

CLUB RULES

RULES OF THE BLACKBURN GOLF CLUB

1.
 - (a) The Club shall be called "Blackburn Golf Club" and purposes of the Club are to provide facilities for and to promote the amateur sport of Blackburn and community participation in the same
 - (b) Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport of golf on application regardless of sex, age, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, religion or other beliefs. However, limitations of membership according to available facilities are allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.
 - (c) The Club may have different classes of membership & subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose significant obstacle to people participating.
 - (d) The Club Council may refuse membership, or remove only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport of Golf into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members.
 - (e) If anyone has a grievance relating to discrimination they must, in the first instance, put that grievance in writing to the Honorary Secretary and this will be considered by the Club under its Grievance Procedure.
2.
 - (a) Members of the Club shall consist of Ordinary Members (i.e. Full Playing Members, Six and Five-day and Casual Members and Honorary Members aged 18 and over), Country, Life, Full Time Student, Social and Junior Members (up to the age of 18) and the number of Members shall be at the discretion of the Council.
 - (b) Ordinary Members and Life Members shall be the only persons entitled to receive notices of, or to attend or vote at any Annual or Extra Ordinary General Meeting or to nominate or elect Members of the Council.

DIGNITARIES

3. The Dignitaries of the Club shall be the President, Captain, Lady President, Lady Captain, Captain-Elect, Vice-Captain, Lady Captain-Elect, and Lady Vice-Captain. They shall be proposed, seconded and elected at each Annual General Meeting. They shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire but shall still be eligible for re-election from year to year. Ordinary or Life Members of the Club shall be the only persons entitled to be elected as a Dignitary.

TRUSTEES

4. The assets of the Club shall be vested in three Trustees who shall be appointed by the Council. They must be either an Ordinary or Life Member. The Council shall have the power to remove any of the Trustees and all vacancies occurring by removal, resignation or death shall be filled by the Council at their next meeting. The Trustees shall deal with the assets of the Club as directed by resolution of Council (of which an entry in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence) and they shall be indemnified against all risk and expense out of the Clubs assets.

COUNCIL

5. The Council shall consist of the President, Captain, Lady Captain, Captain-Elect, Vice-Captain, Lady Captain-Elect, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and eight other Ordinary Life Members. These eight members shall serve for a period of two years from the date of their election in General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-election. The Vice-Captain on completion of their year of office shall retire. Five members of Council shall be a quorum.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL

6. The election of Members of Council shall take place in the following manner:

(a) Any two Ordinary Life Members of the Club may nominate an Ordinary or Life Member to serve on the Council, having previously obtained his/her consent. The name of each Member so nominated shall be affixed to the notice board in the Clubhouse, seven days at least before the Annual General Meeting.

(b) A list of nominations in alphabetical order, with names of proposers and seconders, shall be affixed to the notice board of the Club five days at least before the Annual General Meeting. Should there be more nominations than vacancies, balloting lists shall be prepared containing the names of the candidates, and each Member present at the Annual General Meeting shall vote for up to the maximum number of candidates as there are vacancies by secondment. If the election does not give a clear result to the appointment of Council Members then those candidates who are tied into the ballot to fill the remaining place(s) shall be voted upon by a second ballot of the General Meeting.

CASUAL VACANCIES

7. The Council shall have the power to fill any vacancy on the Council which may occur casually by secondment. The Ordinary or Life Member so elected shall only serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

8. The Chairperson for that year shall be voted for by all members of Council present at the first meeting of the year, and shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Council, and shall be entitled to vote. In their absence at any meeting another member of the Council elected by Members present shall be Chairperson for that meeting. In case of an equality of vote, he/she shall have a second or casting vote, except as otherwise provided in these Rules.

POWERS OF COUNCIL

9. The Council, in addition to the powers otherwise specifically conferred upon them, shall have control of the finances of the Club. This shall include the power to authorise by resolution the Trustees to purchase, sell, mortgage, charge, lease, surrender, exchange, or otherwise acquire or dispose of land or any interest in land or any part of the assets of the club, provided that the power to sell shall not include the sale of land or any interest in land unless approved at a General Meeting. The Council shall also have the power to engage, control and dismiss the club servants' and such administrative powers as may be necessary for the club in accordance with these Rules. The Council shall meet at least once per month.

