

SCOTTISH GOLF WOMEN'S MEDAL 2018 RULES & REGULATIONS



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1. Scottish Golf Women's Medals

- a) The stroke play ("Medal") round played off handicap is the traditional mainstay of club competition providing as it does opportunity for completing Qualifying Scores for handicap purposes at the same time as being a social opportunity for club members to compete together. For some it is preparation for competitive play at a higher level e.g. national events. Scottish Golf Limited is committed to encouraging this format of play within its member clubs.

Whilst the traditional Medal remains a cornerstone, the way in which medals and other competitions are played at club level is changing. For many women in employment, those having caring and other responsibilities and for those in education the traditional midweek "Ladies' Day" accommodates a decreasing proportion of the female golfing population. As clubs embrace equality, and in some cases organise medal and other competitions open to men, women and juniors together, more opportunities are becoming available for weekend play for women and girls. In addition, some clubs offer reduced subscription membership categories that may restrict the days or times when such members may play or, where the club has more than one course, the course(s) over which these members may play. Clubs have a responsibility to ensure that all members eligible to hold a CONGU® Handicap have enough opportunities to submit qualifying scores sufficient to maintain a handicap reflective of their current playing ability. The regulations for SGL Women's Medal competitions provide a flexible framework within which clubs can organise some of their stroke play competitions in a manner appropriate for their particular membership.

- b) *Affiliated club:* A golf club affiliated to Scottish Golf Limited ("SGL"). *Club Committee:* The Committee responsible for the course. This may be the Committee of the Ladies' section if responsibility for management of the club and course so resides.

Committee: The Committee of the Ladies' Section of an affiliated club or, if responsibility has been so delegated, the sub-committee or person(s) responsible for the organisation of the competition of the day. *Marker:* A marker is a responsible person acceptable to the Committee.

Playing Member: A member of an affiliated club who is eligible to hold a CONGU® Handicap.

SGL Women's Medal Year: 1 January to 31 December each year.

- c) All SGL Women's Medal Competitions are Qualifying Competitions for handicap purposes as defined in the CONGU® Unified Handicapping System ("UHS"). SGL Women's Medal Competitions must be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A Rules Limited and in conjunction with any Local Rules and Bye-laws of the club which must not contravene any Rules of Golf or any Regulation of SGL. Competition Play Conditions as defined by the CONGU® UHS must prevail for any SGL Women's Medal designated competition and each player must be given her full Competition Handicap entitlement.
- d) The SGL will issue a Silver Medal and a Bronze Medal to each affiliated club for annual competition in designated SGL Women's Medal Competitions:
- The Silver Medal will be awarded for players with Playing Handicaps up to and including 20
 - The Bronze Medal will be awarded for Playing Handicaps of 21 to 36 inclusive.

The winners of the Silver and Bronze Medals will be the players who return the lowest aggregate of four Nett Differentials between the Standard Scratch Score and the Nett Score in the Designated SGL Women's Medal Competitions.

- e) For the Silver Medal all four scores must be returned when the player has a playing handicap of 20 or less and for the Bronze Medal when the player has a playing handicap of 21 to 36 inclusive.
- f) The winning of a Silver Medal in any SGL Women's Medal Year supersedes the winning of a Bronze Medal in that year.
- g) If two or more players tie, the winner shall be decided on the Nett Score of the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 hole(s) of the four cards added together. If still a tie, decision shall be a play off over 18 holes on current Playing Handicap. Should a play-off be logistically impossible (e.g. course closures over the winter) a count-back using the front holes should be used. The annual winners of the Silver and Bronze Medals at each club are eligible to compete in the following year's Medal Finals organised at regional venues by the SGL.

Note: See also Clause 12 for SGL policy regarding participation of Junior Girl

2. Format of SGL Women's Medal Competitions

SGL Women's Medal Competitions may be run in the following formats:

- a) "Single Day Medal" format. Providing that the playing membership is given a reasonable opportunity to access suitable tee times (e.g. evening tee times and sufficient daylight for those in employment for a weekday event or non-restrictive times at weekends) SGL Women's Medal Competitions may be organised for a single day (i.e. weekday only or weekend only).
- b) "Alternative Day Medal" format. Where it is not possible to accommodate the needs of the playing membership on a single day the Committee may offer an Alternative Day option for all or some of the SGL Women's Medal

Competitions in accordance with the Rules of Golf (Note to Rule 33-2b); under this format there will be one Silver and one Bronze winner decided on the scores from the two days (Main Day and Alternative Day) of the competition. See Clause 8 for further guidance.

- c) Dual Day Medal” format. Within a seven day period, the Committee may schedule a weekday and weekend day for SGL Women’s Medal Competitions and treat these options as entirely separate competitions with players entitled (subject to their club membership status) to enter on either or both days; under this format there will be competition winners (Silver and Bronze) on both days. See Clause 9 for further guidance.
- d) The options of format set out in 2-a, 2-b and 2-c. Single Day, Alternative Day and Dual Day Medals - above are not mutually exclusive. Clubs may play all their SGL Women’s Medal Competitions under one format or may include a mix of these options in their fixture list.

