

The Pearson Trophy Inter County Management Committee
Rules & Regulations 2026/27



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The Pearson Trophy is a competition open to clubs affiliated to England Golf in one of the following Counties: Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Kent or Surrey. Players must be female, amateur playing members. A playing member of more than one club may only represent one club during the current season. There are no age restrictions. When entering the Pearson Trophy Competition clubs must agree to abide by the following regulations and participate in a manner that is fair to all participants. Matches may commence on the first Monday in October of the relevant year.

R1 - Rules of Golf

- i. All matches must be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A, any permanent or temporary local rules in place on the day of the fixture along with the Pearson Trophy Regulations.

R2 - Entry Method and Fees

- i. Clubs must submit their entries on the official entry form by 31 August.
- ii. The entry fee must be paid by 31 August.
- iii. No entry fee will be refunded unless notice of withdrawal is given before 31 August.
- iv. It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure their entry form and fees have been received by the County Pearson Manager (CPM).
- v. The Pearson Management Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any club. This decision will be final.

R3 - Handicaps

- i. Players are required to have a valid Handicap Index (HI) in the World Handicap System (WHS) between 13.0 and 30.0 inclusive. If a player has a HI higher than 30.0, she can still play but her course handicap (CH) must be calculated from the maximum HI of 30.0.
- ii. Players are required to have submitted 3 qualifying competition cards in the rolling year prior to the match date.
- iii. Handicap Index is to be used when calculating Course Handicap.
- iv. Matches will be played off full handicap difference.
- v. If any player plays from the wrong handicap index, whether higher or lower, her match and any other match affected by incorrect placing shall be conceded, giving a walkover to opposing players. Failure to list players in handicap index order will result in matches being forfeited (this could potentially affect 2 or more matches).

R4 - The Draw

- i. The CPM will do a draw after the closing date and will divide the entry into groups and where necessary sub-groups.
- ii. Each club shall play home and away fixtures against all the other clubs in their group until the semi-final stage.

R5 - Teams

- i. Teams are to be made up of 5 players.
- ii. If a club is unable to field a team of 5 for an individual match, they must notify the CPM and seek permission to play with reduced players. If approval is given the CPM will notify both Captains and a walkover will be conceded for the last match, i.e., player number five.
- iii. In the County and Inter-County Finals teams must consist of 5 players plus 1 reserve. Clubs must ensure that they can field a team for the dates of the County & Inter- County Finals.

R6 - Arranging Matches

- i. Matches are to be played on Mondays to Fridays.
- ii. The Home Team Captain must offer the Away Team Captain at least 3 dates to choose from and no more than 2 in a seven-day period as soon as possible after the draw has been announced. The Away Captain must respond within a week.
- iii. If the Away Captain cannot agree on one of the dates offered, her team must withdraw from the competition and all previous results in the group stages will be null and void and a walkover given to the home team.
- iv. Once a date has been agreed by both Captains it cannot be altered unless the course is closed or if both Captains agree that the weather and/or course/travelling conditions are too dangerous for play/travel to the course, provided a suitable replay date is available and can be arranged immediately.
- v. In the knockout stages the Home Captains must contact the opposing Captain no later than the end of the first week of the new round and offer a minimum of three dates for the match, no more than two in the same week.

R7 - Procedure on Match Day

- i. Players must tell their Team Captain what their Handicap Index is on the day of the match and provide proof of this if required.
- ii. Captains must then calculate the Course Handicap for each member of their team.
- iii. Captains must exchange team lists, in handicap index order, no later than 15 minutes before the agreed starting time of the first match.
- iv. No substitutions can be made after the exchange of team lists has taken place.

- v. All players should be present when the teams exchange cards. However, if a player is delayed due to exceptional circumstances the Team Captains can agree that the pair may play at the end of the field but must be within the allocated tee times.
- vi. The visiting team has the 'honour' to tee off first. Thereafter the player who won the last hole tees off first. For County and Inter County Finals the team with the 'honour' to tee off first on the first hole is decided by their place on the draw sheet.
- vii. All matches are to be played in 2 balls and may be halved.
- viii. If a player is unable to continue with a match for any reason, or walks off the course mid-match, it shall be taken that she has conceded, and the remaining holes will be awarded to the other player.
- ix. Following the match, the captain of the winning team should, within 24 hours, email a scan or photograph of the completed official result sheet signed by both Captains to the CPM.

R8 - Tees

- i. All matches should start from the 1st tee. However, if matches cannot start from the 1st tee, the opposing Team Captain should be informed in advance of the match. If both Team Captains agree the match may start from an alternative tee.
- ii. All matches should be played off the women's tees of the day.

R9 - Weather on Match Day

- i. If play is suspended both Captains must agree a waiting time limit for commencement of play and every effort must be made to play the match that day.
- ii. A match should only be abandoned if the course is closed for the remainder of the day or if both Captains agree that the course has become unplayable, or there are no available tee times.
- iii. If it has not been possible to complete all individual matches on the day the following procedures will apply.
- iv. Results of completed matches stand and incomplete matches will be null and void.
- v. The Captains must agree a date when the outstanding matches can be replayed.
- vi. The original team can be changed but players must play in handicap order in line with the matches already completed.
- vii. No player who played in a completed match may take part in any of the matches to be replayed.
- viii. If no individual matches have been completed, the match is declared null and void. It must be replayed at the earliest opportunity with each team free to alter its original team.

