



# Cambridgeshire Area Golf Union

## 2019 GENERAL TERMS OF COMPETITION

**The following General Terms apply to all CAGU Championships and must be read in conjunction with the "Hard Card".**

**Note:** a. All references to England Golf in the Hard Card should be read as CAGU.  
b. The word "Competition(s)" includes all CAGU events e.g. "Championships", "Tournaments", "Finals" etc.

### 1. Annual CAGU Competitions

- a. CAGU officers will arrange competition venues and dates.
- b. An annual fixture list, together with details of each competition will be displayed on the CAGU website ([www.cagu.co.uk](http://www.cagu.co.uk)). In addition they may be issued to each affiliated club (display poster with attached entry forms) and/or otherwise generally advertised.

### 2. Rules of Golf, Local Rules, Conditions of Competition

All competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf and such Local Rules and Terms of Competition as shall be approved by CAGU.

### 3. Player Eligibility/Qualification

In order to represent the County (including in "friendlies") and to play in any County competitions:

- a. **Amateur Status.** A player must be an amateur as defined by the Rules of Amateur Status. (The County Open is an exception to this condition).
- b. **Affiliated Club.** A player must be a member of a club affiliated to CAGU (The County Open is an exception to this Condition) or, to represent the County in England Golf's Qualifying Competitions for the Boys', Men's or Seniors' County Finals (as well as The Finals themselves), have been born in the County and be a member of a club affiliated to another English County Union.
- c. **Represented Another County.** A player shall not have played for another county in inter-county matches (including friendlies) or played in another county's championship (Men's, Boys' or Seniors') in the same calendar year. However:
  - i. A player shall not play for his new county in either the English Men's, Boys' or Seniors' County Championships (Qualifying Rounds or Finals) if he has played for another county in representative matches, including friendlies, in the same calendar year.
- d. **Players Moving from One County To Another.** If there is agreement between the counties from which and to which the player is moving, the player may play for his "new" county with immediate effect. Exceptions:
  - i. A player shall not play for his new county in either the English Men's, Boys' or Seniors' County Championships (Qualifying Rounds or Finals) if he has played for another county in representative matches, including friendlies, in the same calendar year.



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- ii. A player shall not play for his new county in the same League as his old county in the same calendar year.
  - e. **Arbitration.** With regard to c. above, if arbitration is agreed between counties concerned, it shall be arranged by England Golf's Championship Department, whose decision shall be final.
  - f. **Players Moving to England.** Boys and seniors excepted, such players must be resident in England from 1 January of the year in which the competition, including an inter-county match/competition, is played.
  - g. **Eligibility for Inter-Club Competitions.**  
In any CAGU inter-club competition e.g. The Scratch Foursomes Leagues, The Goddard Cup, The Team Shield and The Jock Stewart, a player must not have played for any other CAGU Club in any such competition in the same calendar year.
  - h. **Handicaps.**
    - i. All players shall have a current "competition" handicap. Exceptions:
      - Club members in CAGU inter-club scratch match play competitions
      - Professionals in The County Open
    - ii. Current handicaps are the responsibility of individual players. If a player is in doubt about his handicap, he must explain the facts, as known, to the Competition Organiser/Committee beforehand and, at the latest, when registering at the venue.
    - iii. Handicap restrictions/conditions may be in effect for particular competitions.
  - i. **Age Criteria.**
    - i. **Boys' competitions.** A player must be under 18 at 00:00 hours on 1 January of the year in which the competition is to be played. In the case of a competition restricted to lower age groups, a player must be under the age for the competition concerned at 00:00 hours on 1 January of the year in which the competition is to be played.
    - ii. **Seniors' Competitions.** A player must be aged 55 or over on the day the competition starts.
4. **Competition Entries**
- a. **Receipt of entries.** All entries must be received by the Competition Organiser by midnight on the date entries close. Note: Subject to the Competition Organiser's sole discretion, late entries may be accepted if total entries are fewer than the maximum allowed for the field.
  - b. **Maximum Fields and Reserves.**
    - i. **Scratch Competitions.** If entries exceed the maximum number for a competition, entrants with higher handicaps (except exempt players) will be "balloted out" in order of their exact handicap as at the closing date of



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the competition. In such a case, a reserve list will be compiled and should a vacancy arise, places will be offered in priority order according to exact handicap on the entry form.

