

## 1. INTRODUCTION

All EWGA Medal Competitions are Qualifying Competitions for handicap purposes, as defined in the CONGU Unified Handicapping System and must be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A Rules Limited and with Local Rules and Bye-laws of the club which must not contravene any Regulation of the English Women's Golf Association.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

**AFFILIATED CLUB** – A golf club affiliated to the English Women's Golf Association

**CLUB COMMITTEE** – The Committee responsible for the course including, where appropriate, the Committee of the Ladies' Section where the management of the club and its course is entirely in the hands of the Committee of the Ladies' Section.

**COMMITTEE** – The Committee of the Ladies' Section of an affiliated club.

**EWGA YEAR** – For affiliated clubs in England, the period commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January and ending 31 December each year.

**MARKER** – A marker is one who is acceptable to the Committee to record a competitor's score in stroke play.

**PLAYING MEMBER** – A member of an affiliated club who is eligible to hold an active CONGU handicap.

## 3. EWGA MEDALS

The English Women's Golf Association will award a memento to each affiliated club to be presented to the player with the best four nett medal scores over the EWGA year.

The memento will be issued by EWGA every August to be presented at the end of December.

## 4. NUMBER OF EWGA MEDAL COMPETITIONS

The Committee must run a minimum of four and up to twenty-four stroke play competitions for the EWGA Medal awarded annually to each affiliated club. Any, or all, of these competitions may be played in conjunction with a club stroke play competition, as authorised by the Committee.

## 5. QUALIFICATIONS

5.1 All playing members, including junior members, with an **active** CONGU Handicap are eligible to compete and win.

5.2 A playing member belonging to more than one affiliated club may compete in EWGA Medal Competitions held at each of these clubs and may play for two medals on the same day, provided they are not played on the same course. But she may only compete in one Regional Final.

Committees may not make a condition requiring a minimum number of scores to be returned before a member is eligible to compete in a EWGA Medal Competition.

## **6. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

### **6.1 Registering Intention to Compete**

On the day of a EWGA Medal Competition a player must register her intention to compete by ensuring that her entry has been inserted in the competition entry book/list, manually or by computer as required by the Committee in the Conditions of Competition. If she fails to do so she is deemed not to have entered the competition and her score does not count for the competition or for handicap purposes.

### **6.2 Minimum number of entries**

Should only one player enter the competition her score must be recorded and count for EWGA Medal purposes. If no player enters the competition the EWGA Medal Competition will be deemed to have taken place unless Regulation 10 applies.

### **6.3 Buggies may be used in EWGA Medals provided that the club permits their use.**

There shall be no compulsory draw or entry fee for players competing in the EWGA Medal Competitions only, but the Committee may make its own conditions regarding draws, starting times and entry fees for any competitions played in conjunction with EWGA Medal Competitions.

## **7. MARKING OF SCORES**

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

## **8. MORE THAN ONE COURSE**

Where a club has more than one course, the EWGA Medal Competitions need not all be played on the same course, provided that all competitors play the same course in any one competition.

## **9. FIXING OF DATES**

The dates of the EWGA Medal Competitions (minimum of four and maximum of 24) at each affiliated club shall be fixed by the beginning of the EWGA year.

## **10. CHANGE OF DATE**

10.1 The date of a EWGA Medal Competition may only be altered should the course be pronounced unavailable by the Club Committee, or if the Committee or its authorised representative considers that for any reason the course is not in a playable condition, or that there are circumstances which render the proper playing of the game impossible (Rules of Golf 33-2d).

10.2 If more than two temporary greens are in use on the day of a EWGA Medal Competition, the scores will not count for handicap purposes. The EWGA Medal Competition must be postponed or cancelled. If circumstances permit a new date may be arranged.

10.3 The new date must be within two calendar months of the date originally fixed and within the same EWGA year and must be posted in the clubhouse.

## **11. WINNER OF THE EWGA CLUB MEDAL**

The EWGA Medal will be played for annually. The winner will be the player who returns the lowest aggregate of four nett scores in EWGA Medal Competitions from 1 January to 31 December. Where more than one course has been used the aggregate score shall be calculated as the aggregate of the nett differentials between the standard scratch score and the nett score returned. If two or more competitors tie, the winner shall be decided on the nett score of the last 9, 6, 3 and 1 hole(s) of all four cards added together. If still a tie, decision shall be by play-off over eighteen holes on current playing handicap.

The Handicap Secretary shall issue to the winner of the Medal a memento and certificate, supplied by English Women's Golf Association on which should be stated the winner's name and club. The entry forms for all six regional finals which will detail all the venues and dates will also be distributed to all affiliated clubs in August.

