SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

Golf is essentially a self-regulating game. The players are responsible for knowing the Rules and are expected to apply them correctly. However, at times golf can be a complex game and competitions need to be run properly.

Guidance on Running a Competition has been produced to provide a single reference for Committees running golf competitions.

In covering all the major factors involved in organising a successful event, it is appreciated that certain aspects of Guidance on Running a Competition are of an elementary nature and will be of interest only to Committees with relatively little experience in competition administration. On the other hand, some of the more detailed matters referred to will be relevant only to top class amateur and professional events. It is a matter for each Committee to decide which parts of the publication are applicable to the competitions it conducts.

While this guide is intended to be thorough in its coverage, certain aspects associated with competitions (e.g. rights to television pictures and photography, liability insurance, player accommodation and spectator parking) are not dealt with as it is considered impractical to provide generic guidelines on such matters.

Reference is made throughout this document to the Rules of Golf and to the publication “Decisions on the Rules of Golf”. It is assumed that any Committee running a golf competition will have access to the current edition of these essential publications. Both are also available for reference online in the Rules Explorer. In all publications, including Guidance on Running a Competition, the gender used in relation to any person is understood to include both genders.

SECTION 2 - CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. GENERAL

The Rules of Golf define the Committee as “the Committee in charge of the competition” and Rule 33-1 states that, “the Committee must establish the conditions under which a competition is to be played”. However, first and foremost, a Committee must be appointed that will be in charge of all aspects of running the competition. In addition, members of the Committee must be clear as regards their authority to give decisions on matters such as Rules disputes, suspensions of play, etc. Without a pre-determined Committee it is difficult to run a well-organised event.

At Club level there may be different Committees within a Club. The Committee that runs the golf competition must be identified and only the members of that Committee should have the authority to make decisions in relation to competitions. Often the Committee will pass duties of running the competition to the Club professional or starter. These individuals are not automatically members of the Committee, therefore it is advisable to clarify the role of the professional and starter and stipulate if they have the authorisation to make decisions on behalf of the Committee, e.g. approve a change in start time, suspend play, etc.

The Conditions of Competition are the foundations on which a competition is built as, among other things, they specify who is eligible to enter, how a player may enter and what format the event will take (see copy of The Open Championship entry form – Appendix A).
It is vital that the conditions are established in advance of the competition so that the Committee can deal with any situations that may arise, such as a tie or a player playing a ball that does not appear on the List of Conforming Golf Balls. It is the responsibility of Committees to interpret the conditions they establish and, therefore, the conditions should be clear and carry precise guidance as to what action should be taken when certain circumstances arise.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Firstly, a Committee must decide who may participate in the competition, i.e. men, women, juniors, seniors, etc.

It may be that a competition has handicap restrictions. Generally, a competition will have a restricted field and the Committee must decide on a procedure if it receives more entries than it can accept. A “first come first served” policy can be adopted, or alternatively, the Committee may accept the players with the lowest handicaps. If this is the case the Committee must decide whether it will use exact handicaps (i.e. to one decimal point) or playing handicaps (i.e. whole numbers) to determine the lowest handicaps.

If entry is restricted by age then any condition in this regard should be unambiguous. For a junior competition it is recommended that entry should be restricted to those persons who have not reached 18 years of age by 1st January in the year that the competition is to take place. With any other age limits (e.g. Mid-Amateur or Senior events) it is recommended that a player must have reached the minimum age by the first day of the competition. However, other dates may be used.

3. ENTRY

The Committee must determine how players are to enter the competition. In county (provincial) and national events it is normal for players to have to complete an entry form that must reach the Committee by a certain date. In many cases, an entry fee must accompany the entry form. A Committee must decide whether it will accept entries by post only or by other methods of communication such email. This will mean that the entry fee cannot accompany the entry form other than by credit card, which has implications for the administration of entries.

In club competitions entry may be made by a player adding his name to a sheet by a certain date or simply arriving on the day of the competition and indicating his desire to play. Even with these less formal methods of entry, the Committee must establish clear procedural guidelines and state what should happen if the correct procedure is not adopted. For example, if a player is able to enter a competition by putting his name down for a starting time on the day of the competition, is he then restricted to that time or can he subsequently decide to play at another time? It is considered advisable for the Committee to provide a condition stating that once a player has entered his name against a starting time, that starting time has the status of a time fixed by the Committee and, therefore, cannot be altered without the Committee's authority.

4. FORMAT

While many competitions will have a traditional format, a Committee creating a new event must decide on the form of play it wishes to adopt.

(a) Match Play

If the competition is to be played on the basis of match play, it can be singles, threesomes, foursomes or four-ball match play and can either be scratch or on a handicap basis.
If the competition is to be played on the basis of handicap, the Committee must confirm what stroke allowance should be given, e.g. the full difference between the players, 3/4 of the difference, etc. bearing in mind any handicap allowance requirements stipulated by the governing body for handicaps.

The method of determining the field in a match play competition may vary. It may be that the field is restricted to a certain number, there may be stroke play qualifying preceding the match play stage or the Committee may accept all entries and tailor the draw accordingly.

Where the field is restricted to a certain number, usually that number will be such that all players would have to play the same number of matches to win the event, therefore, total fields of 64, 128 or 256 individuals or teams are common.

In events that have stroke play qualifying, it would be normal for Committees to look for 16, 32 or 64 qualifiers. With such events it is essential that the Committee decides in advance how it will settle a tie for the last qualification place, e.g. by hole-by-hole play-off or by matching score cards, or the Committee may decide to have a preliminary round to ascertain who will progress to the first round.

Once the requisite number of qualifiers has been established, the Committee must make the draw for the match play. In events with stroke play qualifying the “General Numerical Draw” is the recommended method (see Appendix I, Part B). With this method each player is assigned a number based on his qualifying score, i.e. the lowest qualifier is No.1, the second lowest No.2 and so on.

For purposes of determining places in the draw, ties in qualifying rounds other than those for the last qualifying place should be decided by the order in which scores are returned, the first score to be returned receiving the lowest available number, etc. If it is impossible to determine the order in which scores are returned, ties should be determined by a blind draw. If players start from the 1st and 10th tees during stroke play qualifying, it is recommended that a blind draw be used for ties.

For a full list of the pairings for events with 64, 32, 16 and 8 qualifiers, see Appendix I, Part B in the Rules of Golf.

If there are insufficient players to complete the draw then byes should be given in order of lowest qualifiers, i.e. if there is one bye, the No.1 player should receive it, if there are two byes, the No.1 and No.2 players should receive them, and so on.

It should be noted that in some match play competitions with stroke play qualifying, the defending champion is not required to qualify. Although this is a matter for the Committee to decide, such a practice is not recommended, as the qualifying is an intrinsic part of the competition.

(b) Stroke Play

If the competition is to be played on the basis of stroke play, it can be singles, foursomes or four-ball stroke play, however in addition, it can be played on the basis of Stableford or bogey/par.

The Committee must decide how many rounds are to be played, whether or not the field is to be reduced at any stage of the competition and whether it is to be a scratch or handicap event.

If the competition is based on handicap, the Committee may seek to establish different handicap classes with prizes being awarded in each class, thereby allowing competitors to compete against others of comparable ability. The Committee may wish to determine such classes in advance or await entry and then divide the field evenly into their respective handicap classes.
(c) Other Forms of Play
The Committee may decide to use a form of play that is not covered by the Rules of Golf, such as
greensomes, the best-ball of four players or a “scramble”. As these forms of golf are not specifically
recognised in the Rules, the Committee must establish the rules of play and conditions that will be
specific to these events. For example, in a “scramble” the Committee may need to determine how and
where the ball of a player whose ball is not in play is to be dropped or placed at the spot from which a
stroke is to be made. In addition, the Committee must be prepared to answer any query that arises
during such a competition, as The R&A cannot answer a query that has arisen in a format not covered by
the Rules of Golf.

5. TIMES OF STARTING AND GROUPS

Under Rule 33-3 of the Rules of Golf, it is the responsibility of the Committee to establish the times of
starting and, in stroke play, to arrange the groups in which competitors play. However, in both match
play and stroke play the Committee may permit players to determine their own starting times and, in
stroke play, to decide their own groupings.

(a) Starting Times
In the majority of Club match play competitions, the Committee does not establish starting times and the
organisation of matches are left to the players. This is perfectly acceptable. However, it is essential that
the Committee stipulate when each round must be played by and it is important that these time limits are
strictly enforced. The Committee should also state which player in a match has the responsibility for
arranging a date to play and, if the match is not played by the prescribed date, the Committee should
have a method of determining whether one of the players should be allowed to advance or whether both
are disqualified. This can be a difficult area for Committees. Strict and consistent enforcement of the
conditions is vital to the proper organisation of such competitions.

Ideally, each round of a competition, whether match play or stroke play, is played on a certain day and in
such circumstances it is normal for the Committee to establish starting times in both match play and
stroke play and determine groupings in stroke play. Where possible, the Committee should make the
times and groupings available to players well in advance of the competition. However, when there is a cut
in a stroke play competition this will not always be possible.

When there is a ‘cut’, players should be made aware of when starting times and groupings will be made
available, where the relevant information will be posted (e.g. on a website or notice board) and, if
appropriate, the telephone number they should contact for information (and at what time the telephone
will cease to be manned). It is recommended that those persons taking telephone calls check player
enquiries received against the draw sheet as this will give an indication of which players may be unaware
of their starting times. If players are travelling to play in the event it may be helpful to email or text the
players directly or send a copy of the draw sheet to the hotels where the players are staying.

Appropriate starting-time intervals are a vital ingredient in helping to produce a satisfactory pace of play.
If the intervals between matches or groups are insufficient the players in each group will be forced to wait
constantly for the group in front to clear the driving area or the putting green. This will result in players
losing their rhythm and being on the course for unnecessarily long periods of time. Committees
frequently make the mistake of using short intervals in order to get as many players on to the course in
as short a space of time as possible and to prevent the last starting time being too late in the day.
However, this has the opposite effect with rounds taking an excessive amount of time leading to
frustration for players and officials. For further information on starting times, see the “Pace of Play”
section in this Guidance publication.
The Committee may wish to operate a two-tee start. Such a method of starting is useful when there is a large field as it allows more players onto the course more quickly – see Appendix B for an example of a two-tee starting sheet.

(b) Groups
The Committee determines the groupings in stroke play, which will usually be in twos or possibly threes. Playing in fours is not recommended as it could have a detrimental effect on the pace of play. In 72-hole events where there is a large entry to be subject to a cut, the first two rounds are often played in threes with the last two rounds being played in groups of two. Normally the groups on the first two days are the same with a group having one earlier and one later starting time.

In the third round it is customary for the groups to be based on the competitor's scores after 36 holes. If there is an even number of competitors, those with the highest and next to highest aggregate tee off first, and so on, with the competitors in first and second place teeing off last. If there are an odd number of players, the Committee may give the competitor with the highest score the option of playing as a single, accompanied by a non-playing marker, or with a playing marker, or it may insist that the competitor does one of the two.

In the fourth round the same procedure applies except based on the 54-hole aggregate scores. In determining the order of the draw for players with the same aggregate scores, normally the player with the lowest previous round score will play later. If players have the same aggregate score and the same previous round score, usually the first player to return the previous round score will go out last.

In many Amateur competitions players play 36 holes in one day. In these competitions the Committee should try to allow players sufficient time to rest and take refreshment between rounds. It is recommended that the Committee should determine the time they expect groups to complete a round and add one hour on to that time to give the duration between the two starting times. This means that there will still be sufficient time between rounds even if play falls behind the pace scheduled.

In match play competitions, players may be required to play two matches in one day. If an early match requires extra holes to determine a result this may mean that the winning player has little time before his next match. Such a situation is not uncommon and the Committee should decide in advance if it is prepared to give players a minimum period of time between matches in such cases. For example, the Committee may provide that a player is entitled to 15 minutes from reporting his match score until he is required to tee off again. Obviously, this may require the alteration of starting times and the order of the draw, but it would seem unreasonable for a player to be disadvantaged due to having played extra holes in his first match of the day.

Failure to start on time is covered by Rule 6-3, which provides that “the player must start at the time established by the Committee.” The penalty for a breach of this Rule was altered as of 1 January 2012 to state:

“If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Otherwise, the penalty for a breach of this Rule is disqualification.

Bogey and par competitions – See Note 2 to Rule 32-1a.
Stableford competitions – See Note 2 to Rule 32-1b.

If the starter is not actually a member of the Committee, he should be instructed to report any late arrival on the tee to the Committee, who will then take the appropriate action. In such circumstances, the Committee, not the starter, should handle the communication of a penalty to a player. If a player is late, it is recommended that the starter hold the other player(s) in the group for the five-minute period if a player has not arrived at the time of starting.
It is important to note that all players in a group must be present and ready to play at the time established by the Committee, and that the order of play is not relevant. Therefore, a player in a group of three with a starting time of 9:00am will be in a breach of Rule 6-3 if he arrives at 9:01am even if he is third in the order of play (see Decision 6-3a/2). Additionally, if the starting time is listed as 9:00am, the player would be late if he arrived at 9:00:45 (see Decision 6-3a/2.5).

6. HANDICAPS

The Rules of Golf do not legislate for the allocation and adjustment of handicaps. Such matters are within the jurisdiction of the National Union, Federation or Association of the country where the competition is being played and any queries concerning handicapping should be directed accordingly.

When a competition is played on the basis of handicap, it is a matter for the Committee to specify the handicap allowance for the form of play being used. The National Union, Federation or Association, as part of their handicapping system, may give guidance on allowances for the various forms of play and procedures for competitions. However, where a Club has affiliation to a National Union that chooses to make such allowances mandatory, the Club should abide by these, having effectively deferred its right to determine such conditions to the National Union.

In all handicap stroke calculations, a fraction of one half or more counts as a full stroke; any other fractions are disregarded.

In match play competitions that extend over a period of time, the Committee should establish in the conditions whether the handicap current at the beginning of the competition or the beginning of each match would apply. The latter is more usual. In a stroke play play-off, the handicap applicable to the last round (rather than the handicap at the time of the play-off) should apply and the conditions should make this clear. In 36-hole stroke play competitions it is recommended that handicaps are not altered during the event.

In handicap match play competitions over 36 holes, strokes should be given on the basis of two 18-hole rounds in accordance with the 18-hole Stroke Index unless the Committee introduces a special Stroke Index.

In general, a player receiving handicap strokes will take them in the order assigned on the score card. For example, if a player with a handicap of 14 receives three strokes from a player with a handicap of 11, he will receive these strokes on the holes allocated the first three handicap strokes.

7. DECISION OF TIES

Rule 33-6 states in part “the Committee must announce the manner, day and time for the decision of a halved match or of a tie, whether played on level terms or under handicap”. It is essential that such decisions are taken in advance of the competition and established in the conditions. The recommended methods of settling ties are detailed in Appendix I, Part B of the Rules of Golf.

In stroke play competitions involving qualification for a subsequent stage of the event it is not uncommon for a number of competitors to be tied for the last qualifying place. This is the case in Regional and Final Qualifying for The Open Championship and the conditions state that a hole-by-hole play-off is used to determine the qualifiers.

Whilst there is no Rule stating how many competitors should be in a group in a stroke play play-off, it is recommended that normally there should be no more than five. Consequently, if there are seven
competitors in the play-off, the Committee should divide them into a group of three and a group of four and have the first player to finish in the previous round teeing off first, the second to finish teeing off second, and so on.

A hole-by-hole play-off with seven competitors playing off, for example, for four places would operate as follows:

- Group 1, comprising A, B and C play the first hole and then wait for Group 2, comprising D, E, F and G to play the first hole.
- A, C and F score 4 at the first hole, B, D and G score 5 and E scores 6.
- Based on this result, A, C and F have won places, E is eliminated and B, D and G must play on for one place.

Even if there are only two competitors in a play-off, under the Rules, the play-off is conducted under the Rules for stroke play. Rule 33-6 states in part: “A halved match must not be decided by stroke play. A tie in stroke play must not be decided by a match”. Competitors in a play-off must return cards if they are issued by the Committee (see Decision 33-5/1), but it is not essential for the Committee to issue score cards provided it appoints someone to administer the scoring.

In a stroke play play-off, the Committee should ensure that the competitors are clear as to the purpose of the play-off and know exactly what they are playing for. For example, in Final Qualifying for The Open Championship, a play-off involving five players may be for one place in the Championship and a reserve place only.

8. PRIZES

The Committee should announce in advance the prizes that are to be awarded in the competition. The conditions should provide for situations such as one player winning prizes in both scratch and handicap competitions.

If the competition involves Amateur golfers the Committee must be aware of the regulations concerning prizes that an Amateur player may accept without breaching their Amateur Status. Committees should refer to the Rules of Amateur Status and Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status, but briefly:

- An amateur golfer must not play golf for prize money (Rule 3-1). If a cash prize is offered, all those competing in the competition would be in breach of the Rules, not just the players who accept a cash prize.
- An amateur golfer may participate in an event where prize money or its equivalent is offered, provided that in advance of participating in that competition and in writing, the player waives the right to accept any prize money in that event.
- An amateur golfer may accept a prize or prize voucher of retail value no greater than GBP £500, or the local currency equivalent (Rule 3-2a). A Governing Body may set a lower prize limit if it wishes to do so.
- A prize voucher in lieu of a prize, is a voucher, gift certificate, gift card or the like, which has been approved by the Committee in charge of a competition, for the holder to select goods and services from a professional’s shop, a Golf Club or other retail source.
- The prize limit applies to the total prizes or prize vouchers won by an amateur golfer in any one competition, e.g. main prizes (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc), longest drive, nearest the hole, etc. or a series of competitions.
- In a foursome, four-ball or team competition, each player may individually accept a prize up to the limit of £500, however, the players may not jointly accept one prize over the limit of £500.
• An amateur golfer may accept a symbolic prize of any value. A symbolic prize is a trophy (e.g. a cup, medal, plaque, etc.) made of gold, silver, ceramic, glass or the like that is permanently and distinctively engraved.

• An amateur golfer may accept a prize of retail value in excess of £500 or the equivalent, including a cash prize, for a hole-in-one made while playing a round of golf. It is important to note that the hole-in-one must be made during a round of golf and be incidental to the round of golf.

• Multiple entry competitions (where the amateur has several attempts at achieving the hole-in-one), putting competitions, nearest the hole and longest drive contests and competitions conducted other than on a golf course (e.g. on a driving range or golf simulator) do not qualify and are subject to the prize limits in Rule 3.

• For longest drive, nearest the hole and other competitions where golf skill is a factor, it is a breach of the Rules for an amateur golfer to accept a prize of retail value in excess of £500 or the equivalent.

• Informal gambling is permitted among individual golfers or teams of golfers provided the primary purpose is the playing of the game for enjoyment, not for financial gain. Cash payments for gambling are permitted when the players know each other, participation is optional and is limited to the players, the money is advanced by the players and the amount of money involved is not generally considered to be excessive.

A raffle or prize draw run in conjunction with a golf event is not subject to the Rules of Amateur Status provided:
(a) it is a genuine draw;
(b) it is open to a substantial number of people;
(c) golf skill is not a factor in being allowed to participate in the draw; and
(d) it is not a subterfuge for circumventing the Prize rule.

The following are examples of raffles or prize draws that are not permitted under the Rules of Amateur Status:
(a) a raffle or prize draw limited to low handicap players in a golf event;
(b) a raffle or prize draw limited to players in a golf event who achieve a hole-in-one, the longest drive, nearest the pin, etc.

In the above two examples the playing of golf is a requirement of being allowed to enter the raffle or prize draw. Therefore, the Rules of Amateur Status apply and an Amateur golfer may not accept a prize in such a raffle or draw of retail value in excess of the prescribed limits.

Irrespective of prize values, a sponsor may give a memento to competitors, provided such a memento is offered to all competitors and is not made as an inducement to play in the competition.

9. PRACTICE

Rule 7-1 provides that a player may practise on the competition course before a round on any day of a match play competition, but a competitor in stroke play must not practise before a round or play-off on any day of a stroke play competition or test the surface of any putting green on the course by rolling a ball or roughening or scraping the surface. However, the Note to Rule 7-1 states:

“The Committee may, in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), prohibit practice on the competition course on any day of a match play competition or permit practice on the competition course or part of the course (Rule 33-2c) on any day of or between rounds of a stroke play competition.”

Therefore, the Committee may introduce a condition that overrides Rule 7-1.
In match play competitions with large fields playing over consecutive days it may be desirable to prohibit practice on any day of the competition in order to allow the green staff sufficient time to prepare the course without interruption.

If a Club has no practice facilities it may be necessary to allow competitors in a stroke play competition to use a part of the course for practising and, therefore, such a condition must be introduced.

