

Allendale Golf Club

Club Rules

Revised 1 October 2023

Introduction

Allendale Golf Club is registered with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) that is:

- open to the whole community;
- organised on an amateur basis; and
- has, as its main purpose, the provision of facilities for and promotion of participation in an eligible sport - golf.

The Club is committed to the principles of equality and diversity throughout its membership, its paid and volunteer workforce and any others with whom the Club engages. The Club considers that everyone should play their part in making golf inclusive and will not disadvantage any individual by imposing conditions or requirements which cannot be justified.

1 Membership

- 1.1 Membership of the Club is available to everyone, upon the payment of an annual subscription for their appropriate membership category as set out in the then current Membership Application Form. There is no limit on the number of members.
- 1.2 Any changes to the membership categories and their associated subscription rates are agreed at the Club's Annual General Meeting (AGM). All playing members aged over 18 years are entitled to vote at the AGM.
- 1.3 **Membership disks:** All playing members must ensure that current year membership disks are clearly visible on their golf bags.
- 1.4 **Juniors and Intermediates:**
 - i. Junior members must be under 18 years of age on 1 January of the current calendar year. There is no minimum age restriction for Junior membership.
 - ii. Children under 12 years of age, including junior members, are not allowed unsupervised by an adult on the playing area of the course.
 - iii. Intermediate members are aged between 18 and 30 years.

2 Guests

- 2.1 Any member over the age of 18 years shall be entitled to introduce guests to the Club provided that no person whose application has been declined or who has been expelled from the Club shall be introduced as a guest.
- 2.2 No more than four guests may be so introduced by a member on any single occasion.
- 2.3 **Visiting players:**
 - i. All visitors, including members' guests, are very welcome to enjoy the course and Clubhouse on payment of a current green fee, as set out on the Club's website (*allendale-golf.com*).

- ii. Green fees are payable in advance of playing. They may be paid online, at a discount, using the tee booking system on the Club's website or, in the Clubhouse foyer, by credit card or with cash in the honesty box.

Note: Online bookings have tee priority and greatly facilitate the Club's financial administration.

3 Captains' roles

- 3.1 A Men's and Lady Captain will take up their roles at the start of each year and hold their posts for that calendar year. Future Vice Captains will be nominated each year by the Club's past Captains and shall become the nomination for Captains at the following year's Annual General Meeting.
- 3.2 At Allendale, our Captains play important roles. They represent members and are welcome to attend Committee meetings where they can exercise deliberative voting rights. As necessary, they liaise directly with those Committee members responsible for competition administration and course management.

4 The Course

- 4.1 Playing members shall have the use of the course each day subject to any restrictions imposed by the Committee for competitions and matches organised by the Club. Playing members are expected to book their tee off times using the current, computer-based booking system.
- 4.2 **Closing the course:** Responsibility for closing the course due to weather conditions rests with the Head Greenkeeper; but if he is unavailable, any member of the Committee. The decision is final.
- 4.3 **Courtesy on the course and care of the course:**
 - i. The Captains shall have priority on the first tee at all times.
 - ii. Players playing in competitions have priority over those playing social golf.
 - iii. Groups playing together in pairs/team competitions or social golf shall be limited to a maximum of 4 players.
 - iv. Players commencing a round on the 1st hole shall alternate with those commencing the 10th hole.
Note: To facilitate this convention, players on or approaching the 9th green who intend to play the 10th hole should ensure their equipment is placed near the path to the 10th tee.
 - v. Players are expected to play at a prompt pace and in a manner that avoids unnecessary delay.
Note: Specifically, play out of turn to help the pace of play (rule 5.6b) and apply the 3 minutes rule when searching for a lost ball (rule 18.2a).
 - vi. Players searching for golf balls or otherwise delaying those following should allow them to play through.
 - vii. All divots and pitch marks must be repaired and care taken to avoid damage to greens due to careless removal of flagsticks or spike damage.
 - viii. Bags and trolleys are not allowed on the greens.
- 4.4 **Dress on the course:** Players are expected to maintain a respectable standard of dress when playing the course. Shirts must not be removed.
- 4.5 Each player on the course - whether a member or visitor - will play with a separate bag of clubs.

