

INTRODUCTION

The Caledonian League for Senior Golfers was initially formed in 2004 from an idea by Ken Wilburn. It took the form of six clubs from the areas of Angus, Fife and Perth and Kinross, namely, Balbirnie Park Golf Club; Downfield Golf Club; Gleneagles Golf Club; Kirriemuir Golf Club, Montrose Golf Club and the Dukes Golf Club.

In 2005 it was expanded to allow twelve clubs to play in two leagues and in 2006 it was decided to form an Executive Committee of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and League Co-ordinator to oversee the operation of the league, resulting in, amongst other things, the formation of the Caledonian League Constitution and Rules.

Such is the popularity of the Caledonian League, in 2014 it was agreed to increase the number of member clubs from twelve to twenty four, playing in four leagues of six. To ensure clubs would rotate annually it was agreed that a form of promotion/demotion would take place at the end of each season and the Executive Committee continues to operate the league to promote fellowship and friendly competition amongst the member clubs.

THE CALEDONIAN LEAGUE CONSTITUTION AND RULES

INTERPRETATION

In this constitution, where the context so admits and it is not otherwise expressly provided, the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine gender and the singular shall be deemed to include the plural.

1. OBJECTS

The objects of the Caledonian League are:

- (a) to promote fellowship amongst and between the senior members of the constituent clubs, and
- (b) to encourage friendly competition in matches between clubs in an annual golfing league.

2. MEMBERSHIP

1. The league shall be known as the Caledonian League.
2. All applications for membership of the league shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary, who shall confirm receipt of same and refer the application to the next general meeting of the league for approval as a suitable replacement. (New clause 2021)
3. All such approved applicants shall be listed in order of application and, in the event of a vacancy arising, invited in that order to replace the constituent club in its position in the league. (New clause 2021)
4. Wherever possible, a constituent club wishing to withdraw from membership of the league shall give notice to the Secretary of its intention not later than 31st August in any year to allow alternative arrangements to be made for the next season. (Amended 2021)
5. All applicant and constituent clubs shall own, lease or otherwise have the rights to play on an 18-hole golf course, complete with the facilities for pre- and post-match hospitality. (New clause 2021)
6. Players eligible to play in league matches shall be members of the constituent clubs who are over fifty years old and have a world handicap index, with a maximum course handicap allowance of 28. (Amended 2016, 2019 & 2021)

3. LEAGUE FORMAT

1. The league shall comprise twenty-four golf clubs, arranged in four divisions, each division not exceeding six clubs in number. (Amended 2014)

2. Each club shall play ten matches in its respective division, five at home and five away, generally at fortnightly intervals over the season, starting in April/May and ending in August. (Amended 2016)

3 (a) In course of a match, if any putting green is or becomes unplayable, the hole shall be halved. If more than two putting greens are or become unplayable, all games so affected shall not be completed. (Amended 2010)

3 (b) If, due to inclement weather or other unforeseeable circumstance a match is not started or has to be abandoned before four games have been completed, then both clubs shall agree to rearrange and play the match as soon as possible thereafter on a mutually convenient date and time, no later than 21 days prior to the date of presentation of the trophies. (In this regard, the home club shall offer three alternative dates and inform the League Coordinator of the agreed rescheduled date. Failure of the home club to offer alternative dates or of either club to agree a rescheduled date shall result in the match being forfeited by the offending club.) If, due to the above reasons, a match has to be abandoned after four games have been completed then the match shall be deemed to have been completed and the result reported to the League Coordinator in accordance with Clause 5.1. Failure of a club to appear at a scheduled match prior to the agreed tee off time shall result in the match being forfeited by the offending club. (Amended 2008 & 2016)

4. The clubs with the highest points total in each of the divisions at the end of the season shall receive a trophy. Trophies shall normally be presented at an end-of-season event, with two players attending from each club, to be held at an agreed venue.

