



Durham County Golf Union – Constitution / Rules.

Name

1. The name shall be called "The Durham County Golf Union".

Objects

2. The objects of the Union are to further the interests of amateur golfers and Golf Clubs in the former geographical County of Durham, to promote Golf Championships and Competitions, to arrange golf matches with other Counties and Associations and generally encourage the playing of golf in the County.

Membership

3. The Union shall consist of recognised Golf Clubs in the County of Durham whose enrolment in the Union shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Any appeal against the decision of the Executive Committee may be made to the Council.

The Council

4. The governing body of the Union shall be styled "The Council" and the entire management of the Union shall be vested in it.
5. The Council shall consist of the Officers mentioned in Rule 6, and of representatives of each club in the Union. Clubs having 200 adult male playing members, or less, shall have one representative, and clubs with over 200 such members shall have two representatives. Notification in writing of each club's representatives shall be given to the Secretary of the Union prior to any meeting of the Council.
6. The Officers shall consist of the President, a Vice-President or Vice-Presidents not exceeding seven in number and a Treasurer, the Officers shall also include a President-Elect (if nominated under Rule 11), who shall all be elected annually at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The Annual General Meeting

7. The Annual Meeting of the Union shall be held in January in each year. At such meeting eight officers or club representatives shall form a quorum. Notice of intention to move any resolution by any club must be received by the Secretary on or before 30 November preceding the meeting. 21 days notice in writing, of the meeting shall be given to each club in the Union.
8. The Annual Meeting of the Union shall:
 - (a) receive the report of the Executive Committee on the affairs of the Union during the preceding year.
 - (b) Receive the financial statement for the year ending on the preceding 31 October.
 - (c) Elect the officers of the Union and members of the Executive Committee as required, and independent accounts.
 - (d) Transact any general business of the Union and such other special business of which notice shall have been given.

Special Meetings

9. A special meeting of the Council may be convened by the Secretary at any time and must be called at the request, in writing, of three clubs in the Union, or of three members of the Executive Committee of the Union. 21 days notice in writing of the business to be transacted at such meetings shall be given by the Secretary to each club in the Union. At any such meeting eight officers or club representatives shall form a quorum.

The Executive Committee

10. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers mentioned in Rule 6 and of twelve other members, and not more than two of whom shall be from the same Club. These members shall be elected for a term of four years by the Council at its Annual Meeting. In addition a Past President of the Union shall remain as a member of the Executive Committee without election.

11. The Executive Committee shall submit nominations for the officers of the Union to the Annual General Meeting of the Council.

12. Three of the members representing clubs elected by the Council shall retire every year by rotation but shall be eligible for re-election.

13. Nominations to fill vacant positions of the members representing clubs on the Executive Committee shall be sent by a club in writing so as to be in the hands of the Secretary ten days before the Annual General Meeting. No Club shall nominate more than two persons. The Secretary shall advise all clubs before the day of the Annual General Meeting of all the nominations received.

14. The election of all members of the Executive Committee shall be by ballot at the Annual General Meeting of the Union. At such election each member of the Council may give one vote only for a candidate for election but must vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies.

15. If any member representing a club dies or wishes to retire from the Executive Committee the vacancy shall be filled at the next following Annual General Meeting. The member who is elected to fill the vacancy shall retire at the Annual General Meeting at which the member whose place he has filled would have retired by rotation as before provided.

16. The Executive Committee may itself fill a vacancy occurring during any year and may co-opt two additional members who shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Union and also the Captain of the County Team if he shall not be a member of the Executive Committee.

Powers of the Executive Committee

17. The Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Union and deal with all matters arising in the intervals between the meetings of the Council and shall appoint a Secretary on such terms as they deem appropriate.

Sanctions

18. The Executive Committee of the County Union is charged with ensuring that all rules contained both in the Constitution and the Regulations governing Championships and matches, are complied with. The Executive Committee is authorised to deal with any breach of rule, or discipline, and to impose sanctions upon any club, player or person deemed to have breached any rule. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint and delegate disciplinary powers to a disciplinary Subcommittee, power to be exercised in accordance with the terms and conditions for the procedure and conduct of Disciplinary Committees from time to time issued by the English Golf Union.

19. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Chairman to preside over the meetings who shall hold office for one year. In case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

20. Three members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

21. Seven days notice of all meetings shall be given by the Secretary to all members of the Executive Committee and must be called by him at any time at the request in writing of three members.

22. The Executive Committee shall annually elect representatives of the Union to the England Golf.

Subscriptions

23. Each club joining the Union shall pay an entrance fee and an annual subscription, to be determined by the Executive Committee. Annual subscriptions shall be due 60 days after each club's membership subscription date (or nominated subscription date if the club operates a rolling membership year). A second mid-term collection will be made as per England Golf affiliation rules. No club whose subscription shall be in arrears one month after its due date, or any of its members, shall be entitled to vote or take part in any meetings, schemes or competitions of the Union.