Note: In the Clubhouse changing rooms a number of sets of clubs, with golf bags, are available for use on the course.

5 Competitions

- 5.1 All Club and Open Competitions will be played under the current official Rules of Golf and the Local Rules set out on the Club's score cards.
- 5.2 Club and Open Competitions will be authorised and administered by the Committee and/or those members nominated, from time to time, as a de facto Competitions Committee. They will have the final decision on any competition arrangements and disputes.
- 5.3 Competition tee-off times shall be between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. or as decided by the Committee.
- 5.4 All individual competitions shall be played with a maximum of 4 balls.
- 5.5 Players' handicaps for all competitions shall be determined by the rules and guidance of the *World Handicap System (WHS)* and administered using the *HandicapMaster* computer system.
Note: At the Committee's discretion, appropriate maximum handicaps may be set for specific competitions - typically, for example, Open competitions.
- 5.6 All score cards (including uncompleted rounds) must be returned immediately on completion of a round, duly signed by the player and the marker. Cards not so completed will be disqualified. It is the player's responsibility to ensure the score details are correct.
- 5.7 Ties between two or more competitors will be decided, successively, on the better/best net score over the last 9 holes, last 6 holes, last 3 holes and then by the last hole. If after this series there is still a tie, then the same sequence of comparisons will be applied to the first 9 holes.
- 4.8 **Club Championships:** To compete in the Club Championships, playing members must have played in a minimum of three Club singles competitions since their previous Championship entry.
- 5.8 **Knock out competitions** will be drawn by the Club Secretary, with dates set by which the competition rounds must be completed. Responsibility for arranging matches by the relevant due date is shared equally by the two players/pairs involved. The Secretary will disqualify any competitor(s) who fail to play a match by the relevant due date.
- 5.9 **Trophies:** The winner of any Club trophy will be responsible for its safekeeping and maintaining its good condition until its return.
Note: All trophies will be presented at the end of season Presentation Evening and they must be returned in good order at least four weeks before that event.

6 Clubhouse

- 6.1 The Clubhouse will normally be open every day of the year for the use of members and visitors. Specific times each day, along with any occasional days, will be fixed at the discretion of the Committee, when it may be closed.
- 6.2 **Notices:** No notice of any kind shall be posted in the Clubhouse except by the express permission of the Club Secretary or Committee.
- 6.3 **Dress in the Clubhouse:** Shoes worn on the course may be worn in the changing rooms and foyer of the Clubhouse. Cleaned, non-spiked shoes are permitted in the Clubhouse but other footwear worn on the course is not.
- 6.4 Players using the changing rooms are expected to leave them in a clean and tidy condition for the benefit and use of other players.

7 Supply of alcoholic drinks:

- 7.1 The purchase for the Club and the supply by the Club of alcoholic drinks shall be exercised, controlled and managed by the Committee in accordance with current national and local licencing laws.
- 7.2 No alcoholic drink or other article for which a licence is required shall be supplied to any person under the age of 18 years.

8 General

- 8.1 **Insurance:** Under the terms of their annual English Golf subscription, each member is covered for personal liability in the event they are found to be negligent for causing injury to another person or damage to third party property while playing or practising golf at any golf club or recognised practice facility in the UK, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
- 8.2 There is no excess in respect of personal injury claims and a £500 excess in respect of damage to third party property
- 8.3 All other aspects of insurance cover are the personal responsibility of Individual members.
- 8.4 **Car parking:** Members and visitors should use the car park in an orderly manner, with due regard for other users' requirements.
- 8.5 The Committee will organise and administer any special, overspill parking arrangements, if necessary, on 'large event' days. Otherwise, all cars are to be parked in the car park to avoid any obstruction of the adjacent public road.