

# Principle items to be familiar with:

June, 2020.  
(COVID Revised).

Dear Team Captains/Managers,

Please note the following key COVID related changes:

Before the day of the Match

- ✔ Ensure your club complies with the latest version of the GUI/ILGU Protocol. The latest version of the Protocols relate to [Phase 3 in the Republic of Ireland](#) and [Step 3 in Northern Ireland](#). It is likely both will be updated prior to 20 July.
- ✔ Ensure your golf course complies with the conditions required for qualifying competitions. The GUI/ILGU Joint Handicapping Committee have issued guidelines on this (click [here](#) to view).
- ✔ Ensure your team members and captains read the revised [Terms of Competition](#) and familiarise themselves with the completion dates for each round, which are tighter than usual in the circumstances.
- ✔ Clubs are not required to provide complimentary practice. However, if both clubs involved are in agreement, practice rounds can be arranged mutually. If this is the case, arrangements can be made between clubs for practicing prior to 20<sup>th</sup> July.

On the day of the Match

- ✔ Prior to the match, the team captains would normally exchange team sheets and handicap information where required. In the circumstances, we advise against this and instead ask team captains to use their phones to text or email a photograph of the documents to each other prior to the match – or some other alternative form of information sharing that does not include sharing of the physical documentation.
- ✔ Team Captains or other individuals acting on behalf of the teams should ensure social distancing guidelines are upheld to the highest degree by players and spectators, both at practice facilities beforehand and during the matches.
- ✔ Team Captains must monitor numbers gathering both indoors and outdoors on the day of the match and ensure these do not exceed the limits for public gatherings.
- ✔ Team members and officials attending in the away venue must co-operate with any contact tracing queries related to the match on the evening or afterwards.

After the Match

- ✔ Clubs are not required to host sit-down post-match meals and the general advice is for competitors in matches to leave the facility as soon as possible after the match. Clubs may offer bar/restaurant/café facilities in strict adherence with Fáilte Ireland's guidelines on [Restaurants & Cafes](#) and/or [Bars](#) or Tourism NI's [guidelines on same](#).
- ✔ Where locker rooms/changing areas are open, clubs must risk-assess their use, including consideration of social distance marking, and making every effort to ensure effective ventilation and cleaning of these areas. Clubs should, continue to consult the applicable guidance issued for the [Republic of Ireland](#) or [Northern Ireland](#).

Enda Lonergan, Executive Officer.

## **TEAM SUBMISSIONS AND DEALING WITH BREACHES OF ELIGIBILITY (REGULATIONS 8-9)**

These rules relate to the way teams must be submitted, what to do in the event of a sudden illness or other emergency after the team has been submitted, how eligibility of players is verified, and what happens in situations where a team fielded an ineligible player.

### **8. Submission of Teams including sudden illness or other emergency**

#### **a) Provincial Section:**

Where a Branch Official is present, Team Captains must hand their team sheets complete with the required details to the Branch Official in Charge not less than 30 minutes before the start of play.

Where no Branch Official is present, Team Captains of the two teams about to engage in a match shall exchange, simultaneously, their team sheets complete with required details not less than 30 minutes before the start of the match.

#### **b) National Section:**

The order of play for the semi-finals, with the names of reserves, must be handed to the Union official in charge at the time designated in advance by the Championship Committee, and for the Final not later than one hour after play in the particular semi-final has concluded.

c) No alteration may be made in the list handed in except in the case of sudden illness or other emergency deemed sufficient justification for such an alteration by the Championship Committee.

d) In a competition where teams consist of no more than five players, whether singles or pairs in format, a Team Captain may nominate two reserves. In a pairs competition (foursomes, four-ball, etc.) where teams consist of at least ten players, a Team Captain may nominate two reserve pairings.

e) Reserves taking the place of players after the team has been submitted shall be placed in the same position in the team as that occupied by the player who has taken ill or has been withdrawn. In competitions covered by this rule involving pairs, a Team Captain also has the option of placing a nominated reserve pair in the same position as that occupied by a pair where one member of that original pair has taken ill or been withdrawn with sufficient justification in the view of the Championship Committee.

f) At any stage of a competition, the Union or Branch (as applicable) will impose a penalty of disqualification if it finds that false representations have been made in any of the provisions of this rule.

g) For when handicaps are considered 'declared' following the submission of team sheets, see Regulation 4 (c) below.