- ii. **Handicap Competitions.** Entries will be accepted in order of their receipt up to the maximum number for the competition. Therefore, for handicap competitions, **opening** as well as closing dates will be advertised. Should entries exceed the maximum number for the field, a reserve list will be compiled and should a vacancy arise, places will be offered according to the order of entry receipt.

Note: In the case of vacancies arising close to the date of competition/start of play, places may be offered depending on which reserve(s) can be readily contacted. Further, a reserve who is present at the venue at the start of the competition may be offered the vacancy. Should there be more than one reserve in attendance, such reserves will be invited to play in the order they are listed on the reserve list.

## c. **Payment**

- i. All entries must include payment, either by cash, cheque (payable to "CAGU") or by debit/credit card. Entries without payment will not be accepted.
- ii. Entry fees will not be refunded unless written/e-mail notice of withdrawal is received **before** the closing date for entries, except to any entrant who may be "balloted out" and/or placed on a reserve list **and** who does not subsequently compete.

## d. **Methods of Entry**

- i. All entries to CAGU Championship events must be made on-line via the CAGU website ([www.cagu.co.uk](http://www.cagu.co.uk)). In order to enter on line, an entrant must possess a CDH (Central Database of Handicaps) ID number. Payment will be taken when the on-line entry is submitted. Unsuccessful entrants (b. & c. above) will be refunded to the same card after the closing date for entries, unless they are on a reserve list, when the refund will be after the competition.
- ii. For scratch competitions, a player's **exact** handicap at date of entry must be recorded on the entry form.

- e. **Committee Approval.** All entries are subject to the approval of the Competition Committee, which reserves the right to refuse entry without giving reasons for its decision. Such a decision shall be final, subject to 3e. above ("Arbitration").

## 5. **Withdrawals**

- a. If a player, a pair or a club/team withdraws from an event, that withdrawal is final and re-entry will not be allowed. The entry fee will be forfeit if the withdrawal is after the closing date for entries.



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- b. Any player, pair or club/team:
  - i. withdrawing from an event after the draw has been published, or
  - ii. failing to register in accordance with 6 below, or
  - iii. failing to appear to play in the competition, or
  - iv. having qualified to continue in an event fails to do so \*

must, without delay, furnish the Competition Organiser with a satisfactory explanation, confirmed in writing/e-mail. Failure to do so may result in the player, pair or club/team being barred from entering or playing in CAGU competitions for such a period as CAGU's Officers may decide.

**\*Qualifying for final rounds of The County Championship: Determining the cut mark.** If a competitor, who has posted a two round total score that will qualify for the third round, withdraws before the third round draw is made, that competitor's score will still be used to calculate the leading number of places and ties which determine the cut mark.

## 6. Registration

Players must register in person at the competition venue's registration desk at least half an hour before their start time. Failure to register by this time may, at the discretion of the Competition Organiser/Committee, result in the player forfeiting his place, which may be offered to a reserve. In such circumstances, the player concerned will also forfeit his entry fee.

## 7. Practice

Practice before or between rounds: Rule 5.2 applies

- a. Match play: On any day of a competition, or a match in a CAGU competition, practice on the competition course is allowed.
- b. Stroke play: Rule 5.2b applies.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF PARA. 7B ABOVE:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> BREACH GENERAL PENALTY**

**2<sup>ND</sup> BREACH DISQUALIFICATION**

**Note:** All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of a competition.

- c. **Practice rounds. One ball only** may be played, with the following exceptions:
  - If a player misses the green with his shot to the green, he may play one additional shot.
  - Where the Rules of Golf apply (e.g. provisional ball).
  - A player may practise putting (but **not** chipping or bunker play) provide play is not unduly delayed.



