

**PITCH AND PUTT IRELAND**

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# **Constitution**

## **March 2024**

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**Pitch and Putt**  
**Ireland**

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**Irish Sport HQ**  
**Dublin**

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**CONSTITUTION OF PITCH AND PUTT IRELAND AS  
AMENDED AT ANNUAL CONVENTION 24<sup>th</sup> February  
2024**

**Effective from 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

***Pitch and Putt Ireland***  
***Teilgin agus Amais Éireann***

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**Name:** The name of the Organisation is Pitch and Putt Ireland

**Objectives:**

The objectives of the Organisation are to: -

- 1): To develop, foster and control Amateur Pitch and Putt in Ireland.
- 2): To actively encourage participation in our sport by all sections of society and to oppose any form of discrimination as identified within the nine grounds for discrimination, which are listed in the Equal Status Acts 2000 – 2018.  
(The nine grounds for discrimination are as follows: gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, and membership of the Traveller community)

**Composition**

The Organisation is composed of Clubs, County/Regional Boards and a National Executive Council.

The management of the Organisation is vested in Management: County/Regional Boards and the National Executive Council.

## **PART I: CLUBS**

1. Application for affiliation or renewal of affiliation to Pitch and Putt Ireland shall be made to the National Executive Council (NEC) on the prescribed form. The NEC shall immediately advise the County/Regional Board concerned.
2. A County/Regional Board may object to any application or renewal of affiliation within 28 days of the receipt of notification from the NEC.
3. A Club shall consist of a Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, together with at least twelve adult members. The officers and all members shall be registered in accordance with Section 59 of the Constitution.
4. Clubs renewing affiliation shall forward a list of their officers for the forthcoming season together with the affiliation fee.
5. Affiliation of a club not affiliated during the year preceding application may be refused without assigning a reason.
6. Renewal of affiliation of a club, affiliated in the preceding year, may be refused, but the club may appeal, in accordance with Sections 13 – 15A of the Constitution.
7. A club, if requested by its immediate governing body or the NEC, shall furnish any or all its records (non-Financial) for inspection by a duly authorised official of the governing body that has issued the request.
- 8.1 A club shall provide and maintain a course suitable for the playing of Pitch and Putt and make it available for inspection by a duly authorised official of the Organisation.
- 8.2 A basic requirement of a club not having sole full-time occupation of a course shall be that it has, by formal agreement, regular and exclusive use of a course (which conforms with the specifications prescribed) for fixed periods.

- 8.3 (i) The maximum distance from tee to green shall be 70 metres, measured from the forward edge of the teeing ground to the centre of the green.
- (ii) The total length of a course of 18 holes shall not exceed 1,000 metres, each hole being measured from the forward edge of the teeing ground to the centre of the green.
- (iii) The length of each hole must be marked accurately in metres at the tee post.
9. A club shall be held responsible for the conduct of its members as members of the Organisation and for the efficiency of the arrangements and conduct of tournaments held under its auspices. Officers of a club not operating in accordance with the Constitution or found in breach of the Rules of Play of Pitch and Putt Ireland shall be liable to suspension or such less punishment as the NEC may decide.
- 9.1 A club may apply to the NEC for the suspension or revocation of the registration of a member of their own Club, citing the grounds for such a suspension or revocation. The member may appeal this decision via the normal appeals mechanism.  
**NOTE: The NEC is the only body with the authority to withdraw a members Registration Card.**
- 9.2 A County/Regional Board may apply to the NEC for the suspension and/or revocation of a player's Registration Card, citing the grounds for such suspension and/or revocation. The player may appeal this decision via the normal appeals mechanism.  
**NOTE: The NEC is the only body with the authority to withdraw a members Registration Card.**
- 10.1 A club, or a member of a club, shall not assist in the promotion of, nor participate in, an open or sponsored tournament or competition not sanctioned by the appropriate governing body. Exceptions shall be members who compete in Business House events, provided that all those competing were at some stage on the one payroll AND play off their Pitch and Putt Ireland registered Handicap. An additional exception to be societies, non-affiliated clubs, and groups of such kind, provided that all those competing play off their Pitch and Putt Ireland registered handicap and no prizes or trophies are played for and accepted.

