South Bradford Golf Club



Club Rules

Document Control				
Organisation	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date for Review	
South Bradford Golf Club	Secretary	MC	Annual review at AGM	

Version Control				
Date	Version	Notes	Reviewed by	
25/04/22	25 April 2022	Re-written to reflect interface with Constitution document and membership ballot for rule change at 2022 AGM.	Secretary	
01/05/23	01 May 2023	Subscription year changes incorporated into the rules document, specifically in sections 1, 5, 6, & 6.1.	Secretary/MC	
31/08/23	01 May 2023	Re-formatted to reduce length in pages and to add tabular appearance – no changes to any wording made	Secretary	

Club Rules

The Club has separate documents for its Constitution and Rules. Both documents are available via the Club's website and on request. Members should be familiar with the content of both documents.

The Management Committee (MC) has discretion on the interpretation and application of the Club Rules where appropriate.

The approval of the Club's full voting members will be sought by ballot for any additions or amendments to the Club Rules.

1. Club Year

The subscription year and financial year for the Club is 1st April to 31st March.

2. Management Committee

- a) Committee members whether elected or nominated to positions on the committee shall retire each year at the AGM, except for the Ground Chair who has the option of a three-year tenure without reelection.
- b) Should a committee position become vacant between AGMs, it may be filled at the discretion of the committee for the remaining committee term only.
- c) Elected positions to the committee will be agreed on a simple majority at the AGM on a show of hands or from counted voting slips where positions are contested.
- d) A minimum attendance of five committee members at MC meetings is required to conduct the business of the club.

3. Club Secretary

In an emergency situation, the Club Secretary will have executive powers to act in the best interests of the Club, after consultation with either the Club President, Men's Captain, Ladies Captain, or Club Treasurer.

4. Audit

The annual accounts of the Club will be reviewed and certified by an independent accountant.

5. Membership

- a) Club membership categories and their criteria are the responsibility of the MC and can be reviewed at any time. Changes to criteria for existing categories of membership will apply from the start of the next Club year.
- b) Categories of membership introduced to increase membership uptake will not be available to existing members. Returning members will be eligible for such categories providing they have not been a member of any other golfing category in the previous 12 months.
- c) Promotional categories will have a limited timespan after which members must move to a standard membership category.
- d) Membership categories will be available to view on the Club's website and displayed within the club.
- e) The MC can set a limit on the number of total golfing members or the number of golfing members within any category. Once a limit is reached, a chronological waiting list will apply.
- f) The immediate family of current golfing members can be offered membership at any time at the discretion of the MC.
- g) Resignations from members for the following Club year must be made by letter, email, or telephone contact to the Secretary before 31st March. Members resigning during the Club year will not be given a refund of subscriptions already paid.
- h) Applications from existing members to vary a membership status for the following Club year must be made by letter, email, or telephone contact to the Secretary before 31st March.
- i) Members are not able to vary standard golfing membership status part way through the Club year except for a request to move to non-golf membership where criteria for that category is met.
- i) Members in promotional categories can upgrade to full membership at any time.
- k) The MC cannot offer preferential terms to individuals or groups of members and all members must fully meet the criteria of their chosen category of membership.

6. Subscriptions

- a) Annual subscriptions are due on 1st of April each year or at the annual review point for Flexible Members. It is the responsibility of members to ensure that they pay their subscriptions.
- b) The MC are responsible for setting membership category subscription levels which can be reviewed at any time. Changes to existing category subscription levels will apply from the start of the next subscription year.
- c) Members joining part way through the Club subscription year will pay a pro-rata amount of the category of membership chosen. If the joining date is on or after 1st February, the full yearly subscription fee will be due but will run from the date of joining to the end of the next subscription year. Any additional increase in the next yearly subscription fee will also become due.
- d) The MC are responsible for setting the payment options and terms available to members to pay their membership subscriptions.
- e) Members must make payment within the terms of their chosen payment option, or they will be considered in default. There is no discretion to vary payment options outside of those set by the MC.
- f) Payment options and terms will be provided to members as part of the annual subscription process and before 1st March in the expiring Club year.
- g) Subscription amounts are described as a percentage of the full seven-day fee or a flat fee and will be available to view on the Club's website and displayed within the Club.
- h) A member who moves to the non-Golf category during the Club subscription year will have a credit added to their subscription account equal to the difference in payments due/paid between the two categories.
- i) Reduced subscriptions will be offered to full seven-day members with twenty-five consecutive years membership in that category who have reached or passed their state retirement age.
- j) A member, on completion of 45 years unbroken membership, will be offered one year's membership free of charge in recognition of their contribution to the club. This will be marked as their celebratory honorary year. Once completed, the subscription cost will revert to the same as before.

