

HARDY LEAGUE RULE BOOK – version 1.3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Version Table.....	1
2.	Introduction.....	1
3.	Competition Format	2
4.	Hardy A – League format:.....	2
5.	Hardy B – League format:.....	3
6.	League Points Scoring (Hardy A & B).....	3
7.	Hardy A & B Cup Matches	3
8.	World Handicap System	4
a.	Single Tee	4
b.	4BBB Match play	5
c.	Singles Match play.....	5
9.	Player Qualification Criteria:	6
10.	Hardy A – League.....	6
11.	Hardy A – Cup (from 2025).....	6
12.	Hardy B – League.....	7
13.	Hardy B – Cup	7
14.	General Rules	8

1. VERSION TABLE

Date	Updated by	Version	Comments \changes
Nov 2024	Neal Riley	0.1	Document created, reviewed by Dave Hassell & Adam Haywood
Dec 2024	Neal Riley	1.0	Shared with all club captains (14 th Dec 2024)
12 th Dec 2024	Neal Riley	1.1	Updated with final comments
1 st March 2026	Neal Riley	1.2	Updated following AGM (including adding winter mats rules, updated rules on match cancelations, adding rules for end of season ties within the leagues, and trophy replacement where lost \ damaged.
16 th Sept 26	Neal Rliey	1.3	Updated to include Hardy A Div 3 (3 down and Div 4 Three up), Hardy B – Div 4, 3 down and Div 5 3 Up. – Agreed at the 2025 AGM but not documented.

2. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Hardy Golf League Rule book, this is open to all approved clubs (who have been approved at the AGM) within the Dorset and surrounding areas. This is an amateur competition, where professional and trainee professionals have been excluded. This is a single tee competition, Ladies can play, – but must play off the tee of the day as it is a single tee competition – no courtesy shots are received.

New clubs who wish to join the competition, will need approval from the AGM before joining the cups in year 1 and the league and cup in year 2. A request needs to be raised with the committee prior to the AGM where these will be voted on.

3. COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition format is as follows:

	Format	Handicap Index
Hardy A – League	Singles Handicap Matchplay (8 Matches)	Under 10.0
Hardy A - Cup	4BBB Handicap Matchplay (4 Matches)	Under 10.0
Hardy B – League	4BBB Handicap Matchplay (5 Matches)	8.0 to 18.0
Hardy B - Cup	4BBB Handicap Matchplay (5 Matches)	8.0 to 18.0

4. HARDY A – LEAGUE FORMAT:

The league consists of four divisions with a promotion and relegation. New teams will start in division 4.

Hardy A – League Structure				
Division	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
Where are the matches played:	Home & Away	Home & Away	3 Home & 3 Away	3 Home & 3 Away
Teams	Team 1	Team 1	Team 1	Team 1
	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2
	Team 3	Team 3	Team 3	Team 3
	Team 4	Team 4	Team 4	Team 4
	Team 5	Team 5	Team 5	Team 5
			Team 6	Team 6
			Team 7	Team 7
Promotion Relegation	2 Relegated	2 x Promoted, 2 Relegated	2 x Promoted, 3 Relegated	3 x Promoted

5. HARDY B – LEAGUE FORMAT:

The league consists of five divisions with a promotion and relegation. New teams will start in division 5.

Hardy B League Structure					
Division	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5
Where are the matches played:	Home & Away	Home & Away	Home & Away	Home & Away	3 Home & 3 Away
Teams	Team 1	Team 1	Team 1	Team 1	Team 1
	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2
	Team 3	Team 3	Team 3	Team 3	Team 3
	Team 4	Team 4	Team 4	Team 4	Team 4
	Team 5	Team 5	Team 5	Team 5	Team 5
					Team 6
					Team 7
Promotion Relegation	2 Relegated	2 x Promoted, 2 x Relegated	2 x Promoted, 2 x Relegated	2 x Promoted, 2 x Relegated	2 x Promoted

6. LEAGUE POINTS SCORING (HARDY A & B)

- 10 points are available for a Win.
- 5 points for a draw.
- 0 points for losing.
 - Individual Games
 - a. + 2 points for each game won.
 - b. + one point for a drawn match

Maximum of 26 points available for Hardy A, 20 points for Hardy B

In the event of a tie-on points at the end of the season the team with the best games results will be the winning team.