Where the practice area is within the natural boundaries of the course, it is recommended that the Committee clarify in the conditions of a competition the status of the practice area. For example, that “all recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of the competition”. This avoids any doubt over the player practising on the competition course. Furthermore, in order to maximise space on what may be a limited practice area, the Committee may wish to clearly define areas from which balls may be struck and stipulate directions of play.

If a competition is held over alternate days, for example, Wednesday and Saturday, those players opting to play on the Saturday would not be allowed to play the course prior to this as the competition starts on the Wednesday. This would be playing the competition course before play and in breach of Rule 7-1. However, in order to allow play on the course when not playing in the competition, the Committee can state in the conditions of competition that practice on the competition course is permitted. This is allowed under the Note to Rule 7-1b and should be stipulated as part of the conditions of the competition.

10. LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVING CLUBS

The R&A periodically issues a List of Conforming Driver Heads that lists driving clubheads that have been evaluated and found to conform to the Rules of Golf. The Note to Rule 4-1 states:

“The Committee may require, in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), that any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the R&A”.

If the Committee wishes to limit players to drivers that have a clubhead, identified by model and loft that is on the List, the List should be made available. This List can be found on The R&A’s website at www.randa.org.

This condition of competition is normally introduced for competitions involving expert players at elite level and it is not recommended that such a condition be introduced in Club level golf. Where the List is not operational, the player’s clubs must conform with Rule 4-1 and the provisions, specifications and interpretations set forth in Appendix II of the Rules of Golf.

The suggested wording for such a condition of competition is contained in Appendix I, Part B, of the Rules of Golf.

11. LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS

The R&A publishes a list of conforming golf balls that have been tested and found to conform to the Rules. This List can be found on the R&A’s website (www.randa.org). The Note to Rule 5-1 states:

“The Committee may require, in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), that the ball the player plays must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the R&A”.

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If such a condition is in place, the penalty for a breach is disqualification.

The List is normally introduced for competitions involving expert players at National level for Amateurs and at Professional events. Generally, it is not recommended that such a condition be introduced in Club competitions. The suggested wording for such a condition of competition is contained in Appendix I, Part B of the Rules of Golf.

Where the List is not operational it is assumed that any particular individual ball conforms to the Rules unless there is strong evidence that it does not. This will include balls absent from the Conforming List, for example, “X outs” and “refurbished” golf balls (see Decision 5-1/4). If, however, a player uses a ball that obviously does not meet the prescribed specifications specified in Appendix III of the Rules of Golf, he must be disqualified.

12. The “ONE BALL” CONDITION

The Committee may introduce a condition of competition stating that a player must use balls of the same brand and type, and accordingly, a player may not change the brand name and cannot change from a brand type to another type of the same brand. Again, this condition is recommended for elite events only. The R&A does not currently introduce this condition at any of its Amateur events, but it is introduced at The Open Championship. The suggested wording for such a condition is contained in Appendix I, Part B of the Rules of Golf.

13. CADDIES

The Rules of Golf do not place any restriction on who may serve as a caddie, but the Committee may prohibit or restrict caddies in the conditions of competition (see Note to Rule 6-4).

However, since the Rules specifically permit a player to use a caddie, generally it is not recommended that a Committee introduce a condition prohibiting their use. That having been said, for various reasons, it is common for Committee’s organising junior events to prohibit or restrict the use of caddies, e.g. no parents. In addition, in certain competitions it may be considered appropriate to prohibit professional golfers from acting as caddies.

14. GOLF CARTS

The use of golf carts (i.e. ride-on motorised vehicles) during a competition is permitted unless their use is specifically prohibited in the conditions of the competition. If the Committee wishes to introduce a condition prohibiting the use of golf carts, the wording contained in Appendix I, Part B of the Rules of Golf is recommended.

It should be noted that such a condition would not prohibit a member of the Committee authorising a player to use a cart when such use may assist with the pace of play, for example, in returning a player to where a previous stroke was made so that he can put another ball into play.

It is a policy of The R&A to encourage golfers with physical difficulties to play the game if at all possible, and the use of a cart can greatly assist many. It is important that the Committee considers the issues surrounding the use of carts, any relevant disability legislation, and any other legal issues. If a Committee decides that the use of golf carts in competition play is to be prohibited, and this is to the detriment of a disabled person, the Committee may be required to justify that it has good reason for making such a decision. Such justification might include health and safety considerations, weather and ground conditions, or where the layout of the course dictates that the use of carts is impracticable.
If the Committee does permit the use of golf carts, they may wish to consider putting restrictions on their use, for example, that golf carts would only be permitted for competitors with medical certificates or for competitors over a certain age that would otherwise be unable to participate due to physical limitations as a result of their age.

It is a matter for the Committee in charge of the competition to decide and to be separately advised as to their legal position. Furthermore, if a Committee permits the use of golf carts, it would be sensible to ensure that appropriate insurance cover is in operation in the event of personal injury or death occurring as a result of an accident on the course.

15. ADVICE IN TEAM COMPETITIONS

The Note to Rule 8 states:
“The Committee may, in the conditions of a team competition (Rule 33-1), permit each team to appoint one person who may give advice (including pointing out a line for putting) to members of that team. The Committee may establish conditions relating to the appointment and permitted conduct of that person, who must be identified to the Committee before giving advice.”

It should be noted that if the person so nominated is a playing member of the team, advice may not be given while he is actually playing a stipulated round (except to his partner). He may give advice to other team members before playing or after his own round has been completed (Decision 8/2).

Restrictions can be applied by the Committee to the appointment of the team captain, for example, it may be stated that the captain has to be a playing member of the team or that he must be an Amateur golfer (Decision 8/1). In addition, restrictions on the conduct of such a person may be applied. For example, it may be a condition that the team captain may not stand on any putting green thereby limiting the captain’s ability to point out a line for putting.

Furthermore, the Committee may adopt a condition specifying that the team captain is part of the match or the competitor’s side, i.e. he is not an outside agency. Such a condition would have the effect of making the player(s), or, in some circumstances, the team, responsible for any breach of the Rules by the captain (Decision 33-1/11.5).

SECTION 3 - LOCAL RULES

I. GENERAL

Rule 33-8 provides:

“a. Policy
The Committee may establish Local Rules for local abnormal conditions if they are consistent with the policy set forth in Appendix I.

b. Waiving or Modifying a Rule
A Rule of Golf must not be waived by a Local Rule. However, if the Committee considers that local abnormal conditions interfere with the proper playing of the game to the extent that it is necessary to make a Local Rule that modifies the Rules of Golf, the Local Rule must be authorised by the R&A.”

Generally, Local Rules are introduced to clarify the course marking (e.g. clarifying the boundaries of the course, ground under repair, etc.) or to provide relief from local abnormal conditions that are not covered by the Rules themselves. Appendix I to the Rules of Golf suggest specific matters for which Local

It is the duty of Committees to interpret their own Local Rules and, if a doubt arises about the applicability or interpretation of a Local Rule, it is the responsibility of the Committee to give a decision. The R&A’s Rules of Golf Committee, while giving advice on the drafting of Local Rules and considering cases where a modification of a Rule of Golf is requested, does not interpret Local Rules other than those covered by Appendix I in the Rules of Golf.

It is possible for a Committee wishing to adopt the recommended wording for a Local Rule provided in Appendix I to simply refer to the Rules of Golf book. For example, if the Committee is adopting the standard wording for a Local Rule for immovable obstructions close to the putting green, the Local Rule could read:

“Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green
The specimen Local Rule in the Rules of Golf is in effect – see page 146-147.”

It is important to note that Local Rules may not be introduced or altered after a stroke play round has started. All competitors in a given round must play under uniform Rules. However, it is permissible to alter the Local Rules for different rounds in an event consisting of more than one round, although this should be avoided if at all possible. For an example of tournament Local Rules, see Appendix C.

2. OUT OF BOUNDS

It may be necessary for a Committee to introduce a Local Rule clarifying the boundaries of a course and to highlight holes on which the method of defining the boundary differs from the rest of the course, for example:

“Out of Bounds (Rule 27-1)
1. Beyond any fence or line of white stakes defining the boundary of the course.
2. At the 18th hole, on or beyond the concrete path surrounding the Clubhouse.”

If there are out of bounds stakes between two holes that apply to only one of the holes, it should be made clear in the Local Rules to which of the holes the boundary applies. Furthermore, it is recommended that, by Local Rule the stakes are deemed immovable obstructions during play of the hole for which the stakes do not constitute a boundary (see Decision 24/5).

It is not permissible to introduce a Local Rule providing relief from a boundary fence even if the Committee’s reasons for doing so are to protect the fence from any damage. However, where the boundary fence is an electric fence, a Local Rule providing relief for a ball lying within a certain distance (e.g. two club-lengths) of the boundary fence is permitted. In these circumstances to ensure the safety of the player, the player can measure the two club-lengths from the fence and an additional club-length in which to drop the ball no nearer the hole.

If there is a road running through the course that defines the boundary of a hole and the ball comes to rest beyond it on the other part of the course, ordinarily under the Rules of Golf the ball is in bounds (see Decision 27/20). However, as a ball lying on the road would be out of bounds, it is somewhat inequitable that the player must bear a penalty under Rule 27-1 when the ball lies on the road but not when the ball has rolled over the road. Where this type of situation exists, it is suggested that the following Local Rule is adopted:

“A ball that crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.”
A ball is out of bounds only when all of it lies out of bounds. Consequently, it is not permissible to make a Local Rule stating that a ball is out of bounds if it crosses a boundary, even if it re-crosses the boundary and comes to rest on the same part of the course. The use of such a Local Rule to prevent players from cutting across a dogleg would be an unacceptable modification of the Rules of Golf (see Decision 33-8/38).

3. GROUND UNDER REPAIR

“Ground under repair” includes any part of the course so marked by order of the Committee (see Definition of “Ground Under Repair”). If such an area has been marked it should be identified in the Local Rules. However, as it is hoped that such marking will be of a temporary nature, no specific references should be included on a Club’s score card but rather the Local Rule should be posted on a notice board or handed out as a note with the score card. When a Local Rules card is produced specifically for a Championship, any areas of “ground under repair” should be referenced, for example:

“Ground Under Repair (Rule 25-1)
At the 8th hole, the re-turfed area to the left of the fairway defined by blue stakes is ground under repair and Rule 25-1b applies.”

Alternatively, identification of ground under repair can be more general, for example:

“Ground Under Repair (Rule 25-1)
All areas encircled by white lines are ground under repair.”

Where the Committee wishes to protect an area completely by not allowing any play whatsoever, it may declare the area to be “ground under repair; play prohibited”. Consequently, a player must take relief if he has interference from the condition. An example of the recommended wording for such a Local Rule is:

“Ground Under Repair; Play Prohibited
At the 3rd hole, the turf nursery defined by blue stakes is ground under repair from which play is prohibited. If a player’s ball lies in this area, or if this area interferes with the player’s stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 25-1.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:
Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

Prior to prohibiting play from an area of ground under repair, it is important that the Committee assess the relief that will be available to the player. It would be inequitable to make a player take relief from an area that would normally be reasonable for play when the player’s nearest point of relief is in bushes, trees or some other unplayable position.

When ground under repair is adjacent to an artificially-surfaced road or path (an obstruction), sometimes a player, after obtaining relief from one condition, has interference from the condition. Thus, another drop under another Rule results. This is cumbersome and could lead to complications (see Decision 1-4/8). Accordingly, it is suggested that the ground under repair is tied into the road or path with a white line and the following Local Rule adopted:

“Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24-2) White-lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be regarded as part of the obstruction and not ground under repair.”

If a bunker is being renovated and the Committee defines the entire bunker as ground under repair, the bunker loses its status as a hazard and is automatically classified as “through the green”. Therefore, unless a Committee specifically states otherwise, Rule 25-1b(i) applies and not Rule 25-1b(ii).
In terms of flooded bunkers, the Committee may not make a general Local Rule providing that all bunkers containing water are ground under repair as such a Local Rule waives a penalty imposed by the Rules of Golf, contrary to Rule 33-8b. However, in conditions of extreme wetness, where certain specific bunkers are completely flooded prior to the competition commencing and there is no possibility of the bunkers drying up during the competition, the Committee may introduce a Local Rule providing that these bunkers are deemed to be ground under repair (see Decision 33-8/27. This allows for relief to be taken without penalty in accordance with Rule 25-1b(i). The following wording for such a Local Rule is recommended:

“The flooded bunker on [insert location of bunker; e.g. left of 5th green] is ground under repair. If a player’s ball lies in that bunker or if that bunker interferes with the player’s stance or the area of his intended swing and the player wishes to take relief, he must take relief outside the bunker, without penalty, in accordance with Rule 25-1b(i). All other bunkers on the course, regardless of whether they contain water, maintain their status as hazards and the Rules apply accordingly.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE: Match play – Loss of hole, Stroke play – Two strokes.”

When heavy rains result in many areas of unusual damage to the course (such as deep ruts caused by vehicles) and it is not feasible to define them with stakes or lines, a notice to players along the following lines is suggested:

“Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic have combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by a referee.”

Even without such a notice, a referee would have authority to declare unusual damage to be ground under repair, if so authorised by the Committee to do so. However, a notice has the advantage of advising all players that relief from unusual damage might be given and they should seek the guidance of the referee.

Unusual damage on the course may be created by animals or machines. Rule 25-1 gives relief from holes made by burrowing animals but not, for example, from hoof marks or from ruts made by tractor wheels. If relief from such conditions is considered equitable, it should be granted on the same terms as in Rule 25-1 and the Local Rule, with such variations as are required to meet the individual circumstances, might read:

“Hoof marks [or tractor tyre marks] are ground under repair and Rule 25-1 applies.”

If the damage, especially by machines, is restricted to specific areas, it is recommended that the application of the Local Rule be restricted to that locality. Such Local Rules should be of a temporary nature and should not be included on a Club’s score card.

If the Committee considers the relief available under Rule 25-1 to be too generous in such situations, it may deny relief from interference with the player’s stance (see Note to Rule 25-1a). For example, in hot and dry conditions, the fairways of a course may suffer due to cracks in the ground. The lie of a ball could be seriously affected if it comes to rest in such a crack, but a player’s stance may not be hindered by the condition. In these circumstances, a Committee may wish to introduce the following Local Rule:

“Cracks in Ground on Closely-Mown Areas (Rule 25-1)
Cracks in the ground on closely-mown areas are ground under repair. If a player’s ball lies in such a condition, or if such a condition interferes with the area of a player’s intended swing, the player may take relief under Rule 25-1.
Note: Relief is not available for interference to a player’s stance by such a condition.”
Another example of restricting relief under Rule 25-1 is in relation to holes, casts or runways made by a burrowing animal, reptile or bird. If these conditions are prevalent on a course, the Committee may wish to reduce the instances of relief by adopting the following Local Rule:

“Abnormal Ground Conditions (Note to Rule 25-1)
Relief will be denied for interference to stance from a hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, a reptile or bird.”

Similarly, the Committee may wish to restrict relief from seams of new turf to the lie of the ball and the area of intended swing only by introducing the recommended Local Rule contained in Appendix I, Part A of the Rules of Golf.

4. ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE AREAS

When areas on or adjoining the course are declared by an appropriate authority to be environmentally-sensitive and, therefore, entry into and/or play from the areas is prohibited, it is recommended that the Local Rule for Environmentally-Sensitive Areas contained in Appendix I, Part A in the Rules of Golf is adopted. Several Decisions under Rule 33-8 in the Decisions book further clarify aspects of this Local Rule. It is important to note that a Committee may not declare an area as environmentally sensitive. An appropriate authority, e.g. a government agency, can only declare an area as environmentally sensitive.

5. PROTECTION OF YOUNG TREES

Many courses have newly planted trees that the Committee wishes to protect. If it is desired to protect young trees, they should be identified in some manner (e.g. a stake, tape, etc.) and the Local Rule contained in Appendix I, Part A, of the Rules of Golf is recommended.

It should be noted that when such a Local Rule is introduced, the tree is deemed an immovable obstruction and any branches or foliage are part of the obstruction.

In some instances, newly planted trees may be so close together that relief from one tree automatically results in interference from another tree. In this situation, it may be advisable to define the entire affected area as “ground under repair” which will enable the player to take relief from all the newly planted trees in one go. However, it is not permissible for a Committee to state that relief must be taken on a particular side of a plantation (e.g. the fairway side of the hole being played) as this would modify Rule 25-1b. If the Committee considers that it is not practicable to proceed in accordance with Rule 25-1b due to the fact that players may have to play through the trees thereby causing damage, it may introduce one or more dropping zones (see Chapter 3, 9.).

6. EMBEDDED BALL

Rule 25-2 gives relief for a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in a closely-mown area through the green. However, where the ground is unusually soft, the Committee may, by temporary Local Rule, allow the lifting of an embedded ball anywhere “through the green” if it is satisfied that the proper playing of the game would otherwise be prevented. It is recommended that the Local Rule would be for a short period only and, if practicable, confined to specified areas. The Committee must withdraw the Local Rule as soon as conditions warrant and therefore, it should not be printed on the score card.

The recommended wording for such a Local Rule is contained in Appendix I, Part A of the Rules of Golf.
7. PREFERRED LIES/WINTER RULES

Adverse conditions, including the poor condition of the course or the existence of mud, are sometimes so general, particularly during winter months that the Committee may decide to grant relief by temporary Local Rule either to protect the course or to promote fair and pleasant play. The Local Rule for “Preferred Lies” and “Winter Rules” should be withdrawn as soon as the conditions warrant. The recommended wording for such a Local Rule is contained in Appendix I, Part A of the Rules of Golf.

It is worth noting that the specified area in which to place the ball can vary. Some Committees will stipulate within six inches, others a score card-length or perhaps even one club-length. There is no hard and fast Rule, therefore the Committee needs to stipulate the distance clearly in the Local Rule. It is not sufficient to simply say “preferred lies/winter rules” apply.

8. STONES IN BUNKERS

Stones in bunkers are, by Definition, loose impediments and, when a player’s ball is in a hazard, a stone lying in or touching the hazard must not be touched or moved (Rule 13-4). However, stones in bunkers may represent a danger to players (a player could be injured by a stone struck by the player’s club in an attempt to play the ball) and they may interfere with the proper playing of the game.

When permission to lift a stone in a bunker is warranted, the recommended Local Rule in Appendix 1, Part A of the Rules of Golf should be implemented.

9. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN

Rule 24-2 provides relief without penalty from interference by an immovable obstruction, but it also provides that, except on the putting green, intervention on the line of play is not, of itself, interference under this Rule.

However, on some courses, the aprons of the putting greens are so closely mown that players may wish to putt from just off the green. In these conditions, immovable obstructions (such as fixed sprinkler heads) on the fringe/apron may interfere with the proper playing of the game and the introduction of a Local Rule providing additional relief without penalty from intervention by an immovable obstruction would be warranted. For suggested wording for such a Local Rule, see Appendix I, Part A in the Rules of Golf.

10. ROADS AND PATHS

The Definition of “Obstruction” states in part that “An obstruction is anything artificial ... except: ... Any construction declared by the Committee to be an integral part of the course.” Accordingly, a Committee may declare an artificially-surfaced road or path to be an integral part of the course. This generally would only be recommended in a situation where providing free relief from the road or path would spoil an intrinsic feature of the hole. Perhaps the best example of this is the 17th hole at The Old Course, St Andrews, known as the Road Hole, where the road behind the green is an integral part of the design of the hole.

Should the Committee wish to treat all artificially-surfaced roads or paths as integral parts of the course, it must make a Local Rule to that effect, for example:

“Roads and Paths All roads and paths are integral parts of the course. The ball must be played as it lies or deemed unplayable (Rule 28).”
It is important to note that artificial sides or edgings to roads and are not covered by the above Local Rule and would maintain their status as immovable obstructions. Specific reference would have to be made to the edgings in the Local Rule in order to make them integral parts of the course.

It is recommended that drainage channels adjacent to cart paths be deemed by Local Rule to be part of the immovable obstruction.

As outlined above, by Definition, artificially-surfaced roads and paths are immovable obstructions and relief from interference by them is available under Rule 24-2b. It may be that the player’s nearest point of relief from such an obstruction is in trees, bushes, on a steep slope etc. thereby providing no practical relief. However, it is not permissible for a Committee to make a Local Rule providing relief in all cases on a designated side of the road or path as such a situation is not considered to be “abnormal”. In addition, it would not be appropriate to establish dropping zones to alleviate the problem (see Decision 33-8/19).

### 11. INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE

In addition to roads and paths, there may be other constructions that the Committee wishes to declare integral parts of the course.