#### **12. EWGA REGIONAL MEDAL FINALS**

The winner from each affiliated club will be eligible to compete in her EWGA Regional Medal Final. There are 100 places available in each Regional Medal Final and places will be awarded to the top 100 nett differentials in each region. If over-subscribed there will be a waiting list. Each Regional Medal Final will consist of 18 holes of stroke play. Only the winner of the EWGA Club Medal is permitted to play in the EWGA Regional Medal Final, no substitutions are allowed.

#### **13. EWGA GRAND MEDAL FINAL**

The EWGA Grand Medal Final will be played in June each year. The top 10 best nett scores in each Regional Final will automatically qualify for the Grand Medal Final.

The Grand Medal Final will consist of 18 holes of stroke play.

**Any club which does not permit a junior member with an active CONGU handicap to compete in and win EWGA Medal Competitions shall not be entitled to receive the EWGA Medal winner's memento.**

Please note the LGU will not be issuing an LGU Pendant Medal from 2009 onwards.

## ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION



### EWGA Medal Competitions

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### FORMAT

- Q) Do you have to have a handicap to play in EWGA Medals?  
A) Yes. In order to compete in EWGA Medal Competitions a player must hold an **active CONGU handicap**.
- Q) How many medals can we play each year and can we play more than one a month?  
A) The Committee may run a minimum of four and up to a maximum of 24 EWGA Medals annually. It is permissible for clubs to run more than one EWGA medal per month.
- Q) If my club has 36 holes, must all EWGA medals be played on the same course?  
A) No. Where a club has more than one course, the EWGA Medal competitions need not all be played on the same course, provided that all competitors play the same course in any one competition.
- Q) Why remove Alternate Days?  
A) EWGA want to encourage clubs to have medal days. Each medal is a separate competition. Anyone can play on any medal day, without signing up a week in advance.
- Q) Is it permissible for a male, junior or other such person to act as a marker?  
A) Yes, as long as the person is acceptable to the Committee.
- Q) Must we play in two balls?  
A) No, you can play in two, three or four balls.
- Q) Can the Committee restrict us to playing in the EWGA Medal at a certain time of day?  
A) No, there will be no compulsory draw or entry fee for EWGA Medals. If a player wishes to play in the EWGA Medal, they should be permitted to play at any time when the course is available to them. However, the Committee may make its own conditions for any competition played in conjunction with the EWGA Medals.
- Q) Can a club run EWGA medals over two days?  
A) No. If a club holds a club competition over 2 days and awards a prize the winner is still the best nett score of the two days. If the club run an EWGA medal in conjunction with each day, they are both stand alone competitions for which there is no prize but the club award the prize for the club competition.

#### COURSE CONDITIONS

- Q) Can a EWGA Medal be played on temporary greens?  
A) Yes, as long as there are no more than two temporary greens in use. See Clause 13. Permitted adjustment to a measured course, page 26, CONGU UHS, manual 2008 - 2011.

- Q) Can we play EWGA Medals using preferred lies?**  
**A)** Yes, preferred lies may be used between 1 October and 30 April. Outside that period Competition Play Conditions will not apply if preferred lies are in operation, unless the consent of the Union/Area Authority has been first obtained. See Clause 15. Preferred Lies, pages 27-28, CONGU UHS, manual 2008 – 2011.
- Q) Can the Committee declare an EWGA Medal a non-qualifying competition for whatever reason, for example, if the weather was bad?**  
**A)** No, you cannot make an EWGA Medal a non-qualifying competition. See Clause 17. Qualifying Scores/Qualifying Competitions, page 31-33, CONGU UHS, manual 2008 – 2011.

### SCHEDULING OF DATES/POSTPONMENT

- Q) Can the Committee change the already published date of an EWGA Medal at short notice?**  
**A)** Although not advisable, under exceptional circumstances, some clubs may have to change the dates of EWGA Medals at short notice. When this occurs the Committee should notify the members accordingly.
- Q) How long do we have to re-arrange a cancelled EWGA Medal?**  
**A)** The EWGA recommends that every effort is made to arrange a new date as soon as possible. However, clubs do have up to two months to set a new date as long as it is within the EWGA year (1 January to 31 December).
- Q) My club are having difficulty in obtaining more tee time slots at the weekend for more ladies to play?**  
**A)** Some clubs will have difficulty in obtaining more tee times at weekends so why not introduce a system of priority booking which would give your weekend ladies first call on available spaces. If the spaces were not all filled some weekday ladies might be very happy to play an extra medal. Other clubs may not have this problem and it will encourage more competitive golf.
- Q) We only play medals during April & October, is that ok?**  
**A)** Yes, again you can set as many medal days as you want between April and October as long as you do not exceed 24 medals each year.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Q) Prior to play, must I sign a book or sheet on the day of the Competition?**  
**A)** A player must register her intention to compete on the day, in the manner indicated by the conditions of the competition, before she commences her round. If she fails to do so she is deemed not to have entered the competition and her score does not count for the competition or for handicap purposes. See Clause 8.6, Responsibilities of the Player, page 20, CONGU UHS, manual 2008 – 2011.
- Q) Do you have to pay to enter an EWGA Medal?**  
**A)** No, there is no entry fee for an EWGA Medal but you may have to pay to enter the club competition played in conjunction with it.
- Q) When am I considered to have entered an EWGA Medal?**  
**A)** A player is only considered to have entered an EWGA Medal when she has registered her intention to compete on the day of the Medal.

