

BLANK CUP

CONDITIONS OF PLAY - 2024

Canterbury Golf Incorporated (Canterbury Golf) and/or the Canterbury Golf Men's Events Committee (Committee) reserve the right to alter and amend these rules, and the dates governing the competition, and in all cases their decision shall be final.

1. ENTRY CONDITIONS:

- (a) Entries will be accepted from qualifying member clubs that are affiliated to Canterbury Golf and have paid their annual Member's levy, as notified By Canterbury Golf, prior to the commencement of the competition. Qualification to enter a team is based on the previous year's placings or promotion/relegation. Should a qualifying club choose not to enter a team, the Committee will determine an alternative club that will participate in Blank Cup.
- (b) A match programme setting out the times and dates of fixtures shall be forwarded to Clubs participating in the competition.
- (c) The entry fee for each team entered in the competition shall be payable to Canterbury Golf prior to the commencement of the competition. The entry fee shall be determined by Canterbury Golf.
- (d) Clubs entering a team shall be required to make their course available for matches on the day and starting time of play laid down by Canterbury Golf.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

- (a) Players must permanently reside in the area administered by Canterbury Golf. The area administered comprises all the land bounded by:
 - 1) The Conway River in the north
 - 2) The Rakaia River in the south
 - 3) Chatham Islands in the east
 - 4) The Southern Alps in the west.
- (b) The player must be a full financial member with full playing rights at the Club he is representing while playing in the competition, including the Promotion/Relegation match (if applicable).
- (c) Players are only permitted to represent one club in any competition season, unless the Committee approves a change of a player's club, upon written application to the Committee stating the reasons for the change.
- (d) The following players are prohibited from playing:
 - (i) Professional golfers.
 - (ii) A person suspended by a ruling of a Commissioner of Golf or by the Canterbury Golf Executive Committee. The suspended player may not also be involved as a Team Manager, Team Advice Giver or Caddie.
 - (iii) A player granted dispensation under the "Import" rule to play Woodward Cup.
 - (iv) Female golfers.
- (e) A player having played five (5) matches in a higher competition (Woodward Cup) will **not** be eligible to play unless specific permission to do so is given by the Committee.

(Penalty for breach of Rules 2(a) to 2(e) is disqualification of the player concerned)

3. NUMBER OF TEAMS:

There shall be a maximum of ten (10) teams in the Blank Cup competition, consisting of eight (8) players per team. A qualifying club may only have one team in Blank Cup.

4. PLAYING CONDITIONS:

- (a) The competition shall be played on a Sunday, unless otherwise arranged by the Committee.
- (b) The teams shall play a round robin competition of match play, culminating with the top four teams playing in a semi-final/final competition. All matches shall be singles match play off the stick.
- (c) All matches will finish at the 18th hole or sooner. The team winning the greater number of matches shall receive two match points and for a draw one point will be awarded.
- (d) Where more than one set of tees are available the Championship tees are recommended to be used. However, the Canterbury Golf Official on duty has the discretion to use an alternative set of tees.

- (e) The Competition will be played under the current Rules of Golf. Reference to applicable rules is stated as "Rule xx-x" in these conditions of play. In addition, the Canterbury Hard Card will apply.
- (f) Clubs must submit their team in playing order plus the name of the Team Advice Giver to the Canterbury Golf Official on duty, prior to the start of each round.
- (g) The playing order of the team shall be 8 through 1 unless authorised by a Canterbury Golf Official or a Referee. It is also the responsibility of Clubs to ensure that their team play in the order as submitted. (i.e.) 1 plays 1, 2 plays 2 and so on.
- (h) The use of motorised golf carts (that a player rides in or on) are not permitted, however a medical exemption (with supporting medical evidence or certificate) may be applied for from Canterbury Golf or the Canterbury Golf Official on duty. The motorised golf cart may only be used by the exempted player. During play, a player may be offered a lift in a motorised golf cart to put another ball in play for a lost ball or a ball out of bounds, so that a prompt pace of play is maintained.
- (i) The consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs during the competition is expressly prohibited.
- (j) Before commencement of play, a listed player may be replaced by a substitute. Once the substitute has commenced play, he cannot be replaced.