- 10.2 An open tournament or competition shall not be approved or if already approved, the approval shall be withdrawn if:
- (i) The promoting club or any associated sponsoring body, or person, refunds or proposes to refund or to disburse or to make any contribution to the travelling and/or accommodation expenses of players taking part
  - (ii) The tournament or competition is not under the control of a body of the Organisation.
  - (iii) A competitor is eligible to win more than one prize in any one competition.
11. A club organising an open tournament shall, before advertising the details of the programme, obtain the permission of and submit the proposed programme and draft publicity material and prize list to the immediate governing body for approval, and display a scoreboard during the competition.
- 12 Approval of open tournaments, the proceeds of which are not devoted to the objects of the Organisation, is reserved to the NEC.

## **APPEALS**

13. Every member, club, and governing body of the Organisation, suspended, expelled, or otherwise aggrieved shall have the right of appeal.
14. The order of appeal shall be to the Committee of First Appeal (COFA). Notice of appeal must be lodged with that body within 21 days.
15. An appeal against the decision of COFA may be appealed to the Appeals Panel. Procedures for appeals are as set out by the NEC and are available from Central Office.
- 15A. Following the Appeals Panel decision either of/or both the parties involved may seek to extend the dispute with Arbitration through Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI).

## **PART II: COUNTY/REGIONAL BOARDS**

- 16.1 A County/Regional Board may be formed where there are at least three affiliated clubs.

- 16.2 The NEC may permit the formation of Regional Boards.
- 16.3 The Constitution, power and duties of a Regional Board shall be the same as those of a County Board.
- 16.4 A Regional Board may be constituted by extending the geographical jurisdiction of an existing County Board.
17. At the formation of a County/Regional Board the following procedure shall be observed:
  - 17.1 A Convention of the clubs shall be ordered by the NEC.
  - 17.2 The President or some member authorised by him, shall preside at the Convention and each club may be represented thereat by two delegates.
  - 17.3 The Convention shall elect, by ballot, a Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and shall elect not less than two or more than five other individual officers.
  - 17.4 The officers so elected together with two representatives from each Club shall constitute the County/Regional Board.
  - 17.5 The Officers so elected shall be known as the Officer Board.
18. The quorum for a County/Regional Board shall be fixed at the Annual Convention.
19. When a County/Regional Board has been formed, the Honorary Secretary shall forward immediately to the Honorary Secretary of the NEC a list of the names and contact details of the officers, together with a list of the clubs forming that Board.
20. A County/Regional Board may draft and enact byelaws, provided that such byelaws are not opposed to or inconsistent with the Constitution and Rules of Play. A copy of such byelaws shall be forwarded immediately to the NEC for approval and registration, and such byelaws shall not be valid until so approved. Once approved, a copy of the byelaws will be sent immediately to the clubs concerned.
21. **A County/Regional Board may:**
  - 21.1 Organise County Championships.

- 21.2 Organise Inter Club and other local tournaments within the County.
- 21.3 Grant permits to clubs within the County/Region for open tournaments other than International, Inter Provincial, or Inter County.
- 21.4 Select representatives for the County in Inter County competitions.
- 21.5 Consider, examine, and decide upon any objection or complaint lodged by any club or member under its jurisdiction, subject to the provisions of Sections 13 to 15A of the Constitution.
- 21.6 Suspend or expel any member or club under its jurisdiction offending against the Constitution or the Rules of Play or the byelaws made under Section 20 of the Constitution but subject to the provisions of Section 13 to 15A of the Constitution.
- 21.7 Reinstate members and/or clubs suspended by them.
- 21.8 Enquire into the working of any club under its jurisdiction and order the necessary documents and records (non-Financial) to be produced for examination at such inquiry if required.
- 21.9 Appoint any sub-committee it may deem necessary.
- 21.10 Organise Under 16's Championships, which shall be open to members who shall not have attained their sixteenth birthday on the date of entry.
22. A County/Regional Board shall furnish, on demand, any or all its records for inspection by a duly authorised official of the NEC.



