EAST CHESHIRE INTER CLUB SHIELD

EAST CHESHIRE INTER-CLUB SHIELD RULES 2027
Business Ladies' Teams

1. Teams shall consist of 3 players. Each player will have 4 x **18 hole** qualifying cards in the previous 12 months. The Match Secretary is responsible for checking that the player is eligible. The maximum shots given in any match will be 18.

   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 four qualifying cards to play in the ECICS

   Team selection to be based on actual Handicap Index the Friday prior to the match but the order in which the team plays is determined by the Handicap index at the date of play.

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. The Fee (payable to East Cheshire Inter Club Shield) for entering a Business Ladies Team shall be £20 (increasing to £25 in 2028) and the Club must have entered another East Cheshire Inter Club Shield team to qualify to enter a Business Ladies' team.

4. Business Ladies teams shall consist of players who cannot normally play in an East Cheshire A, B or Plate Team because they work, are carers, or are volunteers, or are over 18 in full time education. In exceptional circumstances if you cannot field three business ladies for a match, one non-business player may be brought in from a league team. Any player in a Business Ladies Match on a Saturday or Sunday, MUST NOT play for another ECICS team in the **following** 7 days.

5. Matches to be played in the evenings and weekends. Catering arrangements to be discussed at the time the match is fixed. Matches being 'All Square' after 18 holes will be recorded as halved, but any match played in the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals must be played to a conclusion, until a result is reached. If matches go to extra holes, stroke allowances are repeated.

6. All matches in the Groups must be played by the dates specified, and the dates for the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and Final are set by the Honorary Secretary. The manner of the Play off matches to decide the Winners to be decided by the Committee, whose decision is final.

7. The **EXACT** 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. Players on the same **EXACT** Handicap Index may play in any order. **No Player to have more than one shot per hole.** Match Secretaries must have access to current handicap indices at all Matches.

8. Any player playing off an incorrect higher handicap or in the wrong handicap order will be disqualified.

9. 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.

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It is the opposing Team's Match Captain's responsibility to implement rule 10, 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.

10. 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

11. 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.

12. 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 one-hour. If unable to resume play, the match will be postponed. Captains of the Day will either confirm resumption of play or fix another date.

13. Sheltering is allowed during matches by the mutual consent of the individuals in each match.

14. 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.

15. 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 2 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.

16. Team walkovers are not permitted.
    Clubs are reminded that a full team need not necessarily be played but a minimum of 2 players must play, absent player 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 2 matches (in cases of a count-back). 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.

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17. 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.

18. Results of all matches, on the sheets provided, to be sent to the Business Ladies Match Coordinator by the Home Club on the day of the match.

19. If a team inadvertently fields an ineligible player they will have one point deducted from the match score, which is then awarded to the opposition. (An ineligible player is someone who has played in another Match in the same week.)

20. Business Lady 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.

21. Business Ladies Competition:
    a) Clubs shall be divided into groups in a manner decided by the Committee; each Club playing at home and away.
    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) A player must have played in 1 or more matches during the season to play in the quarter, semi or final matches.
    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.

22. Electronic distance measuring devices may be used in all East Cheshire Inter-Club Shield matches.

23. 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.

24. 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.

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