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## 8. Tees

Unless otherwise decided by the Competition Organiser/Committee or covered by a specific Condition of Competition for an event, in men's and seniors' competitions and the Boys' County Championship, play shall be from white tees. In other competitions, tees will be specified in the Conditions of Competition for the event, subject to the discretion of the Competition Organiser/Committee on the day.

## 9. Clubs and Ball

Clubs and balls must comply with the R&A Equipment

### a. Conforming Driver Heads and Golf Balls

Model Local Rules G-1 and G-3 are in effect.

### b. The groove and punch mark specifications

Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.

**Note:** An updated List of the above equipment is available on the R&A's website ([www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)).

## 10. Caddies

- a. In all men's and seniors' competitions there are no restrictions on the use of caddies or who may act as a caddie.
- b. Unless otherwise specified in the Conditions of a particular competition, in all junior competitions caddies are prohibited. Model Local Rule H-1 is in effect.  
Penalty for breach – General Penalty for each hole that breach occurs

## 11. Transportation

Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect: "Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised or later approved by the Committee."

**PENALTY FOR BREACH – GENERAL PENALTY FOR EACH HOLE THAT BREACH OCCURS**

**Note:** See also CAGU's Transportation Policy (Use of Golf Buggies), which provides for people with disabilities ([www.cagu.co.uk](http://www.cagu.co.uk)).

## 12. Time of Starting (Rule 5.3a)

All players in a group must be present and ready to play at the time established by the Committee and should report to the starter at least five minutes before their start time. See also General Condition 6: Registration.

## 13. Player Conduct

(For those representing the County, see also CAGU's "Code of Conduct for County squad members" published on the CAGU website).

The following conditions, together with any additions or amendments published at the course, will apply to all CAGU Competitions, **including practice days**.



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- a. **Dress Code**
  - Players and caddies may wear tailored shorts and (predominantly) **white** sports socks.
  - Off the course at the competition venue, a minimum standard of dress is also required: collared golf shirt or polo neck sweater, trousers (not jeans), socks and appropriate footwear (street shoes). Flip flops, trainers, golf shoes and stockinged feet are not permitted in the clubhouse.
  - This dress code also applies to practice rounds.
- b. **General Behaviour**

During a competition (including practice days), players must conduct themselves according to the provisions and 'spirit' of the Etiquette section of the Rules of Golf. Furthermore, they must ensure their behaviour does not compromise the reputation of CAGU and must not, for example, swear, spit, abuse others, throw clubs or purposely damage the golf course, clubhouse or other club property, or otherwise act in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute.
- c. **Trolleys** must not be taken onto tees or between a greenside bunker and the green and/or onto fringes of greens.
- d. **Mobile Phones (including pagers and similar devices):** May **not** be used on the course (including on practice days) by players or caddies for making/sending or receiving calls or texts except in cases of emergency.

If a serious breach of the above Conditions occurs, or where there are repetitive breaches, a player may be disqualified under Rule 1.2a for a serious misconduct and/or may be barred from entering or playing in CAGU competitions for such period as the County's Officers may decide.

## 14. Advice in Match Play Team Competitions

Model Local Rule H-2 is in effect.

- a. Each team may appoint one person (in addition to the persons from whom advice may be asked under Rule 10.2b), who may give advice to members of that team. Such person must be identified to the Competition Organiser/Committee before giving advice.
- b. That person may not:
  - i. walk on to a putting green
  - ii. give advice to a player on or around the putting green when the player's ball lies on or has been lifted from the putting green.

### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION: GENERAL PENALTY**

**Note:** Hard card Local Rule 12 (distance-measuring devices) applies to team captains in both stroke play and match play competitions. If a team captain uses a device to provide any information in breach of this Local Rule, such information sought and received by a player from that team captain or given by that team captain and willingly received by a player, will be a breach of Rule 4.3.



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## 15. **Returning Score Card**

A player's score card is deemed officially returned to the Committee when posted in the score card return box provided and he has left the recording office/area.