### PART III: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

23. The management body of Pitch & Putt Ireland shall be known as the National Executive Council (NEC).  
Membership of the National Executive Council (NEC) shall reflect gender diversity objectives as outlined in the Government's National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027 with specific regard to Objective 1, Leadership & Governance Objectives of Sport Ireland's "Women In Sport Policy 2023" document.  
The NEC shall consist of officer positions and will also if required consist of non-portfolio positions.  
The National Executive Council (NEC) shall consist of the following officer positions;  
President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, National Competition Co-ordinator, Leinster/Ulster Competition Co-ordinator, Munster/Connacht Competition Co-ordinator, Communication and Press Officer, Ladies Officer, Technical Officer and Youth Officer. These officer positions shall be elected at the Annual Convention of the organisation.  
Non-portfolio positions (if required) will be appointed by the National Executive Council (NEC) annually.  
**Note: The National Children's Officer will be appointed by the NEC annually and may, or may not be a member of the NEC, but will have complete access to the NEC.**
- 23.1 Duties: The NEC is responsible for promoting, developing, and managing Pitch & Putt in Ireland.
- 23.2 It is responsible for developing Organisation policies and programmes.
- 23.3 It is responsible for arbitrating and ruling on all questions regarding Rules of Play and Handicaps in competitions. It is responsible for running National and Provincial Championships and Competitions. The NEC shall designate courses and dates and carry out the arrangements for the conduct of National and Provincial Championships, together with International, Inter-Provincial, and any other Competitions, which will rightly come under their jurisdiction.  
Amongst other matters it shall: -
- (i) Fix the last date for the receipt of entries
  - (ii) Decide the date, venue, and time of draw
  - (iii) Decide the procedure for the draw
  - (iv) Fix the time for the start of play, and, where necessary, the

- order of play
- (v) Publish the details of the draw and the results of the Competition in the Media
  - (vi) Forward the draw sheet to the Club staging the event
  - (vii) Inspect the course not later than 30 days before the Final of the competition, and make such arrangements for the playing of the competition as it may determine on the basis of the inspection.
24. The NEC shall meet at least once in each period of three months.
25. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the NEC. Should both be absent, the NEC shall appoint a member to act as Chairman.
26. The NEC may appoint Select Committees. Should the NEC not designate a Chairman, the Select Committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members at its first meeting. Any member or members of the Organisation may be appointed to serve on a Select Committee.
27. The NEC may fine, suspend, expel, or dissolve any County/Regional Board or Club and may direct the appointment of another body in place of such dissolved or expelled bodies. It may expel or suspend any Member of the Organisation offending against the Constitution, the Rules of Play or byelaws made in accordance with the Rules. It may reinstate suspended members or bodies.
28. The NEC may inquire into and examine the working of any County/Regional Board or Club, and order that all the necessary records and documents be produced at such inquiry. In the case of a Club all necessary records and documents except financial be produced at such an inquiry.
- 29.1 The NEC shall arrange and conduct National Championships for Ladies, Gents and Juveniles. International and Inter Provincial tournaments and shall arrange such other tournaments as it may deem desirable.
- 29.2 At an appropriate meeting each year, the NEC shall fix dates and venues for the National Championships 2 years in advance.

30. The NEC may at any time summon an Extraordinary Convention of the Organisation, or any County/Regional Board in accordance with Section 55.
31. The NEC shall select or otherwise arrange for the selection of individuals or teams to represent Ireland in International competitions.
32. Permission to hold International competitions/tournaments or Inter Provincial competitions/tournaments shall be granted only by the NEC. Applications for such tournaments shall be addressed to the Hon. Secretary Pitch and Putt Ireland.
33. The NEC may enact byelaws, provided such byelaws are not opposed to, or inconsistent with the Constitution and Rules of Play. It is further empowered to give a ruling on any matter pertaining to the Constitution and Rules of the Organisation, which may be referred to it.
34. The quorum for a meeting of the NEC shall be fixed at the Annual Convention of the Organisation.

### **OFFICERS GENERALLY**

35. The Officers of the Organisation may, but only by direction of the NEC or on the invitation of the Chairman of the subsidiary body concerned, attend the meeting of any body of the Organisation but shall not vote.
36. Any officer or representative of any body of the Organisation, who, without reasonable cause, absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the body concerned, shall be deemed to have resigned from his office. The appropriate body shall fill the vacancy by co-option or as it may otherwise determine.
  - 36.1 Persons who abuse officers in the course of their duties shall be liable to expulsion or suspension from the Organisation.
  - 36.2 Publicity material of any kind must bear the name of Pitch and Putt Ireland.
- 37.1 The term of office of officers of the NEC shall be one year. The term of office of the NEC for those appointed in a non-portfolio capacity shall not exceed 1 year. A person holding the position of President shall be elected for a three-year

term and shall be eligible to serve two successive terms.