- Q) **A player signed the book on the day then decided not to play. Has she recorded a No Return?**  
A) No, a player can only record a No Return after playing a stroke on the course and thus commencing her medal round.
- Q) **If I am a member of two clubs can I compete in two EWGA Medals?**  
A) Yes, a playing member belonging to more than one Affiliated Club may compete in the EWGA Medal competitions held at each of these clubs.
- Q) **Can we play more than 2 medals per month?**  
A) Yes, as a club you can set as many medal days as you want as long as you do not exceed 24 medals each year.

## PRIZES

- Q) **Does the EWGA provide prizes for each monthly medal?**  
A) No, each club must purchase their own mementos for the competition running in conjunction with the EWGA Medal.
- Q) **What prizes and medal information does EWGA send out and when can I expect to receive them? Are they free?**  
A) The EWGA provide the following items free of charge to each Affiliated club:  
  
Club Medal Winner's Certificate and Memento are sent out every August.  
Entry Forms, venues and dates for the Regional Medal Finals are also sent out every August.
- Q) **As each medal will now be separate the prize amounts will be considerably reduced?**  
A) Yes for example, if you only have 6 ladies' playing on a weekend and 60 playing in the week then the club prize for the weekend ladies' would not be worth much. Why not combine the two medal scores and award a club prize overall or combine all the scores from however many medals that are played during one month and award a monthly prize – something worth winning.
- Q) **We have a large ladies section and would normally award prizes in Silver & Bronze divisions, can we still do that?**  
A) Yes. As a club you can award whatever prizes you want. There are no entry fees for EWGA medals but clubs can set a fee which goes towards the club prize.

## REGIONAL MEDAL FINAL

- Q) **If the EWGA Club Medal Winner cannot compete in the Regional Final can the club send a replacement?**  
A) No, only the winner is permitted to play in the Regional Final.
- Q) **How do we resolve a tie for the EWGA Club Medal Winner?**  
A) If two or more competitors tie, the winner shall be decided on the nett score of the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 holes(s) of all four cards added together. If there is still a tie, the winner shall be decided by play-off over 18 holes on current playing handicap.

- Q) **The person who has won the EWGA Club Medal has left the club. Should she still be awarded the prize even though she is no longer a member?**
- A) As long as the lady still has an active CONGU handicap and you are happy for her to represent your club in the finals, there is no problem. She won the medal while she was a member and therefore, the result should stand.

### JUNIORS

- Q) **Can Juniors compete in EWGA Medals?**
- A) Yes. Juniors should be actively encouraged to play. A club, which does not permit a girl golfer who holds an active CONGU handicap to compete in and win EWGA Medal competitions, will not be sent the EWGA Club Winner's Memento and the club cannot be represented at the EWGA Regional Medal Final.

### TRANSPORTATION

- Q) **Can a player use a buggy when playing in EWGA Medals?**
- A) Yes, Buggies may be used in EWGA Medals providing the club permits their use.

### GENERAL

- Q) **Can I play in all medals fixed in the club diary after 31 January 2009?**
- A) Yes. If your club have enough tee times available any lady member can play on a medal day.
- Q) **Our club has 2 courses, can we run 24 medals on each course?**
- A) No, although the club is fortunate to have 2 courses you can only run 24 medals each year. It is up to the club to decide how many medals you have on each course.
- Q) **Can you use Distance Measuring Devices in EWGA Medals?**
- A) Yes, providing there is a local rule in place allowing the use of DMDs.

### ACTIVE/INACTIVE HANDICAPS

- Q) **Do you have to have a CONGU handicap to play in EWGA Medals?**
- A) Yes. In order to compete in EWGA Medal Competitions a player must hold an **active CONGU handicap**.
- Q) **I have an inactive handicap, can I play with someone who is competing in an EWGA medal and I will put in a supplementary score?**
- A) Yes if your club permits you to mark the card. Your card would not be included in the calculation of the CSS but it will count towards your 3 cards to get your active status back.
- Q) **My club run club medals in conjunction with EWGA medals. Players with inactive handicaps are allowed to play in club medals but not EWGA medals – how does that work with regard to the handicap software?**
- A) When loading this sort of competition into the computer, it should be referred to as a club medal and not an EWGA medal. The computer will accept all scores for this competition, including players with active and inactive handicaps. The best scores in the EWGA medal run in conjunction with the club medal will be sorted manually.