7. HARDY A & B CUP MATCHES

- Hardy A will be 4 x 4BBB (From 2025).
- Hardy B will be 5 x 4BBB.
- The first-round cup matches will be drawn at the AGM.
- Future rounds will be drawn for the home advantage – this will be automated by the website. The first team shown will be the home team.

- In the event of a tie in a cup match a pair nominated by each club before play commences shall play a sudden death playoff. If this isn't possible (e.g. bad light, poor weather) then the result will be decided by a hole's count e.g. a 6 and 5 win would count 11points, 6 & 4 10 points, 5 & 4 9 point etc. down to 1 up counting 1 point. Therefore, the team with the highest hole count being the winner.
- The semi-finals in will no longer be a neutral venue, the website will draw for home advantage.
- A finals day to be arranged, this will host both Hardy A & B finals on the same day. A venue will be decided prior to the start of the season.
- Cup matches to be played by: (for exact dates – please confirm on the website).
- Both captains should contact each other and provide two SEPERATE weekend dates for future matches. This should be done immediately the tie has been completed or within one week of the LAST FINAL PLAY BY DATE.
- If the home side cannot offer any dates in the period, they must either forfeit the match or offer to play at their opponent's course, providing that their opponents can offer two separate weekend dates.
- If these conditions cannot be fulfilled the tie will be decided by drawing lot.
- Should a match be abandoned or postponed, due to course closure or bad weather, with a date within seven days of the final 'play by date', AN EXTENSION OF A MAXIMUM OF TWO WEEKS will be allowed with the home side being given the opportunity to offer, at least one date within that period. If no date can be offered, the conditions above will apply.
- Cup finals – players from both teams MUST have played in a minimum of two cup games prior to the final, club captains need to ensure that this rule is enforced.
- In the event of a tie in a cup final a pair nominated by each club before play commences shall play a sudden death playoff. If this is not possible (e.g. bad light, poor weather), then a hole count will be used to separate the teams. If a hole's count is equal, then the trophy shall be shared. i.e. - for the hole count a 6 and 5 win would count 11points, 6 & 4 10 points, 5 & 4 9 point etc. down to 1 up.
- Any sudden death playoff will begin from Hole One. The original handicap stroke allocation as per SI will be utilised.

8. WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

The World Handicap System has brought in a series of changes, including all courses being assessed on their difficulty. Each set of tees now needs a separate rating for Male and Female players. This includes a Slope Rating and a Course Rating.

The Course Rating shows how hard the course is for a Scratch Golfer. A scratch golfer is defined as a player who can play the course with a Course Handicap of zero.

The Slope Rating is how difficult the course is for a bogey golfer, compared to a scratch golfer. A bogey golfer is defined as a golfer with a Course Handicap of 20 for men and 24 for women.

a. SINGLE TEE

Matchplay handicaps are worked out differently when using a single tee than when using multiple tees.

Under the World Handicap System, golfers no longer have a Handicap, but a Handicap Index. This allows a playing handicap to be calculated, based on the difficulty of the course. The Course Handicap is calculated using the following formula which has changed in 2024:

$$\text{Course Handicap} = \text{Handicap Index} \times \left(\frac{\text{Slope Rating}}{113} \right) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{par})$$

So, a golfer with a Handicap Index of 15.7, playing on a course with a Slope Rating of 130 a Course Rating of 70.6 and a Par of 71 would have a Playing Handicap of:

$$15.7 \times 130 / 113 = 18.06 + (70.6 - 71) = \mathbf{17.66}$$

The easiest method of calculating your course handicap is either by using the England Golf Application or the Handicap conversion charts located around the clubhouse.

b. 4BBB MATCH PLAY

There are 2 steps to calculating the handicaps for 4BBB matchplay using **one set of tees**.

Step 1: Course Handicaps

For each player, convert their Handicap Index into a Course Handicap (rounded)

Step 2: Adjusted for lowest handicap & apply allowance.

Adjust each Playing Handicap so the lowest handicap plays off zero. Then take 90% of the difference to calculate the strokes received.

Example:

	H.I.	Slope	C.R.	Par	CH	PH	Adjust to Lowest	Allowance 90%	Strokes Received
Player 1	8.9	130	70.6	71	9.83	10	0	0	0
Player 2	14.2	130	70.6	71	15.93	16	6	-0.6	5
Player 3	19.8	130	70.6	71	22.37	22	12	-1.2	11
Player 4	24.5	130	70.6	71	27.78	28	18	-1.8	16

c. SINGLES MATCH PLAY

The competition is played off full playing handicap, the appropriate number of strokes, based upon the difference between the two handicaps, being taken by the higher handicapped player according to the Stroke Index on the scorecard.