- 37.2 The President shall not hold a position as an officer of a lower governing body.
- 37.3 The term of office of officers of a County/Regional Board shall be one year.
38. The NEC may designate Patrons. The number of persons so designated shall be limited to not more than three from any one Province at any one time. The designation, which shall be recognition of outstanding service to the Organisation or the Game, is renewable annually on the recommendation of the NEC at the Organisation's Convention. The NEC will consult with the County/Regional Boards in the relevant Province prior to any designation.
39. In the case of equality of vote on any motion at a meeting or convention of any governing body of the Organisation, the member presiding shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative one.

### **RECORDS AND RETURNS**

40. The proceedings of every meeting of a body, committee, or sub-committee shall be recorded in a Minute Book kept for that purpose. The Minutes, as recorded, shall be produced, and read at the next succeeding meeting and when adopted with or without amendment, shall be signed by the Chairman.
41. In order that the records of the various bodies may be kept up to date, each officer concerned shall ensure that the necessary information is transmitted, without delay, to the corresponding officer of the superior or subordinate bodies.

### **PART IV: FINANCE**

42. An Affiliation fee for each Club is payable on acceptance or renewal of membership to Pitch and Putt Ireland. Renewal is payable annually on or before 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- 43.1 No person may incur expense on behalf of any body of the Organisation without the express sanction of the body concerned.

- 43.2 Officers and representatives required to travel on Organisation business may be reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses by the appropriate governing body subject to:
- (i) The financial exigencies of the body
  - (ii) Such payment shall not exceed a scale prescribed by the NEC
44. The annual accounts of the governing bodies of the Organisation shall be made up as at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of each year.
45. The Hon. Treasurer of each County/Regional Board shall furnish to the Hon. Treasurer of the NEC an audited statement of accounts within seven days following the date of the Convention of the lower body.
46. The Hon. Treasurer of the Organisation shall present a report on the financial condition of Pitch and Putt Ireland and shall furnish an audited Balance Sheet to the Annual Convention of the Organisation.

#### **PART V: ANNUAL CONVENTION OF PITCH and PUTT IRELAND and COUNTY/REGIONAL BOARDS**

47. The Annual Convention of a County/Regional Board shall be held not later than the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and of Pitch and Putt Ireland not later than the 28<sup>th</sup> of February of each year. To have voting rights at Conventions, a Club and members attending shall be Affiliated and Registered not later than 19 clear days before the date thereof. If necessitated, NEC and County/Regional Board AGM/meetings may take place virtually.
- 48.1 Notices of motion of matter to be raised at a Convention and nominations for officers of the NEC and Boards shall be forwarded by post or E-mail to reach the Hon. Secretary of the body concerned not later than 19 clear days before the date thereof.
- 48.2 Motions will be accepted for inclusion in the agenda only from bodies entitled to be represented or officers of the body whose convention is being held.
- 48.3 Motions for amendments to this Constitution will be accepted only for the Agenda of the Conventions to be held in 2013, and each succeeding year thereafter. The NEC shall have

the right to propose amendment of the fees for affiliation at any Convention of the Organisation.

49. A copy of Notices of Motion shall be forwarded by post or E-mail to each body entitled to representation not later than 12 days prior to the date of the Convention.
50. The Annual Convention of a County/Regional Board shall consist of the officers of the Board together with two representatives of each club properly affiliated.
51. The Annual Convention of the Organisation shall consist of the officers of the NEC, three representatives of each County/Regional Board, and one representative from each Club properly affiliated.
52. The Agenda for Annual Conventions shall be as follows: -
  - 52.1 Examine the credentials of those present who shall have signed the attendance roll. Credentials of club representatives shall be in writing signed by the Club Chairman or Secretary.
  - 52.2 President's/Chairman's Address
  - 52.3 Confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual Convention.
  - 52.4 Receive the Hon. Secretary's Report.
  - 52.5 Receive the Hon. Treasurer's Report.
  - 52.6 Receive all other Officers reports.
  - 52.7 Elect Honorary Officers for the ensuing year.
  - 52.8 If desired, nominate persons for office on a higher governing body.
  - 52.9 Confirm election of Patrons (Organisation Convention only).
  - 52.10 Elect representatives to the next higher governing body for the ensuing year.
  - 52.11 Elect Auditor(s) for the ensuing year.
  - 52.12 Fix a quorum for the meetings of the Board or NEC.

