



THE MGA SHIELD by CROSSCRAFT

• 18TH (2024) EDITION •

TERMS OF COMPETITION



COMPETITION DATES

DAY 1: STROKE PLAY STABLEFORD
Friday 15th or Saturday 16th November 2024

DAY 2: STROKE PLAY STABLEFORD
Sunday 17th November 2024

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

a) Status of Players:

Entries will be accepted from players who:

- Conform in all respects to the current Amateur Status of the R&A;
- Are fully paid-up members of the Royal Malta Golf Club [RMGC]; and
- Hold a current valid RMGC handicap index as provided in the RMGC's General Competition Rules (*players without a handicap index, members' guests and visitors will be unable to win any prize*).

b) Handicap Limits & Allowances:

The competition will be played with a playing handicap allowance of 95% applied on the course handicap **with a maximum playing handicap of 36 for men and 48 for women**.

The playing handicap of a player at the beginning of day 1 of the competition shall apply also on day 2.

Similar to other RMGC "Qualifying Competitions", the competition's scores will go towards the RMGC's Eclectic table and for the allocation of Order of Merit points.

c) Entry Form:

Players must enter according to the on-line possibilities provided by the RMGC. All entries shall be subject to approval by the Malta Golf Association [MGA] Competition Committee which reserves the right to accept or refuse, or having accepted, to subsequently reject any entry without giving reason for its decision which shall be final.

d) Closing Date of Entry:

Applications for entry in the MGA Shield will be received according to the dates as published. Late applications will only be considered by decision of the Competition Committee.

e) Entry Fee:

The entry fee will be **€15** payable prior to the first round. For a fee of **€10** it will be possible to play only the first day of the tournament with the condition that, once a player has played the first round, it will not be possible for the player to change his/her mind even if a good score be returned on the first day.

Please remember that this is primarily a two-day tournament and therefore no Order of Merit points will be allocated for just the first day of play.

Lunch will be available at the end of the competition and will be charged at the caterer's cost. A booking list will be displayed at the Club.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

a) The competition shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited and with the approved Local Rules for the RMGC course.

b) The Competition Committee will reserve the right to fix and/or alter the Competition's Conditions and/or Starting Times.

- c) Players should confirm their participation at the Clubhouse prior to commencing play.
- d) The Competition Committee will be the final arbiter of all on and off course disputes. A player, in doubt of a procedure, is advised to play a second ball according to Rule 20.1c(3) of the Rules of Golf. Players will be requested to refrain from approaching a member of the Competition Committee for a decision during play, as they will not be given an answer during the round.
- e) *Dress code:* Soft spikes will be obligatory for players. If not respected, access to the golf course will be denied. Normal golf attire will be required on the course. Denim jeans will not be allowed under any circumstances and gentlemen should wear collared shirts, tailored shorts or slacks, socks, and proper golf shoes. The same will apply to ladies, but sleeveless shirts will be allowed.
- f) *Smoking:* Smoking is not encouraged anywhere on the golf course (however there is no penalty if a player decides to smoke).
- g) *Disclaimer:* On entering the competition, players agree that there are certain risks inherent in the game of golf and accept personal liability for all such risks.

3. FORM OF PLAY

- a) The competition will be played by individual stroke play Stableford in a two-day event over 36 holes at the RMGC.
- b) Women will play from the blue tees; men will play from the white tees.
- c) A cut will be applied after the first round. To ensure proper competition for the prizes, the cut will be based on the best scores in approximate proportion to the number of entries according to gender.
- d) Play will be off the first tee for the first day and with a multi-tee start for the second day of the competition.
- e) The male and female players with the highest aggregate Stableford score over 36 holes will be the overall joint winners of the competition and will be presented with the MGA Shield. In the event of a tie after the last round, the winner will be the player who has obtained the best result on the second day. If this does not decide then the process as recommended by the R&A in the Rules of Golf will be applied.

4. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

- a) *Time of Starting:* Rule 5.3a applies.
- b) *Caddies:* A player is prohibited from having a professional golfer serve as his caddie during a stipulated round. Penalty for breach of this condition is two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred: maximum penalty per round – four strokes. A player having a caddie in breach of this condition must immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred ensure that he conforms to this condition for the remainder of the stipulated round. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.
- c) *Practice:* Rule 5.2b (modified) of the Rules of Golf applies and therefore practice, on the competition course or testing the surface of any putting green, before the round on the days of the competition is prohibited.

- d) *Trolleys & Buggies:* Electric or manual trolleys may be used but should not be taken onto tees or greens. The use of golf buggies would be according to RMGC Rules.
- e) *Audio and Video Devices:* Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device. The general penalty of two strokes will be applied for a first breach. The player will be disqualified for a second breach even if unrelated to the first breach of the Rule. A mobile phone may exceptionally be used in case of emergency (for medical reasons) or danger (e.g., lightning).
- f) *Driving Clubs:* The driver the competitor carries must have a club-head, identified by model and loft, which is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by R&A Rules Limited. Note: Any individual driver on the List, if tested on pendulum testing apparatus approved by R&A Rules Limited, must not have a characteristic time greater than 257 microseconds Penalty for breach of this condition: disqualification.
- g) *Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation:* When the Competition Committee suspends play due to a dangerous situation, if the players are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play and not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. The signal for suspending play immediately due to a dangerous situation will be a prolonged note of a siren. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he is disqualified unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty.

The signals used will be as follows:

Discontinue Play Immediately: One prolonged note of siren.

Discontinue Play: Three consecutive notes of siren, repeated.

Resume Play: Two short notes of siren, repeated.

- h) *Returning a Scorecard:* Following each of the stroke play rounds, players must return their scorecards to an area designated by the Competition Committee. A player's scorecard is deemed officially returned when it has been recorded in the designated area/tournament office.
- i) *Close of a Competition:* Any dispute or doubtful point on the Rules must be referred to the Competition Committee as soon as possible and before the conclusion of play on the final day. The Competition will be deemed closed once the result is officially announced at the end of Day 2.
- j) *Code of Conduct:* The player's standards of conduct during this competition is regulated by the MGA's published document to this affect. The document is available for viewing or downloading at <http://www.maltagolf.org/documents/71/code-of-conductpdf>.

5. COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The authorised officials for disputes and doubtful points are Mrs Doreen Balzan, Mr Dionysios Baltzis and Mr William Beck. No other club member or official will give a decision on a rule matter unless he has been authorised by this Committee to give final decisions in its name. The decision of this Committee on any matter relating to the Rules of Golf or these Conditions shall be final, and there shall be no right of appeal.

6. PRIZES AND PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

A total of 2 main and 14 consolation prizes will be presented.

There will be a limitation of only one prize per individual. All prize winners are expected to attend the prize presentation, which will take place during lunch following the last round of the competition. No prize will be awarded to any competitor who is absent from the prize presentation unless there are very exceptional circumstances, and the Committee is so advised.

The Shield, although presented to the Overall Winners, will be retained by the MGA.

With the kind auspices & collaboration of:



7. LIST OF PRIZES

1st Best net aggregate score from a woman player
1st Best net aggregate score from a man player
2nd Best net aggregate score from a woman player
2nd Best net aggregate score from a man player
3rd Best net aggregate score from a woman player
3rd Best net aggregate score from a man player
4th Best net aggregate score from a woman player
4th Best net aggregate score from a man player
5th Best net aggregate score from a woman player
5th Best net aggregate score from a man player
6th Best net aggregate score from a man player
7th Best net aggregate score from a man player
Best net score on Day 1 from a woman player
Best net score on Day 2 from a woman player
Best net score on Day 1 from a man player
Best net score on Day 2 from a man player

The *Committee* reserves the right to change the allocation of prizes to reflect the percentage of gender participation in the competition.