

RULES AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR MIDDLESEX COUNTY GOLF UNION COMPETITIONS

Version 7.1

These Rules and Conditions are effective from 1st January 2012

The principle changes to the previous version (Version 6.1), which was effective from 1st January 2011, are as follows:

Part I - General Rules Applying to All Competitions

Section 4 - Competitor Information

The requirement for entrants to provide their Central Database Handicapping number when entering a MCGU tournament has been added.

Section 7 - Presentations

While the Tournament Committee will continue to appreciate players changing for presentations, it will no longer insist they do so.

Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions

Section 6 - Equipment

A new paragraph has been added clarifying that the Committee will treat the use of a distance measuring application on a smart phone as a breach of rule 14-3 unless the player can produce written evidence that its use has been authorised by R&A Limited.

Part III - Rules and Conditions Applying to Specific Competitions

The three championships previously known as the Under 13's, Boys' and Youths' Championships have been replaced by two: the MCGU Juniors' Championship (open to competitors under 14) and the MCGU Youths' Championship (open to competitors under 21). The Boys Champion Club Tournament will be played concurrently with the Youths' Championship. The opportunity has been taken to re-sequence the sections of Part III.

The Rules and Conditions Applying to the new MCGU Juniors' and Youths' Championships will be found in Sections 1 and 2 of Part III.

Clubs will now be required to submit the names of their team members for the Boys Champion Club Tournament and the Club Team Stroke Play Championship, at least two days before the associated stroke play event.

In 2012, there will not be a re-draw after each round of a match play knockout competition. There will be just one draw for each competition to determine the order for the first round matches.

The Full List of Changes

The following lists every section that has been amended, most are either very minor or simply clarify an existing condition:

Part I - General Rules Applying to All Competitions		Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions		Part III - Rules and Conditions Applying to Specific Competitions		
1 - General	1.1	3 - Starting Times	former 3.3 deleted	1 - MCGU Juniors' Championship	(New section)	
3 - Entry Requirements	3.5 (added)		3.4 (added)	2 - MCGU Youths' Championship	(New section)	
4 - Competitor Information	4.1	Section 6 - Equipment	6.4	3 - MCGU Boys Champion Club Tournament	3.1	
	4.2 (added)		6.6 (added)		3.5	
7 – Prizes and Presentations	Section 7 and Part II Section 17 combined	7 - Caddies	Notes 1 & 2 (added)	Section 4 - MCGU Amateur Championship	4.1	
			8 – Team Captains and Team Managers		7.1	4.2
			8.2 (added)		4.4	
		4.5				
	7.1 (added)	Section 11 – Pace of Play Conditions	11.7 (added)	5 - MCGU Club Team Stroke Play Championship	5.1	
	7.2 (added)	12 - Transportation	12.1	6 - MCGU Seniors Championship	5.5	
7.5 (added)	13 - Adverse Weather Conditions	13.2	6.1			
		14 - Submission of Results	14.1-14.5 amended and re-ordered	6.2	7.5	
		15 - Resolution of Ties	15.1	7 - MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl	7.5	
			15.2	8 - MCGU Singles Match Play	8.1	
			15.5		8.2	
			15.6 (added)	9 - MCGU Club Team Match Play Championship	8.3	
			15.7-15.9	10 - MCGU Presidents Foursomes	9.3	
		16 – The Closure of Competition	16.1	Section 11 - MCGU Middlesex Sixes	10.3	
		17 – Prizes and Presentations	Section 17 deleted (combined with Part I Section 7)		11.3	

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Part I - General Rules Applying to All Competitions

Section 1 - General

- 1.1 These general rules apply to the following Middlesex County Golf Union (MCGU) competitions:
 - MCGU Juniors' Championship
 - MCGU Youths' Championship
 - MCGU Boys Champion Club Tournament
 - MCGU Amateur Championship
 - MCGU Club Team Stroke Play Championship
 - MCGU Seniors' Championship
 - MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl (EGU Gold Medal Qualifier)
 - MCGU Singles Match Play (George Gowland Salver)
 - MCGU Club Team Match Play Championship (The Frank Rowse Trophy)
 - MCGU President's Foursomes
 - MCGU Middlesex Sixes
- 1.2 The Rules, Appendices and Decisions referenced in these rules are those to be found in the current Rules of Golf and Decisions on the Rules of Golf published by R&A Rules Limited.
- 1.3 All competitions shall be played in accordance with the current Rules of Golf and of Amateur Status as laid down by R&A Rules Limited and such Local Rules as shall be agreed by the MCGU Tournament Committee.
- 1.4 Unless otherwise indicated all competitions are scratch competitions and the winners of stroke play events are those with the lowest gross scores. Handicap allowances in accordance with the current CONGU[®] Unified Handicapping System shall apply to any competition or prizes based on nett scores.
- 1.5 All stroke play competitions played under medal play conditions will be qualifying competitions for handicap purposes and the terms and conditions of the current CONGU[®] Unified Handicapping System shall apply.

Section 2 - Entry Qualifications

- 2.1 Entrants must be of male gender from birth and must be of Amateur Status as defined by R&A Rules Limited, from the date of applying to enter until the closure of the competition.
- 2.2 Entrants from the date of applying to enter until the closure of the competition must hold a valid Active CONGU[®] Handicap; must be a member of a golf club affiliated to the MCGU and must not have played in a county competition of another county or represented another county within the same calendar year.
- 2.3 A player may not represent more than one club in any one calendar year.
- 2.4 Entrants must meet such other requirements as may be stipulated in the Conditions for the applicable competition in Part III - Rules and Conditions Applying to Specific Competitions.

Section 3 - Entry Requirements

- 3.1 Applications must be in writing and give all the information requested. Applications other than those for team competitions must be signed by the entrant. All applications must be countersigned by the Secretary of the entrant's golf club or such other officer of the club as the County Secretary shall approve and be accompanied by the specified entry fee unless a special arrangement has been agreed with the County Secretary to accept payment by electronic transfer or by invoice.
- 3.2 Applications must be submitted by the Secretary of the entrant's golf club to the County Secretary on an official entry form unless a special arrangement has been agreed with the County Secretary to accept an entry by facsimile or electronic mail.
- 3.3 If an entrant in a stroke play competition belongs to more than one affiliated golf club his entry must be submitted through the club that is his Home Club for handicap purposes except that where his handicap is held at a golf club affiliated to another county his entry must be made through the club affiliated to the MCGU.
- 3.4 Applications must be received by the County Secretary of the MCGU by 12 noon on the specified closing date for entries. Incomplete entries and entries received after the closing date will not be accepted. In the event of a competition being under-subscribed the County Secretary may at his sole discretion extend the closing date to accommodate an incomplete or late entry.

- 3.5 In the event of a competition being over-subscribed entrants with the highest exact handicaps will be balloted out.
- 3.6 Entries shall be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee which reserves the right to accept or refuse an entry without giving reason for its decision which shall be final.
- 3.7 A player is deemed to be of or representing the Middlesex golf club through which his entry is submitted.

