



## **PEEBLES GOLF CLUB JUNIOR SECTION**

### **Competition Guidance for Junior Members – Rules & Etiquette Reminders**

With the formal junior competitions now resuming but a few changes given the clubhouse not being open, the new handicap system and digital scoring now being the norm, we thought it would be a good time to provide junior members with some guidance for playing in competitions. Some of you will be more experienced and familiar with rules and etiquette than others, but it is important that all junior members read the guidance to refresh their knowledge for the season ahead. If you are unsure of any of the information, please ask a member of the Pro Shop team, office staff or one of the junior volunteer coaches who will be around to support some of the events.

The R&A, golf's governing body, also have a great section on their website, to help youngsters get more familiar with the sometimes complex Rules of Golf! This can be found on the link below:

<https://www.randa.org/Rules-Junior-Room>

#### **1. Booking a Tee-Time**

Tee-times for competition days go live 7 days in advance of the date i.e. the Friday before the next Friday, or the Sunday before the following Sunday. Please try and book in for the competition in advance so we know how many are likely to be playing. For most competitions, there will be 5 or 6 tee-slots available for juniors. The junior schedule for the 2021 season can be found at:

<https://www.peeblesgolfclub.com/junior-fixtures>

#### **2. Playing in Groups**

Our aim this season is to encourage juniors to play in different groups, so the less experienced players will have the chance to play with the more experienced players. This will enable the younger players to learn from the older players and get help with rules and etiquette as they go round, which is an important aspect of the game.

When you turn up for your tee-time on a Friday or Sunday, you may be allocated a slightly different time and play in a different group. The 'draw' and playing order will be determined by the Junior Captain, Vice-Captain and/or one of the Junior coaches. While we appreciate you want to play with your friends, it is a chance to make new friends, but also for the younger players to learn from the older or more experienced players which in turn should help them improve and become better golfers with more knowledge of the game.

#### **3. Signing into a Competition**

Register your entry on the day of the competition via the HowDidiDo mobile app or via the PSI terminal in the foyer. If you are playing later in the day and need to use the PSI terminal, please ensure that you have entered the competition before the clubhouse is closed. Changes to clubhouse hours will be notified through the club newsletter. You must sign into the competition before you tee off.

#### **4. Marking your Score Card and Inputting your Scores**

Although we have moved to digital scoring, you must still use a scorecard to mark your partner's scores as you play round. At the start, note who is marking each other's card e.g. Player A marks Player B's scores, Player B marks Player C's score and Player C marks Player A's scores. You must verify each

other's scores after completing each hole and mark the scores in the score card. Please count and confirm you have all noted the correct scores. Ensure that all shots have been counted.

At the end of the round, verify (verbally) that your playing partner(s) scores are correct for all 9 or 18 holes. Before leaving the course or the clubhouse, enter your score via the HowDidiDo app or via the PSI terminal in the foyer. There is no need for you to submit your paper scorecard to the club.

If you need to enter your score via the PSI terminal in the foyer but the clubhouse is closed, please sign your card, and post it through the main door letter box. The office team will upload your score when they next return to work.

If you do not have the HowDidiDo mobile app, we would encourage you to download it and use it. If you are unsure of how to use it, please ask one of your fellow members for help or contact the office. Once your score is inputted via the App or PSI terminal, it will go onto the 'live leaderboard' which is shown on the HowDidiDo app or the terminal screen. If you have made a mistake with your score, please contact the office or the Junior Captain/Vice-Captain or a Junior Coach. The final winning positions will be confirmed by the Club in due course and prizes will be allocated later.

### **5. Preferred Lies on the Fairway (until 30<sup>th</sup> April)**

Up until the end of April, 'Preferred Lies' will be in operation. This means that when your ball is on the fairway or around the fringes of the green, a player can take free relief (move their ball) to a position within 6 inches of the original spot. This can't be nearer the hole, so you can go to either side or backwards. You can also clean your club while doing this. If you are unsure, please ask your playing partner.

### **6. Preferred Lies in Bunkers**

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, we are not allowed rakes in bunkers therefore preferred lies are also allowed if your ball lands in the bunker. You can lift your ball and place it within ONE CLUB LENGTH of its original spot, no nearer the hole.

### **7. Plugged Balls in the Rough**

If your ball is plugged or embedded in the rough, you can lift your ball, clean it and take a free drop from its original position. Your drop should be within one club length of its original position no nearer the hole and you should mark this with a tee to show you where the ball can be dropped, in between the tee and the original position your ball.

You CANNOT take a free drop in the rough unless your ball is plugged.

### **8. Lost Ball or Out of Bounds**

If you think your ball may be lost or gone out of bounds from the shot you have just hit, you should hit a 'provisional' shot from the position of your original position, whether that be on the tee or another part of the hole. You have a maximum of 3 minutes in which to find your ball from when you start looking for it. If your ball is lost or out of bounds, you incur a penalty shot and your 'provisional' ball would be your 3<sup>rd</sup> shot in the sequence.

For example, if your tee-shot at the 1<sup>st</sup> is out of bounds, you would play another shot from the tee which would count as your third shot.

If you hit your third shot into the rough and you can't find it, you would return to where you hit your 3<sup>rd</sup> shot, take a penalty shot, and then be hitting your 5<sup>th</sup> shot. If you are unsure of penalty shots, hitting a provisional ball or where to drop your ball in a penalty situation, please ask a playing partner.

## **9. Helping your Playing Partners Find Their Ball**

We encourage all golfers to help their playing partners find their ball if it strays into the rough or they are unsure where it has landed. Once you start looking for it, you have 3 minutes in which to find it. As best you can, please watch your playing partners shots so you can help each other find each others golf balls.

## **10. Pace of Play – Ready Golf**

Until you are on the green, you don't have to wait on who is farthest from the green before playing and you can now also tee off in whichever order you decide. This is called Ready Golf – when you are ready, you can play – as long as neither of your playing partners are directly in front of you or directly behind you (within swinging distance). Once you are on the green, you should putt in order of who is furthest away, although once you have putted you can choose to keep putting until you hole out (as long as you're not standing on your partner's line).

When you are on the green, you should leave your bag to the side of the green towards the direction of the next tee.

## **11. Divots and Pitch Marks**

It is vitally important that all players replace their divots if they have taken any turf with the shot. Collect your divot, place it back in its spot and press down on it with your foot. If your ball has made a 'pitch mark' when it has landed on the green, please repair it with a pitch mark repairer. If you don't have one, you can buy one from the Pro Shop – they are relatively inexpensive, and help the greenkeepers keep the greens in good condition, and help your own putting! If you see an unrepaired pitch mark left by someone else, please repair it too.

## **12. What to Do if You are Unsure of a Rule or a Score**

In the rare event that you have a disagreement with your playing partner(s) on the course regarding a rule, a penalty drop or someone's score, note it down and speak to someone at the end of your round, either with the Junior Captain, Vice-Captain, junior coach or Steve/Bob in the Pro Shop. Golf is a game where you are required to self-referee, but there may be the odd occasion where you need something clarified if you can't agree it with your playing partners. It is better to get it resolved quickly and for young golfers to learn from any mistakes, which will help them in the future.

## **13. Junior Section Support**

If you have any queries or need to speak to someone in relation to competitions, please contact one of the following:

- Office – Alan Frain, Sarah Waldie or Pam Sherrard
- Pro Shop – Steve Johnston or Bob Allan
- Junior Convenor – David Thorburn
- Junior Coaches / Helpers – Ross Duncan, Gavin Carruthers, David Tait