- 52.13 Deal with any motions or other special business properly before the Convention
53. The Officers of the outgoing Board or NEC shall hold office until the conclusion of the business of the Annual Convention.

### **VOTING**

- 54.1 Voting on motions at Conventions or meetings shall be by ballot or show of hands as determined by the Chairman. Voting for the election of officers shall be by secret ballot.
- 54.2 A candidate receiving a clear majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. Should no candidate receive such a majority the Chairman shall eliminate the candidate(s) receiving least number of votes and direct a further ballot(s). In the event of equality of voting between two remaining candidates the Chairman shall draw lots.
- 54.3 No person may attend or vote at any Convention or meeting in more than one capacity.

### **EXTRAORDINARY CONVENTIONS**

55. Authority to summon Extraordinary Conventions of the bodies of the Organisation shall be exercised as follows: -
- 55.1 A two third majority of the NEC may demand an Extraordinary Convention of the Organisation. A two third majority of the NEC may direct an Extraordinary Convention of a County/Regional Board.
- 55.2 A two-third majority of the clubs, comprising a County/Region may demand an Extraordinary Convention of a County/Regional Board.
56. The President or Chairman of the body to whom a proper demand for an Extraordinary Convention is addressed shall summon the Convention to meet within 21 days from the date of receipt of the demand.
57. Every demand for the assembly of an Extraordinary Convention shall set forth the business for which it is

required to be assembled and no other business shall be considered at such Convention.

58. The Constitution of an Extraordinary Convention shall be similar to that prescribed for an Annual Convention.

## **PART VI: MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANISATION**

59. No person shall be eligible for election to any office or membership of any County/Regional Board or the NEC unless he/she is a registered member of an affiliated club.

- 60.1 A registered member is an adult member of an affiliated club who has been registered (with the approval of the appropriate governing body) for the current season. Persons who have not attained their eighteenth birthday are not eligible for adult registration.

- 60.2 Registration is effected through the Office Administrator at Central Office.

- 60.3 Club Secretaries shall forward the appropriate registration forms to the Central Office, together with fees, where the staff on being satisfied that the application is in order, shall forward the registration cards to the Club Secretary.

- 60.4 Registration may be refused or withdrawn.

- 60.5 The Annual Registration Fee may be increased by the annual inflation rate (rounded up or down), there is no obligation to increase the fee annually but the total inflation increase may be added in any future year as decided by the NEC, its apportionment to County/Regional Boards is determined by the NEC

- 60.6 A player may not be registered, at the same time, by more than one club.

- 60.7 Transfer of registration from club to club may be obtained on the written application of the player concerned to the immediate governing body.

- 60.8 Committees in charge of championships and/or open competitions may refuse the entry or deny the right to play of any player who fails to produce current registration card on demand immediately before play or at other reasonable time.



- 60.9 A person who is a member of more than one club shall signify the club they wish to represent in open competitions, leagues, and championships or at meetings of County/Regional Boards or NEC by registering through that club.

## **PART VII: ADMINISTRATION**

- 61.1 The NEC may arrange for the organisation and operation of a Central Office and appropriate staff to whom authority may be delegated by the NEC and/or any of its committees to deal with routine and/or repetitive matters in accordance with prescribed directives or established precedents.
- 61.2 The office shall deal with such clerical, financial, and administrative functions as the NEC may from time to time decide.
- 61.3 At the discretion of the NEC and by arrangements with the bodies concerned, the office may deal with such functions on behalf of County/Regional Boards.
- 61.4 Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, registration forms, appropriate fees and any other matters may be required to be sent by clubs and other bodies direct to the central office to be dealt with there on behalf of the appropriate body. The NEC through its administration committee shall ensure appropriate communication of necessary information to the various levels of the Organisation from the Office.
- 61.5 The creation of any designated Funds is reserved to the Organisation's Convention.

