



Birr Golf Club Constitution

January 2016

1. Club Name

The name of the Club shall be BIRR GOLF CLUB. The objects of the Club shall be to promote sports of all kind with special regard to the game of golf and to use the revenue generated, as far as possible in the active promotion of the game of golf and such other sports or pastimes as from time to time may be decided on.

2. Trustees

The property and assets of the Club shall be vested in Trustees. The current trustees shall remain in office until death, resignation or ceasing to be members. The power of appointing new trustees shall be vested in the Management Committee, who shall appoint same from amongst the full members of the Club. A maximum of four trustees shall serve concurrently. Each trustee may serve no more than three years.

3. Management Committee

The business and affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Management Committee consisting of:

The President of the Men's Club

The President of the Ladies Club or a representative from the Ladies Club nominated by the Ladies Committee.

The Captain of the Men's Club

The Captain of the Ladies Club

The Vice Captain of the Men's Club

The Vice Captain of the Ladies Club

A Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, both to be appointed by the management Committee and seven others elected by ballot at the A.G.M.

The Chairperson of the Management Committee shall be elected at the first committee meeting held by the Management Committee. The Management Committee shall meet at least once a month, and eight shall form a quorum.

4. Mens Golfing Affairs

Matters relating to the management of the men's golfing affairs, such as competitions, handicaps, and teams shall be managed by a Men's Committee consisting of Men's President, Captain, Vice Captain, outgoing Captain and seven other elected by ballot. Six shall form a quorum. The Men's Clubs shall at all times be affiliated to the Golfing Union of Ireland.

5 Ladies Golfing Affairs

5.(1) Matters relation to the Management of the Ladies Golfing affairs such as competitions, handicaps and teams shall be managed by a Ladies Committee consisting of Ladies President, Captain, Vice-Captain and outgoing Captain. In addition to them a Competitions Secretary, Hon. Secretary and seven others shall be elected by ballot to form the Ladies Committee and 7 shall form a quorum. The ladies Club shall be at all times be affiliated to the ILGU.

5.(2) A lady member shall serve as an Officer or member of the Ladies Committee if elected, for a continuous period of not longer than six years, after which time she shall retire for a period of at least one year.

5.(3) The elected officers and Committee of the ladies Club shall meet regularly- at least once each month of the year - chaired by the Captain or Lady President. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

6. Captains & Presidents Nominations

The President of the Men's Club shall be nominated by the Men's Committee and ratified at the men's A.G.M.

The Captain of the Men's Club shall nominate his Vice-Captain and he shall be ratified at the Men's A.G.M.

The President of the Ladies Club shall be nominated by the Ladies Committee and ratified at the Ladies A.G.M.

The Captain of the Ladies Club shall be selected in the following manner:

The Incoming Ladies Captain shall propose her Vice-Captain to be nominated by the Ladies Committee and ratified at the Ladies A.G.M. The lady must have been an active member for at least five years.

7. Meetings

The A.G.M. of the Club shall be held before the 31st. December each year, and the A.G.M. of the Men's and Ladies Club be held in the month of November prior to the Club A.G.M. with the accounts to be closed on September 30th.

Nominations for election to the Management Committee, Men's Club committee and Ladies Club committee shall be posted on the notice board in the Clubhouse not later than seven days prior to the date of the appropriate A.G.M. setting out the names of the proposer and seconder.

The A.G.M. of the Men's Club and Ladies Club shall be held in the month of November prior to the Club A.G.M. The A.G.M. of the Men's Club and Ladies Club shall be chaired by the incumbent Men's Captain and Ladies Captain. Thirty members shall form a quorum at any general meeting.

The following standing orders shall be applied to all general meetings of the Club:

- (i) The proposer of a motion shall be allowed to speak once in proposing the motion and once in reply to the discussion of that motion.
- (ii) The seconder of a motion shall be allowed to speak once in seconding the motion.
- (iii) A member subscribing to the discussion on a motion shall be allowed to speak only once.

8. Extraordinary General Meetings

The Hon. Secretary shall at any time summon an Extraordinary General meeting by the direction of the Management Committee or upon receipt of a requisition signed by at least 30 full members of the Club, such meeting to be held within three weeks of such requisition. The committee shall have power to fill any vacancy occurring in their members or officers during the year.

