



EAST CHESHIRE INTER-CLUB RULES 2024 A, B & Plate Teams

1. The Association shall be known as the East Cheshire Inter-Club Shield and shall be administered by a Committee consisting of:
 - Chairman, serving for one year. Their Golf Club will also host the Final and AGM.
 - Honorary Secretary, to be nominated in club alphabetical order, serving for two years and a third year shadowed by the incoming secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer, to be nominated in club alphabetical order, serving for two years.
 - Four delegates from different Clubs, serving for two years.
Club delegates shall be nominated from playing members of handicap teams. Nominations to be taken from clubs in alphabetical order.
 - Incoming Secretary, serving for one year shadowing the outgoing secretary and then two years
2. All clubs to be affiliated to the Cheshire County Ladies Golf Association (CCLGA).

Please note that ECICS do not provide liability insurance for golf courses or players.
3. When agreeing to host a semi-final or final round, clubs are encouraged to allow players to have a courtesy round.
4. Each club to pay an initial entrance fee of £10 and an annual subscription of £10 per team entry, plus an admin fee, currently £10 per club or as otherwise agreed by the AGM.
5. Teams of five players for A team and seven players for B and Plate teams shall be chosen in order of their **EXACT** competitive WHS Handicap Index on the date of the match. Each player will have six qualifying cards entered onto the WHS Handicap Index in the previous 12 month rolling period. The Match Secretary is responsible for checking that the player has the required number of cards. Team selection to be based on actual Handicap Index the Friday prior to the match but the Order in which the team plays on the Monday is determined by the Handicap index at the date of play.
6. Teams should be entered into leagues according to players WHS competitive handicaps as they apply at the time of application to ECICS as follows:
 - a) An A team should be entered first, followed by a B team and a Plate team, if sufficient players are available.
 - b) If a club has three players under a handicap of 18, then that club should field an A team. The A Team has 5 Players and B & Plate Teams have 7 Players.
 - c) If a club has an A team, then the next team to be entered should be a B team.
 - d) If a club has no A team, AND does not qualify to field an A team, AND has five players under 24, then that club should field a B team.
 - e) If a club has a B team, then the next team to be entered should be a Plate team.
 - f) If a club has no A team, AND has no B team, AND does not qualify to field an A or a B team, AND has five players under 36, then that club may field a Plate team.

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7. The maximum Handicap Index that shall be used during matches are as follows.

A Team -	16.0
B Team –	27.0
Plate Team –	33.0

With the World Handicapping System now in place, the team players chosen should be based on **THEIR HOME CLUB HANDICAP INDEX.**

- a) The Slope Rating of the match venue being played on the day is then used to calculate the Course Handicap for each Player.
 - b) Players with a higher Handicap Index are allowed to play, but Course Handicaps should be calculated based on the maximums (e.g. A 'B' Team Player with a Handicap Index of 33 may play for the B Team but their Course Handicap calculation must be based on an Index of 27.
 - c) Match Secretaries must have access to the WHS Handicap Index List at all Matches.
8. When handicaps of individual players change during the course of the season the status of the team will not be affected.
9. Clubs running two or more teams must start their teams in order of exact handicap according to the availability of players. (To clarify: The first 5 players who normally play in the Monday matches are an A Team, the next 7 who normally play in the Monday matches are the B Team and the next 7 who normally play in the Monday matches are the Plate Team, i.e. any player who does not normally play in the Shield Monday matches is not to be included when assessing whether a player is an A, B or Plate Team player).
10. Where there are two or more players on the same playing handicap Index, the placing of these players is decided on their exact handicap . Players on the same exact handicap may be played in any order.
11. A player must play for her home club (i.e. that from which she receives her Handicap Certificate).
12. Handicap Certificates to be produced at all matches. Alternatively, computer printouts will be accepted.
13. The EXACT handicap of each player is to be placed against her name in all matches. Shots given in matches will be full difference in handicap. **No player to have more than one shot per hole.**
14. Any player playing off an incorrect higher handicap or in the wrong handicap order will be disqualified.
15. Should any player fail to be available to play within **15 minutes of the time fixed for the first game to start**, her opponent shall score a walkover. It is the opposing Team's Match Captain's responsibility to implement rule 15, should it be necessary to do so. However, common sense should prevail and any decision made should be at the discretion of the Match Captain. Should there be extenuating circumstances, then it is left to the Match Captain to either apply the rule to the letter, or be a little more flexible, but also reasonable. Any decision should be made before the Match Captain goes out on the course.
16. Golf Buggies are allowed in this Competition for REGISTERED disabled competitors and those with a medical condition, but at the discretion of the Home Club Match Captain.

