



2015 REGULATIONS & CONDITIONS

Trophy - The Astor Trophy was presented by Nancy, Viscountess Astor CH and the Ladies' Golf Union for competition, once every four years, between teams of women amateur golfers. The trophy was first played for in 1959.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. The requirement for eligibility to represent a country shall be that the player holds citizenship of that country or a Residence Permit (or equivalent), which entitles the player to reside in that country indefinitely. Further requirements shall be at the discretion of each individual country. Each team shall be selected by the Selection Committee of the country concerned.
2. Players must be of the female gender and have been female at birth or have had the female gender assigned. For the avoidance of doubt, the Ladies' Golf Union reserves the right to carry out a confidential case-by-case evaluation at any time either prior to or after the Tournament if in its reasonable opinion such an evaluation is or becomes necessary. Any player in breach of this condition may be disqualified.

REGULATIONS

1. The Ladies' Golf Union shall be co-ordinating body and the tournament shall be played in fixed rotation every four years in the competing countries, for the present Great Britain & Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.
2. The date of the next tournament should be arranged before the commencement of the preceding tournament. The governing body of the country in which the tournament is to be played shall forward suggested dates to the Ladies' Golf Union for approval by the participating countries prior to the venue being confirmed. The host governing body shall select the course, set the times and arrange the programme for the matches in accordance with Regulation 3. This governing body shall accept responsibility for all administrative details concerning the next tournament as from the time of the conclusion of the preceding tournament.
3. When it is impossible to complete a match or series of matches, a tournament committee consisting of one representative of each of the participating countries reserves the right to make a decision in equity. In the event of an even number of participating countries, The Ladies' Golf Union will hold the casting vote.
4. A draw to decide the order of play shall be made by the Ladies' Golf Union in January of the year of the tournament and circulated to all participating countries. Each team shall play every other team. One team shall have a bye on the last day of the tournament and this shall be decided by rotation. The host country shall always play on the last day.
5. On each occasion the tournament is held it will be open to the individual governing bodies to enter. A country wishing to compete should notify the co-ordinating body 12 months prior to the date of the tournament. If a country withdraws from holding the event in the agreed order at least two years' notice should be given. The governing body concerned shall not be eligible to enter a team for competition until they give notice of their intention of rejoining the rota of host countries.
6. Each country shall be entitled to nominate a team of five players without specifying who shall play in the foursomes and in the singles. In addition, each country should nominate a non-playing team captain. These nominations may be published by each country at their convenience and