9. Sub Committees

The Management committee shall appoint a Greens Committee, Bar Committee, House Committee and any other sub-committee they deem necessary. Any such sub-committee shall consist of at least one member of Management Committee.

10. Accounts

The accounts shall be closed on September 30th. (or as soon as is practicable after this date) in each year and an auditor elected by the Management Committee of which he is not a member shall audit the Club Accounts for the Annual General meeting of the Club. The Auditor should not be a member of Birr Golf Club. The Balance sheet and the Auditors Report shall be available at least one week before the A.G.M. of the Club.

11. Bye-Laws

The Management Committee shall have power to make such bye-laws as they deem proper in the interest of the Club. Bye-Laws shall have the same effect as these Rules and shall remain in force until altered, repealed or suspended by the Management Committee. Bye laws made by Management Committee shall be posted in Ladies and Men's Locker room.

12. Alterations Of Rules:

No alterations or addition to these rules, except for above shall be made at an A.G.M. of the Club or at a General Meeting specially convened for the purpose and in all cases of proposed alterations and additions seven days notice must be given by the Hon. Secretary to all members, when a majority of two thirds of those present and voting at such meetings shall be required to carry any alterations or additions.

13. Memberships

Full membership of the Club shall comprise men and women who, having paid the entrance fee (if applicable) and the annual subscription applicable to this category shall be entitled to attend and vote at the A.G.M. of the Club and all Extraordinary General Meetings and the respective A.G.M.'s and E.G.M's of the Men's Club and the Ladies Club as the case may be.

The election of all male members shall be in the hands of the Men's Committee.

The election of all female members shall be in the hands of the Ladies Committee. The Management Committee shall elect all members of each of the Men's Club and the Ladies Club to the joint Club.

The Club shall have the right at a General Meeting in seeking to raise capital for any development in the Club to provide for term membership of the Club whereby on the payment of a single sum payable in advance persons may be relieved of payment of an annual subscription for the term of any such scheme.

Applications for membership shall be proposed and seconded by two members of the Club to whom they must be personally known. The names and addresses of persons proposed as members must be communicated in writing to the Hon. Secretary.

Employees of the club shall be eligible for membership of the Club and shall be entitled to play in Club competitions and Open competitions providing that their participation does not interfere with their Club duties. They shall be entitled to Club membership at an annual subscription rate of 50% of the annual full subscription but shall not be entitled to attend A.G.M. or Special General

Meetings. Employees are excluded from serving on the Management committee, Men's or Ladies committees.

14. Junior Members

A Junior member is one who has attained the age of eight years but is under the age of eighteen on 1st January in the membership year. Such member shall not be entitled to attend or vote at any meeting convened in accordance with the rules. If a junior wishes to compete in Club competitions an annual fee in addition to the annual subscription shall be paid. The fee shall be decided upon by the Management committee. Any junior aged ten years and under must be accompanied by an adult on the course. Juniors who apply for full membership will be liable for half the current entrance fee (if applicable) with the exception of juniors who have been members for 5 (five) years. Details regarding playing eligibility and other such matters should be dealt with by the relevant Men's/Ladies committees under their rules and regulations.

15. Student Members

A student member is a person between the ages of 18 and 25 years who is attending a full time course in a post primary centre of studies. A student member shall not be entitled to attend or vote at any meeting convened in accordance with the Club rules. If a student wishes to compete in Club competition an annual fee in addition to the annual subscription shall be paid. This fee shall be decided on by the Management committee. Students who apply for full membership will be liable for half the current Entrance fee (if applicable) with the exception of students who have been members for 5 (five years). Proof of attendance at post primary centre of studies must be submitted with application for membership. Details regarding playing eligibility and other such matters should be dealt with by the relevant Men's/Ladies committee under their rules and regulations.

16. Pavilion Members

A Pavilion member is one who does not play golf but can avail of the other facilities of the Club. Such member shall have no voice in the control or management of the Club and may not attend any meeting convened in accordance with the Club.

