

1. Eligibility

All bona fide golf clubs in England, Scotland and Wales are eligible to submit one team of two players in the Men's Championship and one team of two players in the Women's Championship. **Each competitor must have a current WHS Handicap Index and these players should comply with your club's policies regarding the entering of sufficient score cards to keep their Handicap Index accurate.** For Course Handicaps in matches please see 3.b) below. Players who are members of more than one Club may attempt to qualify for the Tournament at any of them, but can represent only one Club in the Competition proper. If a competitor ceases to be a member of the Club being represented, the team must withdraw from the Tournament immediately.

Employees of the group which publishes the Daily Mail or any company associated with the organisation of the tournament and members of their families may not compete.

Players under 18 on 1st January 2024 will not be eligible to enter the Tournament.

2. Qualifying Competition

Each affiliated Club is invited to stage its own foursomes competition, the winning pair to qualify for the Daily Mail Tournament. The format for this qualifying competition can be decided by the club. Only one men's and one women's pair can represent each club. Where it is not possible to arrange a special qualifying competition, a club may nominate a pair to represent it in the Tournament. The Secretary must register the club by 4th February 2024 either online at www.mailgolf.co.uk or by submitting the entry sheet to the Tournament Office.

3. Eliminating Rounds. All tournament matches shall be played using the current Rules of Golf including any local rules at the course on which the match takes place.

a) **Knock-out principle:** eliminating rounds in the Tournament will be on a knock-out principle decided over 18 holes foursomes (i.e. alternate strokes) match-play off handicaps current at the time of play (see Rule 1). If the match is tied after 18 holes, play continues until a hole is won on a "sudden death" basis.

b) **Handicaps:** In the Daily Mail Foursomes there are maximum Handicap Indexes of 18.0 for men and 30.0 for women. Players with higher Handicap Indexes may take part but can only use a maximum of 18.0 for men and 30.0 for women as a basis for calculating their Course Handicaps to be used in matches. Each player should then calculate their Course Handicap (CH) by applying any slope rating adjustments based on the course and tees being played. Once the Course Handicaps (CH) have been agreed, then each pair should calculate 50% of their combined Course Handicaps, rounding up where applicable. The difference between the competing pairs' combined handicaps should then be used as the basis of play. **FROM 1st APRIL 2024** – this changes to calculate shots in Foursomes by taking 50% of the difference between each pairs Combined Course Handicaps rounding up or down where applicable.

c) **Players' names** do not need to be confirmed until the team has played its first match in the Tournament. The pair that competes in the first match must play together in all further Tournament matches and after that no player substitutes will be acceptable.

d) **Matches:** a computerised draw will be made for each round based upon clubs geographical location. Clubs from different counties may be drawn to play each other from round one onwards. Competitors will be notified of their matches either by email or by post.

e) **Arranging a match:** The home team, to retain home advantage, has the responsibility of contacting their opponents and offering dates for the match, no later than the contact-by date specified in the match notification. After this date whichever team makes initial contact may claim home advantage. In the initial contact the club drawn at home should offer the away club several dates including both weekdays and weekends in order to provide the best opportunity of finding a mutually acceptable date for the match. No match extensions will be allowed. If a match is not played by the date specified the Referee will decide, where possible, on the basis of availability which team will advance to the next round, or an unplayed match will then be decided by the Tournament Referee on the toss of a coin.

f) **Course conditions:** It is up to the club drawn at home to decide whether their course is in a suitable condition for the fair and proper playing of the match. We appreciate in the early rounds courses may not be at their best and as such may well have additional playing conditions in place. The home club must make their opponents aware of any such conditions when the initial contact is made and must do likewise if there are any others added in the time leading up to the match. There are a number of course conditions that we feel are not conducive to the fair and proper playing of the match, these are outlined in the FAQs on the tournament website. If the home course has any of these in play and the away course doesn't, then the tie must switch to the away course. If both courses have any of the unacceptable conditions in place then the match should remain

f) **Course Conditions continued:** as drawn. If the home course is closed on the day of the match then the tie must automatically switch to the away course if it is open. If both courses are closed then the match should be rearranged or a neutral venue found. Either way this must be done within the round deadline as no extensions are permitted.

g) **Caddies:** caddies are permitted, as defined in the Rules of Golf.

h) **Distance Measuring Devices:** During matches players may use Distance Measuring Devices in accordance with the Rules of Golf. If you suspect an opponent is in breach of this rule you must make a valid claim at the time of the match as no subsequent claims will be considered.

i) **Motorised Buggies:** Players and supporters must walk the courses at all times during a competitive round of golf. Only golfers with authorisation from the Tournament Referee due to medical conditions are allowed the use of golf buggies during a competitive round, however the Organisers have no jurisdiction whatsoever over individual golf clubs when it comes to the use of buggies on their course.

j) **Speed of Play:** Players must at all times play without undue delay and in accordance with the R&A recommendation that you take no longer than 40 seconds to make a shot once it is their turn to play.

4. Green Fees

There is no entry fee for the Tournament, but courtesy of the course must be extended to visiting competitors when the match is played. It is also hoped that home clubs will endeavour to make a practice round possible for visiting clubs, if requested to do so, or, if that is not possible, at least offer the visiting team a reduced green fee. As this is a match-play competition a practise round can be played on the day of play or beforehand.

5. Notifying Results

It will be the responsibility of the winning pair in each match to notify the result to the Tournament Office either online or by phone or email. Players must include their current Handicap Index with each submission for the result to be accepted. As there are seven qualifying rounds to organise it is vital that results are notified as soon as possible. For matches played over the last weekend the winning pair should enter the result online, by email to draw@mailgolf.co.uk or by phone as soon as the match is finished.

6. Finals

- The Last Sixteen pairs will compete in the match-play Finals October 2024.
- Each match will consist of one round of 18 holes played off current handicaps unless circumstances make some other arrangement necessary. In the event of a tied match, competitors must continue to play until a hole is won. The partnership entitled to receive strokes will receive them at the appropriate holes.
- Subsidiary competitions will be arranged for those competitors defeated in the Last Sixteen and Quarter Finals.
- Green fees for the sixteen pairs at the Finals will be paid by the Daily Mail.
- Arrangements will be made for all finalists to receive meals and overnight accommodation from Sunday evening to Tuesday afternoon at the invitation of the Daily Mail.

7. Tournament Suspension of Play at the Finals

If a significant amount of playing time is lost due to the weather, the Tournament Committee may elect to play a Foursomes Stableford competition to decide which teams will advance into the next round.

8. Prizes

The men's and women's winning pairs in the 2024 Finals will each receive one of the Daily Mail Silver Challenge trophies to be held for a year by their Club and all competitors reaching the Last Sixteen will receive individual prizes.

9. Disputes

Any disputes regarding Rules and Conditions must be discussed with the Tournament Referee, whose decision is final.

The Tournament Referee can be contacted at Daily Mail Amateur Foursomes Golf Tournament, PO Box 485, Fleet, GU51 9FF.

This competition conforms to the R&A rules of Amateur Status