6.1 Default

- a) Subscriptions are due on the 1st April or on the first day of the renewal year for Flexible members.
- b) Golfing and Non-Golf members with subscriptions unpaid, or without a valid payment option in place for payments due, by the 30th April/end of month one for Flexible members, will be in default.
- c) Members who fail to meet their regular payment option amounts will be in default. Where two consecutive payments are missed, membership will be deemed terminated by the member.
- d) Where membership is deemed terminated, consecutive years membership is broken.
- e) Members in default are not permitted to play golf anywhere on the course or use their discounted bar cards. Access to digital systems that support these member benefits will be disabled until the outstanding amounts are paid.
- f) Social members must have paid their annual subscription in full by the end of March otherwise access to the clubhouse and use of discounted bar card will not be allowed.
- g) Should a membership be terminated, the membership may be reinstated at the MC's discretion, on the payment of all arrears.

7. Applications for Membership

- a) All applications for membership will be via the club's official application form which is available in the clubhouse and on the club's website.
- b) The Secretary has discretion to approve applications on behalf of the MC. New member applications will be reported at the next MC meeting.
- c) Membership will only be offered once all criteria have been satisfied and the applicant has agreed to pay the appropriate subscription and has confirmed that they will uphold the core values of the club. New golfing members will be provided with a digital or hard copy of the Club's Information Pack, Constitution, Rules, and Terms of Competition and will be bound by them.
- d) If any subscription amount is outstanding after one calendar month from approval, the offer of membership may be withdrawn.
- e) Members must communicate any changes to personal contact information to the Secretary. The Club will continue to use the contact information on record and is not responsible for contact sent out incorrectly if new details have not been provided.

f) Personal information will be used only for Club records and associated golf and social purposes and will not be passed onto any other party except with the express consent of the member in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations. The Club's Privacy Policy is on the Club's website and copies are available on request.

8. Suspension and Exclusion from Membership

- a) The Constitution has a tiered approach to disciplinary matters which outlines the accountabilities of the MC.
- b) A membership may be withdrawn by either suspension or expulsion if a member acts in such a way that is contrary to the core values of the club, is harmful to either the character or interest of the Club or is likely to bring the Club's name into disrepute. This action can be taken only by the MC once all the determining factors have been thoroughly investigated and verified.
- c) Any such action may be initiated by a written complaint addressed to the Secretary, signed by at least five members, and acquainting the Secretary with the nature of the incident that gave rise to the complaint. To be considered, the complaint must be dated, signed by the writer and all signatures supported with printed names.
- d) The MC may seek arbitration, conciliation, or other means of resolving the complaint. Failing this the MC is empowered on a majority vote to withdraw membership from the member or members about whom the complaint is made on either a temporary or permanent basis.
- e) From the date the MC's decision is communicated the member/s whose membership is to be withdrawn has fourteen days to make a written appeal against the decision stating the basis of the appeal. After this time, if either no appeal has been received or it has been rejected by the MC, the immediate implementation of the MC's decision will apply.
- f) A member whose membership is withdrawn or ceases for any reason will lose all rights or claims against the Club, its property, and its funds as at the date the membership ceases.

9. Licensed Premises

The Local Authority license the club. Bar opening hours and the sale and consumption of alcohol is outlined in the Club's License.

