophy (other than the Captain's & Vice Captain's Prizes) that leads to a play-off, the play-off is to be played without delay and with handicaps applicable to the original day of the competition.

#### **4.7 Club Match Play Competitions [This Rule has changed]**

Amicably & within the spirit of the game, in each Club match-play round, the first named player(s) must offer two weekday dates and **two** weekend dates and the second named player(s) must either accept one date or concede the match. It helps arrangements if contact is made between players immediately after the preceding round.

**All matches must be played by the stated dates and no extensions will be granted.** However, a general extension may be given by the Captain in extenuating circumstances. Rounds are spread

evenly across the season. Where no result appears on the board at the stipulated time, disqualification of both competitors will be automatic. Halved matches must be settled by arrangement between the competitors. Finals for the Ted Reid Trophy, Woosington Cup and Kirkley Rose Bowl competitions will be played over 36 holes. All other finals are over 18 holes

#### **4.8 Handicap Alteration**

**4.8.1** Changes in playing handicaps will be made on the day the qualifying score becomes known or as soon as possible thereafter. It is the responsibility of each player to report all qualifying 'Away' scores to the Secretary as soon as is practicable, if only to confirm the electronic transfer of scores via the CDH. The official register of up-to-date handicaps is available using the touch screens and paper copies are kept in the Clubhouse. Handicap Certificates are available from the Secretary or via the EGU web site. This site can be accessed via the Club's web site.

**4.8.2 Inactive Handicaps** If a player fails to return at least 3 qualifying scores per annum, their handicap will be marked as 'inactive'. Exemptions are permitted for those with health/injury problems, or those who have been out of the country, preventing them from returning the required number of qualifying scores. For more information or to find out what to do once your handicap is deemed inactive, please contact the Secretary.

#### **4.9 Forfeiture of Membership**

The Articles of Association deal with forfeiture of membership. **Pursuant to this, a Member whose subscription in respect of any financial year is not paid before 1st June is not qualified to play at Ponteland or represent Ponteland Golf Club until the matter is resolved.**

### **5. GOLF COURSE/CLUBHOUSE<sup>5</sup>.**

#### **5.1 Conduct of Members**

The Articles of Association deal with the Expulsion or Suspension of Members. Reference copies of the Articles can be found in the Clubhouse or from the Secretary.

#### **5.2 Dress Rules**

**Smart casual dress is allowed on the course and in the clubhouse, with the exception of denim clothing, tee shirts, football and rugby shirts, track-suits and trainers. (On the course players must wear golf shoes).**

Members and visitors may have different interpretations of what constitutes "Smart Casual" dress.

**The following requirements will ensure uniformity.**

Tailored shorts may be worn on the course and in the clubhouse but must have a length just above the knee with button or zip fly and be worn with knee length or ankle length sports socks. Gents' and boys' shirts must have collars and sleeves and be tucked in. For ladies and girls, shirts with collars may be sleeveless and shirts with round necks must have sleeves. There are appropriate notices displayed in the Clubhouse.

#### **5.3 Clubhouse and Bar Opening Hours**

A notice stating the opening and closing hours for the Clubhouse and the bar are displayed in the Entrance Hall. Members are requested to co-operate with staff in observing these times.

#### 5.4 Catering

A notice stating hours of availability and scope of menu is displayed in the entrance hall and in the entrance lobby leading to the ladies' locker room.

#### 5.5 Membership

The Articles of Association deal with Resignation of Membership. (**Note: The Club year ends on 30th April and annual subscriptions are due on 1st May**)

#### 5.6 Visitors

Visitors must pay the appropriate current green fee before commencing play.

When introduced by and playing with a playing member (other than a junior member under the age of 18 – see 6.1.4 below), a visitor may play at a reduced fee up to a maximum of seven times in any club year. A playing member may introduce and play with up to three visitors on any occasion, subject to restrictions on playing format on the day. Visitors are not permitted to play on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays without securing prior approval. Guests of Members visiting the Club socially must be 'signed in' by the introducing member, in the Visitors Book in the entrance hall of the Clubhouse.