**Note:** Players must **promptly** return their score cards to the score recorders.

## 16. **Inclement Weather**

If, in the opinion of the Competition Organiser/Committee, it becomes impossible to complete a competition in accordance with that competition's Conditions because of adverse weather or other circumstances, the Organiser/Committee may vary the Conditions to the extent necessary to achieve a result within the time available.

## 17. **Referees, Doubts and disputes**

- a. A referee will usually accompany a match play final and a referee/referees will normally be available at stroke play competitions.
- b. Referees are present to assist competitors where any doubt or dispute arises during a stipulated round. In these circumstances the referee's decision is final.

In the absence of a referee, any dispute or doubtful point on the Rules must be referred to the Competition Committee, whose decision shall be final.

## 18. **Decision of Ties**

### a. **Play-offs**

- i. Ties for first place in The County Championship will be decided by a four-hole play-off over holes to be determined by the Competition Committee.
- ii. Other CAGU competitions require a "sudden death" play-off to determine the winner (see conditions for particular competition).
- iii. If a play-off in any CAGU competition 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 prizes.

### b. **Matching Score Cards ("Countback")**

Ties for first place in competitions other than those listed in 18 a. i. above, and for other prize places in all competitions shall be determined as follows:

- i. **In a four round competition**, ties shall be decided on the 4<sup>th</sup> round, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and then the 1<sup>st</sup> round.
- ii. **In a three round competition**, ties shall be decided on the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and then the 1<sup>st</sup> round.
- iii. **In a two round competition**, ties shall be decided on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and then the 1<sup>st</sup> round.



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- iv. **If i ii or iii above should that fail to produce a result**, then ties shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the last completed round. If a tie still arises, it shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the first nine holes of the last completed round. If a tie still arises, each of the preceding rounds played shall be treated in the same way (taking each round in the reverse order to that in which they were played) until a decision is reached.
- v. **In a one round competition**, ties shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the second nine holes of the round. If a tie still arises, it shall be decided on the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes of the first nine holes of the round.

## 19. Results of a Match and When Competition Closed

- a. Match play: The result of a match is deemed officially announced when it has been recorded by the Competition Organiser.
- b. Stroke play: The results of the competition are deemed officially announced and the competition is closed when the Trophy is presented to the winner.

## 20. Trophies and Prizes

- a. Prizes shall be awarded on the basis of "one player – one prize", except where two or more trophies are competed for concurrently.
- b. A winning club or individual(s) will be responsible for a trophy from the time it is presented until it is relinquished. In order for the trophy to be engraved, it shall be returned to the Competition Organiser or other designated person two months prior to the next playing of the competition.

## 21. Sweeps

In men's and senior's competitions only, these may be provided at the discretion of the Competition Organiser.

## 22. Liability

Neither CAGU nor the Club at which a competition is held shall be responsible for the loss of or damage to equipment or personal possessions.

## 23. CAGU Policies, Procedures, Codes

The following apply:

- Transportation Policy (Use of Golf Buggies), which includes provision for those who have a disability
- Safeguarding Policies
- For those representing CAGU, Code of Conduct for County squad members.

These documents can be viewed and downloaded from the CAGU website.

## 24. Ready Golf

In stroke play events players are encouraged to play out of turn in a safe and responsible way (Ready Golf - Rule 6.4b(2)).





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Examples of playing out of turn without endangering other players on the golf course, whilst also being aware of player etiquette, include:

- Hitting a shot when safe to do so if a player farther away faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options.
- Shorter hitters playing first from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait.
- Hitting a tee shot if the person with the honour is delayed in being ready to play
- Hitting a shot before helping someone to look for a lost ball
- Putting out even if it means standing close to someone else's line
- Hitting a shot if a person who has just played from a greenside bunker is still farthest from the hole but is delayed due to raking the bunker
- When a player's ball has gone over the back of a green, any player closer to the hole but chipping from the front of the green should play while the other player is having to walk to their ball and assess their shot
- Marking scores upon immediate arrival at the next tee, except that the first player to tee off marks their card immediately after teeing off