#### **4 (c) In all circumstances, the information submitted on the Team Sheet shall be the sole determinant of handicaps and handicap allowances, where this applies, and shall be taken as the appropriate declaration of same under Rule 3.2c of the Rules of Golf.**

In accordance with this, the penalty for recording on the Team Sheet a higher handicap than that to which the player is entitled shall be disqualification of the player/partnership. Where a lower handicap than that to which the player is entitled is recorded on the Team Sheet, the player/partnership must play off the declared handicap. **\*Please note that this only applies where the handicap declared affects strokes given or received – if the declaration does not affect the number of strokes given or received and the players fielded are eligible to compete in the competition, there is no penalty.**

4 (d) Regulation 4 (c) above only applies where the shot allowances are applied in match play.

### **9. Breach of Eligibility Terms:**

a) A team which fields a player who breaches any eligibility terms associated with an event (see Regulation 14 below and the specific terms of the relevant competition) shall be removed from the competition. This includes but is not limited to provisions such as the four-card rule which applies to a number of inter-club tournaments, any age limit or handicap regulations which may apply, or a player who plays for a club other than his home club without written permission in the Fred Daly, Junior Foursomes or Boys Inter-Club competitions. The manner in which the results are adjusted will depend on the designation of responsibility to confirm eligibility.

b) In the **Provincial Section and when a Branch Official is present in an official capacity**, or where eligibility information has been required by the controlling body, there will be no time limit on the adjustment of the results where a team has fielded one or more ineligible players.

c) Where **no Union or Branch Official is present in an official capacity**, and eligibility information has not been sought by the controlling body, the Team Captains of the opposing teams are designated with the responsibility of confirming the eligibility of their opponents.

In such a circumstance, it is required that the team captains will attach evidence of eligibility (e.g. Cups and Shields Report) to the team sheet prior to exchange.

Where a team captain detects an issue with eligibility in his opponent's documentation, or has not been furnished with the required documentation, he must contact the Branch Office without delay and at the latest before the commencement of the next round of the competition.

If he does not make contact in this time, a ruling on the matter will not be given by the controlling body and the result of the match in question will stand even if the Rules were applied in the wrong way.

**Please note** that this provision only applies to the round for which the documentation relates and not previous rounds in which the same provision was applied – the rights and responsibilities of all team captains are equal in terms of the correction of a result.

**d)** Teams re-admitted as a result of any such adjustments must comply with the requirements of the controlling body in all cases to fulfil replacement fixtures, if necessary, at short notice. Where these requirements are not fulfilled by such re-admitted teams, they will not progress in the competition.

## **16. Advice in Team Competitions**

**a)** Each team may name **one advice giver** whom players on the team may ask for advice and receive advice from during the round. The team must identify each advice giver to the Committee before any player on the team begins his or her round.

**b)** The team may change its advice giver during the round, but must tell the Committee when it is doing so.

**c)** The advice giver must not point out a line of play or walk on the putting green when the ball of a team player lies on the putting green.

**d)** In Team events where the age limit is under 18 or below, Professional golfers are not permitted to be advice givers.

**e)** Penalty – The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which he or she is helped by an advice giver/non-sanctioned individual contrary to the provisions of this Rule. If the breach happens or continues between two holes, the player gets the general penalty for the next hole.