Resignations

24. Any club wishing to resign its membership shall give notice of such resignation in writing to the Secretary on or before 30 September, otherwise the club shall be liable to pay its subscription for the ensuing year.

Secretary

25. The Secretary shall keep a Roll of Clubs who are members and also in a Minute Book correct minutes of the proceedings of the Council and of the Executive Committee and shall produce such Minute Book at all meetings. He shall send a copy of the financial statement made up to 31 October each year, duly examined and signed by the independent accountants to the secretary of each club in the Union with the notice convening the annual meeting of the Council and the Executive committee in accordance with these Rules. The Secretary shall arrange and organise all Golf meetings and Championships mentioned in these rules, or sanctioned by the Executive Committee and shall act generally in accordance with the instructions of the Council or the Executive Committee.

Treasurer

26. The Treasurer shall receive and deal with all money belonging to the Union in accordance with the direction of the Council or of the Executive Committee. He shall prepare a financial statement made up to 31 October each year and shall have the same examined and signed by the independent accountants before the end of the month of November following. He shall deliver the same to the Secretary within seven days of such last mentioned date.

Golf Championships and Competitions

27. Meetings shall be held each year at which there shall be competitions to decide:

The County Championship.

The County Match Play Championship.

The Club Championship.

The Club Teams Handicap Competition.

The Second Division Championship.

The Third Division Individual Competition.

The Fourth Division Individual Competition.

The Inter-County Foursomes Championship.

The Boys Championship.

The Boys Under 16 Championship

The Boys Under 14 Competition

The Clark Cup Competition.

Seniors Championship.

Mixed Foursomes Championship

The Executive Committee may arrange any additional competition or competitions.

28. To be eligible to compete in Union Championships or meetings a player must be a member of an affiliated club of the Union and:

(a) should be of amateur status,

(b) be qualified by birth or have paid a subscription to a club in the County for one year prior to the event and

(c) not have taken part in a golf championship of another county or represented another county union during the previous 12 months.

29. The courses upon which the championships or other meetings shall be held and the dates shall be fixed by the Executive Committee who shall make all arrangements for them with clubs on whose course they are to be held.

30. The entrance fee for all the championships and competitions shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.

31. Entries may be made through the secretary of the club of which the entrant is a member, online via the DCGU website or by post with entry form, to be received by the closing date. All entries however made, must include the appropriate entrance fee. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the County Secretary but only if there is space in the published draw. The Executive Committee, reserves the right to refuse entry into County competitions.

32. All championships and competitions shall be played according to the Rules of Golf as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and the local rules of the club on whose course the meeting is to be held so far as they are approved by the Executive Committee.

33. All rules concerning championships and competitions and any disputes shall be settled by the Executive Committee or a sub-committee appointed for that purpose, whose decision shall be final.

34. The Executive Committee or sub-committee thereof shall have (in addition to the powers conferred on it by the Rules of Golf) power to modify the rules governing any championship or competition if it considers it necessary for any reason.

35. The Executive Committee shall arrange such County matches as it shall deem fit and shall be responsible for the selection of the teams to represent the County.

Colours

36. The colours of the Union shall be maroon, blue and gold, and the tie and the blazer shall be of a design as approved by the Executive Committee. The right to wear such tie and blazer shall be governed by regulations to be made by the Executive Committee who shall be empowered to vary such regulations from time to time as it may deem fit.

Trustees

37. The property of the Union shall be vested in four trustees who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall be dealt with by them, as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence).

38. The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Union property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by the Executive Committee.

39. Where by reason of such death, resignation or removal, it is necessary that a new trustee or trustees be appointed, the Executive Committee shall nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new trustee or trustees. For the purpose of giving effect in such nomination the President of the Union is hereby nominated as the person to appoint the new trustees of the Union within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustees Act 1925 and he shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Executive Committee.

40. That the Union shall not make a distribution of any surplus save to another non profit making body, or in whole to the members on dissolution.

Alterations to Rules

41. No rule of the Union shall be repealed or altered and no new rule made except by a majority of two-thirds of the representatives present and voting at any meeting of the Council. Written notice of any proposed rule repeal or alteration can be given by any club or three members of the Executive Committee and must be received by the Secretary on or before 30 November, and given to each club with the notice convening the next annual meeting, or special meeting of the Council, called for the purpose, of which 21 days notice in writing shall have been given to each club in the Union.

These Rules were last updated at an EGM of the DCGU on 16th April 2018

A copy of these changes can be requested from the County Secretary.