For example, newly constructed bunkers often have a plastic lining which, by Definition, is an immovable obstruction. However, if the lining is such that it is unlikely to hinder a player in his play, the Committee may make a Local Rule declaring the lining to be an integral part of the course in order to prevent a player from obtaining relief in the bunker.

Alternatively, a construction such as a wall, which does not define the boundary, may be a feature of a hole and to allow relief under Rule 24-2b for interference from the wall would weaken the hole. In such a situation, the Committee would be advised to declare it an integral part of the course, for example:

“Walls
The stone walls at the 8th and 13th holes are integral parts of the course. The ball must be played as it lies or deemed unplayable (Rule 28).”

Committees are reminded that all constructions are either “obstructions” (relief is available under Rule 24) or “integral parts of the course” (no relief except under penalty by deeming the ball unplayable). It is not permissible for a Local Rule either to attach a penalty to the relief obtainable under Rule 24 or to modify the penalty for proceeding under the unplayable ball Rule.

### 12. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS

In the vast majority of competitions there will be no temporary immovable obstructions, such as tents, scoreboards, refreshment stands, temporary lavatories etc., on the golf course. However, if temporary immovable obstructions are present on the course, the Local Rule for Temporary Immovable Obstructions contained in Appendix I, Part A of the Rules of Golf is necessary. Guidance on the application of the Local Rule for temporary immovable obstructions is provided in Appendix D.
13. DROPPING ZONES

As provided in Appendix I, Part A of the Rules of Golf, a Committee has the authority to establish special areas in which balls may be dropped when it is not feasible or practicable to proceed exactly in conformity with Rule 24-2b or 24-3 (Immovable Obstructions), Rules 25-1b or 25-1c (Abnormal Ground Conditions), Rule 25-3 (Wrong Putting Green), Rule 26-1 (Water Hazards and Lateral Water Hazards) or Rule 28 (Ball Unplayable).

For example, if there is a lateral water hazard behind a green and there are certain places where a ball may cross the margin at which there is no way of dropping a ball within two club-lengths not nearer the hole, the Committee may decide that it is impracticable for a player to proceed in accordance with Rule 26. In these circumstances, the Committee could establish a dropping zone and adopt the following Local Rule:

“If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the lateral water hazard behind the 13th green, the player may:
(i) proceed under Rule 26-1;
(ii) as an additional option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the dropping zone.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

Prior to establishing dropping zones, Committees should be aware that such areas may suffer from a concentration of play and, therefore, new dropping zones may have to be established frequently when the old area has become badly damaged. As such, dropping zones may not always provide the simple solution first envisaged and Committees should examine all possible alternatives before their establishment.

14. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES

The use of distance measuring devices during a stipulated round remains contrary to the Rules of Golf, however, the Note to Rule 14-3 allows the Committee to introduce a Local Rule to permit the use of such devices. Ultimately, it is for each individual Committee to decide whether it wishes to allow the use of distance measuring devices for play on the course or in any of its competitions. In the absence of a Local Rule, the use of such a device is contrary to the Rules of Golf.

If the Committee wishes to act in accordance with the Note under Rule 14-3, the recommended wording for the Local Rule is contained in Appendix I, Part A. It is important to note the use of a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player’s play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.) is not permitted and is a breach of Rule 14-3.

SECTION 4 - MARKING THE COURSE

1. GENERAL

Prior to a competition, it is the responsibility of the Committee to ensure that the course has been properly and completely marked. If the Committee takes the time to accurately define the boundaries of the course and the margins of water hazards and clearly marks any areas which are to be treated as ground under repair, it reduces the possibility of awkward Rules situations arising. A properly marked golf course helps all golfers adhere to the Rules and, therefore, courses should be marked at all times, not just for competitions, so that golfers become accustomed to the markings and their purpose.
2. OUT OF BOUNDS

It is essential that course boundaries are clearly defined so that there can be no doubt as to whether a ball is in or out of bounds. If the Committee leaves an area undefined on the basis that it seems unlikely that a player will hit a ball into that area, it can be sure that, at some stage during the competition, a question concerning the boundary on that part of the course will arise.

Where a fence defines the boundary, the out of bounds line is determined by the nearest inside points of the fence posts at ground level, excluding any angled supports to the fence. An angled support or guy wire that is in bounds is an obstruction. If angled supports or guy wires exist, the Committee may wish to consider declaring them to be integral parts of the course so that a player does not get incidental relief from a boundary fence.

A part of a boundary fence that is bowed towards the course so that it is inside the boundary line is not an obstruction. Where fence posts are set into concrete, the concrete bases are considered to be part of the boundary fence and thus are not obstructions. In these circumstances, the Committee should be clear on the location of the boundary line (see Decision 24/3).

For example, if the Committee wishes to use the concrete base, situated above ground level, to define the boundary, it should introduce a Local Rule along the following lines:

“Out of Bounds (Rule 27-1)
Concrete bases of boundary fence posts are part of the fence and are not obstructions. Where such a concrete base is above ground, out of bounds is defined by the inside points, at ground level, of the concrete bases.”

When stakes are used to define out of bounds, these stakes should be painted white. The out of bounds line is determined by the nearest inside points of the stakes at ground level.

The distance between boundary stakes may vary, but it is of paramount importance that it is possible to sight from one stake to the next as it may be necessary to use a length of string between the inside points of two stakes in order to determine whether a ball is out of bounds. Therefore, it is important to check that where possible bushes, trees or the like do not obscure stakes.

As a precaution, it is recommended that a white circle is painted around the base of each boundary stake so that, if the stake is removed without the Committee’s authority, the Committee will know exactly where the stake had been located and can reinstall it.

Out of bounds may be defined by a line on the ground and such a line should be white. The white line itself is out of bounds. A line will certainly provide a clear definition of the boundary, however, due to the terrain, establishing a line may prove difficult and its upkeep may be time consuming.

If out of bounds is defined by a wall, the Committee must clarify in the Local Rules whether the inside face of the wall defines the boundary or, alternatively, whether a ball is only out of bounds if it is beyond the wall.

It is not uncommon for the boundary line to be defined by a trench, with a ball being out of bounds if it is in or beyond the trench. If stakes are used to draw players’ attention to a boundary trench, rather than define the boundary itself, they should be painted white with black tops. As such stakes do not define the boundary. A Committee may make a Local Rule declaring them to be obstructions (see Note 1 to the Definition of Out of Bounds).
It is a common misconception that it is not permissible to define areas within the course as out of bounds. However, it is not unusual for features such as maintenance areas, clubhouses and practice grounds to be marked as out of bounds.

In addition, it may be necessary to establish boundaries between two holes to maintain the character of a hole or to protect players on the adjacent fairway. In these cases, it is important to consider where the boundary starts and finishes so that there is no doubt where it begins and ends. Where there is no natural start/finish point, e.g. the boundary exists in isolation and is not “tied” into other boundaries on the course, often it is necessary to place two stakes, side-by-side and at a right angle to the first and last stake, to indicate that the boundary extends indefinitely in that direction.

It is not permissible to make an area out of bounds only for certain strokes at a given hole, for example, a stroke from the teeing ground.

3. WATER HAZARDS

The Definition of “Water Hazard” states that any sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or other open water course (whether or not containing water) and anything of a similar nature is a water hazard. However, there are two different forms of water hazard – a normal water hazard and a lateral water hazard.

The distinguishing factor is that if a player’s ball last crosses the margin of a normal water hazard it will be possible for the player to take relief by dropping a ball behind the hazard keeping the point at which the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped (see Rule 26-1b). If the water hazard is so situated that this is not possible, or the Committee deem it to be impracticable, the water hazard is a lateral water hazard.

A common example of a lateral water hazard would be a body of water running parallel to a hole with the ground on the far side of the hazard’s margin being wooded or extremely overgrown. In this situation, a player could not proceed under Rule 26-1b without dropping his ball in a virtually unplayable lie and, therefore, if the hazard is not defined as a lateral water hazard, the player would be faced with a stroke-and-distance penalty.

In the vast majority of situations, bodies of water that meet the Definition of a lateral water hazard will be defined as such. However, Note 3 to the Definition of lateral water hazard gives a Committee authority to define such a hazard as a water hazard. A Committee may wish to do this if it feels that relief under Rule 26-1c is overly generous and diminishes the challenge of a particular hole.

For example, if a putting green is situated on an island in a lake it may be the case that parts of the lake, by Definition, should be marked as a lateral water hazard. However, this may result in a player, whose ball has entered the lake having last crossed the margin at the edge of the green, being able to drop his ball on the green under Rule 26-1c. In these circumstances, the Committee, under Note 3 to the Definition of lateral water hazard, may define the lake as a water hazard and establish a dropping zone where the player could drop a ball under penalty of one stroke. This gives the player an additional option for relief, other than proceeding under stroke and distance (Rule 26-1a), but still requires him to negotiate the water hazard successfully (see Decision 33-2a/10).

As provided in the Definitions, stakes or lines used to define the margins of a water hazard must be yellow and, in the case of lateral water hazards, they must be red.

Stakes or lines or a combination of stakes and lines can be used to define the margin of water hazards and lateral water hazards. However, where both stakes and lines are used, the Definition of “Water Hazard”
provides that the line defines the hazard margin. Where both stakes and lines are used it is recommended to position the stakes outside the line defining the margin of the water hazard.

In general, lines or stakes defining the margins of a water hazard should be placed as nearly as possible along the natural limits of the hazard, i.e. where the ground breaks down to form the depression containing the water. This means that sloping banks will be included within the margins of the hazard. However, if, for example, there is a large bush just outside the natural margin of the water hazard, it is suggested that the bush be included within the hazard margins. Otherwise, a player whose ball entered the hazard in this area may not have a reasonable spot at which to drop.

It is especially important in the case of lateral water hazards to ensure that the sloping banks of the hazard are included within the margins so that a player dropping a ball within two club-lengths of the hazard margin will be dropping on ground from which he will have a reasonable opportunity to make a stroke. Where the margins are situated a reasonable distance away from the water itself and there is a likelihood that a player’s ball could be playable on the bank of the hazard, it is essential that the hazard is well marked so that the player realises that his ball is in a hazard and does not unwittingly breach Rule 13-4.

When only stakes are used for definition, the straight line from stake to stake determines the limit of the hazard. Therefore, care must be taken to ensure that no area that should be within the hazard lies outside the line (see Decision 26/2). On the other hand, where the natural limit of the hazard is obvious, for example, where the ground breaks at 90°, the Committee may use stakes to indicate the type of hazard, provided the Local Rules state that the margins are defined by where the ground breaks.

If a body of water is part water hazard and part lateral water hazard, a yellow stake and a red stake should be placed side by side where the change in status takes place. This applies even if the hazard is defined by a line. This practice assists players in determining the status of the hazard where the ball last crossed the margin.

By Definition, stakes or lines defining hazards are in the hazards. Stakes are obstructions. Therefore, if they are movable, players are entitled to relief without penalty from them under Rule 24-1. If they are immovable, relief without penalty is provided under Rule 24-2 when the ball lies outside the hazard. However, if the ball is in the hazard, the player is not entitled to immovable obstruction relief. Accordingly, it is recommended that stakes marking hazards are movable.

4. GROUND UNDER REPAIR

Prior to marking any areas as ground under repair, the Committee is advised to conduct a tour of the entire course to identify areas that may need to be marked. Only when an inspection has been completed is it recommended that any marking should be undertaken. Otherwise, the Committee may mark areas of ground under repair at the first few holes and subsequently find that the course has many other similar areas and it is not possible to mark them all.

To provide consistency, it is suggested that the duty of marking ground under repair should be assigned to a small number of the Committee, preferably two or three people including the person in charge of the Committee, and ideally any decision should be taken jointly.

It is recommended that ground under repair be defined by white lines, however, if the terrain is such that putting down a line is impossible, small stakes painted a distinctive colour, such as blue or black, may be used (stakes which are white, yellow or red are not recommended to avoid confusion with boundaries or hazards).
As highlighted in Chapter 3, there may be areas that the Committee wishes to declare ground under repair from which play is prohibited. Whilst the Local Rules or a notice should make reference to such areas, the Committee should also place signs in the ground under repair stating that play is prohibited from the area.

In tournaments where there are areas for spectators to cross holes, if the ground condition is likely to change significantly, it is recommended that these crossing points are marked as ground under repair. However, only that portion of the crossing point, which is on the fairway, should be so marked. It is considered overly generous to mark those parts of the crossing point in the rough as ground under repair. Normally the player has already gained an advantage by his ball landing in a trampled area. In any case, if such an area is unusually damaged, the Committee has authority to declare the area of rough ground under repair (see Decision 33-2a/3).

5. OBSTRUCTIONS

Although it is not normally necessary to define obstructions, there may be situations where the extent of the obstruction is unclear. For example, an artificially-surfaced path may become a natural path (i.e. an integral part of the course), but it is difficult to establish exactly where the transition takes place. In these instances the margins of the obstruction should be defined by stakes or lines. When the Committee defines the margins of an obstruction in this manner, it will be necessary to introduce a Local Rule along the following lines:

"Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24-2) 
White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be considered as part of the obstruction."

6. ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE AREAS

Where areas on or adjoining the course are declared by an appropriate authority to be environmentally-sensitive and, therefore, entry into and/or play from the areas is prohibited, the area should be physically protected to deter players from entering the area, for example, with a fence, warning signs and the like. These areas should be marked with the appropriate colour of stake for the area defined, but with a green top. For example, if the ESA is a water hazard, stakes defining the area should be yellow with green tops (see Decision 33-8/41).

7. DROPPING ZONES (SEE ALSO SECTION 3)

Dropping zones are used when it is impossible for a player to play from the area of relief provided under a Rule or play is deemed by the Committee to be impracticable. In addition, it is common for dropping zones to be established for taking relief from temporary immovable obstructions, such as grandstands.

Dropping zones should be outlined with paint and an appropriate sign should be placed, or the words “Dropping Zone” (or “DZ”) painted, in the area. The area created should be large enough to allow for a reasonable lie after divots are taken.

There are no specific guidelines concerning the form dropping zones should take. They may be any shape. Committees may wish to relate the colour of the paint line to the condition from which relief is being taken, e.g. yellow if the dropping zone relates to a water hazard, red if it relates to a lateral water hazard, but there is no necessity to do this.

In the situation where a dropping zone is used to provide relief from a temporary immovable obstruction, the dropping zone should, in terms of difficulty of shot, reflect the lie and line of play the player would have had if the ball were playable from the area beneath the temporary construction.
SECTION 5 - COURSE SET-UP

1. GENERAL

It is important that, prior to a competition, the Committee has a clear idea of how it wishes the course to play. Each hole should be evaluated in terms of distance, tee position and hole location in an attempt to provide a good test of golf. A course that is well set up will test a player’s ability to play a range of shots using all, or at least most, of the clubs in his bag.

However, it should be noted that this document does not contain specific guidelines on preparing a course, for example, giving recommended putting green speeds, rough heights, etc. The R&A does not provide standard golf course specifications as it takes the view that every golf course has its own characteristics and has been designed by the architects to have certain features. In preparing a course for a competition it is considered important to take account of the strategy that the architects had in mind, and also the type of course and its individual requirements.

Establishing the correct course set-up will involve visits to the course months in advance of the competition. While it may not be desirable to interfere too much with the programme of the greenstaff, it is important to ensure that desired green speeds, rough heights and fairway widths are agreed upon and understood well in advance of the competition. In addition, it is important to allow any repair work enough time to mature and to ensure that if any fresh sand is to be put into bunkers, it is done at least four months prior to the competition.

It should be the aim of the greenstaff and the Committee to have the condition of the course virtually identical from the first practice day to the last day of the event. Significant changes in course conditions between practice and the event itself, particularly in relation to the putting greens, are undesirable.

The Committee must appoint someone to set up the course for each competition round. It may be that the Committee appoints two people to this task with one person covering each nine. If this is the case it is essential that one is fully aware of the other’s intentions so that there is no imbalance in terms of for example, setting hole locations. The appointed person may be a member of the Committee or a senior member of the greenstaff.

This person’s duties will consist of establishing the teeing grounds at each hole, determining hole locations, ensuring that bunkers have been raked, and that putting greens, fairways and tees have been cut, and checking lines and stakes defining out of bounds, water hazards, etc. to make sure that they have not been worn away or removed without the Committee’s authority.

2. TEEING GROUNDS

As stated above, it should be determined in advance which area of each tee is to be used during the competition. The Club should be advised of this selection and be asked to limit play on these tees in advance of the event. The teeing areas should be level and firm and the line of sight to the fairway should not be obscured by overhanging branches or the like. If the competition extends over several days, the tee positions should not vary to such an extent as would significantly alter the overall length of the course.

However, if the Committee wishes to play a hole at different lengths during different rounds (for example, shortening a par 4 to make it drivable), players should be advised of this possibility and given the opportunity to practice from the different tee positions.
On par 3 holes and other holes where players are likely to use irons from the tee, the area of the tee to be used for the competition should be protected well in advance in order to ensure that players will have good turf from which to play.

Tees at these holes should continue to be protected during practice rounds. Such protection can be provided by placing some kind of netting over the relevant area of ground. However, it is desirable to allow players to practice from the maximum length of a par 3. This can normally be achieved by allowing practice from a very small strip at the very back of the teeing area as it is unlikely that such an area will be used during the event.

Generally, tee markers should be placed at the very back of the tournament teeing grounds at some point during practice days so that competitors can practise each hole at full length. Different holes can be played at full length on different practice days.

It is recommended that a sign stating the hole number, yardage and par is clearly visible at each tee. Tee signs are particularly important if some players may be unfamiliar with the course. These signs may prevent a match or group from playing from a wrong teeing ground inadvertently. To avoid confusion, it is preferable for only one set of tee-markers to be placed on each tee during the competition. However, if this is not feasible, the Committee must ensure that players are aware which tees apply to the competition. This may be communicated to the players in the conditions of the competition and by way of a notice.

Tee-markers should be placed about six to seven yards apart. If the width of the teeing ground is set greater, players are more likely to inadvertently tee up in front of the tee-markers. The front line of the teeing ground should be set up at right angles to the centre of the drive zone. In order to achieve this it is suggested that the person setting the teeing ground stands on the tee, faces the centre of the drive zone (or the putting green at a par 3 hole) and extends his arms at a 90 degree angle to the centre of the drive zone. If he then places the tee-markers in line with his arms a square set up should result. Alternatively, some form of T-square can be placed on the ground to assist with alignment.

It is suggested that tee positions are marked with paint dots so that if a tee-marker is moved or stolen the Committee can replace it. In a competition played over several days, it is recommended that one paint dot is used to indicate the position of tee-markers during the first round, two dots are used for the second round, and so on.

Due to the fact that the Rules of Golf state that the teeing ground is an area of two club-lengths in depth, tee-markers should always be at least two club-lengths forward from the back edge of the tee. A player should be allowed to tee his ball as far back in the two club-length area as he chooses and still be able to make an unobstructed swing. Ensure that trees, advertising boards, etc. do not create any interference. When positioning tee-markers it is also important to take account of the left-handed player and ensure that the teeing ground affords these players as much room for manoeuvre as right-handed players.

3. HOLE POSITIONS

Many factors affect the selection of good hole positions, but the primary objective is to reward a good shot. The following points should be considered:

A. Take into account, where appropriate, the design of the hole as the architect intended it to be played. Determine the length of the shot to the green and how it may be affected by the possible conditions for the day – wind, rain and the holding nature of the green. In this connection it is recommended that a weather forecast is obtained and, if rain is likely, holes should not be cut where water would accumulate.
B. There must be enough putting green surface between the hole and the front and the sides of the
green to accommodate the required shot. For example, if the hole requires a long iron or wood
shot to the green, the hole should be positioned deeper in the green and farther from its sides
than would be the case if the hole requires a short pitch shot.

In any case, it is recommended that generally the hole be positioned at least four paces from any
edge of the green. If a bunker is close to the edge, or if the ground slopes away from the edge,
the distance should be greater, especially if the shot is more than a pitch.

Consideration should be given to allowing fair opportunity for recovery after a reasonably good
shot that just misses the green. On the other hand, the penalty for failure is something the player
must take into account in deciding whether or not to attack a particular hole position. Much will
depend upon the standard of the players.

C. An area of two to three feet around the hole should be as level as possible. Effort should be
made to ensure that holes are not positioned within three paces of a very severe slope or ridge
or of a recently used hole. If the design of the green dictates that the hole be positioned on a
slope, the hole should be cut vertically, not with the slope. A player putting from above the hole
should be able to stop the ball near the hole.

D. Consider the condition of nearby turf, especially taking care to avoid old hole plugs which have
not completely healed.

E. There should be a balanced selection of hole positions for the entire course with respect to left,
right, central, front and back positions. For example, beware too many positions on one side or
the other of the green with a resulting premium on drawn or faded shots.

