

Additional (Temporary) Covid-19 Local Rules

As we once again embark on our expansive Competition schedule we must be aware of the continuing risk associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic and make 'Local Rule' adjustments to protect golfers whilst also playing within permissible rules of golf as advised by the Governing bodies. By adopting the following Local Rules (in conjunction with all other Local Rules already in operation) the Golf Club can once again offer competitive, qualifying golf.

Before and after your round all current safety guidelines, as laid out by RGC Management must be adhered to.

During your round, all Social Distancing and non-touching of on-course equipment measures as advised by Governing bodies and/or RGC must be strictly adhered to at all times.

Bunkers :

Bunkers are in play but as there are no rakes players may choose to adopt preferred lies such that a player may place a ball in the bunker within 6" of the original spot and not nearer to the hole than that spot without penalty. The sand cannot be smoothed before playing the ball.

*{R&A states "If, as a result of there being no rakes, the Committee decides to introduce a Local Rule relating to bunkers, the Committee should **consult its handicapping authority** for guidance on whether scores submitted under such Local Rule are acceptable for handicapping purposes."}*

The above is relief ruling is based on information in : [CONGU website \(CONGU Decision 23/3/2020 \(Updated 05/05/2020, further update 11/05/2020\)\)](#)}}

We would ask that upon leaving any bunker a player should do his/her best to smooth out any disturbed sand using a foot or club.

Bunkers that have been taken out of play and are either being re-seeded or left to grow out are GUR (even if not marked such) and free relief applies as previously.

Be aware that a few Bunkers (mainly the 2 mid-distance 'fairway' bunkers on holes 1 and 2) have been re-shaped/extended and areas immediately around those bunkers (clearly visible as fresh 'turf' are currently marked GUR – the Bunkers are in play, only the marked, recovering areas are GUR!!

On The Greens :

Every avenue has been visited to provide holes and flagsticks that comply with current Covid-19 restrictions and the following guidance is given :

In Matchplay where 'gimmes' are allowed, a ball coming to rest within 12" of the hole may be considered holed-out with the next shot and picked up appropriately. This does not prevent a player in matchplay conceding a stroke that is outside this length.

Balls in strokeplay competitions must be holed-out.

A ball is considered holed-out when it comes to rest in the modified cup arrangement with any part of the ball sitting below the surface of the green.

Should any part of the cup be standing proud of the surface and a ball comes to rest against part of the plastic form of that cup, the ball will be deemed holed-out.

Speculation as to whether a ball 'should' have dropped into the cup or not should not be considered – the ball is either holed-out or conforms to the clauses above. A ball that runs across the hole or touches the flagstick but does not drop is not holed-out.

Competition Booking, Signing In & Scorecards :

For as long as the Covid-19 restrictions apply the following guide applies :

Our PSI unit in the Pro Shop is disabled and Members must book into competitions either through How Did I Do or with the Pro Shop Staff.

You can not Sign in on the PSI system on the morning of a competition. Pro Shop Staff will book you in upon payment of entry fee.

Cash is not accepted at all in the Clubhouse and there will be a contactless EPOS (Electronic Point Of Sale) device presented to you to swipe your Debit/Credit card for entry fee (including 2's payment if applicable). The Staff Member will mark you as having paid and what you have paid for with a tick on the Shop copy of the Start Sheet just as normal. *(If you cannot pay by contactless there may be a chip and pin entry method available but this will mean use of the input keypad and the possibility of contamination!!)* **Contactless will be the the normal method of payment!!** Sorry, there will be no competition entry without payment by card, in any circumstances!

Scorecards are NOT to be exchanged. Players are allowed to mark their own card during these unprecedented times; please ensure you fill all the required boxes on your scorecard to avoid disqualification! 18 scores, your current handicap, and your signature are mandatory! Please also enter your name, competition name and tick the white (red for Ladies) tee used box. You are required to mark your own score (in Player A column) and the score of your chosen playing partner (just as before) so that cross-checking is possible. Upon completion of your round you and your playing partner **MUST** do a full crosscheck of both scorecards to ensure there are no errors or disagreements. Once checked and verbally agreed by both players the player **MUST** then sign his/her card as confirmation that his/her score thereon has been checked, agreed upon and is correct - no signature will be an instant DQ! Maintain Social Distancing and no handshakes.

Using the safe one-way system, post your correctly completed scorecard in the box provided in the Pro shop. Do not linger – post and leave! Do not congregate on the car park.

Please do not expect a fast turn-around of competition results as there will be many checks to be carried out to ensure player numbers, number of cards returned and entrance fees all tally. Just as with the 'no cash' restrictions put in place your score cards will require some time before they can be safely handled for the checking process and eventual closing of a competition.

Because your entry fees will now be in the form of an electronic payment we will not have cash available to pass on to the Pro Shop Staff for Member Account credits to be made. Prize money will have to be processed 'virtually' from the Club's Bank account into Members' accounts. Initially this may take longer than normal as we find a workable solution but you **WILL** get your winnings – please be patient as we all get to grips with this new regime.

Thank You

The Committee (June 2020)