R10 - Disputes

- i. In the event of a dispute in a match over a rule of golf, a procedure or a wrong score, R&A rule 20.1b(2) applies regarding making a claim.
- ii. In matters of dispute the decision of the CPM will be final.
- iii. Please remember that the matches should be played in the spirit of the game.

R11 - Extensions

- i. Extensions will not be permitted; thus, Captains should carefully consider when arranging matches in the final weeks of the competition as adverse weather may lead to course closures.
- ii. If the Home course is closed on the last day of the round the match can be played on the Away course.
- iii. In the event of a team not completing all their matches their scores will be null and void and removed. For example, a group of 5 would effectively become a group of 4.

R12 - Course Alterations and Other Issues

- i. If a course is undergoing or about to undergo alterations or in the event of alterations due to inclement weather, the CPM must be informed and revised yardages and other relevant details must be given to the opposing Team Captain.
- ii. Matches cannot be played on a course that is fully open with more than 4 temporary greens or with holes not of a regulation size.
- iii. In exceptional circumstances, and with prior approval of the CPM, it may be possible to play the match on a course with a minimum of 15 open holes. Where a hole(s) is closed, the hole(s) shall be treated as having been played and halved. Stroke indices shall be played as per the card of the full course.

R13 - Trolley Ban

- i. Should a club have or be likely to have a trolley ban in place on the day of the match, the visiting Team Captain must be informed as soon as possible.
- ii. A trolley ban is no excuse for cancelling a match unless both Team Captains agree and a suitable replay date is available and can be arranged immediately. This will also apply if there is a partial ban in place (i.e., no electric).
- iii. If a club has a policy that only trolleys with 'winter wheels' are allowed, then the visiting opponents must be informed in advance and the home club must make an equal number of 'winter wheel' trolleys (including powered winter wheeled trolleys) available to the visiting team as they have available for themselves. If there is a cost incurred this must be shared by both teams.
- iv. If a trolley ban is in place and a player for medical reasons is unable to carry their equipment, permission can be sought from the CPM to allow the use of a caddy. In

such circumstances, their opponent for the sake of equality would also be granted the use of a caddy.

- v. If winter mats are required by a club they should be provided to the visiting team and be of the same quality as the ones used by the home team.

R14 – Buggies

- i. A player or caddy must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except when prior authorization has been granted in accordance with England Golf Transportation Policy.
- ii. A player must seek permission by completing the Pearson Buggy request form, which is available from the CPM.
- iii. Captains must notify the opposition before match day if permission has been granted.
- iv. A final decision on buggy use on the day lies with each individual club under their H&S regulations.

R15 - More than One Course

- i. Where a club has more than one 18-hole course, the Team Captain must inform the opposing Team Captain in advance on which course the match is to be played.
- ii. The course selected at the beginning of the competition should be used throughout the competition.
- iii. Should there be a change or a dispute due to weather conditions or course usage, both the CPM and the opposing Captain should be contacted to gain approval before the match takes place.

R16 - Courtesy Practice Rounds

- i. Clubs are not expected to give courtesy practice rounds for Pearson matches.
- ii. The Pearson Management Committee has no jurisdiction over clubs about the cost or availability of practice rounds.

R17 - Distance measuring Devices

- i. These are permitted under R&A Rule 4.

R 18 - Arriving at a Group or Knockout stage winner

- i. The highest number of team matches won shall decide winners of divisions or sub-divisions. Ties will then be decided by the highest number of games won and a further tie by the numbers of points won e.g.
 - Win by 6 and 4 = 6 points to winner
 - Win by 2 holes = 2 points to winner

- Halved match = Half a point each
- Disqualification or walkover = 1 point to winner
- ii. If a draw at the knockout/quarter final stage, the result will be decided by sudden death by the first named player from each team starting at the 1st hole.

R19 - Caddies

- i. Caddies are permitted in the County and Inter County Finals only (subject to review).
- ii. R&A rule 10.3 will apply and should be referred to in advance.
- iii. Players may not engage a professional, assistant professional or coach as a caddy.
- iv. Caddies must not delay or put off the opponent in any way.

R20 - Trophy

- i. The County Cup/Trophy and the Inter County Pearson Trophy shall be held by the winning team for one year.
- ii. The winning club is responsible for its safekeeping and insurance during this time.
- iii. The winning club is responsible for engraving the trophy. The cost for this will be reimbursed from County Funds.

Finals

- i. The County Finals shall be played by 30 June.
- ii. The Inter County Finals shall be played by 31 July and will be played on a course in each county by rotation, the date and course being agreed annually by the Pearson Management Committee.
- iii. The venue will not be changed should the home team qualify. The Finals will be a knockout tournament, the order of play being decided by a draw. Once a clear result has been reached, unfinished matches will be called in.

Disclaimer

The Pearson Management Committee and the County Pearson Managers will consider issues that may arise from time to time in the running of the competition which are not explicitly covered by these Rules and Regulations. The decision of this committee is final.

Reviewed May 2026