*Note: Clubs are recommended **not** to mix Alternative Day and Dual Day formats. It is permissible for club stroke play competitions to be run alongside some or all of the designated SGL Women’s Medal Competitions.*

3. Number of SGL Women’s Medal Events

- a) For the purposes of determining the number of SGL Women’s Medal events each of the formats in Clause 5 (Single Day, Alternative Day or Dual Day) is considered to be a single event.
- b) The Committee shall run a **minimum** of six SGL Women’s Medal Events per year that enable players to qualify for the Silver or Bronze Medals.
- c) A club may designate a **maximum** of
 - 12 Events (Single Day, Alternate Day or Dual Day formats); **plus**
 - 6 Single Day events during any SGL Year to be SGL Women’s Medal CompetitionsThere is no restriction on how many events a club schedules in any single month.

Note: Under the Dual Day Format the two designated days (providing that they are scheduled with seven days of each other) count as one SGL Women’s Medals Event. Under the Alternative Day Format the Main Day plus the associated Alternative Day count as one SGL Women’s Medals Event.

4. Qualifications

All female playing members, including juniors, with a CONGU® Competition Handicap of 20 or less (Silver Medal) or a playing handicap of 21 to 36 inclusive (Bronze Medal) are eligible to compete and win. Players holding a Competition Handicap in the range 37 to 54 are not eligible to qualify for the Regional and Grand Final, however it would be at the clubs’ discretion whether players would be eligible to play in the SGL Women’s Medal. For any club competition run in conjunction with the SGL Women’s Medal, Scottish Golf would encourage all clubs to accept the entry of players holding handicaps in the range 37 to 54. For the purposes of 2018, any player who previously held a CONGU Disability Handicap in accordance with Appendix K of the CONGU® UHS will be eligible to compete and win and must be allowed their full playing handicap.

- a) A playing member who belongs to more than one affiliated club may compete in SGL Women’s Medals at each of these clubs. A player may not play more than one SGL Women’s Medals round over the same course on any single day.
- b) A player who does not have a Competition Handicap in accordance with Clause 25 of the CONGU® UHS is not eligible to compete in any SGL Women’s Medal Competition until her Competition Handicap has been restored. At the discretion of the Committee, a player without a Competition Handicap may play alongside competitors in order to return a card towards restoring her Competition Handicap and/or may act as a marker for a player competing in the competition.
- c) A Committee must not impose any additional qualification criteria other than those set out in 4-a - 4-c above.

5. Conditions of Entry

- a) A player must register her intention to compete **on the day** of the SGL Women’s Medal Competition in accordance with Clause 8.6 of the CONGU® UHS and in accordance with any provisions laid down by the Committee. The register of competition entrants may be a manual list or entry may be computerised at the discretion of the Committee and as set out by the Committee in its Conditions of Competition.
- b) If only one competitor enters the SGL Women’s Medal Competition that score shall count unless the provisions of Clause 10 apply. If no player enters the competition the SGL Women’s Medals Competition is deemed to have taken place unless the provisions of Clause 10 apply.
- c) There shall be no compulsory draw or entry fee for players competing solely in the SGL Women’s Medals Competition. The Committee may, however, make its own conditions regarding draws, starting times and entry fees for any competitions played in conjunction with the SGL Women’s Medal Competitions

6. Marking of Scores

Play may be in twos, threes or fours. Where there is a sole competitor the Committee shall appoint an eligible marker whose appointment may be authorised by the Committee retrospectively.

7. More than one Course

- a) Where a club has more than one measured course the SGL Women's Medal Competitions need not all be played on one course at any one time. The Committee may require as a Condition of Competition that all competitors play over only one of the available courses or it may specify play over more than one of the available courses. If play is permitted over more than one course on any one day the Committee may require as a Condition of Competition that all Silver Division players play one designated course and all Bronze Division another designated course; in the absence of such Condition players shall be allowed to choose which course they play.
- b) The Committee must decide the basis on which any associated prize(s) is/are awarded i.e.:
 - Separate prize(s) for each course; or
 - Separate Silver and Bronze division competitions decided on the basis of the best nett differentials relative to the SSS of the course played; or
 - One overall competition, irrespective of handicap, decided upon the basis of the best nett differentials relative to the SSS of the course being played.
 - For handicap purposes, separate CSS calculations must be made for the two courses.

