

MAHEE ISLAND GOLF CLUB

Members Guide- March 2017



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Introduction

Whether you are an experienced golfer, a novice or junior we hope you enjoy your golf at Mahee Island.

We all believe that golf should be enjoyed. Good etiquette both on and off the course helps us all to enjoy the game so please avoid slow play, repair pitch marks, replace divots and rake bunkers.

Membership Fees

Your member fees cover the administration costs of the club and allow you to:

- Apply for a GUI recognised handicap
- Enter competitions
- If selected represent the Club in interclub events
- Access to the club officials for advice and assistance when needed.

Playing Handicaps

To apply for a handicap, please forward a current handicap certificate to the Match & Handicap Convenor if you are transferring from another club. Alternatively, submit signed cards from 54 holes played with a member who already holds a club handicap. The three cards should be forwarded to the Match & Handicap Committee by leaving them in the post rack opposite the Club Steward's counter clearly marked 'For New Handicap'.

Once the Match & Handicap Committee has calculated your handicap and verified with the membership secretary that club membership fee has been paid, your name will be added to the club computer and the GUI managed Golfnet website. Shortly afterwards the GUI will post to the Golf Club your GUI card and you will then be eligible to play in Club Competitions and 'open' competitions at other GUI affiliated clubs. Access Golfnet at www.golfnet.ie - input your membership number and password 'golfnet'. You will then be prompted to change your password.

To enter open competitions, you will be required to produce your GUI card and/ or a valid handicap certificate.

Handicap Certificates can be requested from the Match & Handicap Committee. You should request all certificates at least one week in advance. Certificates will be available for collection in the post rack opposite the Club Steward's counter.

The Club uses the GUI approved Club Systems to manage competitions and handicaps. Please use the terminals when entering club competitions and to input scores.

Club Competitions

The Club organises competitions throughout the year with the main competitions being held on a Saturday. These are managed by the Club and are open to all members. Tee times for Saturday are controlled via a start sheet which is published at the beginning of the season. Whether playing in a competition or not Members must now reserve all their tee times via the online booking system on www.maheegolf.com

Saturday Start Sheet

The Saturday start sheet holds details of members' tee times, with the first group teeing off at around 6.40am during the summer months. Times are at a premium and unfortunately new member to the club will probably need to avail of late tee times e.g. 2:40 pm, or seek an earlier time as it becomes available. To have your name added to the start sheet write to the Match & Handicap Secretary stating your preferred time slot.

Members are required to remove their name from the timesheet by Thursday evening at 5.30 pm, if they are unable to play or by the previous Saturday if they wish to play in the Competition on the Sunday. This means that individual spaces become available throughout the season. Other members are free to enter their name into a vacated space. Many members choose to 'float' and spare spaces are almost always available.

Local Rule

In terms of Rule 7-1b (practicing on the course) a player who elects to play on the alternate day of the competition is permitted to play on the competition course on the main day of the competition when the tee is open.

Saturday Competitions

Entry into a Saturday competition will be £3.00 unless otherwise stated with an optional £1.00 entry into the two's competition

Prizes

During the summer, unless otherwise stated, prize vouchers for a Saturday competition will be awarded, in each section, as follows:

1st in Section £25

2nd in Section £15

Best overall gross £15

Handicap Sections are Low 1-14; Mid 15-20 and High 21-28.

The prize money awarded in the 2's competition will be calculated by dividing the entrance fee collected by the number of 2s returned. If there is a hole-in-one the member will receive half the prize fund with the remaining divided evenly by the number of 2s returned

Limited Entry Numbers Policy

Background

In a normal Saturday Competition, there will be three Sections based on handicaps with prizes for first and second. There will also be a one gross prize based on the overall best gross score. Should the player with the best gross score have the best nett score in a section then they will receive the first prize for the section and the gross prize will go to the player with the next best overall gross score. However, in the case of a player being second in a section and also having the best gross score they will receive the best gross and the next best nett score in that section will get second.