9. PLAYER QUALIFICATION CRITERIA:

All players must:

- a. Have 20 scores or more on their EG record and have completed and submitted four qualification rounds (4) (Medals, Stablefords, or General Play) in the previous 12 months, or
- b. If a new player with a handicap index but fewer than 20 scores on their EG record must have completed at least six (6) handicapping competitions (Medals, Stablefords, or General Play). Exceptions should be requested in writing before playing. Where an exception is requested, it is at the discretion of the committee. Reasons for an exception being granted may include but is not limited to illness; new membership; joining from another Club; EG record falling between a. and b. above.

Failure to comply will result in result in the loss of that individual or 4BBB match.

10. HARDY A – LEAGUE

1. The Hardy A League format consists of 8 singles matches played on the home clubs competition tees. Each game will be played over 18 holes,
2. Players go out in handicap order (Lowest to highest)
3. The competition is played off full playing handicap, the appropriate number of strokes, based upon the difference between the two handicaps, being taken by the higher handicapped player according to the Stroke Index on the scorecard.
4. The maximum handicap index is 10.0.
5. If the match is tied after 18 holes, the match will be drawn.
6. Matches, holes, and putts may be conceded but once conceded may not be withdrawn.
7. Where possible matches should be played as two balls, however it is understood that due to speed of play groups may be to pair up.
8. At the end of the season, if two teams have the same points and goal difference a winner is needed should it impact promotion or relegation.
 - If the two teams have played a home and away matches – the aggregate score will be used to find the winner, if they are still tied, then:
 - a home & away match will be played before the AGM.
 - Failure to do so, will result in a toss of a coin at the AGM.

11. HARDY A – CUP (FROM 2025)

1. The Hardy A Cup format consists of 4x4BBB matches played on the home clubs competition tees. This is a 'knock-out' Four-Ball Better Ball Competition. The competition is played in successive rounds under 'Match Play' conditions off the home clubs competition tees, each player playing his own ball. Each game will be played over 18 holes,
2. The winners of the Cup will be the winning Finalists. The losing Finalists will be the Runners-up.
3. The captains decide the playing order.
4. The captains nominate a pair for a playoff before any match start.
5. The stroke difference between the two pairs of players is assessed according to handicap, In accordance with WHS recommendations the competition is played off 90% handicap with strokes being taken from the player with the lowest handicap of the four. Stroke calculations as per section three of this rule book.

6. This competition is a four ball better ball. The winner of each hole will be the pair that produces the lowest individual nett score for that hole.
 7. The maximum handicap index is 10.0.
 8. Matches, holes, and putts may be conceded but once conceded may not be withdrawn.
 9. If the match is tied after 18 holes, the match will be drawn.
 10. The semi finals will be drawn for home advantage – this will be automated via the website.
 11. The final will take place at the agreed finals day venue. This could vary year on year.
 12. If the match is drawn after all four matches are completed, then the nominated pair play in the playoff. The extra holes will be played immediately on a sudden death playoff basis, beginning from Hole One. The original handicap stroke allocation as per SI will be utilised.
13. All players must have recorded a minimum of 4 handicapping competitions (See section 5).

12. HARDY B – LEAGUE

1. The Hardy B League format consists of 5 x 4BBB matches played on the home clubs competition tees. Each game will be played over 18 holes,
2. The captains decide the playing order.
3. The stroke difference between the two pairs of players is assessed according to handicap, In accordance with WHS recommendations the competition is played off 90% handicap with strokes being taken from the player with the lowest handicap of the four. Stroke calculations as per section three of this rule book.
4. The minimum handicap index is 8.0 and the maximum is 18.0.
5. This competition is a four ball better ball. The winner of each hole will be the pair that produces the lowest individual nett score for that hole.
6. If the match is tied after 18 holes, the match will be drawn.
7. Matches, holes, and putts may be conceded but once conceded may not be withdrawn.
8. All players must have recorded a minimum of 4 handicapping competitions (See section 5).
9. At the end of the season, if two teams have the same points and goal difference a winner is needed should it impact promotion or relegation.
 - If the two teams have played a home and away matches – the aggregate score will be used to find the winner, if they are still tied, then:
 - a home & away match will be played before the AGM.
 - Failure to do so, will result in a toss of a coin at the AGM.