Section 4 - Competitor Information

- 4.1 A competitor shall be required to furnish the County Secretary with:
 - i) His full name, address and telephone number;
 - ii) A telephone number at which the competitor might be reached on the morning of the start of the competition;
 - iii) The competitor's date of birth if under the age of eighteen years on the day of the start of the competition or if the conditions of the competition impose an age limit;
 - iv) The competitor's exact handicap at the time of entry and his Central Database of Handicaps (CDH number);
 - v) The name and address of the competitor's next of kin together with an appropriate telephone number at which he or she can be contacted the event of an emergency during the period of the competition;
 - vi) Any medical condition of which it would be prudent to advise the Tournament Committee, and
 - vii) Such other information as the Tournament Committee may require.
- 4.2 On the day of a competition, players should take special care to report their current playing handicap particularly if it may have changed as a result of a competition played only a short time before the MCGU competition.
- 4.3 The MCGU reserves the right to hold information supplied by a player or by his club on his behalf on any media it shall decide for the purpose of assisting in the administration of the competition and the MCGU.

Section 5 - Ballots

- 5.1 Unless the rules of a competition state otherwise the following procedure shall be adopted if the number of approved entries for a stroke play competition exceeds the number of places available:
 - i) If the competitor who last won the competition has submitted an approved entry he shall have an automatic place.
 - ii) All remaining places shall be filled by balloting out those entrants with the highest exact handicaps. Where more than one entrant has the same exact handicap, places will be decided by lot.
 - iii) An appropriate number of those entrants balloted out shall be placed on a reserve list to fill any vacancies that may occur.

Section 6 - Withdrawn Entries

- 6.1 An entrant who has made an application to enter a competition and wishes to withdraw must inform the MCGU in writing. Entry fees will be refunded only if notification in writing is received before the closing date for entries.
- 6.2 After the closing date for entries entry fees shall only be refunded to those entrants, balloted out of the competition, who do not subsequently fill a vacancy.
- 6.3 A competitor who has been allotted a place in a competition and subsequently withdraws must inform the MCGU as soon as possible and must confirm the withdrawal in writing within three working days stating the reason for withdrawal.
- 6.4 If a competitor who has been allotted a place in a competition either:
 - i) Fails to meet the requirements of 6.3 above, or
 - ii) Withdraws less than three working days before the start of the said competition, or
 - iii) Withdraws at any time during a stroke play competition, or
 - iv) Fails to show at the tee for his scheduled start for any round of a stroke play competition, the Tournament Committee may bar him from entry to such future competitions as it deems appropriate.

Section 7 – Prizes and Presentations

- 7.1 In all competitions the values of prizes or vouchers presented in lieu of prizes will be decided by the Tournament Committee taking into account the income from entry fees.
- 7.2 In accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status, where prizes take the form of vouchers these may only be exchanged for goods or services. A voucher, or any residual balance after the purchase of goods or services, may not be redeemed for cash.
- 7.3 The Committee in charge of a competition shall endeavour to announce the results as soon as possible after all the scores are known and to present awards and prizes as soon as is practical thereafter.
- 7.4 In a demonstration of good sportsmanship competitors are requested to remain at the venue for the announcement of results and the presentations.
- 7.5 The Tournament Committee reserves the right not to make a presentation of a material prize if a competitor has chosen not to be present to receive it.

Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions

Section 1 - The Committee

- 1.1 On any day of a competition, the Committee in charge of the competition shall be the MCGU Tournament Committee or a representative number of the Tournament Committee together with members of the MCGU Tournament Panel of Rules Officials, Starters, Recorders and other persons so authorised by the Tournament Committee. The Chairman of the Committee in charge of the competition shall be the Chairman of the Tournament Committee or such other person as he shall authorise to deputise for him in his absence.
- 1.2 In respect of Rule 33-7 and any other Rule requiring the Committee in charge of the competition to act as a whole a quorum shall be three. The decision of the Committee shall be final.

Section 2 - The Stipulated Round

- 2.1 The MCGU Tournament Committee shall decide the course at which a competition shall be played.
- 2.2 Play shall always be from the back Medal tee markers unless the MCGU Tournament Committee shall decide otherwise.
- 2.3 A stipulated round may start at such hole or holes the Committee shall decide.

Section 3 - Starting Times

- 3.1 The Committee reserves the right to fix and where necessary alter starting times.
- 3.2 Players are requested to be at their starting tee ten minutes before their scheduled starting time to allow proper time for any briefing by the Starter in stroke play or the Referee in match play.
- 3.3 Competitors in stroke play arriving at their starting tee after their appointed time should be aware that Starters will only agree their time of arrival and are not authorised to apply penalties for a breach of Rule 6-3. Possible breaches of Rule 6-3 will normally be dealt with by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee or the Chief Rules Official, on completion of the round by the competitor.
- 3.4 A competitor in stroke play arriving at his starting tee after his appointed start time should be aware that Starters will only advise him he is late and agree his time of arrival. Starters are not authorised to apply penalties for a breach of Rule 6-3. Possible breaches of Rule 6-3 will normally be dealt with by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee or the Chief Rules Official, on completion of the round by the competitor. A competitor who has been advised that he arrived at his starting tee after his appointed start time should ensure a ruling is obtained before he returns his score card.

Section 4 - Practice

- 4.1 As a courtesy to green-keeping staff preparing the course practise on the course on any day of a stroke play or a match play competition is prohibited except in areas designated for practice by the Local Rules. Players should take special note that areas that might normally be made available for practice by the Club, may not be similarly available under the Local Rules for the competition (Rule 7-1 and the accompanying Note apply). The penalty for practising in breach of this Condition is disqualification.

Section 5 - Performance Enhancing Drugs

- 5.1 A player shall not knowingly make use of any drug to enhance his performance. Attention is drawn to the list of prohibited drugs issued by UK Sport. A player infringing this condition or, if asked to do so, refusing to take a test, may be disqualified.

Section 6 - Equipment

- 6.1 Players have a responsibility to ensure that tee pegs, clubs and balls they have selected for play conform to the Rules of Golf and that any ball played during the competition appears on the List of Conforming Golf Balls published by R&A Rules Limited current on the day of the competition.
- 6.2 A player unsure as to whether a piece of his equipment conforms to the Rules should take steps before the day of the competition to verify its conformity and if appropriate, bring to the course any supporting documentation.
- 6.3 The Committee reserves the right to deny use of a piece of equipment it believes may not conform.
- 6.4 The penalty for playing an unlisted ball, making a stroke using a non-conforming club or tee peg or using an artificial device or unusual equipment not permitted within the Rules during a stipulated round is disqualification (Rules 4-1, 5-1, 11-1 and 14-3).