Flexibility for reduced entry

Where there is a reduced entry in a Competition then the following arrangements will apply:

20-35 players	One Section
36-63 players	Two Sections (0-17) & (18-28)
64+ players	Three Sections (0-14) & (15-20) & (21-28)

Guidance for Club Competitions

Before commencing competitions check your handicap on the notice board in the Clubhouse. Read the Official Booklet on handicapping: www.gui.ie/handicap-manual/congu_2012_correct-pdf.aspx

Check the local rules on the scorecard and notices on the notice board.

Ensure that you are at the tee and ready to play five minutes before your starting time.

Play at a reasonable pace. If you lose a complete hole on the group in front, call the group behind through; be ready to play your shot when it's your turn and leave the green promptly.

Make sure that your handicap, the date and name of the Competition is on the scorecard and that it is signed by you and a marker. Scorecard markers must be eligible to play in the Competition being played although they need not necessarily be playing in the Competition.

Members with less than three score cards, excluding Foursomes and Betterball Competitions, returned in the year of the competition are not eligible to compete for the Captain's and President's Prizes.

Away Scores

Report 'Away' scores recorded in Competition Play Conditions including non-qualifying at other Golf Clubs.

Juveniles

Juveniles who have a handicap of 28 or less are eligible to participate in the gents' senior competition on a Sunday when it is being played over two days. If their handicap is greater than 28 they may participate but are limited to a handicap of 28. Where there are five or more juveniles in the competition a prize will be awarded for the juvenile with the best score. They must have their cards signed by full members.

Juveniles who attain handicaps of 18 or less may compete in senior competitions on a Saturday or Sunday but must play with and have their cards signed by full members. They are eligible to win club trophies and collect winner's vouchers.

Juveniles are not eligible to win Captain's Day or President's Day prizes and cannot play in senior matchplay competitions.

Matchplay Competitions

To coincide with the start of the summer competitions the club organises singles and doubles matchplay competitions. All members, other than Juveniles, are eligible to enter, provided they have an appropriate official GUI handicap. Further information will be posted on the notice boards and the website.

Eureka Cup (0-14 Handicap) – Singles (full difference)

Coronation Cup (no limit on handicap) – Singles (full difference)

Pairs Matchplay – see notice board for format.

Players have equal responsibility to arrange the playing of a match within the time allowed. If possible a contact number should be provided by each player. Phone numbers should be written beside the player's name on the Matchplay draw sheet.

Requests for an extension of time must be made to a member of the Match & Handicap Committee a minimum of 5 days before the round's completion date. Extensions are rare, will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and will be limited to a maximum of an additional 7 days.

If players are unable to agree an amicable date, the Match & Handicap Committee will impose a date on which the match must be played in accordance with the rules of golf. This date is set as the final day of the round in question at 5:00 pm. If only one player or pair is present they can claim the match by default by contacting the Match and Handicap Committee who will enter their name or names on the relevant Matchplay draw sheet. It is golfing etiquette that the losing player(s) enter the result on the relevant match play sheet. However ultimate responsibility rests with the winning player(s).

If no result is recorded on the Matchplay draw sheet by the 8th day after the completion date of the specified round, both sides will be disqualified.

Inter Club Competitions

Members, excluding Overseas Members and Lifestyle Members are eligible to play in our interclub competitions if they hold a playing handicap and meet the requirements of the GUI sponsored competition. Further details will be posted on the notice boards.

Mahee Island Policy – Adverse Weather Policy

Lightning

A decision to carry on playing during adverse weather conditions is left to the discretion of the player, who MUST accept full responsibility for their safety. In the event of lightning on the course, golfers out on the course are advised to cease playing.

If Mahee Island Golf Club considers there is a risk due to adverse weather conditions, it will endeavour to make the following audible warning:
THREE LONG CONTINUOUS BLASTS OF THE KLAXON

On hearing this warning, it is mandatory that you leave the course. You must cease play immediately, mark your ball and take whatever action you consider most appropriate to ensure your safety

The klaxon will be sounded by the Club Steward.