(Penalty for breach of Rules 4(f) to 4(j) is disqualification of the player(s) concerned).

- (k) The playing order of teams may change for the afternoon round on any two round competition days.
- (l) Players must maintain a prompt pace of play as outlined in Rule 5.6. Warnings of slow play may, but not necessarily, be given to a group or player/s in a group before penalties are applied. Team Advice Givers are expected to monitor their team's pace of play and advise their team members accordingly of any slow play.
- (m) The use of a mobile phone is permitted as long as it does not cause a disturbance to other players and does not unduly delay play. It is recommended that mobile phones be put on silent mode or switched off while competing.

5. TIME OF STARTING:

The player shall tee off at the time of starting as laid down by Canterbury Golf unless another start time is authorised by the Canterbury Golf Official on duty. If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play within five (5) minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole. Otherwise, the penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification (rule 5-3a). All afternoon rounds must start no later than five (5) hours after the morning start time unless another start time is authorised by the Canterbury Golf Official on duty.

6. TEAM ADVICE GIVER:

Each team shall:

- (a) Appoint one person as the Team Advice Giver (e.g.) team manager, team captain, professional golfer, or coach, who may give advice (including pointing out a line for putting) to members of their team. The person appointed Team Advice Giver shall not be entitled to act in that capacity whilst playing in the competition but may act in that capacity only once his round is finished.
- (b) Such a person shall be identified to the Canterbury Golf Official prior to the commencement of each match.

(Penalty for breach of Condition 6 is disqualification of the team)

7. RESULTS:

At the conclusion of the match, it shall be the duty of an official representative of each team ((e.g.) Team Advice Giver, Manager, Captain, or Coach) to advise the match results to the Canterbury Golf Official appointed. Both team representatives must sign the result sheet confirming the result as correct and final.

8. MATCH PLAY CARDS:

It is recommended that match play cards be kept to record the scores and hole by hole results of the match. However, it is optional for the player to submit a match play card for handicapping purposes. If a card is submitted for handicapping purposes, then at least 10 holes in the match must have been played. The card must have the full 18 holes completed in accordance with the NZGI formula for uncompleted holes (i.e.) recorded as par plus any handicap strokes that the player is entitled to receive on the unplayed holes.

9. SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL:

- (a) The Blank Cup semi-finals and final will be played in conjunction with Woodward Cup at a course and on a date set by Canterbury Golf.
- (b) The top four (4) teams from the round robin play, (seeded relative to their finishing positions), will play in the semi-final/final competition. From round robin competition results, 1 will play 4, 2 will play 3.
 - (i) In the event of a tie of points in the round robin the winner shall be the team with the largest total of individual games.
 - (ii) Should clause i) fail to determine the finishing position; the result of the contest between the two teams in section play shall decide the winner.
 - (iii) Should clause ii) fail to determine the finishing position; the result of a coin toss between the two teams in section play shall decide the winner.
- (c) For the semi-finals and final, if the result is tied, each team will nominate one player to play off in sudden death match play from a nominated hole as determined by a Canterbury Golf Official or Referee. The first player to win a hole outright will have his team declared the winner.

10. PROMOTION / RELEGATION

At the conclusion of the competition, the highest placed team in Blank Cup after the final, that does not already have a team in Woodward Cup, will qualify to play in the Woodward Cup promotion/relegation match. If that does not apply, then after the Semi-Final. If that does not apply, then at the end of round robin competition.