- 6.5 A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used. This condition overrides any Local Rule for the course being played.
- 6.6 The Committee will not permit the use of a distance measuring application present on a smart phone unless the competitor has lodged with the Committee, at least seven days prior to the start of the competition, written evidence that the device and the application together have been approved as conforming by R&A Limited.

Note 1 - The exchange of information as to the distance between two points is public information and not advice. There is no breach of the Rules unless the information exchanged has knowingly been obtained from a device in breach of Rule 14-3 (See Decisions 8-1/2 and 14-3/0.7).

Note 2 - The use of an electronic device during a stipulated round to seek advice, obtain or process playing information relating to the current or previous rounds or to listen to music can be in breach of Rule 14-3 (for full details see Decisions 14-3/16 and 14-3/17).

Section 7 - Caddies

- 7.1 Caddies are permitted in all competitions. However, certain restrictions may apply to those competitions where some or all the players are minors, see Part III - Rules and Conditions Applying to Specific Competitions.
- 7.2 A caddie may not be a professional golfer.
- 7.3 The penalty for a breach of a Condition restricting caddies shall be the same as that in Rule 6-4 for having more than one caddie.

Section 8 – Team Captains and Team Managers

- 8.1 The Note to Rule 8 (Advice; Indicating Line of Play) shall not apply to any Middlesex County Golf Union competition. Non-playing Team Captains and Team Managers may not offer advice or indicate a line for putting to any member of their Team. Playing Team Captains and Team Managers are limited to the offering of advice and the indicating of a line for putting as permitted under Rule 8.
- 8.2 Team Managers, Team Captains and others closely connected with a team who interfere with play (for example, giving advice, taking action to influence the movement of a ball) shall be deemed to be part of the side involved and their actions may result in their side or their team being penalised under the applicable Rule.

Section 9 – Markers

- 9.1 A competitor's scores shall be recorded by a fellow-competitor in the same playing group. Caddies may not act as markers.
- 9.2 Competitors within a playing group should exchange score cards at the first teeing ground. A competitor may not act as marker to more than one fellow-competitor.
- 9.3 A marker should record the scores of only one fellow-competitor or side on a score card and his own check scores.
- 9.4 A competitor whose scores are recorded in breach of 9.1 or 9.2 of these Conditions shall be disqualified.

Section 10 - Conduct

- 10.1 Players and their caddies must dress appropriately for the course and conditions and ensure that their dress does not breach the dress code of the host club. The Committee reserves the right under Rule 33-7 to disqualify a player if he or his caddie is dressed in a manner that may cause offence to the host club.
- 10.2 Players and their caddies are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the Rules of Etiquette. The Committee will not tolerate the use of bad language, spitting or the throwing equipment. The Committee may disqualify a player if it considers he has been in serious breach of the Rules of Etiquette or in the case of a breach by a caddie may require him to leave the course.

- 10.3 A player should take appropriate measures to ensure that any mobile telephone he carries during a stipulated round does not distract other players and is used with discretion. If the Committee considers that, as a result of not adhering to this condition, the player has been in serious breach of the Rules of Etiquette, it reserves the right under Rule 33-7 to disqualify the player or in the case of a breach by his caddie to require the caddie to leave the course.
- 10.4 The use of any form of music player or media device during play is prohibited. A player in breach of this Condition shall incur a penalty of loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play. A player shall be disqualified for a second offence within the same stipulated round.

Section 11 – Pace of Play Conditions

Out of consideration for opponents and fellow-competitors, players should always be ready to play when it is their turn and endeavour to keep pace with the group ahead.

- 11.1 The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes by a group of three competitors playing stroke play will vary from course to course but is normally between 3 hours 50 minutes and 4 hours. Referees and Rules Official if present will be able to advise the exact time for the round.
- 11.2 The first match or group will be considered “out of position” if, at any time during the round, the match or group’s cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes played. A following match or group will be considered “out of position” if (a) it is taking more time than the time allowed and (b) it reaches the teeing ground of a par 3 hole and the preceding match or group has cleared the next teeing ground, it fails to clear the teeing ground of a par 4 hole before the preceding match or group clears the putting green or it fails to arrive at the teeing ground of a par 5 hole before the preceding match or group reaches the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be “out of position”.
- 11.3 When present, Referees walking with matches and Rules Officials on the course will be responsible for monitoring the pace of play. A match or group “out of position” will first be advised informally and must endeavour to make up the lost ground over the next two holes.
- 11.4 If a Rules Official or Referee is concerned that a group is not responding and remains out of position, by agreement with the Chief Rules Official and taking into account any difficulties the match or group has had, a first formal warning may be given to the match or group.
- 11.5 A group or match having received a first formal warning, will be monitored and their play timed to determine the cause and which players appear to be responsible for the slowness in pace.
- 11.6 A second formal warning may then be given to the players requiring them thereafter to play within a maximum time per shot of 40 seconds with an 10 extra seconds for the first player to play from the teeing ground of a par 3 hole; the second shot on par 4s and par 5s and from on or near the putting green of any hole. The timing will start when a player has reached his ball, has had a few seconds to select his club and is able to play without interference. On the putting green some allowance will be made for the repair of ball marks and the removal of loose impediments.
- 11.7 If after the second formal warning a player exceeds the maximum time allowed for any stroke he will incur a penalty of one stroke; a further two stroke penalty for a subsequent breach and shall be disqualified under Rule 6-7 for any further breach of these pace of play conditions.
- 11.8 Timing will cease when the match or group is back in position.

Section 12 - Transportation

- 12.1 Players and their caddies shall walk at all times during a stipulated round unless permission to ride had been granted by the Tournament Committee prior to the start of the competition.
Exception: When proceeding under Rule 20-5 a player may accept a ride offered by a Rules Official officiating at the competition.
- 12.2 The Tournament Committee will consider a request to ride from a player (but not from a caddie) who has a disability that prevents him walking the course provided the request is made in writing no later than the date the player applies to enter the competition and provided that the player meets the definition of disabled as set out in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Should permission be granted by the Tournament Committee, the player will normally be restricted to using a single-seater ride-on golf cart.

- 12.3 Where the host club has two-seater golf carts for hire these are normally all reserved for use by tournament officials. If a player is permitted to ride under Condition 12.2 above and uses a two-seater golf cart, only the player his equipment and his caddie may be carried by the golf cart. If another player his equipment or caddie is carried by the golf cart that player will be in breach of Condition 12.1 above.
- 12.4 Penalty for a breach of this Condition:
 Match play – At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round – Two holes.
 Stroke play – Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – Four strokes.
 Match or stroke play – In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.