## **PART VIII: AMENDMENTS**

62. Subject to the provisions of Section 48.2 and 48.3 of the Constitution any excision, addition, or amendment of this Constitution and/or the Rules of Play shall be made only at the Annual Convention of the Organisation by two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Notice of such proposed excision, addition or amendment must be given to the Hon. Secretary by post or E-mail not later than 19 days prior to the date of the Convention and notice thereof shall

be sent by post or E-mail to each County/Regional Board and Clubs not later than 12 days prior to the Convention.

### **PART IX: PERIOD OF PLAY**

63. The playing season shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> March until the end of February each Year.
64. The Rules of Play are determined and published by the NEC. Amendments to the Rules of Play are subject to the conditions in Section 48.2 and 48.3 of the Constitution. Major revisions are submitted for discussion at Convention and shall be implemented within one month of Convention at which revisions have been approved.

### **PART X: HANDICAPS**

- 65.1 A Club will award a new member their firm handicap.
- 65.2 The Club committee shall ensure that the handicaps are fairly and reasonably applied and in the best interests of the player and other members of Pitch and Putt Ireland.
- 65.3 The NEC, County/Regional Boards and Clubs will have the right to propose a cut in the handicap of any registered player under their jurisdiction on observation of their standard of play.
- 65.4 The range of Handicaps for Ladies is +1 to -21 and for Gents +3 to -16.
- 65.5 The standing grades are: -
- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Gents Senior:        | +3 to -2.4    |
| Gents Intermediate:  | -2.5 to -7.4  |
| Gents Junior A:      | -7.5 to -11.4 |
| Gents Junior B:      | -11.5 to -16  |
| Ladies Senior:       | +1 to -7      |
| Ladies Intermediate: | -7.5 to -14.4 |
| Ladies Junior:       | -14.5 to -21  |
- 65.6 Grades will only be used for County, Provincial and National Championships. For all other Competitions (Club Championships/Competitions, Open Strokeplay and Scratch

Cups, sections may be used).

- 65.7 All County/Regional, Provincial and National Strokeplay Qualifying Rounds and Finals are to be entered in the system, as are all Open Singles (Strokeplay, Stableford and Par).
- 65.8 In the month of October only Championships (including Club Majors) and Open Singles are to be entered in the system. The system closes 1<sup>st</sup> November until 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- 65.9 Open Fourball, Foursomes, Scrambles and Threeball Winners will receive 0.2 of a reduction in their handicap for a 72, 54 or 36 hole prize and 0.1 of a reduction in their handicap for an 18 hole prize.
- 65.10 Club Matchplay Winners (all grades) will receive a minimum of 0.2 and the Runner-up a minimum 0.1 of a reduction in their handicaps.
- 65.11 County/Regional Matchplay Winners (all grades) will receive a minimum of 0.4 and the Runner-up a minimum 0.2 of a reduction in their handicaps.
- 65.12 Provincial Matchplay Winners (all grades) will receive a minimum of 0.6 and the Runner-up a minimum 0.3 of a reduction in their handicaps.
- 65.13 National Matchplay Winners will receive a minimum of 1.0 reduction in their handicap and the Runner-up will receive a minimum of 0.5 of a reduction.
- 65.14 Club Strokeplay Winners (all Grades) will receive a Minimum of 0.5 and the Runner-up will receive a minimum of 0.3 of a reduction in their handicaps.
- 65.15 County Strokeplay Winners (all Grades) will receive a Minimum of 0.5 and the Runner-up will receive a minimum of 0.3 of a reduction in their handicaps.
- 65.16 Provincial Strokeplay Winners (all Grades) will receive a Minimum of 0.5 and the Runner-up will receive a minimum of 0.3 of a reduction in their handicaps.

- 65.17 National Strokeplay Winners (all Grades) will receive a Minimum of 1.0 and the Runner-up will receive a minimum of 0.5 of a reduction in their handicaps.
- 65.18 Clubs must enter a minimum of 5 Competitions plus both Club Championships (Matchplay and Strokeplay) and any Open Singles in the system. If this is not adhered to a warning will be issued and the Clubs members handicaps will be suspended in the system.
- 65.19 Entry for Championships or Open Competitions is restricted to registered players of the Pitch and Putt Ireland.
- 65.20 Except in a graded Strokeplay competition where the grades concerned are played on the same course on the same day, a player of lower status may compete in a higher grade without the loss of his/her original status by nature of having competed.
- 66.1 The Organisation vests in its NEC the right to arbitrate and rule (subject to the right of appeal) on all matters concerning competitions.
- 66.2 The Organisation reserves to the NEC the right to make decisions, which may not necessarily conform with or be provided for in the above Rules.
- 66.3 The handicap of Inter & Junior players (ladies & Gents) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in April confirms their eligibility to play in the Inter & Junior Provincial Inter County Ladies & Gents within their grade at that closing date.

