



## **WALES GOLF RULES**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. All terms defined in these Rules shall bear the same meaning as those used in the Golf Union of Wales Limited's (Wales Golf or the Company) Articles of Association dated 27 September 2022.

### **2. Application for Membership**

- 2.1. A club wishing to become a Member must apply to the secretary of Wales Golf, or such other person determined by the Board, using the application process in force at the time and must comply with the requirements of Rule 3. All applications are subject to Board approval.

### **3. Membership Requirements**

A Club that is a Member of Wales Golf must meet the following requirements:

- 3.1. The minimum number of members in a Club applying for affiliation is 20 adult playing members. The Wales Golf Board may, at its discretion, suspend this requirement for a period of up to twelve months to enable a membership base to be developed at a newly established club.
- 3.2. The Member must comply with the Articles and Rules of Wales Golf.
- 3.3. The Member must have a constitution and rules appropriate to a golf club and to a standard acceptable to Wales Golf.
- 3.4. The Member must have the following written policies that are consistent with the most recent Wales Golf guidelines:
  - 3.4.1. Child and adult safeguarding policies; and
  - 3.4.2. Equality policy.
- 3.5. If requested by Wales Golf each Member will, within 30 days of such a request, provide Wales Golf with a copy of any policy required under Rule 3.4 above.
- 3.6. A Member must pay to Wales Golf on becoming a Member an annual subscription fee determined by the Board in accordance with these Rules.
- 3.7. A change of governing authority of a Member (or course) through sale or other reason must be notified to Wales Golf. Continued affiliation is not automatic and will only be confirmed by Wales Golf if it is satisfied that the Club's constitution remains appropriate to a golf club and to a standard acceptable to Wales Golf.
- 3.8. A Member not controlling a course must have permission from the golf club, person or body controlling the course to make reasonable playing facilities available.
- 3.9. The Member must abide by the Rules of Golf and the Rules of Amateur Status as laid down from time to time by the R&A.

- 3.10. The Member must:
- 3.10.1. Administer golf handicaps in accordance with the requirements of the World Handicap System (WHS) including any conditions imposed by Wales Golf.
  - 3.10.2. Within one month of becoming a Member, upload their membership details to the World Handicapping System (WHS) and thereafter maintain and keep records up to date.
  - 3.10.3. Make handicapping records available for inspection by Wales Golf at reasonable notice.

#### **4. Annual Subscriptions for Member Clubs**

- 4.1. The annual subscription payable by each Member shall be decided by the Board in accordance with these Rules and shall run from 1 September to 31 August each year.
- 4.2. Each Member shall pay a fee for each Adult and Junior member (including those with flexible membership) with playing rights over the course as at 31 August each year (the "Subscription Fee") as notified by the Board. For further detail see Appendix 1.
- 4.3. The Board (in its sole discretion) shall be entitled:
- 4.3.1. each year to increase the Subscription Fee by up to 5% or
  - 4.3.2. at any time to increase the Subscription Fee by an amount exceeding the amount set out in Rule 4.3.1 if in the reasonable opinion of the Board there is a justifiable reason to do so.

The Board will require all Members to complete an online membership return. All Clubs must complete the online return accurately listing the numbers of Adult and Junior members (as detailed in point 4.2) as at 31 August in that year and pay all Subscription Fees to Wales Golf, or have a direct debit arrangement in place, by the 30th November.

- 4.4. If a Member fails to complete the online return and pay all Subscription Fees to Wales Golf by the following 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Board shall be entitled to suspend any or all of the Club's privileges as a Member until the completed subscription notice is returned and all Subscription Fees paid in full.
- 4.5. If a Member fails to complete the online return and pay all Subscription Fees to Wales Golf by the following 1<sup>st</sup> April, the Board shall be entitled to remove that Member Club from membership of the Union in accordance with Rule 5.1.2.
- 4.6. If requested by the Board, each Member will within 14 days provide the Board with full details of its membership records and allow the Board or its authorised representatives to inspect the Member's membership records at its premises.

#### **5. Removal of Members**

- 5.1. The Board, taking into account the nature and gravity of the conduct involved, may in its sole discretion, suspend any or all of the Club's privileges as a Member, reprimand, place on probation, suspend, or expel a Member if the following events occur:
- 5.1.1. If a Member has, in the opinion of the Board, acted or has threatened to act in a manner which is contrary to the interests of the Union as a whole or if its conduct (whether as a Member or otherwise) is likely to bring Wales Golf, or any of its Directors or Members into disrepute;
  - 5.1.2. If a Member fails to pay the annual Subscription Fees properly levied by the Board in

accordance with Rule 4.

5.1.3. If a Member does not have all written policies required by Rule 3.4 and does not rectify this within 30 days of an instruction by Wales Golf or fails to provide a copy of these policies to Wales Golf as required by Rule 3.5.

5.1.4. If a Member has failed to observe the terms of the Articles and these Rules.

## **6. Income from Training Courses**

6.1. If income received by Wales Golf from individuals participating in Wales Golf training and coaching courses exceeds the costs of providing such courses, creating a surplus, the surplus will be reinvested in the provision of future training and coaching courses.

Wales Golf

Approved by the Wales Golf Board 4 March 2024

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **FAQs**

#### **What is an Adult Member?**

An adult playing member is anyone aged 18 or over on 1 January 2024 with the right to play over the club's designated course(s) regardless of whether they choose to hold a handicap.

#### **What is a Junior Member?**

A junior playing member is anyone aged under 18 on 1 January 2024 with the right to play over the club's designated course(s) regardless of whether they choose to hold a handicap.

#### **What is a Flexible Membership?**

A Flexible Membership includes:

Membership packages which combine a reduced membership subscription with a reduced green fee or pay as you play element.

Points or credit-based membership packages; e.g. the Playmoregolf platform and other similar systems.

#### **Do I include all members who are also members of another golf club e.g. away members?**

Yes.

#### **Do I include honorary members?**

Only Life honorary members can be excluded from the calculation. Anyone who has paid for a lifetime membership needs to be included in the return.

#### **Do I include participants in the Wales Golf New2Golf program?**

No.

#### **Do I include Trial and/or Temporary Members?**

Yes, if they are a member as at 31 August 2024.

#### **Do I include academy participants?**

Yes, if they have playing rights on the course.