F. For a competition played over several days the course should be kept in balance daily as to the
degree of difficulty. The course should not be set up appreciably more difficult for any round —
balanced treatment is the aim. The idea of making the course progressively harder round after
round is one that should be avoided.

One form of balanced daily treatment is to select six quite difficult hole positions, six which are
moderately difficult and six which are relatively easy. One should also try to keep a balance of
using the left and the right of the green. For example, on the first nine there may be four to the
right, four to the left and one in the centre. The second nine should be similar. Also, one should
vary as much as possible the number of paces from the front edge of the green.

G. During practice days before a competition it is recommended that holes are positioned in areas
which will not be used during the competition so that competition positions will not be damaged
by foot traffic.

H. Anticipate the players' walking routes. Position holes for early rounds so that good hole positions
for later rounds will not be spoiled by players leaving the green. For example, for a four-day
event, on the first day, where possible, the hole positions should be close to the exit line to the
next tee. On the second day the holes should be in such a position that the players will be
walking on or near the first day's position. This should leave half of the green for the last two
days.

I. In match play, a hole position may, if necessary, be changed during a round, provided that in each
match the players play with the holes in the same position.

In stroke play, Rule 33-2b requires that all competitors in a single round play with each hole in
the same position, other than when it is impossible for a damaged hole to be repaired so that it
conforms with the Definition (see also the Note to Rule 33-2b).

When 36 holes are played in one day it is customary for hole positions not to be changed between rounds, but there is no Rule to prohibit changing them. If they are changed, all players should be informed.

J. The member of the greenstaff who cuts the holes must make sure that the Rules of Golf are observed, especially the requirements that the hole must be 4.25 inches (108mm), must be at least 4 inches (101.6mm) deep and that wherever possible the hole-liner must be sunk at least one inch (25mm) below the putting green surface. If a plastic cuff/rim is used, it is considered to be part of the hole liner, so it too must be sunk at least one inch (25mm) below the putting green surface, unless the nature of the soil makes it impracticable to do so.

It is appreciated that it may not be possible to achieve all the aims stated above, however, using the example of a 72 hole event played over four days, the following method of selecting hole positions may enable the Committee to achieve as many of the goals as possible:

1. Select the best four hole positions on each putting green, taking into account that a different section of the putting green should be used on each day. These selections should be made well in advance of the competition. The four selected positions should then be ranked 1 to 4, with No 1 being the most difficult position, No 2 the second most difficult, and so on.

2. All four positions on each green should then be identified by measurement. It is suggested that the starting point for these measurements should be a centre point at the front of the green. This point can be identified by standing at the back of the green, looking down the hole and assessing where a player would play his approach shot to the green if he were playing from the perfect central position in terms of the way the hole was designed to be played. Due to the shape of the green the point so identified may not necessarily be at the very front edge of the green.

3. Having ascertained this point it should be marked with a small painted T-shape, which will assist in directing the person taking the measurements to the centre of the green. A small paint spot should also be placed at the back edge of the green so that a consistent line can be taken when pacing from the front of the green (see explanatory diagram – Appendix E).

4. The measurement from the front of the green is then pinpointed by pacing or measuring from the T-shape at the front of the green to a spot at 90 degrees to the selected position. The measurement to the side of the green is taken by pacing from the hole at a 90 degree angle to the side of the green that is nearest (see Appendix E). A method of measuring is necessary so that the position can be located easily when the time comes to use it and also to ensure that all hole measurements are taken from the same spot.

5. The next step is to decide which of the four positions to use each day. In making these selections, the principles outlined in points (e)-(h) above should be followed as closely as possible, i.e. a balance of positions is sought and possible damage to positions by foot traffic should be avoided. With regard to difficulty, a guide to whether balance has been achieved is if the total of the 18 hole ratings, i.e. No’s 1 to 4, is close to 45.

6. The final step is to develop a chart containing the position for each hole in each round, i.e. a master plan.

Although this method does require a considerable amount of preliminary work, it does ensure a balance of hole positions on each day. It also means that the task during the competition is one of checking, as opposed to selecting, which will save valuable time during the busy days of the competition.
A common method for marking hole locations is for the person undertaking course set-up to mark the position with a paint dot the day before (for example, on the evening of the last day of the practice rounds). When the hole location is being checked prior to play, the location for the following day is then marked with a paint spot. The member of the greenstaff responsible for cutting the holes is given the hole location measurements the day before and will use these to locate the paint dots and cut the new holes.

Nevertheless, if heavy rain is forecast during the days of the competition, the Committee would be well advised to review the master plan and position holes where puddles of water are least likely to accumulate. Occasionally, such action can save a day's play in stroke play because Rule 33-2b states that all competitors in a single round must play with each hole cut in the same position. Therefore, the Committee may not alter a hole position after one competitor has played the hole with the hole in a certain position in order to prevent having to suspend play.

SECTION 6 - COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION

1. THE RULES OF GOLF

All competitions should be conducted in strict conformity with the Rules of Golf. In order to do this, a Committee must be equipped with a supply of current Rules of Golf books and the publication “Decisions on the Rules of Golf”, which contains interpretations of the Rules (see Appendix K for the information on how to obtain these books). Without these essential tools a Committee cannot hope to run a competition in accordance with the Rules. These publications can be obtained from The R&A’s website at www.randa.org.

Participants in a competition expect to be treated as fairly as possible and the only way this can be achieved is if the Rules are strictly applied to all concerned. There is no more certain a way to damage the reputation of a competition than by poor management. It may be difficult and unpleasant to be punctilious in the enforcement of the Rules, but to avoid taking such action can set dangerous precedents and create major difficulties in the long term. However, it must be stressed that authority should only be used for the purpose of promoting fair play under equal conditions.

2. REGISTRATION

It is advisable for the Committee to set up a registration procedure for players. When players register they can be given all necessary information concerning the competition and can be advised of any amendments to previously published information.

In addition, the registration procedure will give the Committee an early indication if a player is not going to appear. If a player has failed to register, the likelihood is that he will fail to appear for his starting time and the Committee can make the necessary provisions, e.g. by contacting an alternate player and asking him to be on stand-by.

While a player cannot be penalised under the Rules of Golf for failing to register, a Committee may introduce a Condition of Entry in this respect. For example, the PGA European Tour require players to register by 1800 hours on the day prior to the competition. If a player fails to do this he is removed from the draw and replaced by the first alternate.
3. STARTING

Committees are advised to appoint one of their members, the professional or an official to be available at the course while players are starting, and to empower this person to settle any problems that may arise regarding starting times, provision of markers etc.

The main responsibilities of the starter are to ensure that the players start at the time established by the Committee and, in stroke play, to issue each competitor with their score card containing the date and the competitor’s name. However, there are a number of other duties that a starter must perform:

- Five minutes before a game is due to start, the starter should call the names of the players and ask them to come forward to the starting tee. If a player does not come forward soon after his name is called, there is time to try to locate the player concerned prior to the starting time.

- When the players arrive on the tee they should be given their own score card by the starter (who should make a point of telling the player that he has been given his own card), a copy of the Conditions of Competition and Local Rules and any other Notices to Players or information not contained within the Conditions or Local Rules.

- If there is not a referee with each match, the starter should ask the players to check the number of clubs they are carrying in order to ensure they do not have more than 14 and advise players how they can recognise referees on the course.

- The starter should also make the recording policy clear to the players, i.e. in stroke play, the competitors must return their cards to the recorder as soon as possible on completion of the round and, in match play, inform the players of who is responsible for reporting the result of the match to the recorders (usually the responsibility is given to the winner of the match).

- When it is time for the group to start, the starter should announce the match as briefly as possible, for example “Ladies and Gentlemen, this is match number 14”, and then announce each player on the tee, for example, “from Ireland, Padraig Harrington”.

- It is imperative that the starter does not allow players to tee off prior to their official starting time as this is likely to have repercussions in terms of pace of play. If there are delays on the first tee the starter should ensure that the Committee is aware of this.

- In stroke play, the starter should ensure that there are at least two members of the last group present before sending out the penultimate group so that one competitor is not left without any fellow-competitors.

These responsibilities should be issued to the starters by way of a simple instruction sheet.

If there is not a referee with each game, it is helpful if the starter is knowledgeable about the Rules of Golf as questions may be asked at the starting tee.

The starter is a highly visible figure and, therefore, it is important that he or she is smartly dressed in order to create the right impression for players and spectators.

In case of inclement weather, it is desirable for a covered area to be installed on or near the first tee (or tees if a two tee start is in operation) for the starter, and each starter should be furnished with the following:

a. A table or podium
b. Rules of Golf books
c. Draw sheets
d. Score cards with the competitors' names and the date and blank score cards for the players' personal use in stroke play and match play

e. Conditions of Competition

f. Local Rules
g. Any additional notices to players

h. Hole location sheets, if available

i. A clock, which should be set with the clocks in the locker room, dining area, pro shop and practice areas

j. P.A. system (if required)
k. Permanent marking pens, to enable players to put identification marks on their ball

l. Pencils, tee-peg and pitch-mark repairers

4. ISSUING SCORE CARDS AND RECORDING SCORES

In stroke play, it is the Committee’s responsibility to issue for each competitor a score card containing the date and the competitor’s name, or in foursome or four-ball stroke play, the competitors’ names. The Committee’s duties in respect of addition of scores, applications of handicaps, etc. in the various forms of stroke play are clearly outlined in Rule 33-5 (for a breakdown of the responsibilities of the Committee, marker and competitor in relation to the score card, see Appendix F).

It is important that the task of recording scores is given to a responsible person or group of persons as any errors that occur during the returning of score cards can have serious consequences and can undermine all the good work which has been put into a competition.

The method of receiving score cards may vary depending on the nature of the competition. It is common for Golf Clubs to utilise a “ballot box” where completed cards are returned, whereas in most professional events there is a recorder’s office or tent. Where a ballot box is in use, the Committee may consider the card returned when it is dropped into the box.

Irrespective of method used, it is essential that the Committee make it clear when a competitor is considered to have “returned his card”, after which point no alterations may be made to the card. This should be established in the conditions of the competition in case a dispute arises. For example at The Open Championship, the following condition is used:

“Returning of Score Card
A player’s score card is deemed officially returned to the Committee when he has left the recording office/area.”

At The Open Championship, where the recorders work from a mobile office, while a competitor is within the office he is considered to be in the process of returning his card and alterations may be made on the score card, even if the competitor has handed the card to a member of the Committee.

The competitors are advised to stay whilst cards are being checked. The Committee is responsible for the addition of the scores (Rule 33-5). Any error can be amended while the competitor is still in the office, but once the competitor has left the office, he has “returned his card” and no subsequent alterations are possible.

Since a competitor is subject to severe penalties if he signs for an incorrect score or fails to sign his card, the Committee should ensure that competitors enter the recorders area immediately after completing their round and certainly before conducting any media interviews. Similarly, access to the recording area should be highly restricted, with the public and the media kept at a sensible distance.
The routine for a recorder should be as follows:

a. If the competitors are entering an office or tent, ask each competitor to check his scores hole by hole, and suggest that they wait until the official has checked the card before departing.

b. Read the name on the score card back to the competitor to ensure that his scores are on the correct score card.

c. Check to see that both the competitor and the marker have signed the card and that the competitor’s signature corresponds with the name on the card. (If it is a handicap competition, also check that the competitor’s handicap is recorded on the card.)

d. Check the addition of the scores recorded and settle the gross total score for the round (If it is a handicap competition, apply the handicap recorded on the card).

In addition to their recording duties, recorders should make a note of, but not comment on, any verbal complaints from the players. In due course, this information should be relayed to the Committee. The recorders should also note the time of finish for each group on a draw sheet.

These responsibilities should be issued to the recorders by way of a simple instruction sheet.

It is recognised that the use of computers to log competition scores and calculate results is commonplace and that such methods can greatly assist Committees in the administration of competitions. However, the use of a computer in such a way does not override the requirement in the Rules of Golf that a score card, containing the competitor’s handicap (Rule 6-2b) and signed by the marker and competitor, must be returned to the Committee as soon as possible after completion of the round (see Rule 6-6b).

In addition, while the Committee may introduce a requirement that competitors enter their scores into a computer, any penalty imposed by the Committee for a failure to meet this requirement would have to be of a disciplinary nature, not involving a penalty under the Rules of Golf, such as disqualification (see Decision 6-6b/8).

Although the necessity for setting up a detailed recording system is not as essential in match play competitions as it is for stroke play, it is important that players know where they should report the result of a match and with which player this responsibility lies, e.g. the winner of the match.

**5. REFEREES**

If it is feasible, the Committee should have a number of representatives on the course to observe play, be available to give rulings and otherwise assist players. Obviously, anyone assigned to the course as a referee should be knowledgeable about the Rules.

At The Open Championship there is a walking referee assigned to each group and there are several roving referees assigned to each nine who assist the referees in cases of doubt and carry out timing procedures should a group be out of position and behind the pace of play time schedule.

However, even in professional events, this level of Rules staffing is the exception rather than the norm. Commonly, there will only be roving referees covering areas of the course that will monitor pace of play and give rulings when called upon to do so.

Prior to the competition, it is advisable for a meeting involving all referees to be held. At such a meeting the chief referee may run through the Local Rules, Conditions of Competition, etc. and answer any queries that may arise. Such a meeting will assist in ensuring that any abnormal conditions on the course are handled consistently and that any specific policies are clearly understood.
In Club competitions it is rare to have any referees positioned on the course during play. However, a player is entitled to a ruling, even if this means proceeding under Rule 3-3 in stroke play and seeking a decision once the round is completed. Therefore, the Committee should appoint someone who is knowledgeable in the Rules to be present during the competition to resolve Rules problems. No Committee member or club official should give a decision on a Rules matter unless he has been authorised by the Committee to give a final decision in its name.

6. FORECADDIES AND MARSHALS

The Committee may position forecaddies in areas where there is a possibility of balls being lost, or course marshals/ball spotters may be asked to fulfil this role. Such a policy can assist with pace of play if balls can be found quickly or if players can be made aware that a ball has not been found and, therefore, are encouraged to play a provisional ball. So that all players play under the same conditions, the Committee should ensure that a forecaddie or ball spotter is present all day.

However, if the use of forecaddies is to be successful, there must be a clear and efficient signalling policy so that the status of the ball is clear to the player concerned. It is even more vital that the system is unambiguous when the forecaddie is signalling with reference to whether a ball is in or out of bounds. The worst case scenario is that a player puts a second ball into play and it subsequently transpires that his original ball was in bounds. In this type of situation, it is advisable that the player plays a provisional ball even if the signal is indicating that his original ball is out of bounds.

7. PACE OF PLAY

It is understandable that Clubs, public courses, resorts and competition organisers may have differing views on what constitutes acceptable pace of play. However, it is a fact that slow play detracts from the enjoyment of the game for many golfers, and few golfers are heard to complain about play being too quick.

Rule 6-7 governs in the event of slow play. It provides that “The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish”. The penalty for a breach of Rule 6-7 is loss of hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play, and for a repeated offence, disqualification. However, Note 2 under Rule 6-7 states:

“For the purpose of preventing slow play, the Committee may, in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), establish pace of play guidelines including maximum periods of time allowed to complete a stipulated round, a hole or a stroke.
In match play, the Committee may, in such a condition, modify the penalty for a breach of this Rule as follows:
First offence – Loss of Hole;
Second offence – Loss of Hole;
For subsequent offence – Disqualification.
In stroke play, the Committee may, in such a condition, modify the penalty for a breach of this Rule as follows:
First offence – One stroke;
Second offence – Two strokes.
For subsequent offence – Disqualification”

It is a matter for the Committee in charge of a competition to formulate its own pace of play guidelines, although in practice the nature of such a condition will be dependent on the number of Committee members available to implement it.
For example, at The Open Championship it is possible to adopt a hole by hole pace of play guideline and, subsequently, shot by shot timing procedures if a group is out of position on the course and in excess of the prescribed time limit (see Appendix G for the full Pace of Play condition adopted at The Open Championship).

Obviously, it is unlikely that such a policy could be successfully adopted at Club level. Therefore, if the Committee is having problems with pace of play, it may be necessary to formulate a simple condition whereby the Committee establishes a time limit that it considers is more than adequate for players to complete the round and/or a certain number of holes (which will vary depending on numbers in groups and form of play). In the circumstances where a group exceeds the prescribed time limit and is out of position on the course (see Appendix G for definition of ‘out of position’) each player in the group is subject to penalty.

As an example of this form of condition, a Committee may decide that a group of three playing stroke play should not take more than 1 hour 45 minutes to complete nine holes and stipulate that if they exceed this limit, and are out of position, all three players are subject to a penalty of one stroke. In addition, the condition may state that if they fail to complete the second nine holes in the prescribed time and are still out of position all three players are subject to a further penalty of two strokes.

The problem with adopting such a policy where each player in the group is penalised for a breach of the condition is that it does not consider individual responsibility for the delay and a player who is blameless may be penalised. However, this type of policy may assist in terms of a group’s self-regulation with slower players being encouraged to improve their pace of play.

The time limits prescribed in the condition must take account of the form of play (e.g. a foursome should be quicker than a single) and the age of those playing (e.g. a “junior” should be quicker than a “senior”). In addition, the climate and the course itself, with regard to factors such as length, severity, layout, etc. will have a significant bearing on what the Committee decides is a reasonable time for players to take.

In major Amateur competitions and Professional events, the Committee may wish to establish a hole by hole pace of play guideline. It is impossible to give specific recommendations as to the times that should be applied to each hole, but a number of factors should be taken into consideration.

Firstly, while Professional golfers cannot be given unlimited time to complete a round, it has to be recognised that they are playing for their livelihood and, therefore, generally more time may be afforded to play than would be the case in club events.

More specifically, if in an elite Amateur or Professional event the Committee has decided on standard times for par 3’s, par 4’s and 5’s (e.g. 11, 14 and 17 minutes respectively), adjustments should be made to take into account severity/simplicity of a particular hole and walking distances between the green of the hole last played and the next tee.

While a pace of play condition may assist in monitoring the speed of play and will identify the slow player, not all slow play is the fault of the players themselves. A Committee can cause play to grind to a halt by letting too many players on to the course too quickly. It is important that the Committee allow sufficient time in between each starting time to enable the groups to stretch away from one another so that players are not waiting on every shot.

In addition, where possible it is advisable for a Committee to introduce “Starter’s Gaps” where every so often a starting time is left blank so that a build-up on the course is not necessarily perpetuated all the way through the field.
Also, overly severe course set-up may contribute to the pace of play being slower than desirable. In particular, time spent putting can be increased if hole positions are too difficult and/or green speeds are too fast.

Identifying the most suitable pace of play guidelines and the ideal starting times may be a case of trial and error. However, when the correct methods are established they can greatly assist in the enjoyment of the game for all concerned in the competition. For more guidance on pace of play for general play, see Appendix G.

8. INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUSPENSIONS OF PLAY

A Committee must be prepared for inclement weather and players must be able to recognise the signal that means that the Committee has suspended play. The situation where players do not know whether play has been suspended or not, or some players know and others don’t, must be avoided.

A competition need not be suspended simply on account of rain, unless the rain is so heavy that it would be unfair to require players to continue. Generally, play should not be suspended unless the course has become unplayable. For example, balls are moving frequently on the putting greens due to strong winds or holes are surrounded by casual water.

a) Casual Water

In any event, if rain is of sufficient intensity to present an unfair condition, normally it would take little time for casual water to accumulate around the hole on at least one putting green. When that occurs, the Committee would be remiss if it did not consider the course unplayable and suspend play.

If rain is not of sufficient intensity to present an unfair situation, but heavy enough to cause casual water around a hole, in match play the Committee may relocate the hole if a suitable area not under water can be found, and then resume play. However, in stroke play it is not permissible to relocate a hole unless it is severely damaged – see Exception to Rule 33-2b. Accordingly, play cannot be resumed until the casual water problem is resolved.

Squeegees are invaluable when puddles start to form on putting greens. After heavy rain, casual water can remain on some greens for a considerable period of time if nothing is done to remove it. However, an organised squeegee crew can usually remove the casual water in a few minutes. Therefore, the Committee should ensure that a supply of squeegees is available and that the Head Greenkeeper has a team ready to put them to use.

If the Committee decides that water is collecting on the greens to the extent that it wishes to deploy squeegee operators, the following policy should be adopted when the ball is on the putting green:

“If a player’s ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by casual water on the putting green, the player may:
(a) take relief under Rule 25-1b(iii); or
(b) have his line to the hole squeegeed.

Note: Such squeegeeing should be done across the line of putt and must extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (i.e. at least one roller length).”

