

DEVON LEAGUE LADIES RULES 2026

1. General Rules

Distance Measuring Devices may be used in all rounds of the Devon League.

1.1. Entry into the League is open to any club Ladies' section situated in Devon. A fee, to be determined at the AGM, is to be paid by all clubs wishing to participate, to the League Organiser by 19th September, to secure entry into the draw the following year.

1.2. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held before the end of October, at a central point and on a day other than the "finals day". At least 14 days' notice of an AGM shall be given to every participating club specifying the day, place and time of that meeting and the business to be transacted.

1.3. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be called by the League Organiser when any matter of importance shall occur or on receipt of such a request signed by 4 participating clubs. In either of these circumstances 7 days' notice must be given, by post or email, to every participating club specifying the day, place and time of that meeting and the business to be transacted.

1.4. All matters relating to the League shall be governed by these rules which can only be changed by a majority vote at an AGM.

1.5. To institute any such change a proposal must be submitted to the League Organiser, in writing, by 19th September. Any such proposal should be put forward by one participating club and seconded by another and must be advised to all clubs by including details on the AGM agenda. Any proposal will be discussed at the AGM and will be adopted immediately if most clubs present vote in favour based on one vote per club.

2. Responsibilities of the Host Club/League Organiser

2.1 The organisation of the league shall be the responsibility of one club (“the host club”). From 2024 the host club from the previous year will remain as support to the next host promoting the ethos of friendship. This responsibility will rotate annually, in alphabetical order of all participating clubs. The host club will nominate a member as League Organiser for their year.

2.2 The League Organiser will:

- (i) Issue printed results sheets for matches, together with instructions on their use, to all participating clubs.
- (ii) Collate results over the season and display a table of results on the internet throughout the season.
- (iii) Organise the finals day.
- (iv) Organise and chair the AGM.
- (v) Prepare a written report for distribution at the AGM detailing income and expenditure for the year and pass all records and the balance of funds over to the next host club.
- (vi) Prepare minutes of the AGM, update the rules (if necessary) and distribute copies to all participating clubs. The minutes, notes and correspondence appertaining to the league should be handed over to the next host club.

2.3. Any dispute arising which cannot be resolved between team captains should be referred to the League Organiser whose decision shall be binding on both teams.

3. Matches/Format of Play

3.1. Clubs entering the league (for the following year) will be drawn at the AGM to determine:

- (i) Which clubs play in each group. The number of groups will be determined by the number of teams who apply. All teams are drawn randomly from all over Devon, enabling variety each year where teams will play.
- (ii) Who each group winner will play in the semi finals
- (iii) If necessary, which group winners will receive byes into the semi-finals (see 3.2 below)

3.2. Should the number of clubs reasonably enable the league to be played in 4 groups then the semi-finalists shall be the winners of each group in accordance with the points system. If there are 6 groups, the 6 winners will qualify for a quarter final on neutral ground together with the best 2 runners up over the 6 groups in accordance with the points system. Should the number of teams entering be 15 or below, there will be three groups instead of four, the semi-finals will consist of the winner of each group and the next overall best team, using average scores if necessary. Should the numbers drop to ten teams there will be two groups, using the top two teams from each group for the semi-finals.

3.3. Each club to play 1 home and 1 away match against every other club in their group and individual clubs should arrange match dates, noting that matches must be played between 1st March and 11th September. Each team must pay for its own tees.

- 3.4. A team consists of 6 players, who must play in order of exact handicap, comply with the World Handicap System (WHS) handicap index, and course handicap based on the course you are playing. There is no longer a reserve player in the divisional stages.

On the day the Captains must make themselves aware of the handicaps of their team. It is the Captain's responsibility to ensure that the players course handicap is correct and exchange details of players names, handicap index, course handicaps and order of play prior to the matches commencing and record such details on a match result sheet.

Changes can be made up to 15 minutes before the first tee time. After the conclusion of the match the completed result sheet should be signed by both captains and sent by the Home Team to the League Organiser. If any team player plays out of exact handicap index order, there will be a 2-point deduction from the final total score.