Section 13 - Adverse Weather Conditions

- 13.1 In the event of adverse weather conditions or a dangerous situation arising during a stroke play competition, the senior member of the Tournament Panel of Rules Officials present shall be responsible for any suspension and resumption of play. He shall be the person responsible for the overall safety of competitors on the course and be the judge as to when a dangerous situation exists.
- 13.2 It is in the interests of all players and their caddies to familiarise themselves with the procedures for the suspension and resumption of play published with the Local Rules for the event and which are in line with the recommendations in Appendix I Part C – 4, viz:
- Discontinue Play Immediately: One prolonged blast on an air horn.
 - Discontinue Play: Three consecutive blasts on an air horn, repeated.
 - Resume Play: Two short blasts on an air horn, repeated.
- The penalty for breach of these procedures is disqualification
- 13.3 If in the opinion of the Committee it becomes impossible to complete an event in accordance with the Conditions thereof because of adverse weather or playing conditions the Committee shall be empowered to vary such Conditions to the extent necessary to achieve a result.
Note: The Committee should pay particular heed to related Decisions such as 33-1/2 and 33-2d/1.

Section 14 - Submission of Results

- 14.1 For stroke play competitions the Committee shall establish a manned Score Card Return Point accessible from the course to which all scores shall be reported. Where necessary the Committee shall provide adequate signage to assist competitors to return their score cards to that point.
- 14.2 In a stroke play competition, all competitors within a group must report to the Score Card Return Point together immediately on completion of the last hole. At the Score Card Return Point score cards will be checked and signed. Competitors must report any play of a second ball under Rule 3-3 or any ball played from a wrong place under Rule 20-7 and settle any doubtful points. Once a competitor has left the Score Card Return Point, his score card is deemed to have been returned.
- 14.3 A competitor who fails to return his score card to the Score Card Return Point within ten minutes of leaving the last putting green shall be disqualified.
- 14.4 If the Score Card Return Point is not being manned by a member of the Tournament Panel of Rules Officials where possible one should be summoned to resolve any matters relating to the Rules of Golf.
- 14.5 Where a match has been accompanied by a Referee, he shall report the result direct to the Recorder. Otherwise both sides must report together to the Recorder immediately on completion of their match and report the result. Any outstanding claim should be resolved with the Committee before the result is reported.

Section 15 - Resolution of Ties

Unless the Conditions of a particular competition state otherwise ties shall be resolved in the following manner:

- 15.1 In match play off handicap if a match is all square after eighteen holes additional holes shall be played until one side wins a hole. The play of additional holes shall start at the 1st tee and handicap strokes shall be allowed as in the prescribed round (see Rule 2-3 and Appendix I Part C - 10). In match play off scratch extra holes to resolve a tie shall start at the hole where the match started.
- 15.2 If there is a tie for winner of a scratch stroke play event, the competitors with the joint lowest scores shall play in a hole-by-hole play-off over holes selected by the Committee in a stipulated order until one competitor scores less at a hole than his fellow-competitor(s) (see Appendix I Part C - 10). Play must be to the Rules as they apply to stroke play and competitors must hole out to remain in contention (see Decision 33-6/3). The Committee shall not require the completion of a score card during a play-off (see Decision 33-5/1).
- 15.3 The Committee shall determine the holes to be played in a stroke play play-off before commencement of play of the final round.
- 15.4 The groupings for a play-off and the order of play shall be decided by lot by the Committee (see Decision 33-3/4).
- 15.5 If there is a tie for a place (second, third, etc) of a scratch stroke play event for which an award is to be made, the tie shall be resolved by the reverse order in which the competitors lost in a play-off to determine the winner. If this does not resolve the tie or if the competitors were not in a play-off the tie shall be resolved by the matching of score cards as described in Condition 15.8 below.
- 15.6 If course conditions, weather conditions or any other circumstances make it impossible to play or complete the play of, a scratch stroke play event play-off, the tie shall be resolved by the matching of score cards as described in Condition 15.8 below.
- 15.7 If there is a tie for the winner or places of a handicap stroke play event or award, the winner and places shall be determined by the matching of score cards as described in Condition 15.8 below.
- 15.8 In the matching of score cards, where a competition is over more than one round, the competitor with the lowest score for the last round shall be the winner. If the tying competitors have the same scores for the last or only round, the winner shall be determined on the basis of the last nine holes, then the last six then the last three and finally on the last hole. For a scratch event the gross scores shall be matched: for a handicap event the nett scores shall be matched by deducting the appropriate portion of the competitor's playing handicap, without rounding, from his total gross score for the holes being matched. For example, when matching the last nine holes, half of the competitor's handicap is deducted, if matching the last six holes, one-third of the competitor's handicap is deducted, and so on (see Rule Appendix I Part C - 10c). In a multiple tee start, the last nine holes shall be deemed to be holes 10-18 and the last six holes, holes 13-18 irrespective of the hole at which a competitor started.
- 15.9 If the method described in Condition 15.8 above does not decide a winner or a place then joint winners or places shall be announced and each competitor rewarded in equal measure.

Section 16 – The Closure of Competition

- 16.1 For the purposes of Rule 2-5 the result of a match is deemed to have been officially announced once it has been recorded on an open results sheet and that sheet has been publicly displayed, or in the case of a team match, the result of the match has been advised to both Team Captains, or the winner of the match has teed off at the start of the next round, or at the commencement of a presentation ceremony, whichever occurs first. In a singles match play competition where matches are played individually on various courses, a match is deemed to have been officially announced once the result of the match has been communicated or despatched to the County Secretary.
- 16.2 For the purposes of Rule 34-1b a stroke play competition is deemed to be closed at the commencement of a presentation ceremony or, for a stroke play qualifying round followed by match play, when the player has teed off in his first match.

Part III - Rules and Conditions Applying to Specific Competitions

Section 1 - MCGU Juniors' Championship

1.1 Qualifications

- i) Entrants must be under the age of 14 on 1st January preceding the Championship.
- ii) On the date their entry for the Championship is submitted they must hold an Active handicap of 24.4 or lower if under the age of 13 on 1st January preceding the Championship. If aged 13 or over on 1st January preceding the Championship, entrants must hold an Active handicap of 14.4. Players with handicaps greater than the limit may not enter.

1.2 Maximum Entry

The maximum number of competitors shall be 36 when the competition is to be played over a 9 hole course, otherwise it shall be 72. If the number of approved entries exceeds the number of places available, Part I – General Rules Applying to All Competitions, Section 5 shall apply.

1.3 Conditions of Play

- i) The Championship shall be stroke play over 18 holes, over a 9 hole course when possible.
- ii) Any caddie must be under the age of 18 on the day of the Championship. The penalty for a breach of this Condition shall be two strokes for each hole at which a breach occurs with a maximum penalty of four strokes. If the competitor uses the caddie after discovery of the breach, he shall be disqualified.
- iii) The Committee reserves the right to deny a person from being employed or continuing to be employed as a caddie if he is unable to verify that he meets the condition above by providing verification from the Secretary of the competitor's golf club or other evidence acceptable to the Committee.

1.4 Order of Play

As far as is practical competitors shall be drawn to play in descending order of handicap in groups of three with no playing group comprising two competitors from the same club.