If conditions deteriorate to the extent that the smooth running of the event is at risk, the Committee may authorise a combination of moving the ball under Rule 25-1b(iii) together with squeegeeing across the line.

In addition, while a player is not entitled to relief under Rule 25-1 for casual water on his line of play when his ball lies off the putting green, in exceptional circumstances, if casual water on the putting green
on the player’s line of play materially affects his intended stroke, the Committee may authorise its clearance. It should be noted that the Committee may enlist the help of players and their caddies in any squeegee operation (see Decision 33/1).

However, putting greens are not the only source of potential problems when the course is subject to heavy rains. As with hole locations, in stroke play, tee-markers may not be moved during a round and, therefore, careful attention should be paid to the teeing grounds. As the grass on teeing grounds is generally longer than on putting greens, it is often better to use towels to absorb the water as opposed to squeegees.

b) Dangerous Situations
Although a Committee should not suspend play unless absolutely necessary, it is the responsibility of the Committee to do everything possible to protect players from bad weather and in particular, lightning. No chances should be taken in this respect. There are a number of lightning detection devices available on the market, in addition to computer software packages that predict and forecast lightning.

Although Rule 6-8b governs when play is suspended by the Committee, there is a Note to this Rule that states:

“The Committee may provide in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), that in potentially dangerous situations, play must be discontinued immediately following a suspension of play by the Committee. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he is disqualified unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided in Rule 33-7.”

If the Committee introduces the condition for potentially dangerous situations, it overrides the provisions of Rule 6-8b in terms of discontinuance of play. This condition is in effect at all R&A Championships (see Appendix I, Part A in the Rules of Golf; page 158).

If the Committee has been advised that lightning is approaching, it should suspend play before the storm is predicted to arrive to give players a chance to seek shelter and/or return to the clubhouse. To assist players in these circumstances it is advisable to organise an evacuation procedure. This may involve sending transport to various positions on the course in advance of the inclement weather to transport players to the clubhouse if and when play is suspended.

It is also important that the Committee advise spectators if lightning is approaching. This can be carried out by putting weather warnings on scoreboards and the like. See Appendix H for sample evacuation plan and Lightening Safety Tips.

c) Resuming, Replaying or Cancelling a Round
It is important to note that, while the Committee has the right to cancel a round in a stroke play competition, it may not do so in match play. If the players in a match have completed, for example, six holes, they must resume play at the 7th tee. The match is not replayed in its entirety.

In stroke play, the Committee has the option of suspending play and resuming from where play was discontinued or cancelling the round and replaying it entirely. There is no hard-and-fast rule as to when a Committee should suspend play and when it should cancel the round in stroke play. However, generally a round should be cancelled only in a case where it would be grossly unfair not to cancel it. For example, if some competitors begin a round under extremely adverse weather conditions, conditions subsequently worsen and further play that day is impossible, it would be unfair to the competitors who started not to cancel the round (see Decision 33-2d/1).

When the course becomes unplayable and play is discontinued, the Committee should keep open as many options as possible to maximise the chances of completing the competition on schedule. For example, consider these facts:
a. The field for the first two rounds of a 72-hole stroke play competition is 156, with the field being cut to 60 competitors for the last two rounds.
b. Due to the size of the field, the first two rounds are normally not completed until shortly before dark.
c. In the second round, a thunderstorm occurs in the middle of the day, rendering the course unplayable.
d. The delay because of the storm makes it impossible to complete the second round on schedule.
e. If the storm were to pass over quickly, it might be possible with the aid of squeegees and pumps to get the course playable and resume play for a couple of hours.
f. If play could be resumed for a couple of hours, it would be possible to finish the second round the next morning, quickly make the draw for the third round and finish the third round on schedule.

In these circumstances, it would be inadvisable for the Committee to suspend play for the day as soon as the storm rendered the course unplayable. In doing so, the Committee would be foreclosing an option, which if retained, might result in being able to finish the competition on schedule.

Generally, when more than half of the field have completed their rounds, it would be unusual to cancel the round if the opportunity is available to suspend play and continue the following day. However, it is appreciated that an 18 hole competition to be held over one day would not have this luxury of resuming play on a subsequent day.

Where it is feasible to reschedule the competition, the Committee should endeavour to do so. However, the Committee does not have the authority under the Rules to reduce the number of holes of a stipulated round once play has commenced on that round (e.g. from 18 to 9 holes). Consequently, if it is not feasible to reschedule the competition, the competition must be cancelled.

It is not uncommon for problems to emerge in team matches where, because of bad weather, it is not possible to complete the matches in the format intended and, for whatever reason, there is insufficient extension time available to complete the matches. See related PDF for Suspension of Play Guidelines for Team Matches.

**SECTION 7 - DUTIES OF A REFEREE**

**I. GENERAL**

Golf, for the most part, is played without a referee being present. However, the Committee in charge of a competition may appoint a referee and perhaps an observer, to accompany play, or it may assign Committee members to particular parts of the course to assist players with the Rules. It should go without saying that a referee must have a good knowledge of the Rules. This is considered to be more than just a playing knowledge.

A referee may spend all day on the course without being called upon to make a ruling. However, he must remain alert and be wary against becoming a “spectator” as a question may arise when least expected.

A referee requires not only a good knowledge of the Rules, but an awareness of his duties and responsibilities and an appreciation of how best to handle various rules situations.
2. REFEREES

A referee is defined in the Rules of Golf as one who is appointed by the Committee to decide questions of fact and apply the Rules. A referee must act on any breach of a Rule that he observes or is reported to him.

At certain times, it may be appropriate to restrict a referee’s ability to give a decision on a certain aspect of the Rules. For example, declaring areas of ground under repair. Often the authority to declare ground under repair is reserved for the chief referee in order to ensure consistency over the type of conditions relief is granted for. Equally, it may be the policy of the Committee that only designated referees are permitted to time players in order to ensure the pace of play policy is enforced uniformly over the entire field.

It is not sufficient for a referee merely to give a correct decision when appealed to; he must also at all times be sufficiently alert to observe accurately and to interpret correctly all the events that may occur during a round. Within the scope of these duties he is assigned to a match or game to help ensure that it will be played fairly under sporting conditions.

This raises the question of the referee’s ethical position when he sees a player about to break the Rules. The referee is not responsible for a player’s wilful breach of the Rules, but he certainly does have an obligation to advise players about the Rules. It would be contrary to the spirit of fair play if a referee failed to inform a player of his rights and obligations under the Rules and then penalised him for a breach that he could have prevented. The referee who tries to help players to avoid breaches of the Rules cannot be accused of favouring one player against the other, since he would act in the same manner towards any player and is, therefore, performing his duties impartially.

The following are examples of actions that a referee may take in order to prevent a breach of the Rules:

- If a player is about to play another ball because the original ball may be lost or out of bounds, ask the player whether it is a provisional ball.
- If a player at any time plays a provisional ball or puts a second ball into play, ensure that the player can identify both balls.
- If a player tees his ball ahead of the markers, draw his attention to it before he drives.
- If a player is about to lift a loose impediment in a bunker or water hazard, remind him that his ball is in a hazard.
- If a player is about to adopt or adopts a wrong dropping procedure, call his attention to it and point out the correct procedure.

Another important general aspect of refereeing is the manner in which a referee performs his duties. When golf is played at a level where referees are present, the players concerned may be under considerable pressure. A heavy handed or unsympathetic approach may be unhelpful and could have a detrimental effect on a player by disturbing his concentration. Therefore, a referee should attempt to perform duties with understanding and tact. It is important to sense when to talk to a player and when to be silent.

Beginning with the first tee, the following comments offer guidelines on how a referee should act when faced with a certain situation and suggest actions that a referee can take in order to avoid a problem arising:

(a) At the First Tee
If the players in a group or match are experienced in being accompanied by a referee, it is usually sufficient for the referee to ask the players to ensure they can identify their own ball and that they count the number of clubs they are carrying. If the players are less experienced it may be useful to remind them of the role of the referee, i.e. to be of assistance to the players and to be on hand should they be doubtful.
as to the correct procedure in a situation.

(b) On the Tee
It is recommended that the referee situate himself on the teeing area when players are playing their tee shots, and in a position that he will be able to determine whether the players have teed their ball within the limits of the teeing ground. As stated above, a referee should not stand back and watch a player tee and play his ball from outside the limits without bringing this fact to the player’s attention. However, the referee should ensure that he does not get in the way of the player in, what can be a restricted area in terms of space.

(c) Between Tee and Green
Having left the tee, if there may be a doubt as to which player is first to play, the referee should arrive in the area ahead of the players so that he can decide on this matter before the players are ready to play. Determining the order of play is obviously more important in match play than in stroke play.

Being in a position to see each stroke played will assist the referee in determining questions of fact, such as whether the player has moved the ball. In addition, it means that the referee will be on hand if a player is playing from a place where Rule 13-2 may come into play, for example, if the player is manoeuvring himself through bushes to make a stroke at the ball. Here the referee must determine how much the player may disturb the interfering growth in the process of fairly taking his stance (see Decision 13-2/1). The referee can guide the player in his actions to ensure he does not breach Rule 13-2.

(d) On the Putting Green
On reaching the putting green, the referee should select a position where he can observe play without interference to any spectators.

A referee should be in a position to observe that a ball lifted is replaced in the correct place. Problems in this area are most likely to arise when a player has had to move his ball-marker a putter head length or more to one side so that it doesn’t interfere with others. The referee should take particular note of this action and ensure that the marker is put back in the right place before the ball is replaced.

Many experienced referees have individual methods of ensuring that they observe the replacement of the marker in the correct place. For example, when observing a player moving his marker a putter head length to one side, a referee may take a coin out of his pocket or take his watch off and will not put it back until he has observed the correct replacement. In this way, the referee is unlikely to forget that the player has moved the marker away from the original spot.

The referee must also watch to see that the players do not touch their line of putt except as permitted under the Rules. When a ball stops on the lip of the hole, the referee may have to decide, first, whether it overhangs the edge of the hole, and if so, whether the player has used the allowable ten seconds under Rule 16-2 to determine whether the ball is at rest.

One especially difficult situation on the putting green that can arise relates to the concession of putts in match play. Sometimes a player may miss a putt to win a hole and, without thinking, remove the ball from near the hole without holing out and without concession by the opponent. In these cases, the referee should make certain whether the putt had been conceded or not. It is advisable in match play for the referee to ask the players to ensure that concessions are made clearly. This may be an additional task undertaken by the referee on the first tee.
(e) General

On a more general note, sometimes a player can be careless in his observance of a Rule. If there has been no actual breach the referee should caution the player and so minimise the possibility of having to impose a penalty later; this can be done by making sure that the player is familiar with the particular Rule.

In any situation where a player may wish to take relief, the referee should advise the player not to touch his ball until he has decided upon his best course of action. When applicable, the referee should instruct the player to establish and mark his nearest point of relief and the prescribed dropping area.

The referee should not leave the player simply because the prescribed dropping area has been established. He should remain in position to assist the player if a dropped ball rolls into a position requiring it to be re-dropped, or if the dropped ball strikes the player or his equipment. Conversely, the player may think that a ball that has been dropped and is in play should be re-dropped. The referee should be on hand to prevent the player from lifting a ball that is in play.

At times awkward situations will arise. The referee should be firm and positive, but take plenty of time. It is always as well to consult the Rule Book and it may help to let the players read it. When faced with a problem, it is often of considerable assistance to find out the player’s intention. A determination of this can also be very useful as a routine approach to a questionable action, for example, if the player appears to test the depth of sand in a bunker, or to touch the line of his putt when there are no visible loose impediments to be removed.

In addition to the Rules and Local Rules, the referee must familiarise himself with the Conditions of Competition, which may vary considerably in different tournaments. Particular attention should be paid to any Pace of Play condition to enable the referee to act in accordance with the prescribed procedure, should he be faced with slow play.

3. OBSERVERS

An observer is defined in the Rules of Golf as one who is appointed by the Committee to assist a referee to decide questions of fact and to report to him any breach of a Rule. Before play, it is important for a referee to reach an understanding with his observer as to their respective duties. Usually it is best for the observer to work ahead of the match as much as possible. The referee should stay close to the players at all times and be readily available to answer questions.

An observer, by stationing himself in the area where the ball may be expected to come to rest, may be in a position to determine questions of fact that the referee, from his position near the players, could not determine. For example, it is always useful to know before going forward whether a player’s ball is out of bounds or where it last crossed the margin of a water hazard.

Similarly, it is important to know whether a ball was still in motion when deflected or stopped by an outside agency (such as a spectator) and, if so, whether the deflection was deliberate or whether the ball had come to rest and was moved by an outside agency. If it was moved when at rest, the observer may know the spot from which it was moved.

When players are in difficulty on opposite sides of the hole it is desirable for the observer to station himself by one of the balls if possible, so that play of each ball can be observed. Preferably, he should watch the ball to be played first, so that he may have the opportunity to resume his normal position ahead of play.

When there is a large crowd, an observer can perform other duties by placing himself ahead of the play. To help ensure fair play, it is a duty of a referee to guard against any possible interference by spectators. An observer can be of great assistance by moving spectators away from places where a ball may go.
asking spectators to be alert before shots are played to the green and in guarding a ball that may have gone into the crowd. Very often an observer is in a better position than the referee to work with the marshals to obtain proper control of the crowd. In a match or grouping with large galleries, the services of an alert observer are invaluable to a referee.

4. REFEREEING AN AREA OR ZONE ON COURSE

When a referee is watching play either by chance or through having been assigned to a particular place on the course, their duties are different from those of a referee who is appointed to accompany a group or match.

In match play, unless a referee is assigned to accompany the players throughout a match, he has no authority to intervene in a match other than in relation to Rule 1-3, 6-7 or 33-7. It is a matter for the opponent to decide if he wishes to make a claim (see Rule 2-5). The referee’s presence on the course is solely to assist players in the event of a claim.

In stroke play the situation is different. Every competitor has a direct interest in the play of all other competitors. Every referee, therefore, has a duty to represent the interest of every competitor in the field. Thus, a referee assigned to a particular area or zone on the course must act on any probable breach of the Rules that he may observe. This may be done by immediately questioning the competitor about his procedure. Also, he will be called upon to make decisions on the course.

SECTION 8 - MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

1. ENTRY FORMS

In most open Amateur and Professional events, participants will be required to complete an entry form. The Committee should ensure that the entry form is unambiguous on matters such as eligibility, competition format, dates and practice dates, any conditions applying to the competition and the closing date for entries.

In addition, it is advisable for the Committee to include caveats reserving the right to arrange and/or alter the conditions, to accept or refuse any entry at any time without giving reason for its decision and stating that the decision of the Committee is final. See The Open Championship entry form in Appendix A.

2. DRESS RESTRICTIONS

If the Committee wishes to introduce dress restrictions (e.g. prohibiting the wearing of shorts, denim, metal spikes, etc.) during a competition, these restrictions should be made clear to the players involved. In addition, it is important to state whether the dress code also applies to caddies. Players and caddies must be aware of any restrictions well in advance of the competition.

The Committee may place restrictions on the commercial identification on clothing and equipment. If so, these prohibitions should be outlined in the event’s entry form. See The Open Championship entry form in Appendix A.
3. SCOREBOARDS

Depending on the nature of the competition, the Committee may wish to provide a scoreboard giving round scores in stroke play or round by round winners in match play. If at all possible, the scoreboard should be located near the 18th green, but not in a place where it will come directly into play or where it will distract players before they enter the recorder’s office.

In top class Amateur and Professional events there may be on-course leaderboards with hole-by-hole scoring. If this is the case, players should be made aware if either they or their caddies will be asked to provide information on their scores to scoreboard personnel positioned on course.

4. ACCOMMODATION OF EARLY AND LATE STARTERS

In order to accommodate early starters, the Committee should ensure that practice range, golf shops and catering facilities are opened at least one hour before the first starting time. Similarly, players at the end of the field should have the opportunity to use such facilities for up to an hour after they leave the last green.

5. STROKE INDEX

The Committee should draw up a list for each course (Rule 33-4), called the Stroke Index, giving the order of holes at which any handicap strokes awarded should be taken. This order should be printed on the Club’s score card.

Traditionally there has been no one basic principle for fixing the order of the Stroke Index. Some have based it on match play where Stroke Index 1 is assigned to the hole at which it is most likely to be needed, whereas others have based it on stroke play, allocating the holes in the order at which it is considered most difficult to achieve par. There are also those who have merely based it upon a mathematical formula. Some separate the stroke index for the different forms of play - match play and stroke play.

However, certain other factors have always been taken into consideration. The very early or very late holes should not be assigned to a low Stroke Index. The reason being that if a game were to finish all square and the players were required to go on to the 19th and subsequent holes to determine the winner, a player in receipt of very few strokes would gain an unfair advantage if he were to receive a stroke at the 19th or 20th.

Similarly, if a low Stroke Index were assigned to a hole at the very end of the round, a player in receipt of very few strokes may not have the opportunity to use them as the game may be over by that stage. In general, Stroke Index 1 to 4 should not be on holes 1, 2, 17 or 18, or at courses where matches are likely to start at the 10th hole, on holes 8, 9, 10 or 11.

The other important factor to be taken into account in fixing the order of the Stroke Index is that the strokes should be fairly evenly spread out over the 18 holes. If Stroke Index 1 is in the first 9 holes, Stroke Index 2 should be in the second 9 holes and so on.

6. COURSE RECORDS

The term “course record” is not defined in the Rules of Golf. However, it is generally accepted that a record score should be recognised as the official “course record” only if made in an individual stroke play
competition (excluding bogey, par or Stableford competitions) with the holes and tee-markers in their proper medal or championship positions.

It is recommended that a record score should not be recognised as the official “course record” if a Local Rule permitting preferred lies is in operation.

7. POSITIONING OF RAKES

On balance it is felt that rakes should be placed outside bunkers. For further guidance on positioning of bunker rakes, see Decision Misc./2 in the Decisions on the Rules of Golf.

8. SERIOUS BREACHES OF ETIQUETTE

The Etiquette Section in the Rules of Golf and Rule 33-7 allow for disqualification of a player who commits a serious breach of etiquette. For guidance on what constitutes a serious breach of etiquette, see Decision 33-7/8 in the Decisions on the Rules of Golf.

9. A MODIFICATION OF THE RULES OF GOLF FOR GOLFERS WITH DISABILITIES

This publication contains permissible modifications to the Rules of Golf for use by disabled golfers and is available from The R&A’s website (www.randa.org). The publication is not intended to provide a revision of the Rules of Golf as they apply to able-bodied players, but rather it is an attempt to adapt the Rules of Golf for groups of disabled golfers so that they can play equitably with an able-bodied golfer or a golfer with another type of disability.

It is important to stress that the Rules modifications only apply if the Committee in charge of a competition has introduced them. They do not apply automatically to a competition involving disabled golfers.

10. SUBMISSION OF QUERIES ON THE RULES OF GOLF

Many queries on the Rules submitted to the R&A’s Rules of Golf Committee have to be returned unanswered because individuals have sent them direct. Under Rule 34-3, points of doubt or dispute may be referred to The R&A’s Rules of Golf Committee only through a duly authorised representative of the Committee responsible for the competition.

A number of queries are received from Clubs in overseas countries affiliated to The R&A. While this is perfectly in order under the Rules, The R&A’s Rules of Golf Committee would prefer that they be submitted direct to their National Union or Association in the first instance, who in turn may refer the question to The R&A for further guidance.

The R&A Rules of Golf Committee will continue to reply direct to queries received from Clubs and other golfing bodies in Great Britain and Ireland.
APPENDIX A – THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
ENTRY FORM

ENTRY FORM

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

TURNBERRY

16, 17, 18 and 19 July 2009

International Final Qualifying – Africa – 3 & 4 February
Closing Date for Entries – 15 JANUARY 2009

International Final Qualifying – Australasia – 10 February
Closing Date for Entries – 22 JANUARY 2009

International Final Qualifying – Asia – 31 March & 1 April
Closing Date for Entries – 12 MARCH 2009

International Final Qualifying – America – 25 May
Closing Date for Entries – 7 MAY 2009

International Final Qualifying – Europe – 8 June
Closing Date for Entries – 21 MAY 2009

Closing Date for all other Entries – 28 MAY 2009
Guidance on Running a Competition

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS
Please complete all relevant areas in BLOCK CAPITALS and return with entrance fee to the address at the bottom of the page.