- must be received by the Secretary of the governing body of the host country at least 30 days prior to the tournament together with photographs and relevant records of nominees.
7.
 - a) Each team match shall consist of two foursomes and five singles, each played over 18 holes. The foursomes shall be played in the morning and the singles in the afternoon.
 - b) Scores shall be by team results; each team shall score one point for a team win, half for a halved match.
 - c) In the event of a tie between countries, the aggregate number of the individual matches won, including halved matches, shall decide the winner of the trophy. In the event of a further tie, the trophy shall be held for an equal period of time by each of the countries who have tied, unless one of them is the holder in which case the holder shall retain the trophy.
 8.
 - a) Each captain shall decide the order in which her team shall play and shall choose pairings for the foursomes. It shall be understood that each captain shall play her team in the order in which she considers to be their current form, the best player in first place and so on.
 - b) A player may be moved one position in the order of play from her original starting position in the first match, for each of the subsequent matches.
e.g. Player 2 in the first match may play either 1,2, or 3 in the next match. If she moves to 1, then she can only play 1 or 2 in the following match. If she moves to 3 then she has the option of playing either 2,3, or 4 in the third match and so on.
 - c) The pairings and order of play for the first day's foursomes must reach the organising committee of the host country no later than 1800 hours on the preceding day and not later than half an hour after the conclusion of play of a match on the subsequent days.
The order of play for the singles shall be handed in no later than half an hour before the team concerned is due to start in the afternoon. Failure to submit the order of play by the required deadline will result in the order of play from the previous day being used automatically or in the case of the first day's pairings the nominated players will play and be paired alphabetically.
These lists shall be composed from the players previously nominated with the following exception: should any of these nominated players be incapacitated by illness, accident or other unavoidable occurrence, another player not previously nominated may be substituted up to a period of 24 hours before the time fixed for the first match of the tournament.
 - d) In addition to the above, should any of the above players be incapacitated on the day of a match by illness, accident or other unavoidable occurrence, another of the nominated players may be substituted up to the time the player is due to start from the first tee in the morning or in the afternoon. In the singles and foursomes the substitute shall take the place of the player she replaces.
 9. The Ladies' Golf Union, as the co-ordinating body and secretariat of the Astor Trophy Tournament, shall be responsible for preparing the agenda for a meeting of participating countries, chairing the meeting and recording and distributing the minutes.
Each country shall appoint one representative to act as an official delegate and such delegate shall act as speaker on behalf of that country and shall vote on all matters requiring a vote. The name of the official delegate must be advised to the host country in writing in advance. Each country may appoint no more than two representatives to act as observers, the name (s) of such representative(s) to be advised in writing to the host country in advance. Such observers shall have no voting rights but may speak on any given matter provided the official delegate requests permission from the chair and such permission (which shall not be unreasonably withheld) be given. The observers may address their remarks only to the item or items under discussion for which permission to speak has been requested and given.
 10. Any amendments, alterations or additions to these regulations may be made in the following manner:
 - a) A country wishing to propose any amendment, alteration or addition may send the resolution to the Ladies' Golf Union who shall immediately notify all other countries asking them to vote either in favour or otherwise within three months.
 - b) In the event of a unanimous vote in favour, it is then incorporated in the regulations.
 - c) In any other case the matter shall be brought forward at the next meeting of representatives of all countries.
 11. The Committee reserves the right to use films, photographs, pictures and similar references to competitors in practice and play in the publicity arrangements prior to, during and after the Tournament.

CONDITIONS

1. The matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf approved by the R&A Rules Limited with any additional Local Rules issued prior to the start of the Tournament.
2. A player is prohibited from having a golf professional serve as her caddie during the stipulated round. Penalty for Breach of Condition: At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match must be adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round – Two holes.
In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. A player having a caddie in breach of this condition must immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred ensure that she conforms with this condition for the remainder of the stipulated round. Otherwise the player is disqualified.
3. The ball the player plays must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the R & A . Penalty for Breach of Condition – Disqualification.
4. The driver the competitor carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, that 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 the pendulum testing apparatus approved by R & A Rules Limited, must not have a characteristic time greater than 257 microseconds. An updated List of Conforming Driver Heads is available on The R & A's website www.randa.org This list is also available in the Tournament Office.
5. Competitors shall start at the time laid down by the Committee (Rules of Golf, Rule 6-3a). The following penalties will be imposed for late arrival on the starting tee: If the player arrives at her starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after her starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in the Rules of Golf, Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole. A player over five minutes late on her starting tee shall be disqualified.
6. Riding in motorised carts on the course is prohibited unless permitted by the Committee. Penalty for Breach of Condition: At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match shall be adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred. Maximum deduction per round: Two holes. In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.
7. Each player is responsible for playing without undue delay. The pace of play procedure detailing the time allowance and procedure when groups are out of position will be issued prior to play, together with details of penalties for breach of condition.
8. Each team may appoint one person, who must be an amateur golfer, who may give advice to members of the team. Such person shall be identified to the Committee prior to the start of the matches.
9. A player must not make use of any drug to enhance performance. Should a competitor show evidence of use of a drug for non-therapeutic purpose, the Committee may require the competitor to undergo a drug test. Any player infringing this Condition may be disqualified. Competitors who are on medication and in doubt as to their clinical status should seek advice in from the Ladies' Golf Union or the onsite Tournament Office.

LAST UPDATED
SEPTEMBER 2010

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