17. Honorary Members

Any member wishing to propose an individual for Honorary Life membership of Birr Golf Club must submit the proposal in writing with the name and address of the nominee to the Honorary Secretary of the Club, stating reasons why in their opinion Honorary Membership should be granted to the proposed individual. The written proposal must be signed by his/her proposer and seconder who shall be a voting member of the Men's/Ladies Club.

If the Management committee have no objection to the proposal a copy will be forwarded to the Men's/Ladies Clubs for their consideration and observations. The Secretary of the relevant clubs will report the outcome of their deliberations to the Management Committee.

An honorary member shall be elected by the Management Committee and such election shall require a two thirds majority vote of members present.

The Management committee may at any time withdraw the privileges' of being an honorary member.

A member elected an honorary member shall retain all the rights and privileges of the category of membership to which he or she belonged before his or her election as honorary member.

18. Distance Membership

Persons resident not less than 50km from the Clubhouse may be elected by the Management committee as Distance members of the Club on payment of such entrance fee (if applicable) and annual subscription as fixed by the Management committee. Distance members shall be eligible to compete in Club competitions but may not win either the Captain's or President's prize. A distance member does not have to hold membership of another affiliated Golf Club.

In the event of a change of membership from Single to family the balance of the family entrance fee (if applicable) be paid.

Distance members are not eligible to attend any of the A.G.M.'s

19. Family Membership

This shall include husband and wife/ spouse or partner and their dependent children from age eight years to eighteen years.

20. Subscriptions

The annual subscription for membership and entrance fee (if applicable) shall be set from time to time at the Annual General meeting of the Club or an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Club, provided always that there shall be no increase in subscription in any current year.

21. Annual Subscription

The Annual subscription of all members is due and payable on the 1st. of January each year and should subscription remain unpaid on the 30th. March their playing rights as members will be suspended.

In the event of a member joining after the 1st. September in any year the Management Committee will have the power to adjust the amount of the annual subscription payable.

22. Applicant Admission

After the election of an applicant for admission to the Club, the Hon. Secretary shall send him/her Notice of such election forthwith and any relevant information, if such subscription is not paid within 14 days of this notice it shall be understood that such applicant declines to be a member and his or her name shall be removed from the list of members and the application fee paid forfeited to the Club.

23. Membership Withdrawal

Any member wishing to withdraw from the Club shall notify the Hon Secretary in writing prior to the 1st. May and provided that such member had not played on the course since the previous 1st. January shall not be liable for his/her annual subscription. In any other circumstances the annual subscription of such member shall be due and payable.

24. Suspension of Players

In any circumstances connected with the conduct of a member likely to endanger the welfare and good conduct of the Club, be brought to the notice of the relevant men's or ladies section of the Club it shall be in their discretion to suspend such member/members for a specified period - resulting in the loss of the facilities of the course and clubhouse.

No member shall be suspended without first affording him/her the opportunity of appearing before the Committee or other body, however, such member shall have the right of appeal to the Management Committee, accompanied by one other member, to put forward his/her case.

25. Green Fees

The Management committee may allow any person to play on the course on payment of the current green fee. Green fees, societies etc., may play any day on the course, such application to be made to Management committee who with prior consultation with the Men's/Ladies competition committee will make the decision.

Members introducing visitors shall in all cases enter the names and dates in the visitor's book and shall be responsible for money due. Any person paying Green Fee shall be entitled to the privileges of a member for the period convened by such fee except that such visitor shall not be entitled to attend Club meeting or play in Club competitions.

26. Junior Charter

The Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. Every individual in the Club should at all times show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of all. They should conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Club and the guidelines of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's sport in Ireland.