8. Alternative Day

The Alternative Day format is designed to enable as many members as possible to compete in SGL Women's Medals (and in any club competitions run in conjunction). This format may provide benefits for clubs with large numbers of women/girls who compete regularly. For clubs at which it is not possible for many women/girls to compete at weekends and for play at times of the year when evening tee times are not available. Clubs shall designate one day (the day on which the majority of the players usually compete) as the Main Day and other day as the Alternative Day. The dates of the Main Day and the Alternative Day shall be scheduled within seven days of each other. They must be within the same SGL Year. The Main Days and the Alternative Days may be any day of the week but it is recommended that one day be a weekday and the other a weekend day. If a major club competition coincides with the SGL Women's Medals the club competition can be played on the Main Day or the Alternate Day at the discretion of the Committee or it can be held under the Alternate Day arrangements. The winner of the SGL Women's Medals held under the Alternate Day format is the player returning the best net differential relative to the SSS over the two days. For handicap purposes a separate CSS is calculated for each day. No player may play twice in any SGL Women's Medals Competition played under the Alternate Day format. The Committee may request members to state their preference recorded on a list for Main Day or Alternate Day play or to book in advance at any time up to one week before the first day of each competition. The Committee has the discretion to permit a player to change a date at short notice. On the other hand, the Committee need not make any direction in regard to advance notice of preference. If tee times are limited for the Alternative Day the Committee shall decide the fairest apportionment of opportunity to play. If either the Main Day or the Alternative Day competition is cancelled and cannot be rearranged (see Clause 10) the result on the day when the competition was played (i.e. Main Day or Alternative Day) shall stand.

9. Dual Day

The Dual Day format is also designed to enable as many members as possible, regardless of their personal circumstances, to compete in SGL Women's Medals (and in any club competitions run in conjunction) and is of particular attraction to clubs where there is no significant pressure on tee times and/or where ladies have equal playing rights with their male counterparts. The dates of the two Dual Days shall be scheduled within seven days of each other. They must be within the same SGL Year. One of the Dual Days shall be a weekday and the other Dual Day shall be a Saturday or Sunday. If a major club competition coincides with the SGL Women's Medals the club competition can be played on either of the Dual Days at the discretion of the Committee. Each day under the Dual Day format is a separate competition with separate winners. A player may enter on both days providing that their club membership category so permits (e.g. a 5-day member would be ineligible to play on the weekend day). If a club uses more than one course for a Dual Day format competition a player may play in the SGL Women's Medals on only one of the courses on a given single day.

10. Fixing of Dates

- a) The dates of the SGL Women's Medal Competitions shall be fixed by the Committee at the start of the SGL Year and posted in the clubhouse at least two weeks prior to the first of the competitions.
- b) The date of any SGL Women's Medals may be altered if:
 - The course is pronounced unavailable by the Club Committee; or
 - The course is closed/deemed unplayable by the Club Committee or authorised representative;

or

- Temporary adjustments to the course have been made such that *Competition Play Conditions* as defined in the CONGU® UHS do not prevail; or
 - The Committee in charge of the competition deems that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the game impossible (Rules of Golf – Rule 33-2d). If such circumstances occur after commencement of play on any day, the competition shall be abandoned and any completed scores shall be treated for handicap purposes in accordance with Clause 18.7 of the CONGU® UHS.
- c) The date for any re-arranged SGL Women’s Medals Competition must be within two calendar months of the original date and within the same SGL Year. The change must be posted in the clubhouse. A change of date may be applied to a Single, Main, Alternative or Dual Day.

11. Caddies

- a) Competitors in the SGL Women’s Medals must not engage as a caddie any Professional or Assistant Professional golfer. Penalty for breach – disqualification.
- b) The Committee may not make any other Condition of Competition regarding caddies for the SGL Women’s Medal Competitions; a Committee is entitled, however, to make a decision in terms of the Note to Rule 6-4 of the Rules of Golf in respect of any club competition run alongside the SGL Women’s Medal Competition.

12. Juniors

Any club that does not allow a female junior member who is eligible to compete in (subject to Clause 4) and win SGL Women’s Medal Competitions shall not be entitled to receive a Silver and Bronze Medal. In addition, the club cannot be represented at the Medal Finals in the following year.

13. Regional Finals

The winners of the Silver and Bronze Medals at each club are eligible to play in a Regional Final of their choice. An 18 hole stroke play competition shall be played on one day. Ties shall be decided on a card countback over the final 9, 6, 3 or 1 hole(s). If a tie still arises, the last 6, 3 or 1 hole(s) of the first 9 holes will be used. If no decision is reached, the Committee shall make a final decision.

Entries shall be limited to 60 silver and 60 bronze players at each venue and shall be allocated on a first come first served basis. Entries must be received at the SGL Office by the closing date on the official entry form. No substitutes shall be allowed. Six players from each of the silver and bronze sections at each qualifying venue shall qualify for the Grand Final:

Where a player who has qualified for the Grand Final is unable to play, the next placed player in the section will be invited to play.

14. Grand Final

An 18 hole stroke play competition shall be played on one day. Ties shall be decided on a card countback over the final 9, 6, 3 or 1 hole(s). If a tie still arises, the last 6, 3 or 1 hole(s) of the first 9 holes will be used. If no decision is reached, the Committee shall make a final decision.

15. FAQ’s

A list of frequently asked questions are available on website <https://www.scottishgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/FAQ-Womens-Medal-Final.pdf>.