

MARY MCKENNA DIAMOND TROPHY

Rules 2026



R & A Rules of Golf apply – Model Local Rule E-5 shall not be used in matches

1. FORMAT

The Competition format will be SCOTCH FOURSOMES MATCHPLAY for female competitors who have reached their 60th birthday on or before 31st December 2025.

2. PAIRINGS

Teams will consist of 5 pairings. Players on the team may be changed throughout the tournament. A player may only represent one club.

3. EXCHANGE OF PAIRINGS

Pairings may play in any handicap order. Prior to the commencement of a team match, the respective team managers shall simultaneously interchange team sheets with the names of the team members, their handicaps and the order of play. The team manager must provide a handicap report of their player's eligibility handicap on the date of the match. A team with an underage player will be disqualified.

4. HANDICAP ALLOWANCE (PLAYING HANDICAPS)

Under the rule of handicapping, in Matchplay, sides first work out their Playing Handicaps and then take their full shots from each other as follows: Scotch/Greensomes Foursomes each pair determines their side's Playing handicap (60% of the Lowest Course Handicap + 40% of the Highest Course Handicap) and then determines their strokes based on the full difference between their Playing Handicap and the opposing pair's.

5. COMBINED HANDICAPS

The maximum combined handicap of a pair is 50, meaning both players course handicaps when added together cannot exceed 50. The course handicap is calculated using the eligibility handicap index for 2026 for each player.

Pairings with a combined course handicap in excess of 50 are allowed, but the **higher handicap** player would need to be reduced to meet the requirement of max. 50 combined (see example A). It may then occur that the higher handicap player becomes the lower and 60% applies to her (see example B). An incorrect higher handicap means automatic disqualification of that pairing. (See Rule 3.2C–Rules of Golf).

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6. COURTESY SHOT

The away team in a single leg match gets 2 courtesy shots per pairing/match. The courtesy shot adjustment is completed after the shots have been confirmed as per examples:

- E.g. Match 1: Home team calculated to get 4 shots now they get 3.
- E.g. Match 2 calculated as a flat match, away pairing now gets 1 shot.

7. TEES

All matches are to be played off red tees. All matches to be played to a finish until an overall result has been obtained. There are no halved matches. However, a match “called in” is recorded as a half. If a match continues down the 19th, 20th etc. the stroke allowance i.e. the exact same shots apply as per first 18 holes played, inclusive of the courtesy shot adjustment where applicable.

8. HOME & AWAY LEGS

For round 1 the team on top of the draw is deemed as the home team and shall have the choice of venue for the first of the two legs. The result will be based on the cumulative total of match wins from the two fixtures. If the overall result produces a draw, the result will be decided that day by a sudden death playoff, commencing on the 1st hole. Each Team Manager shall nominate any one of the said pairings for the playoff. Stroke Allowance will apply.

9. HOME & AWAY STATUS

Home and away status for teams proceeding from round 1 and any subsequent rounds will be confirmed on the Woodenbridge G.C. website (www.woodenbridge.ie/diamond-trophy) in the draw section once all results are received.

10. TEAM MANAGERS

If a Team Manager is a player, she should appoint a Substitute Manager who may give advice. (Rule 24.4).

11. BUGGIES

Buggies are only permitted with appropriate medical certificate and are subject to availability.

12. POSTPONEMENTS

All matches must be played by the date specified, no extensions can be permitted. Matches not played shall be scratched, unless one of the clubs has received a walkover.

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13. RESULTS

Results of the matches must be communicated by the winning team within two days of the match.

- Contact WOODENBRIDGE GOLF CLUB,
- Tel. 0402 35202 ext. 3 (from ROI),
- If calling from Northern Ireland 00353 402 35202,
- Email: admin@woodenbridge.ie

14. DISPUTES

Good sportsmanship should be evident, if a dispute arises we encourage managers to settle at the time of the match. In all disputes, the decision of the Woodenbridge Golf Club shall be final. Woodenbridge Golf Club reserves the right to alter and revise the Competition Rules as it sees fit.

15. FINALS

The Provincial Champions shall play the All Ireland Semi-Finals and Finals at Woodenbridge Golf Club on Saturday and Sunday, 12th and 13th September 2026.

16. PRACTICE ROUNDS

Course facilities to be provided to opponents for a practice round without charge for a maximum of 14 players.

NOTE: MEALS/DRINKS

Each team shall be responsible for the cost of their own after match refreshments.

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SHOT CALCULATION EXAMPLES

Example → Venue = Phoenix Golf Club Slope Rating Female = 126

HOME TEAM

Pair:	H. Cap Index. (H.I.)	Course H. Cap (C.H.)	% of C.H.	Pair's Playing H.Cap
Player 1 (lowest)	15.4	17	60% (10.2) 10	22
Player 2 (highest)	28.2	31	40% (12.4) 12	
		17 + 31 = 48 ✓	Add C.H.s	P.H. for the Match

OPPOSITION TEAM (example A)

Pair:	H. Cap Index. (H.I.)	Course H. Cap (C.H.)	% of C.H.	Pair's Playing H.Cap
Player 1 (lowest)	14.5	16	60% (9.6) 10	24
Player 2 (highest)	32.4	36 (too high – 2) = 34	40% (13.6) 14	
		16 + 36 = 52 ✗ 16 + 34 = 50 ✓	Add C.H.s	P.H. for the Match

OPPOSITION TEAM (example B)

Pair:	H. Cap Index. (H.I.)	Course H.Cap (C.H.)	% of C.H.	Pair's Playing H. Cap
Player 1 (lowest)	23.4	26	40% (10.4) 10	24
Player 2 (highest)	26.2	29 (too high – 5) = 24	60% (14.4) 14	
		26 + 29 = 55 ✗ 26 + 24 = 50 ✓	Add C.H.s	P.H. for the Match

As you can see from calculations in examples above we can conclude:

Home Team C.H. = **22** V Opposition Team C.H. = **24** → Opposition **GET 2 shots**

On single leg matches make the courtesy shot adjustment at this point.

Courtesy shot applies to the away team on single leg matches ONLY.