



THE LANCASHIRE LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

SHIELD REGULATIONS

LANCASHIRE LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION SCRATCH, HANDICAP AND BRONZE SHIELD REGULATIONS

GENERAL

1. **A player must play for the Club through which she has paid her County Subscription. If a person is a member of more than one club she must notify the County Hon. Treasurer which club she wishes to represent for all County Competitions. A player may change her club representation at any time prior to playing her first match in that years competition.**
2. No member of any team nor any reserve is eligible to play in any match unless her Individual Subscription to the County Association has been paid. **There is no limit to the number of reserves which may be taken and played in any Group Finals or Final.**
3. Each Club shall play all other Clubs in the same division or group at home and away. For all matches the Home Team must offer three dates when the course is available, one of which must be accepted by the Away Team. If possible please try and offer a weekend date. In the event of any dissension, the Shield Committee will make the final decision. Away Teams must conform to the Home Teams starting time as these are governed by the Club Councils.
4. Confirmed match dates and the Team Captains' names and telephone numbers must be notified to the Shield Representative by the date set down in the January mailing to all clubs. Failure to do so could result in disqualification.
5. The Captain of the Home Team **must, within two days of the match or receiving a walkover,** forward on the official form the result to their Divisional Representative on the Lancashire Shield Committee.

The Club unable to play on the fixed date must concede the match. Once the fixture has been confirmed in writing, a match may only be postponed if the Home Course be deemed unplayable by the Captain of the Home Club or her Deputy, a Trolley ban is in place or the Club Management decides that the course is unavailable. The Captain of the home club to notify the visiting team Captain by telephone. If the two Teams are present at the Club at the scheduled starting time and the conditions are unfavourable, the Captains of the respective Teams or their Deputies shall be empowered to postpone the fixture by mutual consent to a mutually agreed date. **In this situation, the team may differ from the original team.** Should however, the Captains fail to come to such an agreement, the match must be played forthwith.

If the match begins, and players are out on the course, and for any reason the course is deemed to be unplayable by the club or the two team Captains, then play **must be suspended.** (Rule 33-2d.)

At this point, under Rule 6-8b., if the players are in the process of playing a hole, they may finish out that hole, provided they do so without delay. In a potentially dangerous situation, however, i.e. thunder and lightning, players must discontinue play immediately (Rule 6-8a.), lift and mark their balls (Rule 6-8c.). When play is resumed, matches must resume from exactly the same point at which play was discontinued. So if, for example, play was suspended in the middle of the 15th hole, players must return to that point to resume their match (Rule 6-8d.).

Because of the practical difficulties of being able to identify the exact spot at which balls were marked, and being able to resume matches at a later date, if suspension of play is invoked, teams must complete their match within **two** days, with exactly the same players.

In the event that a match is suspended, and that a player's handicap has decreased or increased by the time the match is resumed, the player will play off the original handicap, even if she would normally no longer be eligible to play in that particular shield.

In the event that it is not possible to resume the match within two days, the R&A has issued guidelines which allow Team Captains leeway to adopt alternatives. The main alternatives are:

- a) The match can be abandoned and replayed with an entirely different team on a rearranged date.
- b) If certain individual matches have been completed, those results will stand, and the rest of the matches will be replayed, again not necessarily with the same team. The only stipulation is that no team member who has already completed an individual match will be able to take part in the rearranged matches.

Team Captains should make every effort to reach a mutual decision. If they cannot, the matter must be referred to the appropriate Shields' Representative, who may have to refer it to the Shields and Executive Committees. Each situation would then have to be looked at individually, because the permutations are endless, and the decisions to be made are difficult and occasionally apparently unfair to somebody. The Shields and Executive Committees therefore reserve the right to make an equitable decision when it is impossible to complete a match or matches in accordance with the Rules of Golf and their decision is final. If rearrangement is not possible, then no points are awarded to either team.

