

1.0 COURSE

1.1 Rules and Etiquette

Members must observe the rules and etiquette of the game of golf as approved by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A).

The Captain has courtesy of the course at all times.

1.2 Membership Disc

Members must always display a current membership disc while playing the course.

1.3 Golfer’s Insurance

Every member is responsible to see that they have adequate golfer’s third party insurance while playing the course. Details can be obtained from the Club Office.

1.4 Damage

Any member damaging the course or its surroundings shall be liable to make good the damage caused.

1.5 Hours of Play

The course is open for play daily from 07.30 am until sunset unless otherwise directed by the Committee.

The Starting Boards located by the 1st and 11th tees display the rules covering starting times and tees that must be adhered to by all players. Exceptions to this can only be sanctioned by the Secretary / Manager, Captain or Course Marshal.

STARTING TIMES

	Before 8.45 am	After 8.45 am & not after 10.30am	After 10.30 am & not after 12.30am	After 12.30 am & not after 2.15 pm	After 2.15 pm & not after 4.00 pm	After 4.00 pm & not after 5.45 pm	After 5.45 pm
1 st Tee	2 Ball	3 or 4 Ball	2 Ball	3 or 4 Ball	2 Ball	3 or 4 Ball	2 Ball
11 th Tee or 16 th Tee	3 or 4 Ball	2 Ball	3 or 4 Ball	2 Ball	3 or 4 Ball	2 Ball	3 or 4 Ball

Players already on the course shall alternate, on the tee, with players already in the queue and who are about to start their round.

NOTE :- Players commencing their round cannot alternate with those already in the queue.
 Players starting on the 16th tee must conform to the above times after leaving the 18th green.
 Players completing holes 16 -17 & 18 only shall not alternate with matches already at the tee.
 November to End of March - Sat Open Tees from 10.30; Sun Open Tees from 8.00 – 10.30 –
 Members please note that 2 Balls have priority

November to end of February – Monday to Friday Open Tees all day

On Competition Days, when Open Tees are in operation, members not playing in the Competition can only start from the first tee

1.6 Practice Areas

The practice areas shall be the areas defined by the Committee from time to time.

The practice putting green must be used for putting only. Chipping onto this green is forbidden.

Practice grounds are for the use of Dunstable Downs Golf Club golfing members, member's partners, member's children, visitors / society members who have paid a green fee and those who are practicing immediately following a lesson with the Professional.

Cars are not allowed on the practice grounds. Access is via the main car park at the Clubhouse and then walking across to either practice ground. The Professional shall have priority on the practice ground when teaching.

1.7 Public Right of Way

The public has the right of way on the footpath that goes from the Clubhouse across the 15th and 16th fairways and members must not play from these tees until the path is clear. The path is clearly defined by posts and members should tactfully point out to the public if they have strayed from the path. Members are warned to respect the rights of the public on the Downs and road. Care must always be taken not to play to their danger.

1.8 Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on the course at any time.

1.9 Playing Visitors

Members may introduce three visitors only at the concessionary rate for each visit and must play with any visitor introduced by them.

At weekends and Public Holidays any one visitor may be introduced once a month only.

All playing visitors' names must be entered in the Green Fee Book before play commences.

Only after a Junior Member has obtained an official club handicap may he introduce a green fee guest, to a maximum of once a month. The guest should be a competent golfer.

1.10 Fog

The rules regarding closing the course because of poor visibility caused by fog or low cloud are:

The decision to close the course when there is poor visibility can only be taken by:

- (a) the senior member of the Green Staff on duty
- (b) the Secretary / Manager
- (c) the Captain
- (d) a member of the Greens Committee

"Course Closed" signs shall be displayed.

The decision to re-open the course when conditions improve can only be taken by any of the above.

Notice shall be given on the Notice Board of when the situation is to be reviewed.

Members are warned that failure to observe "Course Closed" signs will be treated as a disciplinary matter.

In certain circumstances it may not be possible to post "Course Closed" signs. Fog or low cloud may descend during the course of a round.

Players leave themselves open to liability for negligence if they play without being able to see the expected distance of their shot.

Where play has commenced, the sounding of the fog horn will signify that play is suspended. Players must observe the fog horn and cease play.

1.11 Adverse Weather

If due to '**weather**', the start of a Club Competition is delayed from 07.30 am, or play suspended, for a period of two hours or more, that Competition shall be postponed and replayed on the first available date, as determined by the Manager.

Any delay, or suspension of play, shall be decided in accordance with the R&A Rules of Golf 33-2d.