## 67 **Handicap Allowance**

- 67.1 The Standard handicap allowances for each 18 holes played are:
- (i) Matchplay or Par  
Singles - three-fourths handicap.  
Fourball - three-fourths of individual handicap.  
Foursome - three-eighths of combined handicaps.
  - (ii) Strokeplay  
Singles - full handicap.  
Fourball (better ball) - half combined handicap.  
Fourball (Canadian) - full combined handicap.  
Foursome - half combined handicaps.

- (iii) Scotch Foursome - three-eighths combined handicaps.  
Stableford  
Singles – full handicap allowance.  
Fourball – full individual handicap allowance.  
Foursome – ½ combined handicaps.
- (iv) Scramble  
3 Ball Scramble Allowance 1/3 of combined handicaps.
- 67.2 In Matchplay, Par and Stableford half-strokes or over count as one. Smaller fractions are disregarded. In Strokeplay fractions of strokes count as such.
- 67.3 Competition Committees have no authority to vary handicap allowances other than by the imposition of a handicap limit for a specific competition, or temporarily as in Section 65.4 of the Constitution.
68. When a competition is played under handicap, the Committee shall declare a player's handicap before the start of play. A player shall play out the competition with the handicap so announced. If, during the course of the competition the committee decides to adjust the handicap of anyone competing, the adjustment shall not apply to that particular event.
- 69.1 Participation in Open Competitions is reserved to registered members of clubs affiliated to Pitch and Putt Ireland.
- 69.2 Clubs, County/Regional Boards or NEC reserve to themselves the right to refuse any entry, or to return any entry after acceptance but before the commencement of play, without assigning a reason.
- 69.3 All club members including juveniles MUST be registered with Pitch and Putt Ireland**
70. The status of a player shall be determined in relation to his handicap on the closing date of the competition concerned, or, where there is not a closing date, or where entry on the day applies, the status for such competition shall be his handicap on the opening day of such competition.
71. National Championship winners in the Matchplay and the Strokeplay automatically qualify for the finals the following year, provided they enter, pay the entry fee. National Under

16's Champions, where eligible automatically qualify provided they enter and pay the entry fee. In the Gents and Ladies Senior Strokeplay Championships, the second, third and fourth placed finishers automatically qualify for the following year's finals provided they enter and pay the entry fee. In the Gents and Ladies Matchplay Championships, the Semi-finalists automatically qualify for the following years finals provided they enter and pay the entry fee

71.2 Persons to be eligible to enter National Championships and Competitions, must be registered by the closing date of event involved.

71.3 Competitors are required to attend in good time for National Finals. Competitors shall be called at most three times to the first tee and failure to attend shall cause the competitor to be scratched.

71.4 National Championship and Competition Winners are required to return the relevant trophy to Central Office or an NEC Officer, in good condition, at latest by the closing date of the event involved, the year after the trophy has been won. Failure to do so may result in the competitor being removed from the competition.

## 72 **Juvenile Members**

72.1 They must be registered on the appropriate forms and with designated fees. Registration cards will be issued by NEC.

72.2 Club members who have attained their sixth birthday and have not attained their eighteenth birthday are deemed to be Juveniles (e.g., 6 -17 years old).

**Note:** All Juveniles must produce their birth certificate to the club secretary prior to their first registration. They must also have a Parental/Guardian Form signed annually.

72.3 A Juvenile reaching sixteen years of age will be granted a Firm Handicap and will be allowed to enter Adult Championships/Competitions provided that they follow the criteria set down on the Parental/Guardian Form. The Handicap will be granted upon a submission from the Club to the relevant County/Regional Board and the NEC.

72.4 A Juvenile reaching ten years of age will be granted an interim Juvenile Handicap, this will allow for Nett Prizes in Juvenile Opens. The Handicap will be used until they reach

their Sixteenth Birthday.