7. In the event of a full Team not being available on an arranged match date the Club concerned must send as many players as possible to play.
8. *The results of a Club giving a complete walkover (i.e. 5-0 or 7-0) in any match shall be null and void and the Club will be ineligible to compete in that competition the following year.*
9. It shall be the responsibility of the Club Secretaries to inform the local Divisional Representative wherever conditions are such that they are likely to disrupt the playing of Shield Matches.
10. Team lists must be exchanged at least 10 minutes prior to the first match teeing off, after which time no reserve may be substituted. If a player fails to put in an appearance for whatever reason, at the scheduled time for her match to tee off, then her opponent on the list will receive a walkover. This rule applies to all first round matches only. Clubs who qualify for Divisional Finals and Finals will be notified by the Shield Representative of the time by which they have to submit their team. Once a team list has been submitted, the team may not be changed, irrespective of the time that it has been submitted.
11. Players in **all** Shield Matches shall be arranged in order of playing handicap. This is the responsibility of the Team Captain. A player in any Shield Match must produce proof of **current handicap (either an up to date handicap certificate or an up to date club list)** at all matches prior to play – penalty disqualification.
12. The Finals shall be a Knockout Tournament, to be played no later than 30th September, in each Division by rotation. The dates and greens shall be fixed by the Lancashire Shields Committee. If there is a problem with the course or inclement weather, the LLCGA Reps/Officials present on the day will consult all 4 team captains stating the options available. The team captains will then consult their players and report back in 10 minutes with their decision. If the captains cannot agree, the LLCGA Reps/Officials will make the decision.
All decisions or rulings made by the LLCGA Reps/Officials present on the day shall be final.

13. All matches except those in the divisional finals, semi-finals and final will be decided over 18 holes. A match halved at the eighteenth hole will be recorded as such. The scoring for matches will be as follows:

A win	1 point
A half	½ point
A loss	0 point

Divisional winners will be decided on the number of points gained from matches. In the event of ties, winners will be decided on the results of individual matches, i.e. how many points have been gained from individual matches, and, finally, the number of holes by which individual matches have been won.

14. The Shields shall be held for one year by the winning Clubs.

15. All protests must be made in writing to the Divisional Representative of the Lancashire Shields Committee, within one week of the date of the match. Prior to lodging the protest she must notify the Captain of the opposing Team of her intention to appeal and of her grounds for doing so.

SCRATCH SHIELD REGULATIONS

A team shall consist of five players.

A team receiving a walkover for a match shall be deemed to score a win of five points. A player receiving a walkover shall be deemed to have won by 10 & 8.

All matches shall be played from the tee of the day and shall finish at the 18th hole except in the **County Finals**, which will be played to a finish. Once a clear team result has been established the organising Committee may authorise the winning Team to concede remaining matches if they so wish.

Matches must be completed by 7th August each year.

The initial draw made at the Council Meeting shall carry through to the Finals.

HANDICAP SHIELD REGULATIONS

A team shall consist of seven players.

One single figure handicap player may compete in the Handicap Shield matches.

In order for a single figure player to participate in the Divisional Finals and beyond, she must have played in a minimum of three first round Divisional Group Handicap Shield Matches.

A player who has played in 3 or more group matches and who then reduces their handicap to less than the allowed handicap limit will be eligible to play in the finals. Evidence of the matches they have played in (match record sheets) must be produced by the team captain on the day of the finals.

The upper limit for handicaps is 24. Higher handicaps may compete, but must play off 24.

Teams playing for the Handicap Shield shall complete Divisional Group Matches by 24th July of each year. Divisional Finals are to be completed by 31st August each year.

A team receiving a walkover for a match shall be decreed to score a win of seven points. A player receiving a walkover shall be deemed to have won by 10 & 8.

All matches shall be played from the tee of the day and shall finish at the 18th hole except at ***Round Robin, Divisional and County Finals***, where each match shall play to a result. Once a clear team result has been established the Organising Committee may authorise the winning Team to concede remaining matches if they so wish.

In the Round Robin matches, once a result has been established playing the remaining match is not required.

The draw made at the Council Meeting shall carry through to the County Finals.

BRONZE SHIELD REGULATIONS

The Bronze Shield is for players with handicaps of 20.5 to 36. As players handicaps will fluctuate at the lower levels, the only stipulation is that on the original fixed date of each match all players must be no lower than 21 playing handicap.

A team shall consist of five players.

One player, handicap 10-20, may compete in the Bronze Shield matches.

In order for a player handicap 10-20, to participate in the Divisional Finals and beyond, she must have played in a minimum of three first round Divisional Group Bronze Shield Matches.

A player who has played in 3 or more group matches and who then reduces their handicap to less than the allowed handicap limit will be eligible to play in the finals. Evidence of the matches they have played in (match record sheets) must be produced by the team captain on the day of the finals.

Teams playing for the Bronze Shield shall complete first round Divisional Group Matches by 24th July of each year. Divisional Finals are to be completed by 31st August each year.

A team receiving a walkover for a match shall be deemed to score a win of five points. A player receiving a walkover shall be deemed to have won by 10 & 8.

All matches shall be played from the tee of the day and shall finish at the 18th hole except in the ***Round Robin, Divisional or County Finals***, which will be played to a finish. Once a clear team result has been established the organising Committee may authorise the winning Team to concede remaining matches if they so wish.

In the Round Robin matches, once a result has been established playing the remaining match is not required.

The initial draw made at the Council Meeting shall carry through to the Finals.