

# CURRY CUP 2026

## RULES

1. Entry is by invitation of Colne Valley Golf Club and a fee of £40 per club will be payable towards the cost of keepsakes for the players in the final.
2. Each club shall play a maximum of four league matches, two home and two away, followed, where appropriate, by semi-final and final. The host club **must** reserve tee times accordingly, with league matches normally starting between 8.30am and 9.00am, and ideally allowing a minimum of 20 minutes between the last general tee time and the first of the Curry Cup. The host club should offer a 9.00am tee off should the distance from the opposition's club be in excess of 25 miles. There should be no longer than 5 hours between the first foursomes match in the morning and the first singles match in the afternoon, without agreement by both teams. Once confirmed, the host club must advise any changes in tee times to their "away" opponents at least 10 days prior to the match.
3. League matches shall be played on dates agreed mutually between clubs, from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2026, but not later than 24<sup>th</sup> August 2026. There will be no extensions to this date. The semi-finals shall be played on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at Brett Vale and Haverhill Golf Clubs. The final will be held at The Essex Golf & Country Club on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026 with foursomes commencing at 8:00am and singles matches at 1:00pm. Host clubs must ensure that an official is available at both semi-final matches and the final, and the host club should arrange for the presentation of prizes after the final.
4. The dates shown above (Rule 3) will be changed only in the most exceptional circumstances, and then only with the complete agreement of both clubs and the Curry Cup Competition Secretary. **It is therefore imperative that Curry Cup Organisers input the dates of the final and semi-finals to their clubs' fixture lists.**
5. In arranging fixtures Organisers should bear in mind their expected/potential involvement in County competitions, the dates for which are usually immutable. It is the responsibility of the home club's organiser to make contact with their "away" opponents to arrange the fixture. The home club should offer a minimum of 3 weekend dates to their "away" opponents.
6. Those clubs which qualify for the final stages will be required to confirm their availability to the Competition Secretary at least one week before the matches are due to be played. If, despite best efforts (Rule 4), it is not possible to arrange the match the defaulting club will be replaced by the highest scoring club, from all three leagues, which did not qualify for the semi-finals. In the event that this club is also not available then the next highest scorer, etc. Should two teams have identical scores then Rule 21 will be implemented.
7. If two clubs fail to agree a date for a league fixture they should refer the matter to the Competition Secretary before the end of February 2026. All league fixture dates **must** be confirmed to the Competition Secretary by 28th February 2026. These dates **should not** be changed, but if any amendment is required, both parties must be in agreement. There should be a maximum of two fixtures per club per calendar month.
8. A team shall consist of 12 male, full members of each club, with an active handicap. Six will play in Category 1 – each with a **HANDICAP INDEX** between 0.0 to a maximum of 10.0, with the total of the six being not less than 40.0. The remaining six will play in Category 2 – each with a **HANDICAP INDEX** between 10.0 to a maximum of 18.0, with the total of the six being not less than 75.0.
  - NOTE 1:** Higher handicap players are eligible to play but for the purpose of calculating the totals the maxima of 10.0 and 18.0 must be used.
  - NOTE 2:** Handicaps shall be those posted by the participating clubs 10 days before the Match – opposing teams are entitled to access to the other teams Handicap records should they so request.
  - NOTE 3:** Maximum of 6 players under 18 years of age per team per match, with a maximum of 4 players under 18 years of age per category.

**NOTE 4:** For the purposes of calculating the overall handicap limit in each category, each Players' **EXACT HANDICAP INDEX** is to be used. A category 1 example is shown below:

**CATEGORY 1**

Player #1	5.8 HI
Player #2	4.5 HI
Player #3	7.4 HI
Player #4	8.8 HI
Player #5	6.4 HI
Player #6	7.1 HI
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40.0</b>

Using this example, the above players are acceptable under the rules (at least 40.0). Should Player #6 have an HI of 7.0 for example, this would take the total to 39.9 (ie below the 40.0 minimum) and therefore be un-acceptable (see note 2 re the 10 day rule)

A player must hold an official handicap index maintained in accordance with the World Handicap System (WHS) of The Council of National Golf Unions Ltd. All team players will be required to have a WHS handicap index prior to 1<sup>st</sup> May (or the date of your first match if this is earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> May) in the year of the competition to be eligible to play for their club.