1.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) Prizes shall be awarded within each of three age categories: competitors aged under 14; competitors aged under 13 and competitors aged under 10. The categories will be based on competitors' ages on 1st January preceding the Championship.
- ii) A competitor can win more than one trophy but may not receive more than one prize.
- iii) The winner of the under 14 category shall be the competitor with the lowest gross score for the round. He shall receive the trophy for the category, which he shall hold for one year, a memento and a voucher. The competitor with the next lowest gross score shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- iv) The winner of the under 13 category shall be the competitor aged under 13 with the lowest gross score for the round. He shall receive the trophy for the category, which he shall hold for one year, a memento and a voucher. The competitor aged under 13 with the next lowest gross score shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- v) The winner of the under 10 category shall be the competitor aged under 10 with the lowest gross score for the round. He shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- vi) The competitor in each age category with the lowest nett score shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- vii) Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

Section 2 - MCGU Youths' Championship

2.1 Qualifications

- i) Entrants must be under the age of 21 on 1st January preceding the Championship.
- ii) On the date their entry for the Championship is submitted they must hold an Active handicap of 14.4 or lower if under the age of 18 on 1st January preceding the Championship. If aged 18 or over on 1st January preceding the Championship, entrants must hold an Active handicap of 8.4 or lower. Players with handicaps greater than the limit may not enter.

2.2 Maximum Entry

The maximum number of competitors shall be 72. If the number of approved entries exceeds the number of places available, competitors nominated to represent their Club in the MCGU Boys Champion Club Tournament shall have automatic places. In all other respects, Part I – General Rules Applying to All Competitions, Section 5 shall apply.

2.3 Conditions of Play

- i) The Championship shall be stroke play played over 36 holes.
- ii) Any caddie must be under the age of 21 on the day of the Championship. The penalty for a breach of this Condition shall be two strokes for each hole at which a breach occurs with a maximum penalty of four strokes. If the competitor uses the caddie after discovery of the breach, he shall be disqualified.
- iii) The Committee reserves the right to deny a person from being employed or continuing to be employed as a caddie if he is unable to verify that he meets the condition above by providing verification from the Secretary of the competitor's golf club or other evidence acceptable to the Committee.

2.4 Order of Play

As far as is practical competitors shall be drawn to play in descending order of handicap in groups of three with no playing group comprising two competitors from the same club.

2.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) Prizes shall be awarded within each of three age categories: competitors aged under 21; competitors aged under 18 and competitors aged under 16. The categories will be based on competitors' ages on 1st January preceding the Championship.
- ii) A competitor can win more than one trophy but may not receive more than one prize.
- iii) The winner of the under 21 category shall be the competitor with the lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes. He shall receive the trophy for the category, which he shall hold for one year, a memento and a voucher. The competitor with the next lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- iv) The winner of the under 18 category shall be the competitor aged under 18 with the lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes. He shall receive the trophy for the category, which he shall hold for one year, a memento and a voucher. The winner will be expected to accept the invitation of The English Golf Union to play in the EGU Junior Champion of Champions tournament normally held in September of the same year. The competitor aged under 18 with the next lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- v) The winner of the under 16 category shall be the competitor aged under 16 with the lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes. He shall receive the trophy for the category, which he shall hold for one year, a memento and a voucher. The competitor aged under 16 with the next lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- vi) The competitor with the lowest aggregate nett score for the 36 holes shall each receive a voucher.
- vii) Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

Section 3 - MCGU Boys Champion Club Tournament

3.1 Qualifications

Each golf club affiliated to the MCGU may enter a team of three competitors each of whom must qualify for acceptance into the concurrent MCGU Youths' Championship and must be under the age of 18 on 1st January preceding the Championship. The team must be nominated no later than two days before the day of the MCGU Youths' Championship.

3.2 Maximum Entry

One team of three competitors from each affiliated club.

3.3 Conditions of Play

The Tournament shall be played over 36 holes stroke play concurrently with the 36 hole stroke play rounds for the MCGU Youths' Championship. The Conditions that apply to the MCGU Youths' Championship shall apply equally to the MCGU Boys Champion Club Championship.

3.4 Order of Play

The order of play shall be determined by the order of play for the MCGU Youths' Championship.

3.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) The winner of the MCGU Boys Champion Club Tournament shall be the team with the lowest aggregate nett score by its team members over the 36 holes taking the two lowest nett scores out of the three for each round.
- ii) In the event of a tie the third nett score total for each round will be taken into account and decided on the 36-hole aggregate total.
- iii) If a tie still exists the result shall be determined on the lowest nett score for the second 18 holes or 9 or 6 or 3 or 1 taking all three scores into account. Thereafter the score for the first 18 holes shall be treated in the same way until a winner is determined.
- iv) The winning club will be expected to accept the invitation of The English Golf Union to play in the EGU Junior Champion Club tournament normally held in August of the same year.

Section 4 - MCGU Amateur Championship

4.1 Qualifications

Entrants must hold an Active handicap of 5.4 or lower on the date their entry for the Championship is submitted. Players with handicaps greater than the limit may not enter.

4.2 Maximum Entry

The maximum number of competitors shall be 72. If the number of approved entries exceeds the number of places available, competitors nominated to represent their Club in the MCGU Club Team Stroke Play Championship shall have automatic places. In all other respects, Part I – General Rules Applying to All Competitions, Section 5 shall apply.

4.3 Conditions of Play

- i) The Amateur Championship is a three day event comprising 36 holes stroke play on the first day with the sixteen players returning the lowest aggregate scores qualifying to enter the match play knock out stage played over the second and third days.
- ii) A tie for the last match play place(s) shall be decided in accordance with Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions, Section 15.
- iii) The sixteen qualifying players shall play off in singles match play over 18 holes on the morning of the second day. The winning eight players shall play off in singles match play over 18 holes on the afternoon of the second day. The winning four players shall play off in singles match play over 18 holes on the morning of the third day. The two finalists shall play off in singles match play over 18 holes on the afternoon of the third day.

4.4 Order of Play

- i) For the stroke play rounds, as far as is practical, competitors shall be drawn to play in descending order of handicap in groups of three with no playing group comprising two competitors from the same club.
- ii) For the match play stage of the Championship the General Numerical Draw procedure recommended in Appendix I Part C-11 shall be used to determine places in the draw.
- iii) In each match, the player that has the honour at the first teeing ground is determined by the order of the draw (Rule 10-1a).

4.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) The winner shall receive the trophy, which he shall hold for one year, a memento, and a voucher. He will be expected to accept the invitation of The English Golf Union to play in the EGU Men's County Champion of Champions Tournament normally held at The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa in September of the same year.
- ii) The runner-up shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- iii) The two losing semi-finalists shall each receive a voucher
- iv) At the close of the stroke play qualifying rounds on the first day, the competitor under the age of twenty-one on 1st January preceding the Championship who returned the best aggregate gross score for the two rounds shall receive the Courage Trophy which he shall hold for one year, a memento, and a voucher. The winning of this trophy shall not exclude the competitor from any other prize.
- v) At the close of the stroke play qualifying rounds on the first day additional awards in the form of vouchers may be awarded at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- vi) A memento shall be presented to the head greenkeeper of the club hosting the Championship.