27. Intoxicating Liquor and Registration of Club Act

SALE OF EXCISABLE LIQUOR:

1. The sale and supply of intoxicating liquor to the Club members shall be controlled by the Management Committee on behalf of the members
2. No member of the Committee and no manager or servant employed in the Club shall have any personal interest in the sale of excisable liquor in the Club House or in the profits arising from such sale
3. No excisable liquor shall be supplied for consumption on the Club premises to any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club premises) or be consumed on those premises by any person (other than such a member) -
 - a. At any time on Christmas Day or Good Friday, or
 - b. On any other day, outside the hours specified in respect of that day in Section 2(1)(b) (as amended) of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 1927.
4. Nothing in the Registration of Clubs Acts 1904 to 2008, or contained, by virtue only of the operation of subsection (1) of Section 56 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 1927, as amended, in the rules of the Club shall operate to prohibit the supplying for consumption on the club premises of excisable liquor to any person or the consumption of excisable liquor on those premises by any person-
 - a. On Christmas Day, between 12:00 midday and 10:00pm, or
 - b. On any other day, for one hour after the expiration of any period in respect of that day during which it is lawful for the club, by virtue of Section 2(1)(b) (as substituted by Section 3 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2000) of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 1927 to supply any excisable liquor for consumption on the club premises,
If in each case the excisable liquor is-
 - (i) Ordered by that person at the same time as a substantial meal is ordered by him or her
 - (ii) Consumed by that person during the meal or after the meal has ended.
5. No excisable liquor shall be sold or supplied on the Club premises to any person under the age of 18 years.

6. No excisable liquor shall be sold or supplied for consumption outside the premises of the Club, except to members of the Club, between 8 am and 10 pm.
7. A visitor shall not be supplied with excisable liquor in the Club House unless on the invitation and in the company of a member, and the member shall, with the admission of such visitor to the Club House or immediately on his being supplied with such liquor, enter his name and the name and address of the visitor in the Visitors' Book which shall be kept for that purpose and which shall show the date of each such visit.
8. Members of a group who are members of a club (whether registered or unregistered), society or organisation and who are visiting the Club for the purpose of:-
 - (i) taking part in any pastime, sport, game or recreation there, or
 - (ii) organising or taking part in the organisation of, or arrangements for, any such activity, may be supplied with intoxicating liquor at the request and in the presence of an officer of the Club on the occasion of such visit. Such officer shall enter the name of the group concerned, and the number of persons in it, in the Visitors' Book

28. Course

No alteration to the permanent layout of the course shall be made without the consent of a General Meeting properly convened.

29. Complaints

All complaints shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the relevant committee i.e. Men's/Ladies, who if unable to settle the matter will submit them to the Management Committee whose decision shall be final and binding.

30. Caddies

The Management Committee shall regulate the conditions as to the employment and payment of caddies and shall post a copy of such regulation and minimum amount payable in the Clubhouse.

31. Club Staff

The Management Committee in addition to the powers already specified conferred upon them by these Rules shall have the complete control of the finances of the Club and have the power to engage, fix the remuneration of and decide the duties and conditions of employment of all Club employees. The Management Committee shall have the power to control and dismiss all Club employees and shall have all such administrative powers as may be necessary for properly carrying out the object of the Club in accordance with these Rules.

32. Competitions

The date of the various competitions and the value of the prizes to be given shall be left to the discretion of the appropriate committees who shall have the power to arrange the course for the various competitions. All prizes to be presented through the appropriate Committees and all arrangements for competitions for same shall be made by them. Should any case arise under the rule which may not be covered by this rule the matter shall be referred to the appropriate committee whose decision thereon shall be final. All matches must be played within the time specified and failure to observe this rule may entail disqualification.

33. The Game

The Rules of the Game of Golf as this to be played by the Members shall be those of the Royal & ancient Club of St. Andrews subject to the local Bye Laws.

The Men's Club shall

- (a) Promote the amateur game of golf amongst its members
- (b) Accept and comply with the rules of golf as approved by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.
- (c) Accept and comply with the rules of amateur status as approved by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews
- (d) Accept and apply the Standard Scratch and Handicapping Scheme Prescribed by the Council of National Golf Unions and such rules thereunder as may require to be implemented from time to time by the GUI

The Ladies Club shall:

- (a) Promote the amateur game of golf amongst its members.
- (b) Accept and comply with the rules of golf as approved by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.
- (c) Accept and comply with the rules of amateur status as approved by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews
- (d) Accept and apply the Standard Scratch and Handicapping Scheme as laid down by the Irish Ladies Golf Union

34 . Constitution Review

The present Constitution to be reviewed every five years. A copy of same will be available to members or may be downloaded from Birr Golf Club website.