

Winter League

Formats of Play & Terms of the Competitions

“It is the responsibility of each player to know and follow the Terms of the Competition”.

The competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited and Local Rules approved by the Committee.

1. **NON-QUALIFYING COMPETITION** - Handicap Indexes are not affected.
2. **ELIGIBILITY:**
 - **PLAYERS** - Each team player must be a member of Thorney Lakes Golf Club.
 - **HANDICAP INDEX** - Players must have a Handicap Index.
 - **HANDICAP INDEX LIMIT** – Course Handicap Limit for this competition will be 24. Players with a Handicap Index above 24 may enter but must play to the Course Handicap Limit set out under the terms of the competition.
3. **HOW TO ENTER** – Teams are organised and entered by the players themselves.
 - **TEE TIMES** - Tee times for all these matches must be booked through the Pro-Shop.
 - **ENTRANCE FEES** - Entrance fees must be paid at the time of entry. The entry form and entrance fees must be placed in the specially prepared envelopes provided in the Pro-Shop before the advertised closing date.
4. **COMPETITION FORMAT** - This competition has two stages. First stage will be a League format followed by a Knockout format.
5. **FORMAT OF PLAY:**
 - **MATCH-PLAY (Four-Ball)** A form of play (in either match play or stroke play) involving partners where you and your partner compete together as a side, with each of you playing your own ball. Your side's score for a hole is the lower score of the two of you on that hole.
 - **ORDER OF PLAY** – All matches will start from the 1st tee. Any matches found to be in breach of this term will be disqualified.
6. **HANDICAP ALLOWANCES:**
 - **HANDICAP ALLOWANCES – 2024 RULE CHANGE – TEAM BETTERBALL (PAIRS)**
The application of allowances in Better Ball team match play events has been changed so that the % is applied to the difference, rather than to the individual.
 - The full Course Handicap is calculated and then strokes received are calculated (using 90%) using the difference from the lowest to highest, which equates to Strokes Received (Playing handicap) for each golfer.
 - **NOTE** – Players will use their current Course Handicap at the time of the League phase draw and will continue with this Handicap for the duration of this competition, until they are eliminated.

- **NOTE** – The strokes received in Four-Ball match play remain the same even if the lowest handicap player is unavailable to play.
 - **STROKE INDEXES** - Players will use the stroke indexes relevant to the tees being used by the players.
7. **COURSE TEES** - Yellow Tees will be used for the duration of the competition. Players with a Handicap Index allocated from the Red Course must play from the Red Tees.
8. **LEAGUE FORMAT:**
- **TEAMS** - Teams will be randomly drawn and organised into leagues. The number of teams per league will be based on the total number of team entries.
 - **Note** - A team can be represented by one team member.
 - **TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES** - Teams must arrange their own league matches. All matches must be completed by the stipulated date that has been set under the terms of the competition.
 - **SCORING FORMAT (Points)** – Points will be awarded for match results. Win = 3 points, Half = 1 point, loss = 0 points.
 - **NOTE** -Match scores will also be used to separate teams, with teams placed in highest score sequence. If still level the head-to-head between the two teams will be used. All matches will record the score at the end of game (example A beats B 2&1, A scores +2, B scores – 2, all square both teams score 0).
 - **NOTE** - Teams that do not complete their league matches by the date set under the terms of the competition, will be awarded 0 points.
 - **NOTE** - If a team withdraws at any time during the league stage, all points and scores from the games previously played will be null and void.
 - **NOTE** – Results for conceded matches will be +2 & -2
9. **KNOCKOUT FORMAT:**
- **MATCHES** - Single elimination matches played over 18 holes (including sudden death if needed) to determine the winners and losers of each match.
 - **TIED MATCHES/SUDDEN DEATH (Match-Play)** - If the match remains tied after 18 holes, the match is extended one hole at a time until there is a winner.
 - **NOTE** – Stroke given or received during sudden death will be relevant to the holes being played, as this is a continuation of the same round.
 - **TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES. (Knockout Stage)** - it is the responsibility of the first named team in each section of the draw to contact the opposing team and organise the match date and time. The organising team are to offer 2 practicable alternate dates, preferably at weekends due to restricted daylight hours. If the opposing team cannot make any of the dates offered, then the organising team will claim the match.
 - **Note** – One team member can represent their team.

10. **SUBSTITUTES:**

- Before the first match of the competition, teams may use a substitute. The substitute must then continue to play in all subsequent matches thereafter until they are eliminated from the competition, as a “one-event” substitution is NOT permitted.

11. **CONCESSIONS/STROKES TAKEN (MATCH-PLAY)**

- Players’ attention is drawn the Rules of Golf 3.2a (Match-Play) which provides specific guidance, particularly about concessions and giving information about the number of strokes taken.

12. **ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS/STOPPING PLAY, RESUMING PLAY**

- **BEFORE STARTING A MATCH** - Teams may agree to reschedule the match due to adverse weather conditions.
- **DURING A MATCH** - Teams may agree to suspend play due to adverse weather conditions.
- **NOTE** – Team’s attention is drawn to The Rules of Golf – Rule 5.7 which provides further specific guidance on when players may or must stop play before or during a round.

13. **RESCHEDULED & SUSPENDED MATCHES:**

- All rescheduled or suspended matches must be completed within the timeframes set out under the terms of the competition. If teams are unable to agree to play within this timeframe, based on evidence presented, the Committee will decide which team progresses to the next round to maintain the draw progress. The Committee’s decision is final.
- **TIMEFRAME EXTENSIONS TO LEAGUE & KNOCKOUT PHASES:**
- Timeframe extensions will only be implemented if the course has been closed for an extended period (more than 1 week). The terms of the competition allow teams to be represented by one player, so teams entering this competition do so on the understanding that extensions will NOT be implemented due to a team member being unable to play for any reason other than compassionate grounds.

14. **NOTE** – This competition is played over 18 holes.