For a player to be eligible to play in the Curry Cup in 2026 they must have a minimum of 20 qualifying scores on their WHS record in the preceding 3 years, taking into account the date of the match being played along with the 10 day rule. New players/golfers must have a minimum of 7 qualifying scores on their WHS record in the preceding 12 months, taking into account the date of the match being played along with the 10 day rule.

9. A player will be eligible to play for only one club in any one year and must have a handicap index in line with Rule 8.
10. Any club which declares a wrong handicap(s) for a player(s), taking (8) above into account, will forfeit that league match with 12 points being awarded to the opponents. Should this occur in knock out rounds, the match will be won by the opponents.
11. All matches will be played off scratch with the nominated Category 1 players taking the first six places. **NOTE:** Players must remain within the same category throughout any particular match.
12. The match format will be foursomes (six games) in the morning followed by singles (12 games) in the afternoon. The singles may be played in 2 or 4 ball games, at the discretion of the home club, however, in the semi-final and final stages of the competition they will always be played as two-balls. All games will be matchplay over 18 holes – with a halved game being acceptable. Before the start of the afternoon singles games in the semi-finals and final each Captain shall nominate a Category 2 (see 8 above) player to compete in a “sudden death” play-off in the event of the match being drawn. This will decide the outcome of the match. See Rule 20.
13. If a team player has to retire injured there will be no reserve player. The retired player will forfeit the relevant points for both the foursomes and/or the afternoon singles.
14. Captains should exchange their playing orders, which will include players' handicaps, at least fifteen minutes before the agreed starting time of each session. It is the Captains' responsibility to ensure compliance with the rules on handicaps and to resolve any disputes, eg, by dropping the offending player(s) and losing his (their) potential points for the day. Once both captains have agreed the playing order, the match may commence. A starter should also be used if possible, which could be one of the players scheduled to tee off last.

15. i) No professional golfer shall be allowed to caddie.  
ii) Only Caddies may provide "advice" (as defined in R&A rule 10.2a) to any player. Team Captains may provide motivation and encouragement to their Players, but they are **not** permitted to give "advice" whilst the match is in progress.  
iii) A player may have **only one caddy** during each stipulated round (i.e. a Caddy may be different for the morning and afternoon rounds but **cannot** be substituted part-way through a round).  
iv) A Team Member who has already completed their match may caddy for a Team-mate, but only if the player has not had a Caddy during that match (i.e. to avoid conflict with point iii above)  
v) The use of GPS Rangefinders is permitted.

16. Rules for the interruption of play shall be as follows:-

(i) if play is unable to start because of adverse weather conditions, eg thunder and lightning, or the state of the course, the match should be played as soon as possible on another date by mutual agreement;

(ii) if play is suspended before the completion of the morning foursomes and cannot be resumed on the day, the round shall be cancelled and played as soon as possible on another day by mutual agreement, with each club free to alter its original team and playing order:

(iii) if it proves impossible to fix a date to play or complete the match the Committee should be advised, and they will make the final decision regarding how to proceed.

(iv) if play is suspended after the completion of the morning foursomes, the result of the foursomes will stand, as will the results of any of the afternoon singles matches if more than 9 holes have been played. If 9 holes or less have been completed in the singles matches, these matches will be halved. Only in these circumstances will a draw be acceptable. In the case of a semi final result being a draw the team with the highest handicap will be the winning team.

**NOTE:** Should play need to be suspended players should be aware that a claxon or similar will be sounded. Players should complete any hole they are playing. Players should not tee off after the claxon has been sounded.

17. The R & A Rules of Golf will apply.

18. Home clubs must extend the courtesy of the course for the day for each match and no green fee shall be payable except for semi-finals and the final when a £5 per player green fee contribution is payable. Caddies would be expected to pay for refreshments only. Further privileges are optional. The two teams competing in the Final would host the semi-finals for the following year. No courtesy rounds are given in any rounds.