## **11. Connacht-Only Provisions:**

**a) Venue for Matches:** All Inter-Club Matches shall be played over a Club's recognised No.1 competition course.

**b) Deadlines:** All matches shall be played by or on dates specified and no extensions will be granted.

**c) Submission of Official Sheet:** The 'Official Branch Team Sheet' must be used to submit the team to either the opposing team captain or Branch official if present in accordance with the provisions Section B above.

**d) Disqualifications:** The penalty for breaching Rules 11 (a) – 11 (c) above is Disqualification of the Team concerned.

**e) Notification of Results:** In addition to the provisions of Section B above, the winning club must submit the 'Official Branch Team Sheet' to the Branch Office within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match and in accordance with the instructions listed at the bottom of this sheet.

**f) Fines and Penalties:** Clubs who fail to notify the Executive Officer of their withdrawal in writing at least 3 days prior to the day of a Tournament or Match may be fined €200.00, in the case of Junior Events this shall be revised downwards to €100.00. Failure to pay the fine shall mean non-participation in all Provincial & National Inter Club Tournaments for the following year. In the event of a Club being a 'No Show' at an event the applicable fine shall be doubled.

**g) Protests or Complaints:** These must be lodged in Writing with the Executive Officer, or his representative within 24 hours of the match in question.

**h) Tied Finals at end of Second Leg:** The finals of the Connacht Shield, GUI All-Ireland Four-Ball Inter-Club Championship, Jack O'Sullivan Trophy, Fred Perry Trophy (Seniors Inter Club) and Fred Daly Plate shall be played on a Home and Away basis in accordance with the draw. In the event of the Overall Result of an Inter Club Final Match finishing Tied at its conclusion, each Team Captain shall be given 15mins to nominate a Player/Pairing who had played on the day to compete over sudden death to determine the outcome of the match.

Note: All such Finals must commence no later than 14.00hrs.

**i) Practice Rounds:** In home/away matches, a Practice Session free of charge is permitted as follows –

When 2 Pairs drawn Away – 6 Players When 3 Pairs Drawn Away – 8 Players

When 2/3 Singles Drawn Away – 4 Players When 4/5 Singles Drawn Away – 6 Players

When 5 Pairs Drawn Away – 14 Players

## **Caddies**

Caddies are prohibited in ALL EVENTS for 2020.

## **Pierce Purcell Shield & Jimmy Bruen Shield Formats**

The format for these two events has been amended from Foursomes to Fourball. No Shots are given, all games played off Scratch.

## **4-Card Rule & Lowest Handicap Previous Calendar Year**

Please note that the **4-card Rule and Lowest Handicap in previous Calendar year applies to ALL Adult Inter Club Events** with the exception of the AIG Senior Cup and Irish Boys U18 Inter Club.



# 'Official' Inter Club Team Sheet



(To be used in accordance with Connacht Golf's Code of Conduct for Inter Club Competitions)

Tournament: \_\_\_\_\_ Round: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Matches: Home \_\_\_\_ Away \_\_\_\_  
(Please Tick (✓) as appropriate)

Club/School: \_\_\_\_\_ Opponents: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Event H'cap Range: \_\_\_\_--\_\_\_\_ H'cap Eligibility Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Agg. H'cap Allowance: \_\_\_\_\_

(The Details for each of these items may be found in the Tournament Conditions listed in the Connacht Golf Yearbook)

Team Placing	Name of Player (incl. Christian name) (Block Letters)	8-Digit GOLFnet Number	Playing Home Or Away	Eligibility H'cap for Event	Agg. H'cap of Pair If Applicable	Complies with 4 Card Rule Yes/No (If Applicable)	Each Match Result
Pair/Player 1							
Pair/Player 2							
Pair/Player 3							
Pair/Player 4							
Pair/Player 5							
<b>Reserves</b>							
Pair/Player							
Pair/Player							

I certify that each Player meets the requirements of this Event as laid out in the Tournament Conditions, which are printed in the GUI Tournament Conditions Booklet and the Connacht Golf Yearbook for the year of the Event.