The lowest placed team in Blank Cup will be subject to the Simon Cup promotion/relegation rules. These are as follows:

- (a) Only Simon clubs, that do not already have a team in the Blank competition after the Woodward Cup promotion/relegation match and who have qualified for the semi/finals, are eligible for promotion. The following process will apply for those clubs:
 - (i) The club that wins Simon will be automatically promoted to Blank and the lowest placed team in Blank will be relegated to Simon.
 - (ii) If no club is eligible under clause 10 (a)(i), then the next highest placed team earns the right to challenge the lowest placed team in Blank.
- (b) The format of the promotion/relegation shall be as follows:
 - (i) The promotion/relegation match shall be played at a neutral venue on the date advised in the Canterbury Golf calendar or by Canterbury Golf.
 - (ii) The competition shall be Match Play over 18 holes, played in accordance with the Blank Cup Conditions of Play. The winning team shall be entitled to compete in the Blank Cup competition in the subsequent year, with the losing team relegated to, or remaining in Simon Cup. A team that wins promotion from Simon to Blank Cup is unable to have a team in Simon for the following year, unless their club have won the promotion/relegation from Thompson MacDonald to Simon Cup
 - (iii) In the event of a tie, each team shall nominate one player to play off in sudden death match play. The first player to win a hole outright shall have his team declared the winner.
 - (iv) The team shall comprise eight (8) players.
 - (v) The match is deemed to be part of the just ended interclub season.
 - (vi) A player may only play for his home club in the promotion/relegation unless the exception in clause (vii) is being used.
 - (vii) A player who played for their secondary club can choose whether he plays for the team he represented during the round-robin competition or his home club that has earned the right to play in the promotion/relegation. If the team he chooses wins the promotion/relegation, then he may only represent that club for the following year's Blank Cup competition, unless dispensation is applied for in writing and granted by the Committee.
- (c) Depending on the entries received in the following year and in the interests of having an ideal number of teams in each competition, the Committee reserves the right to allow an additional club to be promoted to a higher competition or a relegated club to remain in the competition they were competing in.

11. POSTPONEMENT / SUSPENSION OF PLAY / ABANDONMENT:

- (a) All matches will be played on the programmed dates, unless the Host Club, the Committee or the Canterbury Golf Official on duty deems the course to be unplayable. Note: A frost delay does not constitute an “unplayable condition”, only a delayed starting time.
- (b) In the event of adverse weather conditions or other significant events (e.g.) an earthquake, the Committee or Canterbury Golf Official on duty may postpone a match day round(s).
- (c) After commencement of play, the Canterbury Golf Official on duty may order a suspension of play under Rule 5.7 – Stopping Play; Resuming Play - which also includes circumstances that render the proper playing of the game impossible (e.g.) a significant medical event such as a heart attack. If suspension occurs, players should proceed according to Rule 5.7b and Rule 5.7d.
- (d) The Canterbury Golf Official on duty or the Committee will determine whether play will be resumed or the number of holes to be played be reduced to get a result or the round be abandoned. Resumption of play will proceed according to Rule 5.7c. For the semi-finals and finals if there is a suspension of play and not an abandonment, play must be resumed from where it was discontinued, even if resumption occurs on a later day.
- (e) Should any round be postponed or abandoned, it will be played on the “Reserve Day”. If a Reserve Day is not programmed, an alternate date may be scheduled, or two rounds may be played on a programmed date. However, if play on the Reserve Day or alternate date is abandoned, the round(s) will not be replayed in that years’ competition.

12. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS:

- (a) If a dispute on a “Rule of Golf” arises between players, the dispute will be resolved according to Rule 20 – Resolving Rules Issues During Round, Rulings by Referee and Committee.
- (b) For any other situation not covered by the Rules of Golf then the following would apply. Verbally lodge a protest with the Canterbury Golf Official on Duty or an On-Course Referee before the result of the match is final. The matter will then be referred to a Disputes Committee comprising of the Canterbury Golf Official on duty, a Canterbury Golf Referees Representative and/or a Canterbury Golf Representative.

