

DEVON MEN VETERAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION



Emerton-Court Trophy Rules



General

1. The DMVGA Emerton-Court Trophy is a team knock-out competition played annually between April and October. The winners receive the Emerton-Court Trophy and the runners-up the Harold Lee Memorial Plate. Both trophies are held for one year.
2. Clubs affiliated to Devon Golf Ltd can enter one team into the competition for the following year. Teams consist of ten players and two travelling reserves.
3. Payment of the entry fee for the competition must be made by 1 October in the year preceding the competition. Failure to do so will mean the club cannot take part.
4. The competition draw takes place at the Annual General Meeting. It is then published on the DMVGA website and forwarded to Representatives immediately following the draw.

Player Qualification

5. Players must have amateur status as defined by the R&A and be full or five day members of their Home Club. A player's Home Club is the one managing the player's Handicap Index.
6. Players must be 60 years or over and registered as fully paid up members of the DMVGA before 1st March in the competition year.
7. Players can represent only their Home Club.
8. All players must be active members of their Home Club's veterans' section.
9. This means that they must have played in a minimum of three competitions organised by their Home Club's veterans' section. These can be either in an individual Stroke Play format acceptable for handicap purposes under the World Handicap System, previously called qualifiers, or inter club matches (excluding Emerton-Court matches) or a combination of both in the 12 months preceding 1st March of the competition year.

10. Players must be 60 years or more when playing qualifying competitions and matches to achieve eligibility but these can be played before the person becomes a member of the DMVGA.
11. The maximum WHS Handicap Index for players taking part is 28.4.
12. New members of a Club's veterans' section can play in the competition only after achieving qualification with the new Home Club.
13. Representatives and Emerton-Court team Captains must verify that all players meet the above criteria.

Match Conditions

14. With the exception of the final, all matches are played on a home and away basis over 18 holes from the Yellow Tees placed as close as possible to the Yellow plates or from equivalent tees.
15. The team comprises five pairs of players to count towards the match result.
16. The first named club in each match will play at home first. These first leg matches are to be played if possible within the first two weeks of the dates set by the DMVGA. Second leg matches are to be played if possible within the last two weeks of the dates set by the DMVGA. Each club may set the date for their home match to suit their own arrangements but must notify potential opponents as soon as the date is arranged. Both home and away matches must be completed by the dates set by the DMVGA. Failure to do so may result in disqualification of teams.
17. Traditionally, visiting clubs have been able to have a courtesy practice round but this arrangement is a matter between the respective clubs.
18. The format will be 4 ball better ball match play. Shot allocation will be in accordance with the WHS Rules of Handicapping and subsequent Guidance on the Rules. Shots allocated are determined by using 90% of the difference between the player with the lowest rounded Course Handicap and the other rounded Course Handicaps. Confirmatory evidence of players' Handicap Indexes must be available on the day.
19. The order of play is based on the combined Handicap Indexes of each pair with the lowest in match one etc. If the combined Handicap Indexes are equal the team Captain will determine the order of play. The 6th pair reserve match should always be played last.
20. Both Captains will exchange team sheets before play commences. If possible this should be before the day of the match.
21. The visiting Club will have the honour on the first tee.

22. Buggies are allowed for those who need them. Their use is dependent on the provision at the host club. Players taking their own buggies must comply with all host Club conditions before use.
23. Caddies are allowed under Rule 10.3 of the Rules of Golf.
24. If the overall match score is tied after the second leg, the Captains will send out their first pairing without delay to play a sudden-death match, play starting at the first hole until a result is achieved. This method also applies to the Emerton-Court final. Stroke allowances taken in the first 18 holes apply again where appropriate in play-off holes.
25. If play is suspended for any reason, the teams will either resume play on the same day or replay the complete match on a new date to be agreed. In this situation, teams may use players who did not take part in the discontinued match.
26. Any breach of these Rules or of the Rules of Golf may cause the players or team concerned to be disqualified, irrespective of the stage reached in the competition.
27. Results of all matches must be notified as soon as possible via the Emerton-Court results page on the front page of the DMVGA website. These are then automatically transferred to the Competitions Administrator and Secretary.

Disputes

28. The two clubs involved should try to resolve any disagreement between themselves at Club level.
29. If this cannot be done, full written details must be sent to the DMVGA Secretary for a decision. He may refer the dispute to the President or other officers to resolve the matter. Playing of the second leg should not be delayed pending a decision on any dispute arising from the first leg match.
30. If a club is disqualified during the course of the competition, the last club eliminated by the transgressors will be reinstated or if part way through a match, the current opponents will go through to the next round.
31. In any dispute, the decision taken by the DMVGA will be final.

Emerton-Court Trophy Final

32. The final consisting of one round of 18 holes will be played on a neutral course selected by the DMVGA Committee. The format is the same with ten

players and two reserves playing 4 ball better ball match play. The honour on the first tee is determined by tossing a coin.

33. The DMVGA will provide a match referee for the final.

34. Following the final, the DMVGA provide a meal for the two teams, the reserves and non-playing Captains at which the Trophies are presented.

Clarification on the use of reserves

- *After the match order has been agreed by the two captains only the designated reserve players can be substituted for an absent or injured player. The match order agreed will not be changed with regards to handicap totals. The reserve player simply deputises for the absent or injured player and the necessary handicap adjustments made to that match. Once all five pairs have teed off there is no further permitted substitution. It is therefore recommended that the reserve pair DO NOT go out before the selected five match pairs. This clarification does not mean that a Captain has to replace an absent or injured player with a reserve and he may, if he so wishes, elect to wait for the eventual arrival of the absent or injured player in accordance with Rule 23.4 of the Rules of Golf in which case a reserve will no longer be allowed for that absent or injured player.*

- **Rule 23.4 One or Both Partners May Represent the Side**
 - The side may be represented by one partner during all or any part of a round. It is not necessary for both partners to be present or, if present, for both to play on each hole.
 - If a partner is absent and then arrives to play, that partner may start play for the side only between the play of two holes, which means:
- **Match Play – Before Any Player in Match Starts Hole.**
 - If the partner arrives only after any player on either side in the match has started play of a hole, that partner is not allowed to play for the side until the next hole.

- An arriving partner who is not allowed to play on a hole may still give advice or help to the other partner and take other actions for the other partner on that hole (see Rules 23.5a and 23.5b).
- **Penalty for Breach of Rule 23.4: General Penalty (loss of hole in match play).**

THESE RULES APPLY FROM 1st NOVEMBER 2022