Match Result: \_\_\_\_\_ Vs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed: Team Captain.

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please provide your Mobile No.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY the Notes hereunder before exchanging your Teamsheet.

**Note 1:** Absolutely no alterations may be made to Teamsheet once it has been exchanged

**Note 2: To Winning Team Captains:**

Keep a Copy, and then return to: The Executive Officer, Connacht Golf, G.U.I., within **24 hours** of completing the Match.  
Or indeed scan or photograph and email to **RESULTS@connacht.gui.ie**;

**Note 3:** Failure to present your Team on an 'Official Branch Team Sheet' to your opposing Team Captain shall mean that you are in Breach of Connacht Golf's "Code of Conduct" for Inter Clubs. Penalty is **DISQUALIFICATION OF THE TEAM**.

**Note 4: IMPORTANT:** When fielding a Player who was not handicapped by your Club in the previous Calendar Year, please include his previous Club and previous GOLFnet No. in Brackets after his name, this will help greatly during the Team Sheet Audit process.

## Suspension of Play & Course Evacuation

### **SUSPENSION OF PLAY:**

**Suspension** of play will be signalled by **ONE** blast on the klaxon.

### **Suspension of Play in the case of Thunder and Lightning**

When play is suspended due to potential or actual thunder/lightning storm, everybody should proceed immediately to the nearest wooden shelter or the clubhouse if nearer. Metallic shelters should not be used. The following safety measures should also be adhered to:-

- (i) Deposit clubs in golf bag.
- (ii) Do not shelter under trees.
- (iii) Do not put up umbrella under any circumstances.
- (iv) Do not use mobile phones or radios.
- (v) Avoid passing under trees if possible on way to shelter.
- (vi) Maintain as low a profile as possible by avoiding high ground or crouching in bunkers.

### **RESUMPTION OF PLAY:**

Resumption of play will be given by **two** blasts of the klaxon. No competitor may resume play until this signal is given. [Rule 6-8b]. Penalty for breach of Rule – disqualification.

Competitors will be duly notified about resumption of play and they will be given sufficient time to arrive at the point of resumption before the signal to restart is given.

If the above instance means that a match cannot be finished on the evening then the sides have 48hrs in which to complete, even if this extends 48hrs beyond the final deadline for the round.

## Standard of Dress

### **Course and Clubhouse**

The following Items of Dress are **unacceptable at all times:**

- Denim jeans and jackets.
- Singlets, sleeveless or collarless shirts
- Untailored shorts.
- Sweaters without shirts.
- Garments displaying slogans.
- Track or Leisure suits.
- Trainer shoes or runners.
- Trousers legs must never be tucked into socks.
- Shirts must be tucked inside trousers

**Smart casual dress is essential in the Clubhouse. It must be clean, neat and tidy and in keeping with the high standards of the Clubhouse. Any type of footwear worn on the course is not acceptable in the Clubhouse.**