13. HARDY B – CUP

1. The Hardy B Cup format consists of 5x4BBB matches played on the home clubs competition tees. This is a 'knock-out' Four-Ball Better Ball Competition. The competition is played in successive rounds under 'Match Play' conditions off the home clubs competition tees, each player playing his own ball. Each game will be played over 18 holes,
2. The winners of the Cup will be the winning Finalists. The losing Finalists will be the Runners-up.
3. The captains decide the playing order.
4. The captains nominate a pair for a playoff before any match start.
5. The stroke difference between the two pairs of players is assessed according to handicap In accordance with WHS recommendations the competition is played off 90% handicap with strokes

being taken from the player with the lowest handicap of the four. Stroke calculations as per section three of this rule book.

6. This competition is a four ball better ball. The winner of each hole will be the pair that produces the lowest individual nett score for that hole.
7. The minimum handicap index is 8.0 and the maximum is 18.0.
8. Matches, holes, and putts may be conceded but once conceded may not be withdrawn.
9. If the match is tied after 18 holes, the match will be drawn.
10. If the match is drawn after all four matches are completed, then the nominated pair play in the playoff. The extra holes will be played immediately on a sudden death basis, beginning from Hole One.
11. All players must have recorded a minimum of 4 handicapping competitions (See section 5).
12. The semifinals will be drawn for home advantage – this will be automated via the website.
13. The final will take place at the agreed finals day venue. This could vary year on year.

14. GENERAL RULES

1. A player can only play for first club he played for in the season regardless of joining a new club mid-season.
2. League and cup matches will be played on agreed dates and times.
3. If a match is stopped due to unforeseen circumstances the match will be replayed unless all games have completed the NINTH hole in which case the result will be the state of the match at the cessation of play.
4. Each club shall finalise its league fixtures and register them online by the 31st of January after the AGM.
 - a. These dates are to be considered as SET IN STONE and in the event of a match needing to be rescheduled after having been set it may by mutual consent be rescheduled before the final date for matches to be completed.
5. Games cancelled at short notice; (less 7 days of the planned date) will result in the game being forfeited (resulting in an 8-0 \ 5-0 victory for the team that didn't cancel) with the team who cancelled also being deducted 10 points.
6. All matches to be played by the end September. In the event of a league match being abandoned or cancelled it shall be re-arranged by mutual consent.
7. If a match is cancelled within 28 days of its arranged date, unless Course Closure forced the cancellation, then a cancelling Hardy "A" club will lose 5 points and a Hardy "B" club 5 points and the matches must be reorganised.
8. Any matches not played by the 2nd week of October (unless agreed) will be marked null and void and a 10-point deduction will be applied to both teams unless one club clearly demonstrates that they have been actively trying to arrange the match.
9. A club will not be allowed to forfeit a match. Hardy League secretaries to be informed Points may be shared if promotion or relegation is not affected.
10. The results of all matches shall be communicated to secretaries as soon as possible by both teams.
11. League trophies and KO cups will be presented engraved at the AGM.
12. A meeting of all member clubs shall be held annually in the autumn when an annual subscription shall be set.
13. An emergency committee comprising three clubs selected on rota basis shall assist the secretaries in resolving any dispute, these will be picked from clubs in other leagues who are not impacted by the dispute.

14. If the course is open but has a significant number of temporary greens - it was agreed that a maximum of two temporary greens could be played on. If more than two temps were in play, then the match would need to be rearranged.
15. If the home team enforces a mandatory rule requiring the use of fairway mats, the away team will comply with this regulation. The home team will provide the mats, and the away team will not be expected to purchase mats for a single match.
16. Nonplaying captains are allowed to walk the course and offer advice to his players.
17. Caddies – if caddies are required then the two captains need to agree this is acceptable. This is ensuring fairness in matches and not create a two against one mentality.
18. Food is not mandatory for the HOME clubs to provide.
19. The two captains to liaise, at least ONE week prior to the match to confirm timings.
20. Results to be posted within 24 hours on the website.
21. Trophies will be awarded at the AGM. Winning clubs must maintain trophies and return them in good condition. If damaged, lost, or stolen, the club must replace or repair the trophy (including engraving) at their own expense.