'**weather**' includes:

- Fog
- Ground Frost
- Water Logging
- Thunder and Lightning

1.12 Tee Reservations

Tee reservations are routinely given for inter-club matches. All other requests for tee reservations must be addressed in writing to the Handicaps and Competitions Committee.

2.0 HOUSE

2.1 Opening Hours

The Clubhouse shall be open daily from 07.30 am until 11.00 pm unless determined otherwise by the Committee. Summer and Winter opening times will be displayed on the Club Notice Boards.

The Clubhouse shall be closed on Christmas Day.

2.2 Bar, Lounge, and Dining Room

Bar facilities shall be used in accordance with the Licensing Laws.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the Clubhouse. Smoking is only permitted on the balcony.

No Junior Members under the age of 18 years shall purchase or consume alcohol on the premises nor play the gaming machines.

Golf shoes of any description may not be worn in the Clubhouse other than in the locker rooms and entrance hall.

No members are allowed to bring food or drink into the Clubhouse.

Children under the age of 10 years are not allowed in the Bar.

No dogs other than guide dogs shall be allowed in the Clubhouse.

2.3 Visitors

All visitors to the Clubhouse must sign the Visitors Book in the entrance hall. This entry is to be countersigned by the introducing Member.

3.0 HANDICAPS AND COMPETITIONS**3.1 Competition Governance**

Competitions are governed by the Handicaps and Competitions Committee.

3.2 Competition Administration

Competitions and handicaps shall be administered in accordance with the Rules of Golf as laid down by the R&A and handicaps by the appropriate authority for both ladies and men. New members are requested to make themselves acquainted with the rules and etiquette of golf.

3.3 Four Card Rule

To be eligible for Club Competitions all Members must have submitted four qualifying cards in the previous year, or in the case of new members, have a confirmed Handicap certificate from their previous Golf Club.

Qualifying cards are defined as completed, signed cards, from qualifying competitions scheduled during the year from 1st January to 31st December. Non>Returns and Disqualified cards will not count as qualifying cards.

Members who have played less than four qualifying competitions in the previous year:

- **Cannot** enter Club Knock-Out Competitions
- **Can** play in other Club Competitions for handicap purposes only, but are not eligible to win them until they have submitted four cards from qualifying competitions in the current year.

If a player does not manage to submit four cards in a year that player will be able to enter competitions the following year but will be ineligible to win them until they have submitted four qualifying cards within that year.

Players who have not entered a competition shall allow competitors, on request, the privilege of passing them on the course.

3.4 Open Tees

On Competition Days, when Open Tees are in operation, members not playing in the Competition can only start from the first tee.

In Monthly Medal competitions, played on their designated date, Open Tees apply after 8.45am. Playing groups of two or three may commence from any accepted starting point. No fourball games are permitted until after 3.00pm.

On re-arranged Monthly medal days, Open Tees will still apply but members not taking part in the Medal will be allowed to play four-balls.

3.5 Scorecard Marking

Only Club Members may mark a scorecard in a Club Competition.

3.6 Knock-Out Competitions

- a) It is the responsibility of the first named player(s) to contact their opponent(s) giving three date options.
- b) Knock-Out Competitions to be played off current handicaps.
- c) No extensions to dates will be granted. All Knock-Out Competition rounds are to be played by the date due. Failure to observe this will result in both parties in the match being scratched.
- d) If the course is closed "all day" on the last day (the date due) then a one week extension will automatically be granted.
- e) Where there is a failure to arrange the match then the default match time will be 02.00 pm on the date due.
- f) It is etiquette for the loser(s) to put the winner's name(s) forward on the Competition Draw Sheet. However it is the ultimate responsibility of the winner(s) to ensure that the name(s) have been put up.

3.7 Juniors

Juniors are eligible to play in Club Competitions and trophies subject to certain entry conditions provided they have a handicap of 18 (male), 36 (female) or better, and have a Full or Cadet Member playing with them. Junior Members must observe the rules for their category of membership for being eligible for playing in main Club Competitions.

Children of Members under the age of 12 are allowed to play on the course between April 1st and 30th September free of charge, provided they are properly attired and playing with their parent.

By-laws appertaining to Academy course.

- a) All children under 10 years of age MUST have adult supervision at all times.