## Transportation Policy

<b>1. Introduction</b>	
a)	It is a condition of all competitions conducted by the Golfing Union of Ireland and its Provincial Branches that all competitors must walk unless they are in the possession of valid medical confirmation of disability as defined below.
b)	This Policy is the Transportation Policy of the Golfing Union of Ireland as referred to in the relevant Terms of Competition and the Golfing Union of Ireland General Regulations.
c)	The Union wishes to encourage the participation in golf of all players regardless of disabilities, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Irish Disability Act (2005) and the UK Disability Discrimination Act (1995).
d)	Other associations and golf clubs should take separate legal advice in the event that they wish to put in place a transportation policy different to this policy or appropriate to their specific needs.
<b>2. Definitions</b>	
a)	“Disability” shall carry the same meaning as that of the Irish Disability Act (2005) and UK Disability Discrimination Act (1995). A person has a disability if he/she has a physical or intellectual impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
b)	“Golf Buggy” shall mean any vehicle deemed to be a golf buggy by the Championship Committee.
c)	“Championship Committee” shall refer to the controlling body for championships run under the auspices of the Golfing Union of Ireland.
d)	“Valid medical confirmation of disability” shall mean the Certificate contained in Appendix I entitled “Medical Confirmation of Disability”.
<b>3. Persons who may use a buggy</b>	
a)	Competitors: As per the GUI Inter-Club General Regulations and the GUI Championships General Regulations, a Golf Buggy may be utilised only by a competitor in possession of valid medical confirmation of disability, and then only if (a) the Host Club permits the use of such machines and (b) no Health & Safety considerations prevent the use of such machines. In such circumstances, it is the responsibility of the person concerned to provide a buggy, not the Golfing Union of Ireland. The buggy may be used only by the person named on the certificate and may only carry his equipment and caddie. Where the disability prevents the player from driving the buggy, he/she may nominate a third party to drive the buggy for them who must be approved by the Committee.
b)	Caddies: A person in possession of valid medical confirmation of disability who intends to caddie for an able-bodied competitor may utilise a golf buggy on the same conditions as 3a above. The able-bodied competitor – in such circumstances – may not use the buggy.
c)	Under 18 Competitors: Where a player is under the age of 18 years and has met the criteria in 3a above, the Committee shall reserve the right to specify that the golf buggy is driven by a person having parental responsibility for the player, or, in the case that such a person is unable or not competent or qualified to do so, another person of the Committee’s choice. Any restrictions regarding caddies specified in the competition’s Local Rules must be adhered to in this process.
d)	Team Captains / Others: The Championship Committee will, in its absolute discretion, decide on whether a Team Captain or other party may use a buggy. Due regard will be paid to the Acts specified above in such decisions.
e)	Any individual under Clauses 3a-3c who intends on using a buggy must ensure they carry a copy of the Certificate of Disability at any event in which they apply for use of a buggy, and that, subsequent to the acceptance of such an application, they continue to retain the Certificate for production at the request of a tournament official.
<b>4. Committee discretion on the use of a golf buggy</b>	
a)	Where the use of a buggy by a player or where appropriate a caddie or third party is permitted, the Committee shall have regard to the following additional health and safety considerations before granting approval: i i. Any relevant weather conditions; ii ii. The topography and ground conditions; iii iii. The condition of and suitability of the golf buggy; and iv iv. Any other relevant safety considerations.
b)	In the event that the Committee believes that for reasons of health and safety a golf buggy should not be used by players, caddies or third parties at a particular time he/they may:

GOLFING UNION OF IRELAND

**Medical Confirmation of Disability**

In my capacity as a Doctor registered with the Irish Medical Council or UK Health Professions Council (as applicable), I certify that

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

has a disability as defined by the Irish Disability Act (2005) and the UK Disability Discrimination Act (1995), and that he/she may require a buggy to compete in golf tournaments as a result.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp Here



### PACE OF PLAY POLICY

*This Policy applies to all Championships conducted by the Golfing Union of Ireland and its Provincial Branches, and is underpinned by the summary procedure outlined in the GUI Championships General Regulations. It will also be applied where notice is given in rounds of Inter-Club Competitions at the discretion of the Championship Committee.*

