

Pyecombe Pitcher
Rules 2026

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of the Pitcher is to provide:

- a. A breeding ground for fringe Wellesley Trophy players.
- b. Scratch golf but in a slightly more relaxed atmosphere in the format of 4 ball better ball medal.
- c. The chance to play on some excellent courses.

2. **Format**

The format is 4 Ball Better Ball Stroke Play.

Players should carefully consider 'overly generous' conceded putts (gimmes). Conceding gimmes can impact on the context of the overall match. As a general guide, it is recommended that only putts that are 2 feet or less in length are conceded.

3. **Teams**

Each Club should field a team of 10 players, in 5 pairs.

4. **Handicap limitations**

- a. Teams can comprise a maximum of 5 players with a handicap index ('HI') of 4.5 or below (such players are to be defined as 'Category 1 players').
- b. The remainder of the team can be drawn from players with a HI of 4.6 or above.
- c. No stipulation is given on how pairings need to be arranged. This is at the discretion of the team captain to arrange pairings. For example, 2 x 4.5 or less HI players are permitted to play together, as well as other variations employed within the overall limitation of a maximum of 5 x 4.5 or less HI players in the team.
- d. The category under which a player participates is deemed to continue for a period of 14 days from selection (e.g. a player selected, who drops from 5.0 HI to 4.5 in the 14 days prior to a fixture, may remain in the side as a higher handicap player). Captains should advise the opposition as a matter of courtesy.
- e. No team may field 5 x Category 1 players where the aggregate of the Handicap Indexes of those players is less than 0.4 (e.g. a team fielding 1 x +2.0, 1 x +1.0, 2 x 1.0 and 1 x 3 will have an aggregate of 1.0 index)

5. **Limitations on eligibility to play**

- a. If a player takes part in the Pitcher for one team they are 'Club tied' and therefore unable to play for another team during that season.
- b. There is no age limit. In other words, subject to the standard handicap requirements, under 18's are able to take part.

6. **Jack & Jill League arrangements and arrangements for the finals**

- a. The 2026 competition will be played out between 12 teams established into 2 leagues playing matches at home and away as set out below.

- b. On completion of all matches within the leagues, the first placed club in each league will play the second placed club in the other league in each of the two semi-finals.
- c. Semi-finals venues will only be determined following identification of the 'final 4', and all these clubs must be prepared to host a semi-final or final.
- d. Clubs should make themselves available as venues for the Semi-Finals and Final; 'pencilling in' dates in September / early October 2026 for potential use.

7. Match abandonment

Where a clear message confirming play suspension (such as a claxon) is given and play cannot recommence (owing, for example to inclement weather conditions):

- a. If all games have not completed the 10th hole, a new date should be fixed with the match started afresh.
- b. If all games have completed the 10th hole, the match is determined based on the score of each game when the message is given.

8. Scoring

Teams amass points as follows:

- a. 1 point for each pair winning their game.
- b. Half a point for a halved game.
- c. 2 additional points awarded for a Club winning the match overall.
- d. 1 additional point awarded for an away Club halving the match overall.

Example 1: A 5-0 win results in a 7 point to 0 point haul.

Example 2: A 4-1 win results in 6 points for one team and 1 for the other.

Example 3: A draw results in 2.5 points for the home Club and 3.5 points for the away Club.

9. Final league places

Final league places will be decided by:

- a. Points – then
- b. Away points – then
- c. The match between the 2 sides – then if still equal
- d. The away team in that match should be awarded the higher place
- e. In the event of a draw in the Semi Finals or Final, the result shall be determined, by the lowest aggregated medal scores of the 5 pairs. If tied then the result is decided on countback for the 5 pairs over last 9, 6, 3 holes.

10. Practise rounds

- a. Courtesy rounds are not permitted in advance of standard Jack / Jill league fixtures.
- b. Courtesy rounds are permitted in advance of semi-finals and the final.
- c. Host clubs should seek confirmation from their Golf Club committee / Managing Sec to facilitate any courtesy rounds requested for up to 10 players preceding any fixture hosted at their club.

- d. Rounds may only be played in the preceding weeks, by prior arrangement with the host club, and be limited to twilight/evening periods.

11. Match fees

- a. Match fees levied to support after match fare, should be at a rate of £10.00 per head.
- b. Host clubs should provide appropriate food within this price bracket (e.g. sandwiches and chips). This in some way encourages players to stay and socialise and to support the home club.

12. Results

- a. A match sheet has been circulated to all constituent Clubs for use.
- b. Before the commencement of each match, the following sections should be completed by the team captains:
 - i. Home Club
 - ii. Away Club
 - iii. Home captain
 - iv. Away captain
 - v. Player names for all matches.
 - vi. Handicap indices for all players.
- c. After the match, the following sections should be completed by the team captains:
 - i. Result (W = win / H = half / L = loss). Points (1 = win / 0.5 = half / 0 = loss).
- d. Having completed the sheet, a photograph of the same should be posted on the designated Pyecombe Pitcher whatsapp group.
- e. Pyecombe GC will arrange for updated league tables and results to be posted on the main web page for Pyecombe via <http://www.pyecombegolfclub.com/comp-PPitcher.aspx>

13. Entry fee

The agreed entry fee per Club is £40.00, payable by BACS to Pyecombe Golf Club.

- Pyecombe Golf Club
- Barclays
- 20-12-75
- 00979015