10. General Meetings (AGM/EGM)

- a) The Club will hold at least one General Meeting of the members each year the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This meeting will be held at the clubhouse during the month of February in any year. The primary purpose of the Club's AGM is to approve the election of members into MC or Sub Committee roles.
- b) Only members with full voting rights can attend General Meetings.
- c) Only members with full voting rights can be elected or nominated for MC, Sub Committee or Sub Section Committee roles, whether as Chair or as an ordinary committee member.
- d) The Secretary shall give fourteen days' notice to all members entitled to a vote at a General Meeting by posting a copy of the agenda on the clubhouse notice board, by email to members or via the Club Website. The agenda for the meeting will be available at the meeting, either digitally or as hard copies.
- e) A quorum at a General Meeting will be twelve members.
- f) Proposals for new rules or amendments to existing rules shall be given to the Secretary at least four weeks prior to the date of the AGM. Such new rules or amendments shall be proposed and seconded by voting members. Any amendments will be discussed and finalised at the AGM before being passed to the membership for a membership ballot. The ballot decision will be made safe by a simple majority. Once the outcome has been determined, any changes will be adopted and communicated to members within one month of the AGM.
- g) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by the Secretary, either when directed by the Committee, or on receipt of a request signed by at least twenty-one voting members, citing the specific reason why such a meeting should be called. Such a submission should carry members' printed names and signatures. The business at an EGM shall be confined to the item or items stated in the notice convening the meeting.

11. Clubhouse Rules

- a) The MC is responsible for setting the opening and closing times of the Club.
- b) Dress in the Clubhouse and on the course shall be determined by the MC. In the clubhouse, smart casual wear is acceptable (no offensive or large logos are permitted). On the course, the basic dress rule is golf wear that is designed to be worn for the purpose of playing golf i.e., clothing which may be found on sale at golf shops. Individual Club events may be subject to separate dress codes.
- c) Children under the age of sixteen must be supervised by a parent or guardian and should not be left unsupervised or 'out of sight' in any area.
- d) Discounted bar cards are for personal use only and must not be given to non-members to use.
- e) Other than recognised Assistance Dogs animals are not allowed inside the Clubhouse. Well behaved dogs are allowed on the patio areas providing a competition or event is not in play.
- f) Smoking or vaping of any kind is not permitted in the clubhouse, locker rooms or the professional's shop. Smoking areas have been designated outside of the main clubhouse building.
- g) The club has a zero-tolerance policy on drug taking. Any member found taking illegal substances will incur immediate suspension and loss of membership.
- h) Members may use their mobile phones within the clubhouse but must be considerate of others and remove themselves from busy areas when doing so. Free Wi-Fi is provided for members and quests.
- i) Members cannot sell or otherwise trade in golf equipment or merchandise on any property of the Club, without the prior authority of the MC.

12. Rules of Play

- a) The Club's Terms of Competition set out the rules for all Competition play and golfing members must be familiar with its content.
- b) Priority on the 10th tee and on the course is given to inter-club team/individual matches or events and all club Strokeplay or Matchplay competitions and players involved must be allowed to play through if they catch you up or as a courtesy on the 10th tee for their back nine.
- c) Priority does not excuse slow play and regardless of rule 12b, if you are holding up the group/s behind, you must let them through to maintain flow of play on the course.
- d) Play may be in two, three or four ball games. A playing group of more than four players is only allowed on the express permission of the Men's' or Ladies Captains.
- e) Practicing is allowed only in the designated areas of the course namely, the practice ground and the practice chipping and putting ground adjacent to the clubhouse.
- f) Members must comply with any local rules of play, which may be imposed by the MC from time to time.

13. Code of Conduct

- a) The Club has six core values: Respect, Friendliness, Openness, Honesty, Equity, and Integrity.
- b) The Club is committed to providing an environment that is free of discrimination, harassment and intimidation for members, employees, and guests. All members and their visitors are reminded that an acceptable standard of behaviour must be always maintained, both on the course and in the clubhouse.
- c) Unacceptable behaviour towards a member of staff will not be tolerated, and disciplinary procedures will be considered in all cases.
- d) Any form of discrimination, harassment or intimidation is regarded as unacceptable behaviour.
- e) Consumption of excessive quantities of alcohol is not permitted by law. Members should not be offended if service is refused.
- f) The use of foul, abusive, or offensive language has no place in the clubhouse and is unacceptable. Any member heard using such language will be asked to stop and may be asked to leave the premises.