

CONSTITUTION OF THE DOWNSHIRE GOLF CLUB

First revision 5th April 1977
Second revision 27th January 1983
Third revision 4th February 1988
Fourth revision 23rd February 1993
Fifth revision 20th February 1996
Sixth revision 23rd December 1999
Seventh Revision 20th January 2010

1. Title

- "The Downshire Golf Club" hereafter referred to as the Club.

2. Objects of the Club

- To bring together persons interested in the game of golf as governed by the Royal and Ancient Rules of Golf, to allocate handicaps, to arrange golf competitions and matches on the course known as the "Downshire Golf Course", or other courses as applicable.

3. Membership

- Membership of the Club shall be open to any person meeting the requirements laid down in Rule 7.

4. Officers of the Club

- The officers of the Club shall consist of the President, Captain, Vice Captain, Secretary and Treasurer. Vice Presidents may be appointed as considered necessary. No member of the Club, in anyone year, shall be elected to hold more than one position as an Officer of the Club.

5. Management of the Club

- The management of the Club shall be in the hands of the Committee. The Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Club, plus six other members elected from the Club. The Committee shall have full powers for carrying on the affairs of the Club, including powers to appoint Sub-Committees and to adjust the size of the Committee as necessary.
- The Club shall not make a distribution of any surpluses save to another non-profit making body on its winding up or dissolution.

6. Election of Officers and Committee

- The election of Officers and members of the Committee shall take place at the Annual General Meeting, in the following manner, viz.:
 - Any two members of the Club shall be at liberty to nominate a Captain or any other Officer, and as many members as there are vacancies to serve on the Committee, having previously received the assent of the members so nominated. The name of each member so nominated shall be sent in writing to the Secretary fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.
- The Secretary shall affix a list of names in alphabetical order to the Notice board of the Club ten days before the Annual General Meeting. If the number of members nominated is sufficient to fill the vacancies, the election shall be by a show of hands. If the number of members nominated for any office or for membership of the Committee is more than sufficient to fill the vacancies, the election shall be by a ballot in the following manner, viz.:
 - Every member present will be given a ballot paper with a printed list of nominations. Each member voting must vote for not more candidates than there are vacancies, otherwise the ballot paper will be invalid.
- In case there shall not be a sufficient number of candidates, nominated members of the Committee already elected shall fill up the remaining vacancies.
- The Committee shall have the power to co-opt any member onto the Committee and each co-opted member shall be a member of the Committee only until the next Annual General Meeting. No Committee member shall serve longer than three years without being re-elected at an Annual General Meeting.

7. Election of Members

- Election of candidates for membership shall be vested in the Committee. The candidate, on election, shall not be considered as a member until the first subscription has been paid, by payment of which the member binds himself to submit to the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Club.

- Members shall be subject to annual re-election.
- In the event of a limitation of membership as may be laid down by the Committee from time to time, being exceeded, further applications for consideration of election to vacancies as they occur, will be by invitation of the Committee only.

8. Non-Payment of Subscriptions

- All annual subscriptions shall become due on the first day of January in each year. Any member whose subscription is not paid by the last day of March shall cease to be a member and his name shall be erased from the list of membership.

9. Qualification

- Only full members shall be eligible to be Officers of the Club, to act on the Committee and to vote at Annual General Meetings.

10. Resigning

- Any member intending to resign his membership of the Club should give notice to the Secretary, on or before the first day of March otherwise his membership shall be regarded as in Rule 8.

11. Expulsion

- To expel a member from the Club, it shall be necessary that notice be sent to the Secretary signed by three members acquainting him with the circumstances that have given rise to such notice. The Secretary shall then communicate with such member (so that he may have the opportunity of explaining or withdrawing from the Club) and shall call a meeting' of the Committee who shall decide the question after giving an opportunity to both parties to state their views.
- A two-thirds majority of votes shall expel. Any member so expelled shall have the right to appeal to an Extraordinary General Meeting to be summoned within twenty-one days of the decision of the Committee, when a two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be required to confirm their action.

12. General Meeting

- The Financial year shall close on the last day of September. The Annual General Meeting may be held at any time deemed necessary by the Committee but no later than the following November.
- The Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting when any matter of importance shall occur and shall be bound to do so forthwith on receiving a requisition signed by ten members of the Club or by a member appealing under Rule 11.
- At least twenty-one days notice of any General Meeting specifying the day, place and hour of the meeting, shall be sent to every member by letter.
- In order to constitute a quorum, there shall be at least twenty-five members present. If within fifteen minutes from the time appointed for a General Meeting a quorum of members are not present, the Meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, shall be dissolved.

13. Committee Meetings

- Committee Meetings shall be held at such times as deemed desirable by the Captain or Secretary. Six Committee members are required to form a quorum.

14. Chairman

- At all Committee Meetings the Captain of the Club, shall be the Chairman, in his absence the Vice-Captain, and in his absence the Secretary; in the absence of all three, a member elected by the Meeting. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.

15. Bye-Laws

- The Committee shall be empowered to make, cancel or alter the Bye-Laws.

16. Constitution

- No item of the Constitution shall be repealed or altered and no new rule made except by two-thirds majority at a General Meeting, after seven days notice of such intended repeal, alteration, or addition has been posted in the Clubhouse.

17. Rules of Golf

- The rules of the game of Golf shall be those adopted from time to time by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, so far as applicable and the Club Local Rules. The Committee are empowered to decide all questions arising on these rules and their decision shall be final.