**19. The result of each match MUST be declared by email to the Competition Secretary at [info@colnevalleygolfclub.co.uk](mailto:info@colnevalleygolfclub.co.uk) within 48 hours of it being played. In addition, the two team Captains must each complete a result sheet (which will be provided by the organisers) and return them, at the earliest opportunity (and in any case within 5 working days), to the Competition Secretary by email. Failure to return result sheets within the specified time will result in a 3-point deduction for both teams.**

20. The competition shall be run on a league basis with each winning game within a match scoring one point and a draw scoring half a point. The winner of each of the three leagues shall be the club which, after playing four matches, or completing its fixtures (see Rules 24 and 25), has most points. However, if any club has won all four of their matches within the league, they will automatically go through to the semi-finals, irrespective of whether they have the most points. In the event that two clubs within a league share the highest number of points, then the team with the highest points total for the 48 singles games (ie 4 matches x 12 games) will be declared the winner. If these totals are identical then normal "count-back" rules will apply, ie the total points scored in the last 4 x 9 singles, the last 4 x 6 singles or last 4 x 3 singles will be used. In the unlikely event that this does not provide a winner the decision will be based on the winning margins in the singles games throughout the series, ie wins of 4 & 2 and 6 & 5 would count as 10. There will be no play off until the semi-final and final

stages. The winners of each of the three leagues, plus the runner up with the highest score overall will go into the semi-finals. There will be a draw to decide which semi-final teams play each other. Should a team reaching the semi-final be hosting a semi-final they will not play at their home club.

21. In the event that during a **final** league match it becomes evident that the result of the match has no bearing to any of the league standing, **both** captains may decide that:-

- 18 holes may be played instead of 36 holes
- Any **incomplete** match points will be shared

22. In the event that there is a tie for the fourth place in the semi-finals, then the team with the highest points total for the 48 singles games (ie 4 matches x 12 games) will be declared the winner. If these totals are identical then normal "count-back" rules will apply, ie the total points scored in the last 4 x 9 singles, the last 4 x 6 singles or last 4 x 3 singles will be used. In the unlikely event that this does not provide a winner the decision will be based on the winning margins in the singles games throughout the series, ie wins of 4 & 2 and 6 & 5 would count as 10.

23. The winner shall hold the trophy for one year, or until the completion of the following year's competition, whichever is the earlier. The winner shall arrange for engraving of the trophy.

24. Buggies are generally not used in the Curry Cup competition; however, a golf buggy may be used by one player per club per match who holds current England Golf buggy certification. Such players must apply for authorisation to the organisers before the confirmed date of the first league match.

25. Teams which fail to attend on a date and time which has been agreed will score zero points and be disqualified for that match or from the competition (at the discretion of the Committee). The Captain of any such team will also be expected to attend the annual Curry Cup Meeting to explain why the fixture was not fulfilled. The committee of other participating Clubs present at the meeting will vote on the continuation of the offending team in the competition in future years. In the event of the vote being upheld, Colne Valley will have the casting vote. Those teams that have already played the offending team will retain their points. Any clubs due to play the offending team will be awarded 12 points.

26. Clubs which, for whatever reason, are unable to field a team for a fixture must give their opponents at least 10 days' notice of their situation; failure to do so will result in disqualification. Compliance with this rule will result in the withdrawing team scoring zero points and their opponents awarded 12 points.

27. There should be a golf Professional or similar impartial official available at semi-finals and the final to assist with any necessary adjudication, particularly if the host club is playing in the final. The host club is asked to welcome the players on the day before morning tee off and explain any local rules etc. Every attempt will be made to eliminate slow play. It is considered that 4½ hours is ample time for the completion of a game and action may be taken against those who take longer. A presentation will take place after the final and all players from both teams will be expected to attend. The host club is to present the trophy to the winners.

28. One club in each of the three groups will be asked to nominate an individual to sit on an adjudication panel, chaired by Colne Valley, to decide upon penalties which may not be covered by the above. The decision of the panel will be final.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR TEAM SELECTIONS THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS TROPHY IS TO PROMOTE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PLAYERS IN BOTH CATEGORIES TO GAIN EXPERIENCE AT THIS LEVEL**