Section 5 - MCGU Club Team Stroke Play Championship

5.1 Qualifications

Each golf club affiliated to the MCGU may enter a team of three competitors each of whom must qualify for acceptance into the concurrent Amateur Championship. The team must be nominated no later than two days before the day of the qualifying stroke play rounds for the MCGU Amateur Championship.

5.2 Maximum Entry

One team of three competitors from each affiliated club.

5.3 Conditions of Play

The Championship shall be played over 36 holes stroke play concurrently with the 36 hole stroke play qualifying rounds for the MCGU Amateur Championship.

5.4 Order of Play

The order of play shall be determined by the order of play for the qualifying rounds for the MCGU Amateur Championship.

5.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) The winner of the MCGU Club Team Stroke Play Championship shall be the team with the lowest aggregate gross score by its team members over the 36 holes.
- ii) If a tie still exists the result shall be determined on the lowest gross score for the second 18 holes or 9 or 6 or 3 or 1 taking all three scores into account. Thereafter the score for the first 18 holes shall be treated in the same way until a winner is determined.
- iii) The winning team shall receive the trophy, which it shall hold for one year and a memento. The winning club will be expected to accept the invitation of The English Golf Union to play in the EGU Champion Club Tournament normally held in September of the same year.

Section 6 - MCGU Seniors' Championship

6.1 Qualifications

Entrants must be aged 55 or over on the day of the Championship and must hold an Active handicap of 14.4 or lower on the date his entry for the Championship is submitted. Players with handicaps greater than the limit may not enter.

6.2 Maximum Entry

The maximum number of competitors shall be 72. If the number of approved entries exceeds the number of places available, Part I – General Rules Applying to All Competitions, Section 5 shall apply.

6.3 Conditions of Play

The Championship shall be stroke play played over 36 holes.

6.4 Order of Play

As far as is practical competitors shall be drawn to play in descending order of handicap in groups of three with no playing group comprising two competitors from the same club.

6.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) No competitor may be awarded more than one prize.
- ii) The winner shall be the competitor with the lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes. He shall receive the trophy, which he shall hold for one year, a memento and a voucher.
- iii) The runner-up shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- iv) The competitor aged 55 and under 60 on the day of the Championship with the lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes shall receive a voucher.
- v) The competitor aged 60 and under 65 on the day of the Championship with the lowest aggregate gross score for the 36 holes shall receive a voucher.
- vi) The competitor over 64 on the day of the Championship with the lowest gross score for the first round of 18 holes shall receive a voucher.
- vii) The two competitors with the lowest aggregate nett scores for the 36 holes shall receive vouchers.
- viii) Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

Section 7 - MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl (& EGU Gold Medal Qualifier)

The MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl runs concurrently with the MCGU's qualifying competition for the EGU Gold Medal. The entry fees for this competition are donated to Cancer Research UK.

7.1 Qualifications

- i) To qualify, competitors must:
 - a) Enter the Medal stroke play competition designated by their Home Club as the qualifier for the MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl and EGU Gold Medal Qualifier;
 - b) At the time of entry, pay a one pound entry fee for the MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl;
 - c) Achieve a winning nett score in the designated qualifying competition.
- ii) The competitors' club must:
 - a) Advise the County Secretary in advance of the date of the Medal stroke play competition it has designated as the qualifier for the MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl and EGU Gold Medal Qualifier;
 - b) After the qualifying event, enter the two competitors who, irrespective of their handicap category or any divisions the club may make for the awarding of medals or other prizes, returned the lowest nett scores in relation to the Competition Scratch Score and who paid the entry fee for the MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl;
 - c) At the time of entry, pay over to the County Secretary the entry fees collected;
 - d) At the time of entry, submit to the County Secretary the results of the designated Medal competition in the form of a list of the nett scores in ascending order.
- iii) If a qualifying competitor is unable to play in the MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl and EGU Gold Medal Qualifier, his place may be taken by the competitor with the next lowest nett score in the same Medal event that paid the appropriate entry fee.

7.2 Maximum Entry

The maximum entry shall be two competitors from each affiliated club.

7.3 Conditions of Play

The MCGU Coronation Challenge Bowl and EGU Gold Medal Qualifier shall be handicapped stroke play played over 36 holes.

7.4 Order of Play

As far as is practical competitors shall be drawn to play in descending order of handicap in groups of three with no playing group comprising two competitors from the same club.

7.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) The winners of the Coronation Bowl shall be the club whose two competitors score the lowest combined aggregate nett score for their 36 holes. They shall receive the Coronation Challenge Bowl, which they shall hold for one year, and a memento.
- ii) The individual winner with the lowest nett aggregate score for the 36 holes is the EGU Gold Medal Qualifier and he will be expected to accept the invitation of The English Golf Union to play in the EGU Gold Medal Tournament final normally held at The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa in August of the same year.
- iii) The competitors with the lowest nett scores for each round of 18 holes shall each receive a voucher.
- iv) Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

Section 8 - MCGU Singles Match Play (George Gowland Salver)

8.1 Qualifications

- i) Entrants must hold an Active handicap of 6.4 or lower on the date their entry for the event is submitted. Players with handicaps greater than the limit may not enter.
- ii) The golf club of an entrant shall agree that an entrant's opponent shall play the match without payment of any green fee. Any practice round is at the discretion of the Host Club.

8.2 Maximum Entry

The maximum number of players shall be 64. If the number of approved entries exceeds the number of places available, Part I – General Rules Applying to All Competitions, Section 5 shall apply.

8.3 Conditions of Play

- i) The event is a knock out singles match play competition and the order of the draw shall be determined by lot drawn by the County Secretary in the presence of at least one other member of the Tournament Committee or member of the Executive Committee. The first player drawn in any pair shall be the top-named player on the draw sheet and shall be the Home Player. The player drawn as his opponent shall be the bottom-named player on the draw sheet and shall be the Away Player.
- ii) The Tournament Committee shall set a Contact Date and a Closing Date for each round.
- iii) All matches except the semi-final and final matches shall be played on the Home Player's club course unless the players mutually agree to play on a course of another club affiliated to the MCGU. If the Home Player fails to contact the Away Player by 8.00pm on the Contact Date then the Away Player may choose at which course the match shall be played.
- iv) The format shall be match play, off scratch, with each match played over 18 holes.
- v) In the event of a match being all square after 18 holes, extra holes shall be played in accordance with Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions, Condition 15.1.
- vi) Each match shall start at or before 3:00pm on the date specified as the Closing Date for the round unless an earlier date and time has been mutually arranged between the two players.
- vii) The result of each match must be reported to the County Secretary as soon as possible after the completion of the match and no later than noon on the Monday after the closing date. Otherwise both players shall be disqualified.
- viii) Whenever possible the semi-finals and final match shall be played at a neutral course selected by the Tournament Committee and played on a date and at a time determined by the Tournament Committee that is mutually acceptable to the four players.
- ix) The Tournament Committee shall endeavour to appoint referees for the semi-final and final matches.
- x) Following any match other than the semi-finals and final, any claim under Rule 2-5 must be reported on the day to the County Secretary or if he is not available, to the Chief Rules Official or to a member of the Tournament Panel of Rules Officials for a ruling.