### 73. **Amateur Status**

73.1 An amateur Pitch and Putt player is one who plays the game, solely as a non-remunerative or non-profit making-sport.

73.2 The following are examples of actions, which do not violate the above definition.

73.2.1 Playing for Prize Money in a confined Club Sweepstake in which a prize does not exceed €127. The NEC has powers to review this amount annually.

73.2.2 Playing for any other prize or testimonial of a retail value not exceeding €500. The NEC has powers to review this amount annually.

73.2.3 Playing for a perpetual trophy of any value.

73.2.4 Accepting contributions towards the travelling and other expenses incurred in participating in National Championships provided that specific approval of the NEC has been given to the contribution.

73.2.5 Accepting payment from a Board or NEC for re-imbusement of necessary expenditure incurred, e.g., on behalf of the Organisation and in accordance with scales and rates prescribed by the NEC, whether the payee is an Officer of the Organisation or not and for participation in coaching/training schemes on a part-time basis where such schemes are promoted by the NEC out of funds specially provided for that purpose.

73.2.6 Acceptance of cash prizes in accordance with Special Provision A of the FIPPA Rules will not be deemed a breach of amateur status.

73.3 Infringement of Section 73.1 of the Constitution involves automatic loss of amateur status and exclusion from registration. Cases of doubt should be submitted to the NEC for adjudication.

73.4 Reinstatement is a reserved function of the NEC. It will be considered only on the written application of the person

concerned and will not normally be granted within one year of the event giving rise to loss of status.

74. The NEC appoint a sub-committee to which Clubs, County/Regional Boards, and members of the NEC may submit any Motions for rule change which in their opinion would be beneficial to the game. The sub-committee having checked that the Motions are in order will then submit them to the NEC for inclusion at Convention.
75. The Anti-Doping Rules of Pitch and Putt Ireland are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time.
76. Pitch and Putt Ireland is fully committed to the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland, or the most up to date equivalent.
77. Pitch and Putt Ireland adopts Section 235, Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. (Exemption from Income Tax for Sports Bodies).
  - 77.1 Pitch and Putt Ireland is a non-profit making organisation. All profits and surpluses will be used to carry out the objects of Pitch and Putt Ireland. No profit or surplus will be distributed other than to another non-profit making body on a winding-up or dissolution of Pitch and Putt Ireland.
  - 77.2 A resolution to Wind Up the Organisation shall be passed only at an EGM, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
  - 77.3 If upon the winding up or dissolution of Pitch and Putt Ireland there remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Organisation. Instead, such property, shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of Pitch and Putt Ireland. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of their property and income among their members. Members of Pitch and Putt Ireland shall select the relevant institution or institutions by Resolution passed at a EGM or in the absence of such a resolution (or that the extent to which it cannot be given effect), the property shall then be given or transferred to



some charitable object.

## 78 **Dispute Resolution**

- 78.1 Subject to all internal avenues of appeal having been exhausted, this section shall apply to any dispute or difference arising out of, in connection with or under this Constitution or any rules, byelaws, codes, policies or equivalent of Pitch and Putt Ireland. This shall include without limitation any dispute arising out of, under or in connection with the legality of any decision made or procedure used by Pitch and Putt Ireland or any part of it.
- 78.2 Each such dispute or difference shall be referred to Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI) for final and binding arbitration by a single arbitrator in accordance with the SDSI Arbitration Rules and in accordance with the Arbitration Act 2010 as amended.
- 78.3 This section shall also apply to every participant and member of every Unit (as defined below). Each such participant or member is bound to refer any dispute or difference which remains unresolved after all internal avenues of appeal has been exhausted to SDSI arbitration in accordance with sub-section 78.2. above.
- 78.4 The provisions of this section shall apply notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary contained within this Constitution and/or any other rules, byelaws, codes, policies or equivalent of Pitch and Putt Ireland and/or any Unit from time to time. This section applies notwithstanding the level within Pitch and Putt Ireland that any such dispute or difference occurs in the first instance.
- 78.5 The effect of this section is to prohibit any party to such dispute or difference from commencing legal proceedings before the Courts.
- 78.6 For the purpose of this section, "Unit" means any team, association, club or committee or subcommittee or other grouping, association or entity of any type which is in turn a member, part of, affiliated to or governed by Pitch and Putt Ireland.