FIRST NAME ___________________________ FAMILY NAME ___________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________
TOWN ___________________________ CITY ___________________________
COUNTY/STATE ___________________________ COUNTRY* ___________________________
POSTCODE ___________________________ TEL. NO (with all codes) ___________________________
EXACT HANDICAP AT AMATEUR ___________________________ MOBILE NO (with all codes) ___________________________
EMAIL ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________
DATE OF BIRTH ___________ ___________ ___________ NATIONALITY ___________________________

GOLF CLUB ATTACHMENT __________________________________________________________________________

The entrance fee is £125 and, although preferred payment is by credit card, a cheque payable to R&A Championships Limited is acceptable.

MASTERCARD □ VISA □ Card Verification Code _______ Expiry Date _______ Card No _______
MAESTRO □ ISSN No. _______ Start Date _______ Expiry Date _______ Card No _______

Entrants must complete section 1, section 2 or section 3 below.

1. REGIONAL QUALIFYING (RQ)
Entrants must state RQ course preferred (see section 2).
Details of PGA Membership/Tour Affiliation ____________________________________________________________

2. INTERNATIONAL FINAL QUALIFYING (IFQ) and LOCAL FINAL QUALIFYING (LFX)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFQ AFRICA</th>
<th>IFQ AUSTRALIA</th>
<th>IFQ ASIA</th>
<th>IFQ AMERICA</th>
<th>IFQ EUROPE</th>
<th>LFX</th>
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<td>12 March 09</td>
<td>7 May 09</td>
<td>21 May 09</td>
<td>28 May 09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Closing Date for entries
Please mark X under the event you wish to play

Any player on any IFQ reserve list who is notified of a place in the starting field less than 48 hours before the first starting time of that IFQ has the option of transferring his entry to LFX.

If your Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) at closing date does not allow entry to your chosen IFQ, you WILL be allocated a place in the starting field for LFX.

3. THE OPEN
Entrants exempt from RQ, IFQ and LFX under section 1. give details ____________________________________________________________

I HEREBY AGREE TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP CONDITIONS ___________________________ DATE ___________________________

TO BE CERTIFIED ON BEHALF OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANTS INTO RQ

BY THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS’ ASSOCIATION OR TOUR OF WHICH THE ENTRANT IS A MEMBER

I hereby certify that the entrant is a full professional golf and a member of the Professional Golfers’ Association or professional tour below noted.

SIGNATURE ____________________________________________________________ POSITION ____________________________________________________________
NAME & ADDRESS OF PGA OR TOUR ____________________________________________________________ Tel. No (with all codes) ____________________________________________________________

TO BE COMPLETED ON BEHALF OF AMATEUR ENTRANTS

BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ENTRANT’S HOME CLUB IF WITHIN GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND OR BY THE ENTRANT’S HANDICAPPING AUTHORITY IF OUTSIDE GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

I hereby certify that the exact handicap of the entrant is ___________________________ under the handicapping scheme adopted in the country from which he has entered and that the entrant, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is an eligible golfer in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status.

SIGNATURE ____________________________________________________________ POSITION ____________________________________________________________
NAME & ADDRESS OF CERTIFYING AUTHORITY ____________________________________________________________ Tel. No (with all codes) ____________________________________________________________

Return to: ENTRIES DEPARTMENT, THE R&A, ST ANDREWS, FIFE, SCOTLAND KY16 9JD
Tel: 01334 440000 Fax: 01334 440005 Email: entries@randa.org Website: www.open.golf.com
A. CONDITIONS

(1) The 138th Open Championship will be decided by stroke play over four rounds of 18 holes in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited and in accordance with the Local Rules approved by R&A Championships Limited.

(2) In the event of a tie after four rounds, the winner will be decided by a play-off by stroke play over the 5th, 6th, 17th and 18th holes. The play-off will start as soon as practicable after the last players have finished their round.

The player with the lowest aggregate over the four extra holes will be declared the winner. If the players are still tied having played these four holes, a hole by hole play-off will be played immediately over the 18th hole only until a winner emerges. If the play-off involves more than 2 players, those other than the winner will be deemed to have tied for 2nd place regardless of their scores in the play-off.

(3) The starting field will be 156 players. The 70 lowest scores over the first 36 holes and any tying for 70th place will qualify for the 3rd round on Saturday 18 July and the 4th round on Sunday 19 July.

(4) In the event of play being either delayed or declared null and void for any round of the Championship, additional play will be at the discretion of the Championship Committee. Additional play will take place on Monday 20 July and exceptionally Tuesday 21 July.

(5) R&A Championships Limited arranges publicity before and during the Championship in the Press and by live and recorded radio and television broadcasting and filming and on the Internet. Each competitor by entering the Championship and by agreeing to these terms and conditions assigns to R&A Championships Limited and its assigns and licensees the right in perpetuity throughout the world to make, use, exhibit and reproduce in any way now known or hereafter devised (and to authorise others to do so) for commercial and other purposes from time to time and at their discretion, motion pictures, still pictures, live taped or filmed television, sound recordings and any other reproductions of any description of the competitor or the competitor's name, voice, likeness and biographical material in any way now known or hereafter devised by R&A Championships Limited for the purpose of promoting the Championship and any subsequent Open Championship, without compensation for the competitor or the heirs, successors, executors, administrators or assigns of the competitor. The competitor also assigns the right to use and reproduce the competitor's name, voice, likeness and biographical material in any way now known or hereafter devised by R&A Championships Limited for the purpose of promoting the Championship and any subsequent Open Championship, without compensation for the competitor or the heirs, successors, executors, administrators or assigns of the competitor. Notwithstanding the foregoing grant of rights, R&A Championships Limited and its assigns and licensees agree that, other than as permitted above, they will not authorise any company contractorually associated with R&A Championships Limited to use the competitor's name, voice, likeness and biographical material in any way which constitutes the endorsement of a product or service, without first requiring such associated company to obtain the competitor's authorisation. Also, to comply with certain contractual limitations relating to advertising on television, competitors assert that they or their caddies may not, without the prior approval of R&A Championships Limited, display any commercial identification on clothing or equipment other than that customarily affixed to and of the normal size and in the normal position on any such clothing or equipment.

(6) Competitors shall at all times be liable for the actions of their caddies and shall ensure that the caddies comply with the Conditions as they apply to the competitors. Competitors shall ensure that their caddies wear clothing of a type appropriate to The Open Championship and, in particular, caddies shall be required to wear an Open Championship overgarment or bib of a type and design as shall be supplied by the Championship Committee. Caddies will be required to wear such an overgarment or bib during official practice rounds and during the Championship. Competitors' caddies may not wear headgear, visors or any other items of clothing which displays a logo other than the official Open Championship logo unless such logo represents a contract to which the competitor was bound at the commencing date of the Championship or an existing contract to which the caddie was bound as at 1 February 2009.

(7) All competitors gaining entry to The Open Championship are subject to the provisions of the PGA European Tour's Anti-Doping Policy in force at the date of the Championship. Details of the Policy, and the Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods, are available from R&A Championships Limited. Competitors who are taking medication and in doubt as to their clinical status should seek advice from R&A Championships Limited.

(8) A copy of the full pace of play conditions will be posted at each Championship venue and will be available on request.

(9) The specimen conditions in the Rules of Golf are in effect as regards Driving Clubs, Conforming Golf Balls, One Ball Condition and Time of Starting.

(10) Competitors must walk at all times during a stipulated round unless permitted to ride by the Championship Committee.

(11) The Championship Committee reserves the right to amend the Championship conditions and the decision of the Committee will, in all matters, be final.

(12) These terms and conditions shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of Scotland.

B. QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

For those entrants not exempt into the Championship under section F, the qualifying procedure will be as follows:

INTERNATIONAL FINAL QUALIFYING (IFQ)

(1) IFQ of 36 holes stroke play will be played in 2009 on Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 February at Royal Dornoch, South Africa (Africa), on Tuesday 10 February at Kingston Heath, Melbourne, Australia (Australia), on Tuesday 31 March & Wednesday 4 April at Sentosa, Singapore (Asia), on Monday 25 May at Glenelg G & CC, Dallas, Texas, USA (America) and on Monday 8 June at Sunningdale, Berkshire, England (Europe).

(2) If the results of the qualifying conditions 4(1)D(1) or 4(1)D(2) or 4(1)D(3) may attempt to qualify through either IFQ or LFQ but not both.

(3) The entrant may play in only one IFQ.

(4) Each IFQ starting field will not exceed 78 players except IFQ Europe which will not exceed 96 players. If the field of any IFQ does not exceed 20 the particular competition may be cancelled. In the event of cancellation the entrant concerned may enter a subsequent IFQ or LFQ.

(5) 3 places for each IFQ in Africa and IFQ Australia, 4 places for IFQ Asia, 8 places for IFQ Europe and 10 places for IFQ America will be available directly into the Championship. Any alteration in the number of available places will be decided by the Championship Committee at its discretion, having regard to the relative strength and size of each IFQ field. Any competitor who has qualified through IFQ is deemed as an Exempt Player.

(6) Ties for last places in each IFQ will be decided by hole by hole play-off as soon as is practicable after the last players have finished play.

(7) In the event of play being either delayed or declared null and void for any round of IFQ, additional play will be at the discretion of the Championship Committee and may take place on the day following each IFQ.

The qualifying places available at a cancelled IFQ will be allocated to players in the starting field of that IFQ in OWGKR order on the date of cancellation. Other competitors will have their entrance fees refunded in full.
LOCAL FINAL QUALIFYING (LFQ)

(8) Separate LFQ of 36 holes each will be played by stroke play on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 July 2009 at Glasgow (Gallows), Kilmarnock (Barassie) and Western Gailes.

(9) For LFQ, the field will be divided evenly between the designated courses. 12 places will be reserved from LFQ for the Championship and these will also be divided evenly. Any competitor who has qualified through LFQ is deemed an Exempt Player.

(10) Ties for last places in each competition will be decided by hole by hole play-off as soon as practicable after the last players have finished play.

(11) In the event of play being either delayed or declared null and void for either round of any LFQ, additional play will be at the discretion of the Championship Committee.

REGIONAL QUALIFYING (RQ)

(12) To determine qualifiers to LFQ, separate RQ of 18 holes each will be played by stroke play on Wednesday 24 June 2009 at Abingdon, Alwoodley, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Goswick), Coventry, Ellingham, Enville, Farnham, Gog Magog, Lindrick, Minehead, Musselburgh, Old Course, Racecourse, Rochester, Castle, Royal Asylum Forest and Royal Dublin. If the entry exceeds the number that can be accommodated at these courses, additional courses may be added. It may not be possible to allocate all entrants to their preferred courses.

(13) Entrants must intimate on their entry form which RQ courses they wish to play. If the field of any of these competitions does not exceed 40 that particular competition may be cancelled and the entrants concerned required to play in another RQ. After allowing for players who fulfill the conditions under section E, the number of qualifying places available in LFQ will be determined by the size of each field.

(14) Ties for last places in each competition will be decided by hole by hole play-off as soon as practicable after the last players finish their round.

(15) Ties for last places in each competition will be decided by hole by hole play-off as soon as practicable after the last players finish their round.

(16) In the event of play being incomplete or declared null and void on Wednesday 24 June, the competition will continue or take place on Thursday 25 June and at the same venue and at the same starting time. In the event of play being declared null and void on Thursday 25 June, the competition will be cancelled and entry fees refunded in full. No competitors will go forward from that competition to LFQ.

C. ENTRIES

(1) Entry into RQ will be accepted from any male professional golfer, from a male amateur golfer whose playing handicap does not exceed SCRATCH and from any female golfer in:

(i) The top 5 and ties in the 2009 Kraft Nabisco Championship.

(ii) The top 5 and ties in the 2009 McDonald’s LPGA Championship. Blank entries into RQ will be made for this category.

(iii) The top 5 and ties in the 2008 US Women’s Open Championship.

(iv) The top 5 and ties in the 2008 RICOH Women’s British Open Championship.

(2) Entry into LFQ, LPGQ or The Open will be accepted from any player who fulfills the conditions in section D, section E or section F respectively.

(3) Any entrant from Great Britain & Ireland shall be under the correct CONGU handicap scheme or from outside Great Britain & Ireland, under the handicap scheme adopted by the recognised authority controlling golf in the country from which they enter.

(4) Amateur entrants from Great Britain & Ireland must enter through the Secretary of their Home Club. Amateur entrants from the USA shall enter through their home State Association. Other amateur entrants outside Great Britain & Ireland shall enter through the Secretary of the recognised authority controlling golf in the country from which they enter.

(5) Entries to LFQ must be received by the Entries Department no later than the respective closing date for entries. All other entries must be received by the Entries Department no later than Thursday 28 May 2009.

(6) Entries shall be accepted by the Entries Department only if the entry form is fully completed and signed by the entrant.

(7) Entry fees will not be refunded unless intimation of withdrawal is received before the respective closing date for entries. A service charge of £2.50 will be deducted from all refunds.

(8) The Championship Committee may require independent certified evidence of the playing ability of entrants.

(9) Any entry from an exempt player who has qualified in their competition by default is deemed an Exempt Player.

(10) The Championship Committee reserves the right to disqualify any competitor making a false statement on his entry form.

D. ENTRY AT INTERNATIONAL FINAL QUALIFYING STAGE is open to:

(1) Past Open Champions.

(2) Any player with OWGR pointage at date of entry. A place in the starting field of IOQ will be subject to OWGR ranking on the closing date.

(3) Anyone who played in the 2008 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.

E. ENTRY AT LOCAL FINAL QUALIFYING STAGE is open to:

(1) Past Open Champions.

(2) Any player with OWGR pointage at date of entry who has not been accepted into the starting field of any IOQ or has not entered IOQ.

(3) Anyone who played in the 2008 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.

(4) First 10 and anyone tying for 10th place in the 2008 PGA Gleneagles Club Professional Championship.

(5) First 10 and anyone tying for 10th place in the 2008 PGA of America Club Professional Championship.

(6) Past playing members of Ryder and Presidents Cup teams.

(7) Playing members of the 5 leading teams and ties in the 2008 Eisenhower Trophy.


(12) The Irish Amateur Champion. Blank entry will be made on behalf of the 2009 Champion.

(13) The leading 10 R&A World Amateur Golf Rankings entrants, not otherwise exempt, as at WAGR Week 22.

(14) E(7) to E(14) are only applicable if the entrant concerned is still an amateur on 7 July 2008.

F. PLAYERS EXCEPT FROM REGIONAL, LOCAL FINAL AND INTERNATIONAL FINAL QUALIFYING

(1) First 10 and anyone tying for 10th place in the 2008 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.

(2) Past Open Champions born between 17 July 1943 and 19 July 1948.

(3) Past Open Champions aged 60 or under on 19 July 2009.


(6) First 30 in the final European Tour Order of Merit for 2008.


(continued overleaf)
(9) First 3 and anyone tying for 3rd place, not otherwise exempt, in the top 20 of the Race to Dubai for 2009 on completion of the 2009 BMW PGA Championship.
(10) The leading player, not otherwise exempt, in the first 3 and ties of each of the 2009 Open de France ALSTOM and the 2009 Barclays Scottish Open Ties will be decided by the better final round score and, if still tied, by the better third round score and then by the better second round score. If still tied, a hole by hole card play-off will take place starting at the 18th hole of the final round. Blank entries will be made on behalf of players qualifying in this category.
(15) The leading 30 qualifiers for the 2008 TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP.
(16) First 3 and anyone tying for 3rd place, not exempt having applied (F(3)), in the top 20 of the PGA TOUR FedExCup Points List for 2009 on completion of the HP Byron Nelson Championship.
(17) First 3 USPGA TOUR members and any USPGA TOUR members tying for 2nd place, not exempt, in a cumulative money list taken from the USPGA TOUR PLAYERS Championship and the five USPGA TOUR events leading up to and including the 2009 AT&T National Blank entries will be made on behalf of players qualifying in this category.
(18) The leading player not exempt having applied (F(17)) above, in the first 5 and ties of each of the 2009 AT&T National and the 2009 John Deere Classic Ties will be decided by the better final round score and, if still tied, by the better third round score and then by the better second round score. If still tied, a hole by hole card play-off will take place starting at the 18th hole of the final round. Blank entries will be made on behalf of players qualifying in this category.
(19) Playing members of the 2009 Ryder Cup teams.
(20) First and anyone tying for 1st place on the Order of Merit of the Asian Tour for 2008.
(21) First and anyone tying for 1st place on the Order of Merit of the Tour of Australia for 2008.
(22) First and anyone tying for 1st place on the Order of Merit of the Southern Africa PGA Sunshine Tour for 2008.
(24) First 2 and anyone tying for 2nd place, not exempt, on the Official Money List of the Japan Golf Tour for 2008.
(25) The leading 4 players not exempt, in the 2009 Mizuno Open Yomiuri Classic Ties will be decided by the better final round score and, if still tied, by the better third round score and then by the better second round score. If still tied, a hole by hole card play-off will take place starting at the 18th hole of the final round. Blank entries will be made on behalf of players qualifying in this category.
(26) First and anyone tying for 2nd place, not exempt having applied (F(25)) above, in a cumulative money list taken from all official 2009 Japan Golf Tour events up to and including the 2009 Mizuno Open Yomiuri Classic. Blank entries will be made on behalf of players qualifying in this category.
(28) The Amateur Champion for 2009. Blank entry will be made on behalf of the champion.

G. THE STARTING FIELD

In the event of an exempt player withdrawing from the Championship or further places becoming available in the starting field after close of entries, these places will be allocated in ranking order of entrants from OWGR at the time that intimation of withdrawal is received or further places become available by the Championship Committee. Any withdrawals following issue of OWGR Week 27 will be taken in ranking order from OWGR Week 27. A player who withdraws after the relevant closing date or fails to compete at IFQ, LFQ or RQ will not be considered an entrant under this condition.

If a player, having entered, withdraws or otherwise fails to play in any round of any qualifying event, without satisfactory explanation, the Committee reserves the right not to accept an entry into The Open from that player in any subsequent year or years.

H. REGISTRATION

IFQ AND LFQ

Competitors must register at the course where they are playing by 12 noon BST on the day prior to the start of the competition. If unable to register in person, competitors may indicate their time of arrival and address for the duration of the competition to the Committee at the venue at which they are playing by telephone or fax to be received before 12 noon BST on the day prior to the start of the competition. The Committee must receive telephone calls personally. A competitor’s place may be forfeited if contact has not been made by the stipulated time.

THE OPEN

Competitors must register at Turnberry between 9am BST on Sunday 12 July and 6pm BST on Tuesday 14 July 2009. If unable to register in person, a competitor may indicate his time of arrival and address for the duration of the Championship by telephone or fax to be received before 6pm BST on Tuesday 14 July. Telephone calls must be received at the Championship Office. A competitor’s place may be forfeited if contact has not been made by the stipulated time.

I. PRIZES

The winner will be the Champion Golfer of the year and will receive the Championship Trophy, which will be held for that year, and the Championship Gold Medal. The trophy shall be returned in time for the following Championship in an address to be ordered by the Chief Executive but the winner will receive a replica for retention. The runner(s)-up will receive a Silver Salver. The leading amateur in the Championship, unless the winner, will receive a Silver Medal on completion of 72 holes. Other amateurs who complete 72 holes will each receive a Bronze Medal.

Prize money will be allocated to professional golfers. Players who are disqualified or withdraw from the Championship at any stage or for any reason shall forfeit any prizemoney. The Championship Committee, at its total discretion may waive or otherwise amend this condition. If an amateur golfer wins any qualifying competition, he will receive a memento after the Championship.

THE OPEN

If more than 70 professional golfers qualify for the final two rounds, additional prize money will be added.

IFQ

In each competition, prize money will be allocated to the first four places.

LFQ

In each competition, prize money will be allocated to the first four places.

RQ

In each competition, prize money will be allocated to the first three places.

PETER DAWSON Chief Executive
MICHAEL BROWN Chairman
### APPENDIX B – SAMPLE TWO TEE STARTING SHEET

**Tusker Kenya Open 2009**
**Draw for Round 1 and 2**

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08 April 2009 08:51 PM
# Tusker Kenya Open 2009

## Draw for Round 1 and 2

### Round 1

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08 April 2009  08:51 PM

82  Guidance on Running a Competition
## Tusker Kenya Open 2009
### Draw for Round 1 and 2

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08 April 2009 08:51 PM
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<td>SCO</td>
<td>Carnoustie GC, Bonalba Golf Resort &amp; Spa, Vasatorp GK</td>
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APPENDIX C – LOCAL RULES

2009 R&A Championships and Matches

LOCAL RULES
The following Local Rules, together with any additions or amendments as published by The R&A at the golf course, will apply to all Championships and International Matches run by The R&A.

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 27-1)
   (a) Beyond any wall, fence or line of white stakes defining the boundary of the course.
   (b) On or beyond any white line defining the boundary of the course. A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies on or over such a line.
   (c) In or beyond any ditch defining the boundary of the course.
   **Note:** Where out of bounds is defined by white stakes or fence posts (excluding angled supports), the line joining the nearest inside points at ground level of such stakes or posts defines the boundary. A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies over such a line.