8.4 Order of play

The Away Player shall have the honour on the first teeing ground. When a match is played on a neutral course, the order of play shall be decided by lot.

8.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) The winner shall be presented with the George Gowland Salver, which he shall hold for one year, a memento and a voucher.
- ii) The runner-up shall receive a memento and a voucher.
- iii) The two losing semi-finalists shall each receive a voucher.

Section 9 - MCGU Club Team Match Play Championship (The Frank Rowse Trophy)

9.1 Qualifications

- i) A team from an affiliated club shall consist of eight players. Different players may be selected by the club for each round. For each round the team Captain may nominate a squad of up to ten players from whom the players in the four foursome matches and the eight singles matches must be selected in advance. (see 10.4 below).
- ii) It shall be a condition of entering that a team when drawn as the Home team in any round must be in a position to play the matches on their course; to offer the Away team a courtesy practice round prior to the matches and to meet the cost of any green fees that may be due.
- iii) Each club whether playing at home or away shall be responsible for its own catering costs.

9.2 Maximum Entry

One team from each affiliated club.

9.3 Conditions of Play

- i) The format is knockout match play off scratch, each round comprising four foursome matches over 18 holes followed by eight singles matches over 18 holes all played on the same day.
- ii) The order of the draw shall be determined by lot drawn by the County Secretary in the presence of at least one other member of the Tournament Committee or member of the Executive Committee. The first team drawn in any pair shall be the top-named team on the draw sheet and shall be the Home Team. The team drawn as their opponent shall be the bottom-named team on the draw sheet and shall be the Away Team.
- iii) The Tournament Committee shall set the dates on which each round shall be played and the dates shall be published in the MCGU calendar for the year.
- iv) Matches shall begin at or before 11:00am on the dates set except that should the teams in matches other than a semi-final or final round, play on a mutually agreed earlier date the results shall be accepted. An extension of time will only be considered if both teams are present on the due date but the course due to adverse weather conditions is or becomes unplayable and the matches cannot be completed before darkness falls.
- v) All matches except the semi-final and final matches shall be played on the Home Team's club course. If a Home team has difficulty in arranging to play the matches on their own course, it may opt to play them on a neutral course of another club affiliated to the MCGU or on the Away team's course. If the matches are to be played on other than the Home Team's course, the Home team must expect to pay any green fees due.
- vi) The semi-final rounds shall each be played on the course of the other semi-final's "Home" team. The final will normally be played on the course of the club that hosted the previous year's MCGU Amateur Championship. In the event of this course being that of one of the finalists, the Tournament Committee shall arrange another neutral venue.
- vii) Matches that are all square after 18 holes are halved. Additional holes are not played to determine a winner.
- viii) In the event of the final score being equal the team Captains shall each nominate a member of their team who has already played that day in either the foursomes or the singles, to play a hole-by-hole play-off singles match starting from the first hole and played in accordance with Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions, Condition 15.1 until one player wins a hole.
- ix) If a breach of Rule 1-3 occurs between sides in a match or a valid claim made under the final paragraph of Rule 2-5 is upheld, resulting in a draw between the teams the provisions of (viii) shall apply. If a hole-by-hole play-off has already taken place, the result of the play-off shall be disregarded.
- x) The results of a round must be reported to the County Secretary as soon as possible after the completion of the last match. If no result has been reported by noon on the Monday following the date set for the round both teams shall be disqualified.
- xi) Following any match other than a semi-final or final match, any claim under Rule 2-5 must be reported on the day to the County Secretary or if he is not available, to the Chief Rules Official or to a member of the Tournament Panel of Rules Officials for a ruling.
- xii) The Tournament Committee shall endeavour to appoint a Rules Official to be present at the semi-final and final matches.

9.4 Order of play

- i) Team Captains shall exchange their team's playing order at least fifteen minutes before the first starting time of a round.
- ii) After the exchange of teams' playing orders by the Team Captains, the order may not be changed. Substitutes are permitted in the foursomes should a player or players be unavailable. Substitution other than from the original ten nominees is permitted only for the singles matches and only then by agreement between the two Team Captains.
- iii) The Away Team shall have the honour on the first teeing ground. In the semi-final and final rounds, the order of play from the first tee shall be decided once by lot and the result shall apply to all four foursomes matches with the other Team having the honour in all eight singles matches.

9.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) The winning team shall receive on behalf of their club the Frank Rowse Inter-club Trophy (the Sabre Cup), which it shall hold for one year, and a memento.
- ii) The runners-up shall receive a memento.

Section 10 - MCGU President's Foursomes

10.1 Qualifications

- i) A team from an affiliated club shall consist of six players. Different players may be selected by the club for any preliminary round, each leg in Round One and each subsequent round.
- ii) It shall be a condition of entering that a team must be in a position to play the required matches on their course and shall meet the cost of any green fees that may be due.
- iii) Each club whether playing at home or away shall be responsible for its own catering costs.

10.2 Maximum Entry

One team from each affiliated club. Where the number of entries requires that half or more than half of the teams shall receive a bye in the first round, that first round shall be called the Preliminary Round and the next round, Round One, otherwise the first round shall be called Round One.