The East Cheshire Shield is a Golf Community run by a committee of volunteers for the competitive enjoyment of ladies golf

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17. If thunder and lightning occurs during a match, i.e. in the immediate area, the teams must vacate the course and take shelter. If it persists they are allowed to wait the maximum of one hour. If unable to resume play, the match will be postponed. Match Captains of the day will either confirm resumption of play or fix another date. (See rule 19b Sheltering is allowed during matches by the mutual consent of the individuals in each match).
18. If a player is unable to continue for any reason, the game should be awarded to their opponent as a 1 up win, unless the position of the match is dormie at the time a player is unable to continue, in which case a half is given. Score to be recorded at actual time of retiring (Notes to be made against the score in case it is significant in final results).
19. A match may be rescheduled or postponed:
- If the course is officially pronounced unplayable or if the Match Captains of the clubs or their deputies agree that play is impossible due to the weather conditions. Both teams must be present, in order to reach a mutually agreeable decision.
 - The home team must give three dates, if a mutually agreeable date cannot be made, they must record a halved match. This rule will also apply to an abandoned match where no team has recorded 4 or more wins.
 - If a CCLGA fixture or local public event is occurring on the same day.
 - If the host course has more than two temporary greens or there are other exceptional playing conditions, such as temporary tees, dropping in the rough, teeing up, playing off mats or any kind of trolley ban. The host club must notify its opponents before the date of the match. The visiting team has the right to refuse to play. The match may be played on the visitors' course. Should similar conditions apply on the visitors' course, the match shall revert to the original course, or teams can agree an alternative date which is within the match deadline. The requirement to play one 'home' and one 'away' match stands.
20. Team walkovers are **not permitted**. Clubs are reminded that a full team need not necessarily be played but a minimum of THREE players (A team) FOUR players (B and Plate team) MUST play, absent players scoring a loss for their team. The penalty for a breach of this Rule may at the discretion of the committee be a ban from the Competition for that team the following year. The opponents of a Club unable to field a team shall score a win, being given 3 matches for A team and 4 matches (in cases of a count-back) for B and Plate team. The defaulting team shall score no matches. In any case of exceptional difficulty, at the discretion of the Honorary Secretary, teams in the same league may be offered some extension to complete their matches.
21. All protests must be made in writing and can only be lodged by the Match Captain within one week of the match and she shall previously acquaint the Match Captain of the opposing team of her intention to appeal and her grounds for so doing. The Match Captain, or her nominee, of any team entered for the Competition may protest against any breach of the Rules made by any other team and she must lodge this protest within one week of the date when she had knowledge that an alleged breach had occurred. The Committee, whose decision shall be **FINAL**, shall settle all disputes.
22. Any changes in Match fixture dates received at the AGM should be confirmed and agreed within 3 weeks of the AGM. A club having more than one team out on the same day is not a valid reason for altering match dates. Change of match dates should only be considered if there is a clash of dates with the club e.g. pre-booked external competitions hosted at the club. **Dates for ALL fixture alterations must be notified to the Honorary Secretary.**

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23. Results of all matches, on the sheets provided, in detail, are to be sent to the Match Coordinators by the home team only.
24. All matches are to be played on a Monday. A Shield, B Shield and Plate matches being "all square" after 18 holes shall be recorded as halved but any match played in the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals shall be played to a conclusion, until a result is obtained. If matches go to extra holes, stroke allowances are repeated. Matches remaining on the course may be informed of the team result, but may play to the 18th if both players wish to do so, and the result recorded. **ALL COMPETITORS MUST GIVE THEIR RESULT TO THE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE BEFORE LEAVING THE COURSE OR MEETING UP WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE TEAM MEMBERS. THE OFFICIAL SHOULD NOT HAVE TO SEEK THE RESULT.**
25. A team, B team and Plate competitions:
- Clubs shall be divided into groups in a manner decided by the Committee; each Club playing at home and away. The draw for the groups of competing teams to be made at the AGM.
 - The winners of each group shall play off for the final in a manner decided by the Committee and determined by the number of groups. If your club is hosting a quarter, semi final or final and you qualify you will play at an alternative venue.
 - For the A team :3 players must have played in two matches and 2 players in one match in the season to be eligible to play in the quarter, semi or final matches. For the B and Plate teams: 5 players must have played in two matches and 2 players in one match in the season to be eligible to play in the quarter, semi or final. Providing a player has played the required number of matches in the league (A, B or Plate) that player is eligible for whatever team her handicap is at the time. To qualify to play in the Quarters, Semis and Finals an A team is the first five players at that time. In extenuating circumstances with the approval of the Committee, ladies who have not played in any matches during the season be permitted to play in the Quarters, Semis or Finals but only at the bottom of the Plate Team.
 - Caddies are only permitted for the Quarter final, Semi Final and Final. Players are restricted in their choice to women amateur caddies only (Rules of Golf Rule 6.4) The Handicap of the caddie does not matter. Caddies can give advice but are NOT allowed on the green.
26. Electronic distance measuring devices may be used in all East Cheshire Inter-club Shield matches.
27. Clubs must ensure that their spectators remain away from the area of play, and refrain from dialogue with players.
28. The Honorary Secretary, following consultation with the East Cheshire Shield Committee members is given the authority to agree to relax the rules in exceptional or unusual circumstances. Decisions made under this rule to be fed back at the AGM.