EAST CHESHIRE INTER CLUB SHIELD

EAST CHESHIRE INTER-CLUB RULES 2027
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 three years.
   - Honorary Treasurer, to be nominated in club alphabetical order, serving for two years.
   - Four delegates, ideally 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 three 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 £20 and an annual subscription of £20 per team entry, plus an admin fee, currently £20 per club or as otherwise agreed by the AGM. The team entry fee for 2028 will be £25.

5. Teams of five players for A team and seven players for B and Plate teams shall be chosen in order of their **EXACT** Handicap Index on the date of the match. **IT IS EXPECTED THAT TEAMS ARE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THE LOWEST HANDICAP INDEX PLAYERS WHO ARE AVAILABLE AND ELIGIBLE**. Each player must have a minimum of six 18 hole qualifying cards entered on their WHS record in the previous 12 month rolling period. The Match Secretary is responsible for checking that each player has the correct number of cards, and is required to mark & sign the Match Results Sheet to show that this has been done. Team selection will 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.

   Introduction of the Disability Act – ladies who are affected by the automatically classed disabilities of HIV, Cancer and MS and ladies who have a physical or mental impairment where the impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities will be exempt from needing six qualifying cards to play in the ECICS.

6. When considering which teams to enter clubs need only count players who are likely to play in ECICS Matches and not all players on their handicap list.

   a) If a club has 6 or more players with a WHS Handicap Index 16.0 or below they **must** enter an A team.

   b) Clubs must enter teams in handicap order (i.e. their A team should have lower handicaps than their B team and their B team lower than their Plate team). They should enter teams into the most appropriate leagues, given the make-up of their own sections and mindful of ECICS intention that leagues should

consist of similar teams as far as possible, ensuring fair and enjoyable competition and minimising large handicap differences.
The following bandings are for guidance only – we anticipate that there will be exceptions to these bandings.
The A League is best suited to players with HI 0-16
The B division is best suited to players up to HI 27.0, mainly between 16.1 and 27.0
The Plate division is best suited to players up to HI 33.0, mainly between 27.1 and 33.0.

c) Clubs may enter a maximum of 4 teams with no more than 2 in any league. The higher rank team (lower handicap indices) will be named Any Golf Club 1 and the lower rank team will be named Any Golf Club 2.

d) Clubs may be asked to submit a handicap list of eligible and available players for each team to ECICS at the time of entry. ECICS may query team entries and shall have the final decision.

e) Clubs may appeal the application of Rule 6a to them, if there are exceptional circumstances.

Clubs entering two teams in a league shall enter them in handicap order which means their first team (e.g. A1, B1 or P1) shall have lower handicaps than their second team (e.g. A2, B2 or P2) and may be playing on the same day but at different venues.

Players may move between teams during the season depending on their actual handicap. If a second team reaches a quarter, semi or final Match Secretaries must be mindful to continue to select in strict handicap order e.g. if a club entered two B Teams and an A Team, and the B2 team reached a quarter/semi/final the squad would have to be selected from the 13th available player onwards, not the sixth.

Clubs entering two teams in a league should be placed in different groups when the draw is made to avoid four 'home and away' fixtures at the home club. This means that both teams could meet from the quarter-final onward.

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

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

a) Course Handicaps will be based on the Handicap Index of each player on the day of the match, using the relevant slope and course ratings for the Home Venue.
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 current handicap indices 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). A player may play in a team above their position in the handicap rank order. In no circumstances can a player play down the order eg a player with rank position 10 on the Friday cannot play for the B2 team for a club running an A team (5 players),a B1 team (7 players) and a B2 team (7 players) even if the A and B1 teams do not have matches.

10. Where there are two or more players on the same course handicap, the placing of these players is decided on their exact handicap index. Players on the same exact handicap index 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). However, if her home club is outside of the ECICS and West Cheshire Shield area she may play for her second club within the ECICS.

12. Handicap Certificates to be made available at all matches. Alternatively, dated computer printouts will be accepted.

13. The Handicap Index of each player is to be placed against her name in all matches. Shots given in matches will be full difference in Course 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 as a Win for that match and the remaining players play against their opponents as stated on the Match Sheet and do not move up one. If it is known the day before a match that a team cannot field enough players, that game is conceded and the remaining players move up one and go out in handicap order. This will result in the last player not having to play a match and claiming the game as a Win. As a courtesy, the Match Captain should inform their opponent's Match Captain that they are a player short so that the last player does not need to turn up to claim the game.

    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. There is a Buggy Certificate available which should be completed by the player and verified by her Match Secretary or Club Captain. The certificate must be emailed to the relevant Team Co-ordinator for ECICS records and a copy should be available to show to the opposing team on the day of play. You should check that the hosting club has buggies for use and that buggies are allowed on the course in the event of adverse weather.

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. Make a note of the score at the time that the game is abandoned on the result sheet.

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19. A match may be rescheduled or postponed:

    a) 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.

    b) 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.

    c) If a CCLGA fixture or local public event is occurring on the same day.

    d) 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. All match fixture dates received following the AGM should be confirmed by the deadline set by the Honorary Secretary (approximately 3 weeks from issue of fixtures). A club having more than one team out on the same day can be a valid reason for altering match dates. Change of match dates can also 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.**

23. Results of all matches are to be emailed to the relevant ECICS Match Coordinator by the home team only, on the day of the match. A copy of the Match Result Sheet should be sent, signed by both Match Secretaries or nominated Team Captains.

24. All group matches are to be played on a Monday. A Team, B Team and Plate matches being "all square" after 18 holes shall be recorded as halved. 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.**

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25. Organisation of A team, B team and Plate competitions
    a) 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 will be made prior to the AGM using a random selection generator.

    b) 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 Final or Semi Final and you qualify you will play at an alternative venue. **If your club is hosting the Final and qualifies to take part, each home team player will start their match 1 down.**

    c) Eligibility for knockout rounds:
    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 knock out rounds.
    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 knock out rounds.
    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. In extenuating circumstances with the approval of the Committee, ladies who have not played in any matches during the season may be permitted to play in the Quarters, Semis or Finals but only at the bottom of the Plate Team.

    d) **Match secretaries shall forward team details to the Team Coordinator and Honorary Secretary on the Friday before the Quarter Final, Semi Final or Final for checking player eligibility. At least 1 reserve must be named.**

    e) Trolley Pushers are only permitted for the Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final. Players are restricted in their choice to women trolley pushers only. The Handicap of the trolley pusher does not matter. However, Trolley pushers **cannot** give any advice and 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 out of players' eyeline as far as practical, and that they refrain from dialogue with players. We understand you want to support your team but please consider the effect on the opponents.

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.

Updated October 2026