10.3 Conditions of Play

- i) The format of the competition is knockout foursomes match play. Round One, and only Round One, shall comprise two legs. Each round and each leg of Round One shall comprise three foursomes matches played on the same day off scratch over 18 holes.
- ii) The order of the draw shall be determined by lot drawn by the County Secretary in the presence of at least one other member of the Tournament Committee or member of the Executive Committee. The first team drawn in any pair shall be the top-named team on the draw sheet and shall be the Home Team.
- iii) In Round One the first leg shall be played on the Home Team's course and the second leg on the Away Team's course. All other rounds except the semi-final and final rounds shall be played on the Home Team's course.
- iv) Where a Home Team has difficulty in arranging to play the matches on their own course, it may opt to play them on a neutral course acceptable to the Away Team or on the Away Team's course. If the matches are to be played on other than the Home Team's course, the Home Team must expect to pay any green fees due.
- v) Each round except the semi-final and final rounds, and each leg of Round One shall be played at or before 2:00pm on the closure date specified or on an earlier date mutually arranged between the two teams.
- vi) A semi-final shall be played on a neutral course which shall normally be that of a side playing in the other semi-final or on a neutral course nominated by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall endeavour to appoint County Rules Officials to be present for the semi-final rounds.
- vii) The final shall be played on a neutral course nominated by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall endeavour to appoint County Rules Officials to be present for the final. The agreed date and neutral course will normally be the same as those for the final of the MCGU Middlesex Sixes.
- viii) Team Captains shall exchange their team's playing order at least fifteen minutes before the first starting time of a round or a leg of Round One. After the exchange of teams' playing orders by the Team Captains, the order may not be changed but substitutes may be permitted.
- ix) In the event of a match being all square after 18 holes, extra holes shall be played in accordance with Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions, Condition 15.1.
- x) Any claims to be made under Rule 2-5 must be reported on the day to the County Secretary or if he is not available, to the Chief Rules Official or to a member of the Tournament Panel of Rules Officials for a ruling.
- xi) The team that wins the most matches in a round, or over the two legs of Round One, shall go through to the next round.
- xii) In the event of each team having won three matches in Round One the Team Captains shall nominate one of their three sides who have played in the second leg to play a hole-by-hole play-off, in accordance with Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions, Condition 15.1 until one side wins a hole.
- xiii) If a breach of Rule 1-3 between sides in a match results in a draw between the teams, the Team Captains shall nominate one of their two sides not subject to disqualification, to play a hole-by-hole play-off, in accordance with Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions, Condition 15.1 until one side wins a hole. In the event of a breach of Rule 1-3 between sides in a match resulting in a draw between the teams, not coming to light until a later date, the teams may field substitutes in the play-off that meet the required qualifications (see 11.1).
- xiv) If a breach of Rule 1-3 between sides in a match or a valid claim made under the final paragraph of Rule 2-5 is upheld, results in a draw between the teams after there has been a hole-by-hole play-off in Round One (see xii) the result of the hole-by-hole play-off shall be ignored.
- xv) The results of a round must be reported to the County Secretary as soon as possible after the completion of the last match. If no result has been reported by noon on the Monday following the closing date specified for the end of the round both teams shall be disqualified.

10.4 Order of play

The Away Team shall have the honour on the first teeing ground. In the semi-final and final rounds, the order of play from the first tee shall be decided once by lot and the result shall apply to all three matches.

10.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) The winning team shall receive on behalf of their club the Presidents Jug, which it shall hold for one year and a memento.
- ii) The runners-up shall receive a memento.

Section 11 - MCGU Middlesex Sixes

11.1 Qualifications

- i) A team from an affiliated club shall consist of six players none of whom may have played in the MCGU Club Team Match Play Championship (The Frank Rowse Trophy) or the MCGU Presidents Foursomes during the same calendar year.
- ii) All players shall be aged 18 or over on 1st January of the year of the tournament.
- iii) On the day that a round is played, two players must have an Active handicap of not less than 6; two players must have an Active handicap of not less than 11 and two players must have an Active handicap of not less than 16.
- iv) Different players may be selected by the club for each round.
- v) It shall be a condition of entering that a team when drawn as the Home Team in any round must be in a position to play the matches on their course; to offer the Away Team a courtesy practice round prior to the matches and meet the cost of any green fees that may be due.
- vi) Each club, whether playing at home or away, shall be responsible for its own catering costs.

11.2 Maximum Entry

One team from each affiliated club.

11.3 Conditions of Play

- i) The format is knockout handicapped four-ball match play. Each round shall comprise three four-ball matches played over 18 holes on the same day. One match shall comprise players with playing handicaps in the range 6 to 10; one match shall comprise players with playing handicaps in the range 11 to 15 and one match shall comprise players with playing handicaps in the range 16 to 20. A player may play in a match of a handicap range lower than his own playing handicap but must play off the maximum handicap for that match.
- ii) The order of the draw shall be determined by lot drawn by the County Secretary in the presence of at least one other member of the Tournament Committee or member of the Executive Committee. The first team drawn in any pair shall be the top-named team on the draw sheet and shall be the Home Team. The team drawn as their opponent shall be the bottom-named team on the draw sheet and shall be the Away Team.
- iii) Players shall receive strokes based on $\frac{3}{4}$ difference of full playing handicaps.
- iv) Each round except the semi-final and final rounds shall start at or before 2:00pm on the closure date specified or on an earlier date mutually arranged between the two teams.
- v) A semi-final shall be played on a neutral course which shall normally be that of a side playing in the other semi-final or on a neutral course nominated by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall endeavour to appoint County Rules Officials to be present for the semi-final rounds.
- vi) The final round shall be played over 18 holes on an agreed date on a neutral course nominated by the Tournament Committee. The agreed date and neutral course will normally be the same as those for the final of the MCGU Presidents Foursomes.
- vii) A draw for each round to determine which teams shall play against each other shall be made by the County Secretary in the presence of at least one (other) member of the Tournament Committee or the Executive Committee. The first team drawn in any pair shall be the top-named team on the draw sheet and shall be the Home Team.
- viii) If a match is all square after 18 holes extra holes shall be played in accordance with Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions, Condition 15.1.
- ix) The team that wins the most matches shall go through to the next round.
- x) If a breach of Rule 1-3 between sides in a match results in a draw between the teams, a hole-by-hole play-off, in accordance with Part II - Conditions of Play Applying to All Competitions, Condition 15.1 shall be played between the sides which comprise players with playing handicaps in the range 6 to 10 until one side wins a hole. If they were the sides disqualified, then the play-off shall be between the sides which comprised players with playing handicaps in the range 11 to 15. In the event of a breach of Rule 1-3 between sides in a match resulting in a draw between the teams, not coming to light until a later date, the teams may field substitutes in the play-off with appropriate handicaps that meet the required qualifications (see 12.1).
- xi) Where a Home team has difficulty in arranging to play the matches on their own course, it may request to play them on the other team's course. If the matches are to be played on other than the Home Team's course, the Home team must expect to pay any green fees due.
- xii) Any claim under Rule 2-5 must be reported on the day to the County Secretary or if he is not available, to the Chief Rules Official or to a member of the Tournament Panel of Rules Officials for a ruling.
- xiii) The results of a round must be reported to the County Secretary as soon as possible after the completion of the last match. If no result has been reported by noon on the Monday following the date set for the end of the round both teams shall be disqualified.
- xiv) The Tournament Committee shall endeavour to appoint County Rules Officials to be present for the final.

11.4 Order of play

- i) The sides playing in the handicap range 16 to 20 shall play each other in the first match.
- ii) The sides playing in the handicap range 11 to 15 shall play each other in the second match.
- iii) The sides playing in the handicap range 6 to 10 shall play each other in the third match.
- iv) The Away Team shall have the honour on the first teeing ground. In the semi-final and final rounds, the order of play from the first tee shall be decided once by lot and the result shall apply to all three matches.

11.5 Prizes and Vouchers

- i) The winning team shall receive on behalf of their club the Trophy, which it shall hold for one year, and a memento.
- ii) The runners-up shall receive a memento.