2. Water Hazards (including Lateral Water Hazards) (Rule 26)
   Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes or yellow lines. Lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes or red lines.
   **Note:** Dropping Zones for Water Hazards:
   Where there are dropping zones for water hazards, a ball may be played under Rule 26 or a ball may be dropped in the dropping zone nearest to where the original ball last crossed the margin of the hazard under penalty of one stroke.
   For provisions relating to dropping or re-dropping a ball in a dropping zone, see the Note on pages 139-140 in the Rules of Golf.

3. Ground Under Repair (Rule 25-1)
   (a) Any area encircled by a white line.
   (b) Any area of damaged ground (e.g. caused by crowd or vehicle movement) that is considered by a Rules official to be abnormal.
   (c) Grass covered cable trenches.
   (d) French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
   (e) Seams of cut turf; the specimen Local Rule in the Rules of Golf is in effect – see page 134.
(f) Relief is available from interference to the lie of the ball or the area of intended swing from painted yardage markings situated in any closely-mown area through the green.

4. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24-2)
(a) White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be regarded as part of the obstruction and not ground under repair.
(b) Landscaped garden areas surrounded by an obstruction are part of that obstruction.
(c) Secured mats and plastic cable ramps that are covering cables are immovable obstructions.

5. Integral Parts of the Course
(a) Any cables or advertising boards closely attached to an object defining the boundary of the course.
(b) Wires, cables, wrappings or other objects where they are closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
(c) Retaining artificial walls and pilings when located in water hazards.

6. Stones in Bunkers
Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).

7. Turf Plugs on Putting Greens
On any putting green, turf plugs of any size have the same status as old hole plugs and may be repaired under Rule 16-1c.

8. Bunker Faces
The face of a bunker that consists of stacked turf is deemed not to be a "closely-mown area" (Rule 25-2).

9. Temporary Immovable Obstructions
The specimen Local Rule in the Rules of Golf, with any additions or amendments in the additional Local Rules published by The R&A, is in effect – see pages 135-138.

10. Temporary Power Lines or Cables
The specimen Local Rule in the Rules of Golf is in effect – see pages 138-139.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES:
Match Play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes
CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

The following Conditions, together with any additions or amendments as published by The R&A on the relevant entry form or at the golf course, will apply under Rule 33-1 to all Championships and International Matches run by The R&A.

1. Eligibility
   Players must meet the eligibility provisions established in the entry form for the specific Championship.

2. List of Conforming Driver Heads
   The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf is in effect – see pages 141-142.
   Note: An updated List of Conforming Driver Heads is available on The R&A’s website (www.randa.org). This list is also available in the Championship Office.

3. List of Conforming Golf Balls
   The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf is in effect – see page 142.
   Note: An updated List of Conforming Golf Balls is available on The R&A’s website (www.randa.org). This list is also available in the Championship Office.

4. Time of Starting (Note to Rule 6-3)
   The specimen Condition (i.e. the five-minute condition) in the Rules of Golf is in effect – see page 143.

5. Pace of Play (Note to Rule 6-7)
   (a) Time Allowed:
       Each hole has been given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole. The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes will be available prior to play.
       Definition of Out of Position:
       The first group and any group after a starter’s gap will be considered to be “out of position” if, at any time during the round, the group’s cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes completed. Any following group will be considered “out of position” if it is more than the starting interval behind the group in front and has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played.
   (b) Procedure When Group is Out of Position:
       1. If a decision is taken to time the group, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing by a Rules official. Each player in the group will be advised that they are “out of position” and are being timed.
2. The maximum time allocated per shot is 40 seconds. 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play:
   - on a par three hole;
   - an approach shot; and
   - a chip or putt

   The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he is able to play without interference or distraction.

   On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace his ball, repair ball marks and move loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

3. Timing ceases when a group is back in position and players will be advised accordingly.

   **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:**
   1. **Bad Time**
      - Player will be warned by the official and told that if he has a further bad time he will be penalised

<table>
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<th>Stroke Play</th>
<th>Match Play</th>
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<td>2 Bad Times</td>
<td>Penalty of One Stroke</td>
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<td>3 Bad Times</td>
<td>Further Penalty of Two Strokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Bad Times</td>
<td>Disqualification</td>
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</table>

   **(c) Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round:**

   If a group is “out of position” more than once during a round, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same round will be carried forward until the round is completed. A player will not be penalised if he has a second bad time before being advised of his earlier bad time.
6. Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation (Note to Rule 6-8b)
   The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf is in effect – see pages 144-145.
   **Note:** A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signalled by a prolonged
   note of a horn. All other suspensions will be signalled by three consecutive short notes of
   a horn repeated. In either case, resumption of play will be signalled by two short notes of
   a horn, repeated.

7. Practice (Rule 7-1)
   In stroke play, the provisions of Rule 7-1b apply. In match play, on any day of a
   competition, practice on the Championship course is prohibited before the player’s first
   match and between matches.
   
   **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:**
   Disqualification.
   
   **Note:** All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by
   players for practice on any day of the competition.

   **Exception:** International Matches – refer to the Committee.

8. Advice in Team Competitions (Note to Rule 8)
   In accordance with the Note to Rule 8 of the Rules of Golf, each team may appoint one
   person (in addition to the persons from whom advice may be asked under that Rule)
   who may give advice to members of that team. Such person must be identified to the
   Committee before giving advice.

9. Transportation
   The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf is in effect – see page 146.

10. Anti-Doping
    Players are required to comply with and be bound by any Anti-Doping Policy that is
    established for the Championship or Match in which they are competing, as detailed in
    the relevant entry form, any prior notice or at the golf course.

11. Returning of Score Card
    A player’s score card is deemed officially returned to the Committee when he has left
    the recording office/area.

12. Deciding Ties
    The method for deciding ties is provided on the relevant entry form or is published at
    the golf course by The R&A.
13. Results of Match or Championship – Competition Closed

(a) Match Play

The result of a match is deemed officially announced when it has been recorded in the Championship Office.

(b) Stroke Play

When the Championship trophy is presented to the winner, the results of the competition are deemed officially announced and the competition is closed.

Exception: Qualifying competitions for The Open – refer to the Committee.

R&A Championship Committee
January 2009
APPENDIX D – A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE LOCAL RULE FOR TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS

The following text and diagrams explain the Local Rule for temporary immovable obstructions (TIOs). As the title indicates, only TIOs are addressed in this explanation. Temporary power lines and cables are dealt with under a separate Local Rule also contained in Appendix I, Part B (page 138-139).

With regard to the temporary immovable obstruction Local Rule, the most important points in each of the five clauses of the Local Rule are noted below:

I. Definition
A TIO is defined as a non-permanent artificial object, often erected in conjunction with a competition and which is fixed or not readily movable.
Supporting guy wires are part of a TIO unless the Committee declares them to be elevated power lines or cables.

II. Interference
There are two kinds of interference and consequently two separate relief procedures. Relief similar to standard obstruction relief will be used to provide relief only when the ball is outside and in front of the TIO, and the TIO physically interferes with the player’s stance or area of intended swing. A ball is “in front of” the TIO if, in measuring one club-length along the equidistant arc, no part of the TIO is closer to the hole than the ball. (See balls A and B in Diagram – 1).

Intervention relief will be used to provide relief anytime the ball lies in, on, under or behind the TIO so that any part of the TIO intervenes directly between the player’s ball and the hole, or the ball lies within one club-length of such a spot. The TIO must also be on the player’s line of play. In some cases the TIO may not physically interfere with the player’s stance or area of intended swing, but this does not change the fact that intervention exists. The Note outlines the concept of using the “drip line” to determine when a ball is under a TIO. (See balls C and D in Diagram – 1).

In summary therefore, if a player is in, on, under or behind a TIO (which is on a direct line to the hole and on the line of play), the relief procedure is to drop the ball more than one club-length, but less than two club-lengths from the TIO. Only when the player’s ball lies in front of the TIO (see paragraph one under this section above) and there is physical interference, will the player determine the nearest point of relief and then drop the ball within one club-length of that point, not nearer the hole (i.e. relief similar to Rule 24-2 applies).
III. Relief

The important elements of the relief clause include: (a) clarifying that a player may obtain relief from a TIO located out of bounds; (b) a Note stating that if the ball lies in a hazard, the player may also proceed under Rule 26 or 28 if applicable; and (c) another Note permitting the use of Local Rules to employ a dropping zone or “Ball Drop” or to permit dropping the ball on the opposite side of the TIO (i.e. the player may drop on the left side of the obstruction even if the nearest point of relief is to the right).

The Exceptions to Clause III essentially mirror those of Rule 24-2 and apply similar principles – if the ball is not playable for another reason or the player is somehow prevented from playing a stroke such that the ball could finish on a direct line to the hole, or reaching the TIO, then relief should be denied.

IV. Ball Lost

A player who loses a ball in, on or under a TIO is advised that Clause III or V, if applicable, clarifies the procedure to follow and that the ball is deemed to lie at the spot where it last crossed the outermost limits of the TIO and for this purpose it is as if the margins of the obstruction extended vertically upward.

V. Dropping Zones (Ball Drops)

This Clause provides that a Committee may permit or require the use of a dropping zone when a player has interference from a TIO.

Please read the Dropping Zone provisions on page 139 in the Rules of Golf for the most common re-dropping queries associated with the use of such areas.

The following diagrams are designed to illustrate the operation of the Local Rule for Temporary Immovable Obstructions.
Diagram 1
Defining “In front of” – Clause II

**Ball A** is within one club length of the TIO, but is “in front of” the TIO because the one club-length measurement must be made along the equidistant arc. Measuring in any other direction to determine if the TIO intervenes is prohibited. There is also no physical interference from the TIO. Thus, there is no relief under the Local Rule for Ball A.

**Ball B** is also “in front of” the TIO, but in this case the TIO physically interferes. Standard obstruction relief (nearest point of relief plus one-club-length) is available – see Diagram 2.

**Ball C** has no physical interference from the TIO, but is within one club-length of where the TIO would intervene between the ball and the hole. Intervention relief (more than one club-length, but less than two) is available – see Diagram 2.

**Ball D** has no physical interference from the TIO, but part of the TIO within one club-length of the ball is in front of the ball. Intervention relief (more than one club-length, but less than two) is available – see Diagram 2.
Diagram 2
Illustrating Relief for Balls B, C and D from Diagram 1 – Clause III(a)

**Ball B** – Point X is the point nearest to where Ball B originally lay that is not nearer the hole and not in a hazard which provides relief from the interfering TIO. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of X as represented by the shaded area. Although in this case Ball B only had interference from the TIO and not intervention, it is important to note that when taking relief under this Local Rule, any point of relief (in this case the shaded area) must provide relief from interference as defined in Clause II, which includes intervention. That is why the shaded area is somewhat irregularly shaped.

**Ball C** – Point Y is one club-length from where intervention would exist along the equidistant arc. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of Y as represented by the shaded area.

**Ball D** – Point Z is one club-length from where intervention would exist along the equidistant arc. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of Z as represented by the shaded area.
Diagram 3
Ball “in, or under” TIO – Clause III

Ball A is “in” the TIO and thus has intervention. In taking relief, the first step is to measure one club-length from the edge of the TIO along the equidistant arc. The extent of this one club-length arc is represented by point Y. The ball must then be dropped within one club-length of point Y as represented by the shaded area.
Diagram 4
Ball “in, on or under” TIO – Clause III

Ball A is “in” the TIO. Point X is one club-length from the TIO measured along the equidistant arc and provides relief from intervention, but at point X the TIO physically interferes with the area of intended swing. Point Y is the point nearest to point X that provides relief from both intervention and physical interference. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of point Y as represented by the shaded area.
Diagram 5
Clause II and Exception to Clause III

Note: Leaderboard is 200 yards from the hole. Trees are of such a nature that playing over or under them is not possible.

Ball A is behind the TIO. While the TIO is on a direct line to the hole, the TIO is not, because of the trees, also on the line of play (dashed line). Therefore, the player does not have interference, and relief is not available.

Ball B is behind the TIO and the TIO is on both a direct line to the hole and on the player’s line of play. Therefore, he has interference. When taking relief, he must take relief such that the TIO is not on a direct line to the hole (in the shaded Area X).

Ball C is behind the TIO. Because of the tree, a line of play towards the TIO is no reasonable, so relief is not available under this Local Rule. However, if the TIO physically interferes with the sideways stroke, the player may take relief under Rule 24-2.

Ball D is in a position where the TIO does not directly intervene between the ball and the hole but the TIO is on the player’s intended line of play as represented by the dotted line. However, in this case as the TIO only intervenes on the line of play and not on a direct line between the player’s ball and the hole, relief is not available under this Local Rule.
Diagram 6
Relief from TIO’s without sides

**Ball A** is under the TIO. Point X is one club-length from where intervention would exist (the outer limit of the TIO is used irrespective of height) measured along the equidistant arc. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of point X as represented by the shaded area.

**Ball B** is behind the TIO. Point Y is one club-length from where intervention would exist (the outer limit of the TIO is used irrespective of height) measured along the equidistant arc. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of point Y as represented by the shaded area.

**Ball C** is in front of the TIO and not within one club-length of the TIO “drip lines” on the equidistant arc. Although the area of intended swing and/or the player’s stance would be within the TIO, no relief is available because there is not physical interference from the actual structure.

**Ball D** has no physical interference from the TIO, but, using the “drip lines” of the TIO, part of it is within one club-length of the ball measured on the equidistant arc. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of point Z as represented by the shaded area.
**Diagram 7**

**Relief from TIO’s with guy wires**

**Ball A** is “in front” of the TIO and there is no physical interference from the TIO. Ball A does not have intervention because no part of the TIO within one club-length of the ball measured along the equidistant arc is in front of the ball. The fact that the ball is behind an imaginary line joining up the forward most portions of the TIO (where the guy wires are fixed to the ground) is irrelevant. There is no relief under the Local Rule for Ball A.

**Note:** It is permissible, by Local Rule, to connect these points with a solid line in which case the line becomes the “front” of the TIO. In such a case Ball A would be within the TIO and thus eligible for relief as indicated by the shaded area which begins at point X.

**Ball B** is behind the front, left guy wire, however, there is no physical interference from the TIO. Relief is available at point Y. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of Y as represented by the shaded area.

**Ball C** is “in” the TIO. In determining the nearest point of relief (point Z), the outside limit of the TIO must be determined, which includes the guy wire. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of point Z as represented by the shaded area.
Ball A is in the TIO. The first club-length measured along the equidistant arc ends in the hazard (Point X). Point Y is the point outside a hazard where the second club-length can be measured along the equidistant arc. Point Z is the point outside a hazard nearest to where the ball was in the TIO that provides relief through the green. As there is no requirement to remain equidistant from the hole in determining the nearest point of relief, and Point Z is nearer to the position of Ball A than Point Y, if the player intends to proceed under the Local Rule he must drop the ball within one club-length of Point Z as represented by the shaded area.
**Diagram - 9**  
**Maximum Available Relief in Hazard**

**Ball A** is in a hazard and behind the TIO. Part A of the TIO is 20 feet tall and Part B is 10 feet tall. There is no spot in the hazard that offers complete relief from the TIO. Point Y is the point on the equidistant arc where the height of the TIO is the least. Point Z is the point on the equidistant arc that is nearest to line W (where complete relief exists). Point X is the point nearest to where the ball was in the bunker that is nearest to line W (where complete relief exists). As there is no requirement to remain equidistant from the hole in determining the point of maximum available relief, if the player intends to proceed under the Local Rule without penalty he must drop the ball at Point X even though it is farther from the hole than where the ball originally lay.
Diagram 10
Special Relief Procedures

Relief to Either Side of TIO
The scoreboard short and left of the putting green illustrates a case where a Local Rule permitting the ball to be dropped on the opposite side of the scoreboard from where the point of relief actually is determined under Clause III is appropriate because of the trees to the left of the scoreboard.

Balls A and B have come to rest behind the scoreboard which intervenes directly between the balls and the hole. In addition to dropping the balls within the respective shaded areas to the left of the scoreboard as required by Clause III, they may also be dropped within the shaded areas to the right (in front of for Ball A) of the scoreboard.

Note: Under the Local Rule at The Open, if the player’s ball lies in front of the TIO (i.e. he does not have intervention relief but the TIO physically interferes), he is permitted to go to the left or right when taking relief, in the same way as he does with intervention relief.
Ball A played from the fairway into the grandstand. The ball cannot be found, but it is known or virtually certain that the ball is lost in the TIO. The ball entered the grandstand at Point X but Point Y is where the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the TIO. For the purposes of proceeding under Clause IV of the Local Rule for Temporary Obstructions, Point Y is the reference point for taking relief. Thus the player must drop the ball in the nearest Dropping Zone to Point Y.

Ball B played from the fairway into the grandstand. The ball cannot be found, but it is known or virtually certain that the ball is lost in the TIO. The ball entered the grandstand at Point V but Point U is where the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the TIO. For the purposes of proceeding under Clause IV of the Local Rule for Temporary Obstructions, Point U is the reference point for raking relief. Thus the player must drop the ball in the nearest Dropping Zone to Point U.
GUIDELINES

1. Assess direction of ideal approach shot to green. This should also be reviewed from the back of the green.

2. Mark the point where the line of ideal approach meets the front edge of the green. (NB. This point will not necessarily be on the edge of the green). Use a small paint mark to establish this point. Also put a small paint mark just off the back edge of the green on a continuation of this line.

3. Calculate the length of the green by measuring from the point so marked in line with the ideal approach shot to the back of the green.

4. Determine the hole location depth by measuring along the same line each day.

5. Give measurement to the edge of the green on a 90 degree angle from the ‘green length’ line measuring from the hole location to the edge of the green.

Example

If the length of the green was 30 yards, the depth measurement of the hole location 23 yards and the distance of the hole to the right side of the green 9 yards, on a standard hole location sheet it would be recorded as shown to the right.
The responsibilities of the Committee, the marker (who is normally a fellow-competitor) and the competitor in relation to score cards are as follows:

1. **Responsibilities of Committee**
   
   (a) To publish a Handicap Stroke Table indicating the order of holes at which handicap strokes are to be given (Rule 33-4) which may be printed on the score card.
   
   (b) In individual stroke play, to issue for each competitor a score card containing the date and the competitor’s name, and, on return of the score card by the competitor, to add up the scores for each hole to arrive at a total for the round and to apply the handicap recorded on the score card (Rule 33-5).
   
   (c) In four-ball stroke play, to apply the handicaps recorded on the card, ascertain the better-ball scores for each hole and add up these scores (Rules 31-3 and 33-5).
   
   (d) In bogey or par competitions, to record which holes have been halved, won or lost and, in Stableford competitions, to compute the number of points scored (Rule 32-1).

   **Notes:**
   
   (i) In any form of stroke play, the Committee may request assistance by asking the competitors to date and name their own score cards.
   
   (ii) A competitor cannot be penalised if the score card he returns has been incorrectly totalled or has had the handicap to which he is entitled under the conditions of the competition wrongly applied.
   
   (iii) In bogey and par competitions, a competitor cannot be penalised if a wrong result is shown against a hole, provided the gross score for the hole is correctly recorded. Similarly, in Stableford competitions, it is the Committee’s responsibility to compute the points scored at each hole.

2. **Responsibilities of Markers**
   
   (a) To check the score with the competitor for each hole (Rule 6-6a), including any penalty strokes.
   
   (b) To record the gross score taken by the competitor for each hole (preferably as soon as the hole is completed).
   
   (c) To sign the score card and hand it to the competitor on completion of the round.

3. **Responsibilities of Competitor**
   
   (a) In handicap stroke play competition, to ensure that his handicap is recorded on his score card before it is returned to the Committee (Rule 6-2b).
(b) To check his score for each hole (Rule 6-6b).
(c) To settle doubtful points with the Committee (Rule 6-6b).
(d) To ensure that the marker has signed the score card (Rule 6-6b).
(e) To countersign the score card himself (Rule 6-6b).
(f) To return the score card to the Committee as soon as possible (Rule 6-6b).
(g) In four-ball stroke play, to ensure that the gross scores to count are individually identifiable on the score card (Rule 31-3).