1.	<p>a) Where the Championship Committee operate a Timing Schedule, each hole of the Championship Course is given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole.</p> <p>b) The maximum time allotted for the completion of each hole will be available to players in the first Group and any Group after a two-interval gap on the draw sheet prior to play from the starter.</p>
2.	<p>a) Any Group which finds itself Out of Position will be liable to timing by a Referee.</p> <p>b) Where the Championship Committee operate a Timing Schedule, the first Group and any Group after a two-interval gap on the draw sheet will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes completed.</p> <p>c) Irrespective of whether a Timing Schedule is being operated by the Championship Committee, any following group will be considered out of position if it is more than the starting interval behind the group in front.</p>
3.	<p>a) If a decision is taken to time the group, each player will be subject to individual timing by a referee. Each player in the group will be advised that they are "out of position" and are being timed.</p> <p>b) The maximum time allocated per shot is 40 seconds. Ten extra seconds will be allowed for the first player to play on a par-three hole, on an approach shot and on a chip or putt.</p> <p>c) The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he is able to play without interference or distraction. On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace his ball, repair ball marks and move loose impediments. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the hole will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke. Timing will cease when a group is back in position and players will be advised accordingly.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> In some circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group of three, may be timed instead of the entire group.</p>
4.	<p>a) If a Player incurs a bad time, he will be warned by the referee and told that he will be penalised if they have a further bad time.</p> <p>b) The penalty for incurring a second bad time is one stroke in stroke play, and loss of hole in match play.</p> <p>c) A third bad time by the player will result in a further penalty of two strokes in stroke play, or a further loss of hole in match play.</p> <p>d) A fourth bad time by the player will result in a penalty of disqualification in stroke play or loss of match in match play.</p>
5.	<p>a) If a group is "Out of Position" more than once during a round, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same round will be carried forward until the round is completed.</p> <p>b) A player will not be penalised if he has a second bad time before being advised of his earlier bad time.</p>
6.	<p>a) In some circumstances, a group or an individual player may be timed without warning, including when a group is not out of position.</p> <p>b) In such cases of "random timing", the timing provisions and penalties set out in 4 above apply, except that a player will only be given a bad time if he exceeds 60 seconds to play a shot, with an extra 10 seconds given (i.e. 70 seconds in total) for the "first to play" shots referenced in 3b above.</p>

## ON THE GOLF COURSE

### On the golf course a Parent/Guardian may:

- Exercise good golf etiquette
- Hand players food, drink, clothes between holes
- Help look for lost balls
- Help ball spotters on the course
- Help staff evacuate players after weather suspension

### Parents/Guardians may not:

- Give advice to a player on the golf course: Rule 8 – 1
- Give encouragement on the golf course as it could be interpreted as advice
- Give rulings or call penalties on players
- Shuttle players
- Be within 25 yards of a player during play/practice or walk on fairways
- Violate host golf course policies
- Use abusive language towards players or staff
- Withdraw a player without speaking to a Branch Official
- Act as ball spotters unless requested to by the Championship Committee

### Caddies

A person whose **age exceeds the age limit** in the following competitions is not permitted to act as a caddie.

- Boys Interprovincial Matches
- Irish and Provincial Boys Championships
- Boys Interclub events
- Connacht School Events

Over-involvement is a serious issue at golf tournaments. Over-involved and over-protective parents/guardians add pressure on the golfer and may reduce his ability to take responsibility for his own actions.

### Parents/Guardians should:

- Be familiar with coaching and training programmes so as to support the junior golfer where changes are needed.
- Be familiar with coaching methods.
- Share concerns where you have them with the coach.
- Re-enforce in the young golfer the importance to keep winning and losing in perspective, and encourage them to behave with dignity at all times, irrespective of the result.
- Support coaches in instilling these virtues.
- Remember that young people play golf for their own enjoyment, not their parents.
- Encourage young people to play golf without forcing them to do so.
- Focus on achieving goals in golf, not winning or losing.
- Be realistic with their goal settings.
- Provide positive verbal feedback both on training and during a round.
- Remember that persistent negative messages get in children's heads.
- Always show appreciation towards other junior competitors (Good Shot).
- Acknowledge good performance rather than win at all costs (Ethic).

Encourage all young golfers irrespective of their ability; never ridicule any individual player because their play is poor.

### Emotional abuse in golf:

- Providing repeated negative feedback.
- Repeatedly demanding performances which the player is not capable of.
- Over-emphasizing the importance of winning.
- Repeatedly ignoring a player's effort to progress.