COMMITTEES

10. The following standing committees of the Council shall be appointed annually by the Council and normally shall meet at least once a month. The Council shall appoint a Chairman for the year for each committee.

House Committee
Social Committee
Competitions & Handicaps Committee
Greens Committee
Finance Committee.

Committee shall consist of no less than three Ordinary Life Members. Members of the club who are not Members of Council may be co-opted to committees.

HONORARY SECRETARY

11. The Honorary Secretary must be a Full or Life Member and is proposed, seconded and elected at each Annual General Meeting. They shall conduct the correspondence, and shall have the custody of all documents and records belonging to the club. They shall keep full and correct minutes of all proceedings.

HONORARY TREASURER

12. The Honorary Treasurer must be a Full or Life Member and is proposed, seconded and elected at each Annual General Meeting. They shall keep accounts and shall post in the clubhouse, at least ten days prior to an Extra Ordinary General Meeting, the Annual Statement and Balance Sheet of the club to 31st March for the previous year. The Statement and Balance Sheet shall, prior to posting, have been previously certified by the Club's Auditor.

AUDITORS

13. The Auditors shall be appointed at an Extra Ordinary General Meeting to be held under rule 12.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

14. Candidates for all classes of membership (other than Life and Honorary Members) must fill in an application form which will be submitted to the Council, any applicant will be admitted as a Member or not by a simple majority Council vote.

ENTRANCE FEE AND SUBSCRIPTION

15. The Council shall have discretionary power to fix and vary from time to time the entrance fee. The annual subscription for all classes of Members shall be fixed in General Meeting. All classes of Members shall on election pay as their initial subscription one twelfth of the appropriate yearly rate for each unexpired month of the current Club year which ends on the last day of March. Council shall have the power to offer reduced

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

16. All annual subscriptions and locker fees are payable in advance on the 1st day of April. No Member whose subscription and locker fee is in arrear can compete for any golf prize (except for Competitions played in the month of April). Any Member whose subscription and locker fee is unpaid on the 14th April shall cease to exercise the privileges of membership and his or her name may be erased from the books of the club, but may be restored by the Council on payment of all arrears plus an administration fee to be set by the Council year to year.

LIFE MEMBERS

17. On the recommendation of the Council, an Ordinary Member may be elected a Life Member at any General Meeting of the Club, and shall thereafter be entitled to all the privileges of membership without paying the annual subscription or any special payment for such life membership. A two thirds majority of those present and voting shall be necessary at such election.

COUNTRY MEMBERS

18. Ordinary Members of the Club residing beyond a radius of 20 miles from the Clubhouse may continue their membership as Country Members as from the end of the then current year. A Country Member shall not be entitled to win any medal or prize.

LADIES

19. Lady Members shall. Elect a Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Handicap Secretary and a committee to manage the affairs of the Ladies' Section subject to the overriding authority of the Council.

JUNIORS

20. Juniors up to the age of 18 shall be allowed to play on the Course and use the Clubhouse on such terms and subject to such special restrictions as Council may from time to time determine. On attaining the age of 18 they shall be invited to apply for Ordinary Membership from the first day of April following their 18th birthday.

RESIGNATION

21. A Membership may, at any time by giving notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary, resign membership of the Club, but shall continue to be liable for any annual subscription due and unpaid at the date of resignation.

EXPULSION

22. To expel a Member from the Club, Notice shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary, signed by twenty Members, acquainting him/her with the circumstances that give rise to such notice. The Hon. Secretary shall then communicate with such Member the details of the notice (so that he/she shall have the opportunity of explaining or withdrawing from the Club). The Hon. Secretary shall call a meeting of the Council, which is empowered to decide the question. If a two thirds majority of the Members of the Council present, vote for expulsion the Member shall be expelled. Any Member so expelled shall have the right of appeal to an Extra Ordinary General Meeting to be summoned within twenty-one days of expulsion, when a majority of two – thirds of those present and voting shall be required to confirm the expulsion. If the expulsion is not confirmed at the General Meeting, the Member shall be re-instated. Any Member expelled in accordance with the Rules, or otherwise ceasing to be a Member of the Club, shall forfeit all rights to, or claims upon, the Club or its property.