Course Closure

The Greenkeeper is responsible for determining if the course is playable.

The Course will be inspected early in the morning and if necessary closed. A second inspection may take place at 11:00 am and if appropriate play will commence at 12:00 noon. If the timesheet is in operation the competition will be cancelled. If timesheet is not in operation i.e. a winter competition, then the competition will commence at 12:00 noon.

Suspension of Play

During a competition, the course can be declared unplayable by a member of the Council. A competition will not be suspended however because of rain, unless the rain is so heavy that the course has become unplayable, for example, balls are moving frequently on the putting greens due to wind or holes are surrounded by casual water. Play may be resumed later in the same day if the course becomes playable again. Resumed play must commence at the hole immediately following the last completed hole before play was suspended.

Where it is not possible to resume play on the day of the competition the Committee will decide on what further action to take.

Number of players to constitute a competition

A competition must have a minimum entry of 20 players

If less than 5 players, or less than 10% of the field complete their rounds, the competition will be abandoned. In such cases entry fees, will be returned and the competition may be played on a later date.

If a *Qualifying Competition* is abandoned the *Competition Scratch Score* shall be regarded as equal to the *Standard Scratch Score* and handicaps adjusted accordingly.

Slow Play Policy

Please note that, in competition, a round should be played in a maximum

time of four hours.

Players should make every effort to keep up with the group in front and call others through if a gap of one clear hole develops.

When slow play is reported to Council, the following action path will be followed.

1. The person, or more likely, four-ball who have been reported will be made aware of the situation.
2. The play of the person or four-ball will be monitored.
3. If a person or four-ball is unduly slow, delaying play, they will receive a letter highlighting the issue and warning them that they may be penalised as a result of continuing slow play.
4. If slow play continues, Council reserves the option to penalise a player or players in accordance with rule 6.7. First offence, one shot; second offence, two shots; for subsequent offences, disqualification.

If you receive an initial letter, please do not take offence. It is intended to make you aware of the situation and advise you of the course of action Council is bound to pursue. As such Council will not enter into further correspondence.

Website

The club website is a source of information especially if you are unable to visit Mahee during the week. On it you will find the latest news including competition fixtures and results. www.maheegolf.com/Default.aspx.

Dress Code

The dress code is as with all clubs, no denims, collarless tee shirts, football tops or tracksuits on the course.

Local Rules

A copy of the local rules can be found on the club scorecard.

Mahee Who's Who

Gents Section	Ladies Section
Captain: James Johnston	Lady Captain: Lillian Hawthorn
President: Robert Jellie	Lady President: Christine Mitchell
Vice-Captain: Albert Harrison	Lady Vice Captain: Margery Campbell
Hon. Secretary: Peter Farling	Lady Hon. Secretary: Elfra Hewitt
Hon. Treasurer: John McMillen	Lady Hon. Treasurer: Margaret McMillan
Match and Handicap: Arnie Andrews	Lady Competition and Handicap: Marie Carroll
Junior Convenor:	
Social Convenor: Connor McClenaghan	
House Convenor: Dessie Orr	
Club Steward: Colin Macaw	
Club Caterer: Mark Spence	

Important Dates 2017

Gents Section	Ladies Section
Season Starts: 4 th April	Season Starts: 6 th March
Vice Captain's Day: 16 th May	
Captain's Day: 13 th June	Lady Captain's Day: 23 rd June
President's Day: 22 nd August	Lady President's Day: 14 th August

Contact Details

Captain: James Johnson	jamesjohnstonfbs@hotmail.com
Lady Captain: Lillian Hawthorne	lmehawthorn@gmail.com
Hon. Sec: Peter Farling	peter.farling@icloud.com
Ladies Hon. Sec: Elfra Hewitt	stephenelfrahewitt@yahoo.co.uk
For Course and Club information contact	Club Steward Colin: 028 97541234
For catering information contact	Mark at Mahee Island Catering: 07792384428
Club address:	Mahee Island Golf Club, 14 Mahee Island, Comber, County Down BT23 6 EP.