Members must insert their NAME and SWIPE CARD NUMBER in the appropriate columns.

### 6. JUNIOR MEMBERS

The date on which age is taken is the 1st May of the year in question. In addition to being familiar with the RULES that apply to all categories of Members, Junior Members must also be aware of the following:

#### 6.1 Under the age of 18:

##### 6.1.1 Clubhouse (see rule 5 above)

Junior Members are welcome to use the lounge and bar areas during normal hours. Junior Members have a responsibility to adhere to the required standards of dress, tidiness of the premises and behaviour necessary to ensure mutual enjoyment of the clubhouse facilities by all members and visitors.

##### 6.1.2 Starting Times (see Rule 3 above)

##### 6.1.3 Club Competitions [**This Rule has changed**] (see Rule 4 above & Definitions)

- a) **Junior Male Members.** This category now extends to members up to 19 years of age on May 1st. There are **no restrictions** for juniors with a maximum exact handicap of 8.4) entering or winning **any** Club Competition. For juniors with an exact handicap of 8.5 or more, they **must** play with a full playing member and in singles play they compete for the junior prize. In 'Board Competitions' only therefore, the maximum junior handicap is 8. No junior may enter the Harry Hill Tankards Competition or Gemini, irrespective of playing handicap.
- b) **Junior Lady Members** must have an official CONGU handicap and play with an Adult Playing Member in Club Comps.

#### **6.1.4 Visitors** (see rule 5.6 above)

Upon payment of the correct green fee before commencement of play, a Junior Playing Member may introduce **one** visitor only. Restrictions on starting times may apply (see above)

### **7. PRACTICE AREA**

**The practice ground is situated to the right of the first fairway and is for the exclusive use of Club Playing Members. A specific part of the ground is now reserved for practice and golf balls for this part (only) must be acquired from the Professional. Members must consider the safety of others who may also be using the practice ground generally.**

### **8. USE OF BUGGIES**

A Buggy may be driven only by the person(s) to whom it is allocated, who must be aged 18 and over. No more than 2 persons may use a buggy. Buggies must be driven with care and consideration for all others at all times. Buggies must be driven well clear of greens and tees at all times. Members (and guests) using their own buggies **must** inform the Professional before playing, to sign the appropriate waiver declaration.

### **9. MOBILE PHONES. [This Rule has changed]**

**In the interests of all players, the non-emergency use of mobile phones on the golf course is NOT permitted. Members may carry phones FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY. Members and guests are required to leave the public areas of the Clubhouse should they need to use their phone. Members are directed to Rule 14-3 of the Rules of Golf.**

### **10. GENTS LOCKER ROOM ENTRANCE/EXIT.**

This entrance/exit may be used by **any** member or guest requiring EASY ACCESS who also requires the use of the STAIR LIFT. An EASY ACCESS Toilet is situated on the landing above the Ladies' locker room.

### **11. CAR PARK.**

Members and guests with high sided vehicles should park their vehicles to avoid obscuring the views of other parked cars required by our security cameras. Members should take care when parking and driving through the car park. The Ponteland Golf Club Ltd accepts **no** responsibility for vehicles parked anywhere on Club premises. The car park is not the place to clean golf equipment/shoes etc.

### **12. MEMBERSHIP (SWIPE) CARDS.**

Membership cards are issued to all members. These cards are to be used to enter the Club (main entrance, plus gents' and ladies' locker room entrances). The cards are also used for purchases at the bars in accordance with the general instructions and each member's number is printed on the card. (Cash may be added to a member's card by payment at the bar). The cards are also to be used for tee bookings, golf competition entry and handicap confirmation.

**OFFICE HOURS:** The office opening hours are displayed on the office door. Health & Safety issues of concern to members should be referred to the Secretary.

**Note:**

**As we move forward, these Rules are subject to change as lessons are learned. The Committee remains determined to act in a fair, open and non discriminatory manner at all times and always in the best interests of the Club & its members.**