NOTE: Any team lodging a Protest should NOT sign the Match Result Sheet for the Match concerned. The result of the match is final when both team representatives have signed the result sheet.

- (c) Should the Dispute/Protest not be settled on the day or there is information that a team became aware of after the result of the match was signed as being correct, then the dispute/protest must then be submitted in writing to the Canterbury Golf General Manager within 48 hours of the conclusion of the day’s play, together with submissions from all concerned parties for referral to the Committee for a decision.
- (d) All decisions made by the Committee, after due consideration, shall be final.

13. TROPHIES

The following trophies will be presented:

Winners – Blank Cup, Canterbury Golf Winners Plaque, Individual Gold Medals to players

Runners Up - Individual Silver Medals to players

Brian O’Malley Salver – Awarded to the player/s that had the best individual record in round-robin play.

14. HEALTH & SAFETY - DAILY REQUIREMENTS

- a) The Canterbury Golf official on duty is the designated Emergency Officer and Health & Safety Officer for that day.
- b) Where there is no designated person from Canterbury Golf on duty, the Host Club is responsible for nominating a person to take on this role. This may be the Host Club’s Team Manager, a Club Committee Member, or other member nominated by the club.
- c) That person will complete the Event Health & Safety Sheet prior to the commencement of play.
- d) All Health & Safety matters or concerns should be addressed immediately and directly to the Canterbury Golf Official on duty. That person is responsible for taking any action required.

- e) All Players, Managers and Officials should be familiar with the NZ Golf “Suspension of Play” procedure documented in the NZ Golf Club Manual Section 5-9. This is summarised below:

How suspensions of play and the resumption are indicated –

1. Normal Suspension of play – three consecutive short notes of a hand siren.
2. Immediate Suspension of play for a dangerous situation – one prolonged note of a hand siren.
3. Resumption of play – two short notes of a hand siren.

Rule 5.7b illustrates what players are permitted to do in each situation after the siren has sounded –

1. Normal Suspension of play
 - a. If the players in a match or group are between the play of two holes (i.e., Walking to the next tee) they must not resume play until the resumption siren sounds.
 - b. If the players in a match or group have started the play of a hole, they may either discontinue play immediately or continue play of the hole, provided they do so without delay. Play must be discontinued after the hole has been completed.
2. Immediate Suspension of play for Dangerous Situation
Play must be discontinued immediately following a long blast on the siren. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he is disqualified.

Lifting ball when play discontinued – Rule 5.7d

When a player discontinues a hole (either normal suspension or immediate suspension) he should mark the position of his ball and lift it without penalty.

Procedure when play resumed – Rule 5.7c & d

Play must be resumed from where it was discontinued, even if it is a different day. If the marker has moved it must be estimated and the ball placed on the estimated spot.

EXTREME WEATHER GUIDELINES

For extreme weather conditions, the host club may suspend or abandon play (in conjunction with a Canterbury Golf representative), in accordance with Rule 5.7b. Play may be cancelled prior to teams arriving at the course and commencing play.

Interclub conditions of play may require abandoned matches to be declared null and void as we cannot guarantee alternative dates and courses. However, every effort will be made to reschedule.

PLAYER AND HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Host clubs should monitor play and ensure that extra water and drinks are available around the course.

Players should take every possible precaution to manage their golf activities during hot weather. The following guidelines should be observed:

- Wear light coloured, loose fitting clothes, with high wicking (absorption) properties that provide for adequate ventilation.
- Wear head covering for shading – full cap/brimmed hat recommended. Use cart-mounted umbrella for shade.
- Apply sunscreen with a minimum SPF (Sun Protection Factor) rating of 30+. Re-apply at approximately two-hour intervals.
- Frequently consume fluids to avoid dehydration. Don't wait until you are thirsty – it's too late then. Carbohydrate-based sports drinks also replace carbohydrates and electrolytes lost during prolonged activity.