Notes:
(i) It is immaterial where the score card is checked.
(ii) The fact that the competitor has countersigned the score card should normally be accepted as evidence that he has checked it. If the competitor signs his score card in the space intended for the marker or vice versa, this mistake does not invalidate the score card.
(iii) The competitor is liable to disqualification for any breach of Rule 6-6b, the wording of which is designed to impress upon him his responsibility for ensuring the correctness of the score card he returns, signed and countersigned.
(iv) The Committee does not have the power (Rule 33-7) to waive or modify a penalty of disqualification, but this power may only be used in exceptional individual cases and should not be used in cases where the competitor has been careless or negligent.
(v) The competitor’s duty to return his score card to the Committee “as soon as possible” (Rule 6-6b) should be interpreted reasonably. Since no alterations may be made after the score card has been returned to the Committee (Rule 6-6c), the competitor must be allowed sufficient time to check the score card carefully. It is for the Committee to decide whether any delay in returning the score card was reasonable.
Pace of Play Condition (Rule 6-7)
The following information supplements the Pace of Play condition (See No. 7) on the R&A hard card:

Time Allowed
The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes during the 1st and 2nd rounds of the Championship, when play is in groups of three is 4 hours 26 minutes.
On the last two days of the Championship, when play is in two-balls, the maximum time allowed is 3 hours 45 minutes.
Each hole has been given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole, as detailed on the chart overleaf.

Definition of Out of Position
The 1st group and, in rounds one and two, the 27th group to start will be considered ‘out of position’ if, at any time during the round, the group’s cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes played.
Any following ground will be considered ‘out of position’ if it is more than the starting interval behind the group in front and has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played.

Procedure When Group is Out of Position
It is the primary duty of the rovers to monitor pace of play and make a decision whether a group that is ‘out of position’ should be timed. The rovers will keep in touch with the walking rules officials where appropriate and will need to be advised of any recent mitigating circumstances, e.g. a lengthy ruling, lost ball, unplayable ball, etc. However, if a rover has not been in touch and a walking rules official believes his group to be more than 2 minutes out of position he should call for a rover.
If a decision is taken to time the players, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing by the rover, and the walking rules official will advise each player that they are ‘out of position’ and they are being timed.
Thereafter, the time provisions outlined on the R&A hard card will apply.

W.M.B. Brown
Chairman, Championship Committee
### Pace of Play - Maximum Times Allowed

#### Rounds 1 & 2 (3 Balls)

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<tr>
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Pace of Play Condition for General Play

It is understandable that clubs, public courses, resorts and competition organisers may have differing views on what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable pace of play. However, it is a fact that slow play detracts from the enjoyment of the game for many golfers, and few golfers are heard to complain about play being too quick.

At all levels of the game, therefore, there is a responsibility on players and administrators to ensure that golf is played at a good pace, and a pace that is appropriate to the course being played. Factors that may influence what is considered to be an appropriate pace may be the severity of the course, the distances between greens and tees, the climate and also the range of ability of the players on the course.

In addition, it is necessary to make some distinction between golf played as a leisure pursuit and golf that is played at the highest levels, where certain allowances have to be made for the fact that those playing at the highest levels are doing so as their occupation. At the elite level, generally there will be officials on the course who can monitor pace of play and implement a strict policy which involves groups having to keep to a hole-by-hole schedule and being subject to timing of individual strokes with the threat of penalties if they fail to keep to the schedule. It is not realistic for such policies to be adopted for “normal” play and, therefore, administrators need to rely on good practices and player co-operation to ensure reasonable round times.

In this respect, it is important for administrators to set targets for round times. As stated above, there is not a ‘one size fits all’ model for round times, but it is important that the targets are achievable without being too soft.

As a guide, generally two-ball rounds should take no more than 3 hours 10 minutes; three-balls should take no more than 3 hours 30 minutes, and four-balls no more than 3 hours 50 minutes. In fact, shorter round times than these should be the aim of all players, where appropriate. However, as already mentioned, it is also appreciated that factors such as course design and heat may necessitate longer round time targets and administrators should be mindful of this.

If slow play has become an issue at your club, course or resort then strong and decisive action should be taken to alleviate the problem.
Things that administrators can do to help to minimise round times:

- Do not overload the course by using short starting intervals. When play is in two-balls, at least 8 minutes should be allowed between groups and in three or four balls, at least 10 minutes should be given.
- If possible, incorporate starter’s gaps throughout the course of the day to allow for clearance of any delays that have arisen.
- Encourage players to play from tees that suit their ability and ask the starter to guide the players in this respect before the round.
- The rough for daily play should be of such a length so as to avoid numerous lost balls.
- Hole locations for daily play should not be too severe and neither should the green speeds.
- Advise players of the time that should be taken to play the course and remind the players of their responsibilities with regards to pace of play, i.e. keep up with the group in front and allow quicker groups to pass through.

Things that players can do to help to minimise round times:

- Be aware of your position with regard to the group in front.
- Do not concern yourself with the group behind; the fact that you are not holding them up is irrelevant as it is your group’s responsibility to keep up with the group in front.
- If you feel that your group is falling behind, advise the other players in your group.
- If your group is behind, try to catch up quickly.
- If you lose a clear hole and are delaying the group behind, or if there is no group in front of you and you are delaying the group behind, invite the group behind to play through.
- Do not wait until it is your turn to play before putting your glove on.
- Do not wait until it is your turn to play before calculating your yardage and selecting your club.
- Look at your own line of putt while the other players in the group look at theirs (within the bounds of normal etiquette).
- At the green, position your bags so as to allow quick movement off the green to the next tee.
- Move off the green as soon as all players in your group have holed out; mark score cards at or on the way to the next tee.
- Play a provisional ball if your ball may be lost outside a hazard or out of bounds.
- If you keep up with the group in front, you cannot be accused of slow play.
While it is the responsibility of the Committee to do everything possible to protect players from lightning, the players themselves, must also take measures to ensure their safety. The following are tips for players if caught in a lightning storm:

**Lightning Safety Tips**

**Seek:**
- A large permanent enclosed building.
- If no enclosed building is convenient, a vehicle such as a car or van is a suitable alternative.
- If neither a building nor a vehicle is convenient, go to the lowest possible elevation area.

**Avoid:**
- Tall objects such as trees and poles.
- Small rain and sun shelters.
- Large open spaces, wet areas or elevated areas.
- All metal objects like golf clubs, trolleys, golf carts, fences, electrical and greenkeeping machinery, power lines.

**Other Tips if you cannot Evacuate in Time to a Safer Place:**
- Spread out from the other people in your group.
- Squat down, tuck your head in and cover your ears.
- Head for the safest place as soon as the immediate threat passes.

**Discontinuing Play**
- Players in a competition have the right to stop play if they think that lightning threatens them, even though the Committee may not have authorised it.
Suspension of Play

Any decision to suspend play will be taken by Peter Dawson and myself. If conditions on-course are of concern to referees or rovers please advise Radio Rules Base without delay. If, for example, heavy rain was causing casual water to lie on putting greens, squeegee operators could be deployed to those parts of the course most affected or could accompany a group, enabling play to continue.

If the suspension is for a non-dangerous situation (e.g. extensive casual water, high winds, poor visibility, etc.) the signal will be three consecutive short notes of a horn (repeated) and you will be informed of this decision on the radio. The normal procedures of Rule 6-8b will apply.

If, however, play is suspended because of a dangerous situation (e.g. lightning) you are reminded that a player must discontinue play immediately (see Condition of Competition 5 on the R&A hard card and Note to Rule 6-8b). The signal for suspending play due to a dangerous situation will be a prolonged note of a horn and this will be confirmed by Rules Radio Base.

If play is suspended, you will be required to take players in your group to pre-determined points during the suspension. Please refer to the additional Note and Map, which explains the procedure the players should follow as far as sheltering is concerned, and details pick-up arrangements for each part of the course.

Play will be resumed as soon as it is practical to do so (see Note for details).

The signal for a resumption of play will be two short notes of a horn (repeated) and the procedure is set out in Rule 6-8d.

W.M.B. Brown
Chairman
Championship Committee
Procedure in the Event of a Suspension of Play (including Course Evacuation and Resumption of Play)

In the event of play being suspended during the Championship, the following procedures will be in effect:

1. Walking Rules Officials (WROs) will be advised by Rules Radio Base if there is to be a suspension of play and the nature of that suspension (i.e. an “ordinary” suspension or one for a dangerous situation). There will be a count down for the Rovers who will signal the suspension of play, using horns (one prolonged note for a dangerous situation and three consecutive notes for non-dangerous). WROs may advise the players of an imminent suspension.

2. WROs will be advised by Rules Radio Base as to whether (a) players will be required to take shelter on the course (or, where appropriate, walk to the Clubhouse) for a period of time while the possible duration of the suspension is assessed, or (b) players will be transported in from the course once they have discontinued play.

3. In either case, the WRO should take his/her players to the appropriate location identified for that group’s position on the course (see attached map indicating assembly points). This will involve the players either walking a short distance to pre-located mini-buses or returning to the Clubhouse. If players are brought to the Clubhouse for a period of shelter only, they should be asked to remain in the locker room with their caddies until further notice as they may be required to return to the course after a short period of time. Rules Radio Base will conduct a roll call to ensure that all groups have reached the assembly points. The WRO should reply by confirming his/her group number and answering in the affirmative or negative, i.e. “Group 16, yes” or “Group 16, no”. Further explanations of a negative answer should only be given if specifically requested by Rules Radio Base.

4. If the decision is taken to transport those players sheltering on the course into the Clubhouse area, only once Rules Radio Base is confident that all groups have been accounted for will it instruct mini-bus drivers to commence transportation. Drivers should not be pressurised into beginning transportation until Rules Radio Base has given such authorisation.

5. Only players, caddies and WROs (including observers) can be transported. However, if the players have their partners walking with them, they can also be included. No one else
may be transported. Mini-buses will be identified according to their respective evacuation points, i.e. A1, A2, A3, B1, etc. WROs should take a note of the mini-bus number and remind players/caddies that on a resumption of play they must board the same mini-bus.

6. Players on buses will be transported to the Clubhouse. All players should be told to remain either in the Competitors' Family Marquee or the Clubhouse. Announcements regarding the resumption of play will be made at these two locations and at the Practice Range. However, during a suspension of play for a dangerous situation, the Practice Range will be closed. WROs should base themselves in the Championship Committee Marquee, where an announcement will also be made.

7. Prior to the resumption of play, transportation will be provided from the back of the Clubhouse for those players and caddies who were brought in by transport. These players and caddies should not walk to their location on the course. They will be transported back to the original mini-bus location at which they were picked up. Rules Radio Base will only instruct drivers to commence transportation once it is confident that all groups can be accounted for (only a “yes” or “no” answer required). When the vehicles arrive back in location, the WRO should take the players in his/her group back into position on the course.

8. Prior to the resumption of play, Rules Radio Base will contact each WRO on the course by game number and will ask if the players in that group are in position and ready to play.

9. Once Rules Radio Base is confident that all players are in position and ready to commence play it will authorise Rovers to signal for the resumption of play.

10. It is important to keep “radio traffic” to a minimum during these procedures. Please limit radio use to essential communications at such times.
APPENDIX I – SUSPENSION OF PLAY IN TEAM MATCHES – GUIDANCE FOR COMMITTEES

Suspension of Play in Team Matches

Problems have emerged in team matches where, because of bad weather, it has not been possible to complete the matches in the format intended and, for whatever reason, no or insufficient extension of time is available.

There are many different forms which such matches can take, but perhaps one of the most common is a series of matches played over consecutive days with a set number of foursome or four-ball matches followed by twice that number of single matches. In such an event the Committee should reserve in the Conditions of Competition the right to achieve a result when play has been curtailed. The Committee could reserve the right to come to an equitable decision.

Similar problems arise in league matches where a match between two of the competing teams is curtailed and it is not possible to fix a date on which all members of both sides can resume play.

It must be stressed that in such a situation every effort should be made to find such a date, so that the match can be completed in accordance with Rule 33-2d. If, however, that proves impossible, then the choices open to the Committee are:

(i) The results of completed matches stand, and incomplete matches are declared null and void or treated as halved.

(ii) The results of completed matches stand and the incomplete matches are declared null and void, the Committee appointing a day on which they are to be replayed, with each team free to alter its original team, subject to the proviso that no player who took part in a completed match may take part in any of the matches to be replayed; or

(iii) Declare the match null and void and appoint a day for it to be replayed with each team free to alter its original team.

The following situations in a 10-a-side team match illustrate the sort of circumstances in which each choice might be appropriate:

(a) Team A has won 5 matches, is “dormie” in 3 and all square in 2 – Choice (i).

(b) Team A has won 5 matches. Team B is “dormie” in the other 5 – Choice (ii).

(c) Team A has won 3 matches. Team B has won 3 matches and is dormie in 4 matches – Choice (ii).

(d) Only 1 match has been completed – Choice (iii).
There may, of course, be other factors which the Committee wishes to take into account. Suppose, for example, that no matches had been completed, but the only person unable to resume play the following day was a member of Team A who was 9 down with 9 to play – the Committee should award that match to Team B and instruct the others to resume play in accordance with Rule 33-2d. If that player had been 9 up instead of 9 down, that match could be declared a half and the other matches resumed.

The permutations are endless and the decisions to be made difficult and occasionally apparently unfair to somebody. The one common essential, however, is that the Committee reserves the right in the conditions of the competition to make a decision in equity when it is impossible to complete a match or series of matches in accordance with the Rules of Golf.

**Suspension of Play – Fog Policy**

Whether to commence or continue play in a stipulated round when fog is present is a difficult decision. Fog, by its very nature, is not easy to forecast, and it is challenging to predict when it will set in or lift.

From a playability standpoint, it is the R&A’s policy to commence/continue play in a stipulated round if the landing zone for all shots to be played are visible to the players. In this regard, tee shots requiring the use of drivers may present the most difficult challenge since such shots cover the most distance. Things such as fairway lines, hazards, trees, etc. in the drive zone must be visible to a large extent. However, the fact that visibility is partially obscured by fog such that the entire flight of the ball is not possible does not generally require a decision to delay/suspend play.

In situations where two separate courses are being used, in the vast majority of cases, if one course delays/suspends play, the other must too. This should apply (i) whether the courses are near each other, and (ii) no matter the reason for the delay/suspension (i.e. fog, lightning, etc.). Acting in any other manner could present too many scenarios where players are treated differently and perhaps unfairly.
APPENDIX J – ADVICE TO RULES OFFICIALS CONCERNING QUERIES ON THE CONFORMITY OF CLUBS AT COMPETITIONS

Introduction

It is the player’s responsibility to ensure that his clubs conform with the Rules and if in doubt about a particular club, he would be well advised not to carry it. However, such advice is not always appropriate, particularly when a query arises during or after a competition, in which case a decision is required.

Notes on Terminology Used

- “R&A Decision” is one which already exists in The R&A Equipment Standards database or Decisions on the Rules of Golf at the time the query arises, though maybe unknown to the player or Official concerned.
- “R&A Ruling” is one that The R&A Equipment Standards Committee or its authorised sub-Committee may make on the club which is the subject of the query. It is made after the query has been communicated to the appropriate Equipment Standards representative, whether it be before, during or after the competition.
- “Duration of Competition Answer” is made by an Official involved in running a stroke play competition and has no standing after the competition has closed.
- “Duration of Round Answer” is made by an Official involved in running a match play competition and has no standing after the player has completed that round.
- “Duration of Competition” and “Duration of Round” Answers have no standing beyond the end of the round and, therefore, the player should be advised to submit the club to The R&A for an official conformance determination prior to using the club in subsequent competitions or rounds. The player should also be made aware that any subsequent ruling may be different from Duration of Competition or Duration of Round Answer which was given.

A. Queries Arising Before the Competition Begins

1. Officials should always ascertain why the player, fellow-competitor, opponent or third party is querying the club.
2. A positive ruling should only be given at this stage if the Official is absolutely certain he is correct. As a precautionary measure, always refer to the Rules of Golf, Decisions on the Rules of Golf and A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls first, before giving the ruling.
3. If the Official is not certain of the ruling, and time permits, help and advice should be sought from The R&A. Firstly, it should be determined whether the club has ever been formally submitted for a decision.
4. If an R&A decision exists, and the Official finds out in time, the player should be informed accordingly.

5. If there is no R&A decision on record, the Official should provide The R&A with a detailed description of the club. If time permits and appropriate facilities exist, an e-mailed image or faxed drawing should be sent. The R&A will then offer as much guidance as possible based on the information given – and in most cases, offer a recommended ruling.

6. The Official should make a ruling on the club based on the advice given by The R&A. If the club is clearly either ‘conforming’ or ‘non-conforming’, the Official should provide a formal ruling to that effect. However, if there is even a small amount of uncertainty, the Official should only offer a Duration of Competition or Duration of Round Answer.

7. If, due to the close proximity of a player’s starting time, the Official cannot reasonably seek advice, or is unable to contact The R&A, then he should advise the player not to carry the club for that round.

8. If later advice confirms that the club does conform and the player has already started his round without the club, then the player should be given a formal ruling as soon as possible. This would mean that the player could add the club to his bag during the round (provided he started with less than 14) or he could carry the club in the next round.

9. Any player who ignores an Official’s advice and carries a doubtful club would be subject to penalty under Rule 4-1a in the event of a subsequent non-conforming Duration of Competition Answer or formal ruling. This would apply whether the competition was closed or not.

B. Queries Arising During Stroke Play Competition

1. Official’s should only accept queries between rounds, or at the conclusion of play before the competition is closed.

2. The Official should ascertain why the player, fellow-competitor or third party is querying the club.

3. If the Official is absolutely certain of the correct decision then the player should be informed (see A2 above).

4. If the Official is unsure of the ruling, the player should be advised that he will receive either a formal ruling or a Duration of Competition Answer before the close of the competition. The procedure is the same as for a query arising before the competition began (see A3 – A6 above).

5. If later advice confirms that the club does not conform, then the player should be given a Duration of Competition Answer or formal ruling as soon as possible, and he should be penalised under Rule 4-1a.
C. Queries Arising During Match Play Competition

1. During a match play event the above procedure may need to be modified.

2. If the query arises between rounds, then it would be too late for a defeated opponent of the player with a suspect club to make a claim, but a query from him would be grounds for checking the club before the player starts his next round.

3. The procedure would be to consult with the player, opponent or third party and obtain all available information before making a determination. Whilst the main procedures would be the same as for stroke play competitions (see A3 – A6 above), there may be more urgency in match play as it would be desirable to know whether the club is non-conforming before the player starts his next round, which might be the same day.

4. If a formal ruling is obtained or a Duration of Competition Answer reached, the player should be told as soon as possible. If the decision is that the club does not conform, the official would warn the player that if he carries the club in the next round he would be subject to penalty under Rule 4-1a.

5. If a player makes a claim during a match that his opponent is carrying a non-conforming club, the Official will have to make a ruling under even greater time constraints. Ideally, a ruling should be made before the match is finished. In that event, if there is no clear evidence that the club does not conform, the Official should almost always err towards ruling the club to conform. However, such a ruling would be considered to be a Duration of Round Answer and a more formal decision should be made prior to the next round.

6. Thereafter, if the opponent wins, the procedure is the same as for a query arising between rounds (see C3 and C4 above).

D. Queries Arising After Competition Closed

Once a Competition has closed, there is plenty of time to contact The R&A to find out whether the club conforms or not and/or to submit the club. If it turns out that the club is non-conforming, the decision whether to penalise the player or not depends on whether he knew the club was non-conforming prior to the competition closing (see Rule 34-1). This is a question of fact, but in determining the facts, the Committee may wish to consider other evidence as well as the player’s own statement.
Conclusion
The vast majority of golf clubs conform to the Rules and, therefore, equipment conformance queries of this kind are rare. However, queries do arise from time to time and Officials need to know how to deal with them. It is important to remember that it is a player’s responsibility to play with conforming clubs. He cannot shift this responsibility to the Officials. For their part, Officials should respond to such queries calmly and with due consideration to all parties involved. Appropriate consultations should be made (i.e. refer to Rules of Golf, Decisions on the Rules of Golf and A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls, contact The R&A, etc.). If it is not possible to give a definitive ruling straight away, a Duration of Competition or Duration of Round Answer should be given.

In giving Duration of Competition or Duration of Round Answers, Official’s in doubt should err towards deeming clubs to conform. Penalising a player for carrying or using a club that later turns out to be conforming is a more serious error than allowing use of a club which later turns out to be non-conforming.
Guidance on Running a Competition

APPENDIX K – OFFICIAL RULES PUBLICATIONS OF THE R&A

- Rules of Golf
- Decisions on the Rules of Golf
- Golf Rules Illustrated
- A Quick Guide to the Rules
- A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls
- A Modification of the Rules of Golf for Golfers with Disabilities
- Don’t be a Golf Menace (Etiquette Booklet)
- Rules of Amateur Status
- Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status
- Golf Rules in Action (DVD)
- Golf Etiquette with Padraig Harrington (Download)
- Guidance on Running A Competition (Download)

All publications and downloads are available at www.randa.org