

## DCGUJ LEAGUE RULES (DRAFT 4 2026 - 19th March)

1. League Organisers shall decide and agree League fixture dates. Please read in conjunction with rule 12.
2. Each Club may enter 2 teams, but a player may only play for 1 team in any of the leagues. The penalty for playing for a second team will be the loss of that game.
3. Each team shall consist of 5 players.
4. White tees (or equivalent) are to be used for boys and red tees (or equivalent) are to be used for girls.
5. All juniors who are under 21 on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the competition year and who are amateur members of the participating club shall be eligible to compete. Caddies must be under 21 on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the competition year and not a PGA professional.
6. Both boys and girls will play off their respective playing handicaps, which are 100% of their Course Handicap. In calculating the Course Handicap girls will also receive additional shots to reflect the difference in pars between the White and Red tees (or the equivalent tees). The maximum Handicap Index shall be 30.4.
7. All games shall be played over 18 holes under match play rules of golf. In singles games, players will play in ascending handicap order and handicap allowance shall be full playing handicap differences.
8. The player, whether boy or girl shall receive shots based on the course being played, meaning that if a boy receives the shots they will be based on the stroke indices on the White Tees and a girl on the Red Tees.
9. Outside assistance will not be allowed. Ball spotting is permitted. Rules advice may be sought by players from the nominated Junior Liaison Officer (JLO) of either team on the match day if required. All spectators must remain at least 20 metres away from junior competitors except in a medical or other emergency. JLOs (henceforth, the term JLO shall encompass any other nominated officer representing the junior team from a golf club who is known by another preferred title) are not permitted to advise on club choice, stroke to take or other direct interference with the match.

10. Team points will be awarded as follows: 2 (two) points for each win and 1 (one) point for a half. 2 (two) Match points will be awarded for an overall win and 1 (one) point in the event of the game being drawn.
11. The home club is responsible for sending the result to the league secretary by 11 pm on the night of the match via email or text.
12. All games must be started by 6pm and JLOs must exchange the team sheet prior to the first game starting. JLOs must order their players from 1 to 5 in order of the lowest to highest Playing Handicaps (Playing Handicap is Course Handicap plus any additional shots due to a difference in Pars in accordance with Paragraph 6 above). Then the number 1s play one another and so on to the player 5s.
13. Ideally, players should start their matches in order from player 1 to player 5. If a team fields fewer than 5 players, the first match to drop out is the 5th, then the 4th etc, meaning that all players after the missing player's slot move up a team position and the non-played match is awarded to the team with a player available.
14. Pre-arranged fixtures can only be cancelled in the event of a course closure or by mutual agreement of the JLOs. The match must be replayed in accordance with rule 13. Failure to play the match for any other reason will result in a 10 - 0 defeat. JLOs will be allowed reasonable opportunity to agree rescheduling due to unforeseen circumstances or golf club accommodating difficulties or similar. Both JLOs must agree, and the League secretary informed.
15. Any perception of an advantage attempted to be gained by such a rescheduling, can be appealed against by the aggrieved JLO. Notice of an appeal must be immediately given to the opposing JLO who then has reasonable time to reconsider. In the event of non-agreement, full details shall be forwarded to the League Secretary at [admin@durhamcountygolfunion.co.uk](mailto:admin@durhamcountygolfunion.co.uk), no later than the day after the game is played. The Junior Committee Chairman will normally make a decision on the facts presented within 48 hours. If, however, further enquiries are needed a decision will be made within 48 hours of the enquiries being completed. The League Secretary and both JLOs will then be notified of the decision, which is final and binding.
16. Any postponed matches must be replayed within 14 days of the original fixture date and no later than the Friday of the penultimate week of the fixtures season. Failure to play cancelled matches before this date will result in both teams receiving no points. However, if two JLOs were to mutually agree to reconvene a postponed match at a reasonable time (i.e. a rest week or school holiday) that may be longer

than 14 days, then the League Secretary must be informed immediately of that decision. In the event of non-agreement, full details shall be forwarded to [admin@durhamcountygolfunion.co.uk](mailto:admin@durhamcountygolfunion.co.uk). The Junior Committee Chairman then will normally make a decision on the facts presented within 48 hours. If, however, further enquiries are needed a decision will be made within 48 hours of the enquiries being completed. The League Secretary and both JLOs will then be notified of the decision, which is final and binding.

17. Should there be a tie at the end of the season it will be decided in order of:

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Total Team points
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Total Match points
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Total of Games won
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> Head-to-head Team points won

18. Players shall always walk during the stipulated round unless permission to ride a golf buggy is granted in accordance with the Durham County Golf Union's Buggy Policy.

19. The JLO from the Home Club will make a decision on any issues arising before and during play. Deliberate and/or persistent failure to follow the rules by players will result in the hole and then the match being forfeit. If parents (or similar) act incorrectly they shall be asked to leave the course. Refusal to do so will result in that game being abandoned. Continued refusal will invoke the event being abandoned.

20. The League Secretary will be notified of any such issues arising and the Junior Committee Chair will then decide if any further action is needed.

21. If temporary cessation of play is required e.g., Lightning, play will resume 30 minutes after the last lightning flash. More permanent stoppage due to poor light, course flooding etc.: - matches concluded will count. Non-concluded matches will be considered halved. If play is abandoned due to the possibility of physical risk: - matches concluded will count. Non-concluded matches will be considered halved. Verbal and klaxon notes from an air horn can be used to signal the players. If a klaxon is used; immediate stop is signalled by one long note: a non-immediate stop is signalled by 3 short notes; a restart is signalled by 2 short notes.

22. A player starting the league season playing in a league fixture for a particular Club may not play for another Club in any of the DCGUJ three leagues during the same season.

23. Players and caddies are not permitted to use alcohol or tobacco during the matches. Consumption of alcohol or tobacco during the match will result in an automatic loss of the game.
24. The 3 way play offs will be held on the three courses winning their leagues - Team A v team B at course C and so on.
25. Should there be a tie at the end of the play offs season it will be decided as follows:
  - (1st) Total Team points.
  - (2nd) Cumulative holes won across the two matches.