VISITING GOLFERS

23. Any Member may introduce visiting golfers (except those who have been expelled from the Club or whose application for membership has been before the Council and not accepted) to the privileges of the Course and Clubhouse. Such visiting golfers shall abide by the terms and conditions determined by the Council and prior to enjoying the privileges of the Course and Clubhouse shall pay such green fee as shall be fixed by the Council. The provisions of this Rule shall apply to members of visiting teams taking part in an organised game and also to Captains, Honorary Secretaries, and Honorary Treasurers of other Golf Clubs, subject to the requirement of payment of a green fee being relaxed.

A visiting golfer not being a Member of a recognised Golf Club, who resides within seven miles of Blackburn Town Hall, shall not use the Course on more than six days in any one club year.

GUESTS

24. Any Member shall be entitled to introduce guests to the Club provided that the persons being introduced have not been expelled or banned from the Club or whose application for membership has been before the Council and not accepted. The Member introducing guests shall be responsible for the behaviour of their guests.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held each year in the month of January at such time and place as Council shall determine.

EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

26. The Council may call an Extra Ordinary General Meeting when any urgent or important question shall arise. On receiving a requisition signed by thirty Ordinary or Life Members of the Club (or one fifth of membership whichever is the less), or by a Member who has been expelled by the Council and desires to appeal to an Extra Ordinary General Meeting, the Council shall be bound to call an Extra Ordinary General Meeting within seven days of the next Council Meeting. Any requisition so received, must set forth the motion or business to be submitted to the Extra Ordinary General Meeting.

NOTICE OF MEETING

27. At least twenty one days before the date fixed for any General Meeting, notice of such meeting shall be posted on the Main Notice Board. At least fourteen days' notice of any General Meeting shall be sent by email (with individual Members consent), or by letter if this is withheld, specifying the business to be transacted, the day, place, and hour of the meeting to every Member entitled to vote.

ALTERATIONS TO CLUB RULES

28. These rules may only be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at an Annual General Meeting or an Extra Ordinary General Meeting duly convened in accordance with Rules 25 and 26. No amendment to any motion to alter the Rules shall be accepted unless a copy of the proposed amendment, along with the names of the proposer and seconder, is received by the Hon. Secretary before the expiration of seven days from the date of sending such notice of motion. The Hon. Secretary shall immediately post in the Clubhouse a copy of such amendment received. No motion for alteration of, or amendment of, or addition to the Rules shall be valid unless it is passed by two-thirds of the Members present at the meeting and voting thereon.

VOTING

29. Unless otherwise provided in these Rules voting shall be by a simple majority.

DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS

30. (a) All surplus income or profits are reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

(b) Upon dissolution of the Club any remaining assets shall be given or transferred to another registered CASC, a registered charity or Golfs governing body for use by them for related community sports.

BYE-LAWS

31. The Council are empowered to make, appeal and amend such Bye-Laws (not inconsistent with these Rules) as they may from time to time consider necessary for the wellbeing of the Club, which Bye-Laws, repeals and amendments shall have effect until set aside by Council or a General Meeting

COMPLAINTS

32. All complaints shall be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary, who, if he shall be unable to deal with them, shall submit them to Council, whose decision shall be final, in no instance shall a servant of the Club be reprimanded by a Member.

CLUB PROPERTY

33. No Member shall take away, or permit to be taken away from the Clubhouse, under any pretence whatever, or shall damage or destroy any newspaper, pamphlet, book or other article, being the property of the Club

NOTICES

34. No Member (other than a Committee Member) shall place or alter any notice or placard, written or printed, in the Clubhouse, without the sanction of the Hon. Secretary.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

35. Members are required to pay all expenses they incur on their behalf or for their guests, in the Clubhouse or on the Course, before they leave.

ADDRESSES OF MEMBERS TO BE REGISTERED

36. Every Member shall communicate his or her address to the Hon. Secretary. In the event of a change of address Members must inform the Hon. Secretary, in writing, as soon as possible. Such address shall be inserted in the Register of Members, and all notices sent by post to such address shall be deemed to have been duly delivered on the day following the day of posting.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES OF GOLF AND CLUB BYE-LAWS

37. Every Member shall be bound by, and submit to the Rules of Golf as adopted from time to time from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, and the Bye-Laws of the Club.