- 3.5. In the extreme event that a team cannot field such a team, a minimum of 4 players is permitted and the full team will get a walkover of the 5th and 6th games. If a team cannot field a minimum team of 4, the full team will get a walkover of the match and does not have to reschedule.

- 3.6. The format shall be singles match play with a stroke allowance of full difference between the course handicaps. The maximum handicap index is 35.0 with no lower limit. A player whose WHS index is higher than 35.0 is eligible to play but must play off the maximum handicap index of 35.0. Matches are played over 18 holes except on finals day re Rule 4.3 or unless weather conditions intervene – see Rule 3.10 (ii)

- 3.7. Each of the 6 games within a match receives 3 points for an away win, 2 points for a home win, 1½ points for an away draw and 1 point for a home draw.

3.8. If, in any group, there should be a tie after the application of the above, a review of the numbers of games won by each team will be carried out.

3.9. The following playing restrictions apply:

(i) Members are only eligible to play for their home club. The exception to this being that if a member's home club is not entering a team in this competition, she would be eligible to play in the league for any other club to which she belongs.

(ii) A league team should not include any player who has played in more than 2 County Still Cup matches for her home club in the current season.

(iii) Teams should not have caddies (except on Semi-finals and Finals days).

(iv) Any player needing to use a motorised cart (a buggy) must send appropriate medical evidence to the League Organiser at the beginning of the season. Prior permission must be obtained from the Club Secretary of the relevant venue. Additionally, the captain of the opposing team must have been informed prior to the match. If the need for a buggy arises through the course of the season the League Organiser and Captain of the opposing team must be informed immediately, and medical evidence provided to the League Organiser no later than 24 hours prior to the match taking place. If a club is unable to accommodate a buggy the captain of the team should seek an alternative player.

If a player with a permanent disability needs to use a buggy, then there is no requirement for her to repeat the request and provide a medical exemption certificate year on year. The League Organiser will maintain a log of such medical exemption certificates.

3.10. Inclément weather, including extreme heat.

- (i) In case of bad weather regardless of whether the host course is open, the two team captains can decide on the day of the match to re-schedule the match. The away team captain has the right to make this request without having to travel to the away club. If the match must be rescheduled the home team must provide at least 3 dates, which fall on at least 2 different days of the week. If the away team is unable to play on any of these days, the home team will be awarded their average home points won within their division – added on after the completion of their league matches. If the home team is unable to offer three dates the away team will be awarded their average away match points won within their division – added on after the completion of their league matches.

- (ii) If the host course is closed during a match:
 - a) If play can recommence on the same day, games should re start at the point where play was suspended.
 - b) If it is impossible to continue play: If at least 3 games have been completed the result of these games will stand and the remaining games will be halved.
 - c) If fewer than 3 games have been completed the whole match must be rescheduled as per Rule 3.10 (i)
 - d) If the course is closed on the rescheduled day(s) and the match is unable to be played at all then the match must be halved, and the points should be divided 6 points each.

3.11. Unforeseen circumstances e.g., traffic delay, breakdown, or accident.

In the spirit of the game, if more than 2 people in a team are unable to play a match due to unforeseen circumstances the match must be rescheduled in accordance with Rule 3.10 (i). If agreement, between the two Captains, is unable to be reached then the matter should be referred to the League Organiser under Rule 2.3, whose decision will be final.

4. Semi Finals and Final (“finals day”)

4.1. The semi-finals and final shall be played on different days on the same neutral course arranged by the host club.

4.2. Teams for semi-finals and finals shall be selected from players all of whom must have played in at least two matches in the Group stages, plus an additional seventh player who must have played in at least one Group stage match. All players must be within the maximum handicap of WHS 35.0.

4.3. Both the semi-finals and the final will be played on a straightforward match play basis (i.e. no points awarded as in earlier matches) to comply with WHS index and Course Handicap. Each team will comprise of 7 players who must play in handicap order. Each match will be played over 18 holes but, if any match is “all square” after 18 holes then play must continue to “sudden death” to produce a winner.

4.4. The winners of the semi-finals shall be the first clubs to accumulate 4 match wins and they will go on to play the final on the same basis as above.

5. Presentation of the Sharp Salver and the Runners-up Cup will take place at the host club after the final.

Rules changed following AGM in 2025 for 2026.