5. To ensure the greatest possible mix of the twenty-four clubs meeting in competition over the years, the composition of the divisions shall change every year with the two clubs having the lowest points totals at the end of the season in Divisions A, B, C and D being exchanged with the two clubs having the highest points totals in Divisions B, C, D and A respectively, for the start of the new season. (Amended 2014 & 2016)

6. To determine the Caledonian League Champions of the year, the 4 Divisional winners shall take part in an annual end of season competition during the first three weeks of September, with 2 semi-finals between the 4 Divisional winners (Division A v Division C and Division B v Division D) and a final, all played with teams of 12 members: the semi-finals to be played on a date agreed between the two teams, no later than one week prior to the date of the final, with three 4 ball games taking place at each of the respective clubs' courses: games 1, 3 & 5 at the winners of Division A & B and games 2, 4 & 6 at the winners of Division C & D. The date and venue of the final shall be arranged by the Executive Committee. In the event of any of the matches finishing in a tie, the winner shall be the team with the higher aggregate of holes up in all six games. The format of the matches otherwise will be all in accordance with the relevant approved rules. (Amended 2016 & 2021)

7. The home team shall be responsible for the cost of hospitality to the visiting team, including rolls and coffee on arrival, free use of the course and high tea or similar after the match. In the event of a match having to be replayed, the additional costs of catering shall be shared equally by both clubs. Generally, dress at the meal shall be *smart casual*, unless otherwise agreed by the team captains. (Amended 2010 & 2021)

4. MATCH FORMAT

1. All matches shall be played between teams of twelve members competing in six 4-ball better ball games. Teams shall be selected in ascending handicap order. The home club shall decide the order of play. (Amended 2007)

2. In the event of any team being incomplete (i.e. with less than twelve members) every effort shall be made, by agreement between the team captains, to ensure that all members present take part in the match.

3. Match tees shall be a single tee, decided by the home club. All players shall take their course handicaps for the match tees from the home club's course and slope rating table and, having reduced their handicap to 90% of the course handicap, with 0.5 and above being rounded up, each handicap shall be adjusted so the lowest handicap plays off scratch (zero). Strokes shall be taken in accordance with the index for the course as stated on the course scorecard. (Amended 2009, 2016, 2021 and 2022)

4. One point shall be gained for each game won and a half point for each game drawn.

5. Notwithstanding when the game is won, players may agree to play on and finish on the 18th green.

5. SCORING

1. The home club shall be responsible for reporting match results to the League Co-ordinator by telephone or email, specifying the game points won by each club, within 48 hours of a match.

2. The League Co-ordinator shall award two points to a match winning team and one to each team in a halved match.

3. The League Co-ordinator shall maintain records of all matches played, games points, match results and points and positions within each division, and circulate details on a regular basis to the nominated representatives of the constituent clubs or via the League website. (Amended 2021)

4. Should the end-of-season match point totals of two or more clubs in any division be equal, the final positions shall be decided by the total of game points won by the clubs. In the event of the clubs still being tied, the winner shall be the club with the highest number of match

points won away from home, and if still equal, the number of away game points won.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Each constituent club shall nominate up to two representatives to attend general meetings of the league as required.

2. There shall be at least one general meeting per annum, fixed to take place not later than six months from the last match of the season.

3. Club representatives shall be given not less than 21 clear days' notice of a general meeting, in writing by email or letter.

4. The Chairman shall preside at all general meetings, in whose absence the Vice Chairman, and in the absence of both, a Committee Member by agreement of those present.

5. The quorum necessary at the start of a general meeting shall be not less than 16 constituent clubs represented. Should there be less than 16 present, those present shall fix the time and place of another meeting. (Amended 2014)

6. Each constituent club shall have one vote. All decisions shall be made by a simple majority of votes of club representatives present and, in the case of a tied vote only, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. Proxy votes shall not be accepted.

7. Any amendments to the Constitution and Rules shall be made at the annual general meeting or a special general meeting called for this purpose. In this regard, proposed amendments must be notified to the Secretary in writing not later than 7 days prior to the meeting to allow for proper notice to be given.

8. The agenda for a general meeting shall include the following:

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the previous meeting

Chairman's report

Any other reports

Adjustments to membership

Notices of motion

Approval of Constitution and Rules

Elections to Committee

9. Nominations to stand for election to the committee, with the names of those proposing and seconding, shall be delivered to the Secretary no later than the stated start time of the annual general meeting. Should there be no nominations for any or all posts, the Chairman may accept nominations during the course of the meeting.

7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A special general meeting shall be called if the executive committee so determines, or if 8 constituent clubs so request by notice in writing, signed by them all and submitted to the Secretary, specifying the resolution. (Amended 2014)

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The executive committee shall have a maximum of 4 posts, comprising the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and League Co-ordinator.

2. The committee shall be charged with managing the affairs of the league between annual general meetings, including: arranging the dates for fixtures and meetings; preparing and issuing fixture lists; interpreting the rules as and when required and generally resolving any issues arising. The committee's decisions (which shall be final) shall be communicated to the constituent clubs in writing.