- b) Children over 10 years of age MUST play with an Adult or Cadet or in a group of no less than three over 10 years of age children.
- c) The Academy course will be open between 08:30 – 20:30 Summer time. And 08:30 – 15:30 Winter time. In line with clock changes.
- d) Rules of golf apply. Out of Bounds is over any Boundary, Hedge or Fence.
- e) All dress rules and other club rules apply at all times.
Juniors may wear trainers on this course.
- f) Children of Members are allowed to play on the course free of charge, provided they are properly attired and playing with their parent.

3.8 Trophies

Members winning a trophy hold the trophy for a period of 12 months. Such trophies are the property of the Club and shall be displayed in the Trophy Cabinet.

Any damage to the trophy whilst in the member's possession shall be repaired at the Member's expense.

3.9 Failing to Play

Any person dropping out of a competition following closure will forfeit the entry fee unless extenuating circumstances can be proven to the satisfaction of the handicaps and Competitions Committee, whose decision is final.

3.10 Play-Offs

The first hole will be the play-off hole in any Club Competition that is tied after 18 or 36 holes of golf.

In all situations where players are tied in individual (stroke-play, stableford, and bogey) competitions, a play-off will be required to decide the winner. A notice will be displayed advising the date by which the play-off must be played.

Players will arrange to play together, or if preferred with a marker at the same time of the same day.

Where more than four players arrange a play-off they may play together or with a marker at the same time of the same day.

In the event of a tie, following the play-off, the competition will be decided by sudden death starting at the 1st hole.

Players in play-offs must play off the same handicap that was applicable on the day of the original competition.

If players are unable to agree a time and date on which to play the play-off, this will be set by the Handicaps and Competitions Committee.

The rules of some individual competitions over-ride these bye-laws

3.11 Transportation

The use of motorised buggies is allowed in all competitions unless specified in the rules of the competition. Registered disabled exempt from buggy restrictions.

4.0 MISCELLANEOUS**4.1 Parking**

Members using the Club car park must park in the designated marked bays and must under no circumstances park in areas of hatched yellow lines.

4.2 Complaints

No member must, under any circumstances, reprimand, or complain, to a Member of Club Staff. All issues must be made verbally, or in writing, to the Secretary / Manager at the Club Office.

4.3 Swipe Cards

Swipe Card terms and conditions are to be set by the Finance Committee each year, with the approval of the membership.

4.4 Property

Members' property is their own responsibility, and the Club accepts no responsibility for loss or damage. Lost property will be kept for a period of two months, after which if this remains unclaimed it will be disposed of.

4.5 Trading

Members are not permitted to carry out a trade in the sale or repair of golf equipment on Club premises.

4.6 Mobile Phones

The use of mobile phones and pda's for voice conversation is not permitted on the Golf Course or within the confines of the club house and they shall be switched to silent at all times.

Mobile phones & pda's may be used on the balcony and in the car parks only for voice conversation.

The use of mobile phones and pda's on the Golf Course will be permitted in the event of an emergency where emergency services (fire, police, or ambulance) are required.

4.7 Dress Rules

Members are requested to observe the Dress Rules for both the Clubhouse and the Golf Course.

Members are responsible for ensuring that their guests comply with the Club Dress Rules at all times.

The Dress Rules are outlined below and the Club respectfully requests that members, guests and visitors comply with them.

- Changing in the Car Park is not permitted.
- Clean smart dress for the Golf Course and the Clubhouse as appropriate may only be worn.
- Wet clothes must not be worn in the upstairs areas.
- Smart casual dress may be worn in the lounge and bar at all times and in the dining room on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- If eating in the dining room, a change of clothes is considered desirable.
- At other times men must wear a jacket and tie in the dining room or as published on the main notice board or advised for special functions.
- Denim clothing, jeans, printed or collar-less t-shirts, football style shirts, tracksuits, trainers and for gentlemen cut off trousers, combat style trousers and cargo shorts are not permitted in the Clubhouse or on the Golf Course.
- Waterproof clothing must not be worn in the upstairs areas.
- On the Golf Course, gentlemen and ladies may wear tailored golf shorts to the specified maximum knee length. Gentlemen must wear either plain knee length hose or predominantly white over the ankle sports socks. (Not trainer socks)
- Gentlemen must tuck shirts inside trousers / shorts waistband, both on the course and in the club house.
- Ladies and Gentlemen may wear tailored golf shorts etc, as per the course rules listed above, in the Lounge and Bar area at any time from 1st April to 31st October.
- The shorts rule also applies to the Dining Room for special events as displayed on the notice board.

The above laws apply at all times and can only be over-ruled by a specific decision agreed by the General Committee