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July 2015

**THE 89<sup>TH</sup> BOYS AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP  
ROYAL BIRKDALE AND SOUTHPORT & AINSDALE  
TUESDAY 11 – SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2015**

**NOTICE TO COMPETITORS**

Dear Sir

I extend, on behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Championship Committee, a very sincere welcome to The Boys Amateur Championship.

The following administrative notes and attached Draw are to advise Competitors and to help in the overall administration of the Championship.

**1. FORMAT**

As you will be aware, the first stage of the Championship will be stroke play over two rounds of 18 holes, one to be played over Royal Birkdale and one over Southport & Ainsdale. There will be a starting field of 252 players split equally between the two courses. The leading 64 competitors and ties will qualify for the match play stages, to be played at Royal Birkdale from Thursday 13 August.

**2. TRAVEL & CAR PARKING**

The postal address for Royal Birkdale is Waterloo Road, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2LX. The Club's website address is: [www.royalbirkdale.com](http://www.royalbirkdale.com)

Southport & Ainsdale postal address is Bradshaw's Lane, Ainsdale Southport, Merseyside PR8 3LG. The Club's website address is: [www.sandagolfclub.co.uk](http://www.sandagolfclub.co.uk)

The nearest airport is Liverpool 'John Lennon' Airport which is an approximate 40 minute drive. Manchester Airport is an approximate 1 hour 10 minute drive (all traffic dependent).

Parking will be available for competitors in car parks at each venue on a first come first served basis. Overflow car parking areas will be available at each venue - car park attendants will direct you to these areas if required.

Please note that vehicles will be parked at the owner's own risk.

### 3. REGISTRATION

All competitors **must** register at the Registration desk, located downstairs in the Members Lounge of the Clubhouse at Royal Birkdale. Registration will be open from 8.00am until 5.00pm on Sunday 9 August and from 8.00am until 4.00pm on Monday 10 August.

A Competitor who does not register by 4.00pm on Monday 10 August may be withdrawn from the Championship. If you are unable to register in person, please telephone +44 (0) 1334 213 400 (Opt.1) or e-mail [ewanmordaunt@randa.org](mailto:ewanmordaunt@randa.org)

At Registration, you will be asked to provide the address and telephone details of your accommodation during the Championship. You will be issued with a Registration pack including players badge, bag tag and complimentary yardage chart for Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale. In addition you will be required to visit various work stations which include Pace of Play and WAGR™ (World Amateur Golf Ranking). With this in mind please allow sufficient time to complete the Registration process; i.e. up to 20 minutes.

### 4. CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES

Access to the Clubhouse facilities at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale will be open to all and no clubhouse passes will be required.

Both Clubhouses will be open one hour before play on each Championship and Official Practice Day and will remain open for a minimum of one hour after play has finished.

Competitors may use the Gents Locker Rooms at each venue. A limited number of lockers will be available within both Locker Rooms upon request. £1 refundable 'valuable'; lockers will be available at Royal Birkdale.

Bag storage will be available at both courses. At Royal Birkdale the Club's trolley storage area in the downstairs of the clubhouse will be used for this purpose. At Southport & Ainsdale the clubhouse office will be available – to use this facility please report to the Club office where staff will provide access to this facility.

All articles will be left at owner's risk. The R&A, Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale cannot be held responsible for any loss of valuables or equipment during the Championship and practice days. You are strongly advised not to leave clubs unattended outside Club premises.

### 5. DRESS

A minimum standard of dry smart casual dress is expected within both clubhouses and around the venues. Competitors must not wear tracksuits, denim clothing, collarless t-shirts or training shoes / sneakers. Headwear and waterproofs are confined to outside the Clubhouses.

At both venues, clean soft spikes are permitted throughout the Clubhouses. Competitors are however requested to bring shoes to change into following golf.

Note: During the Championship, Competitors may not wear shorts at any time including during practice rounds.

### 6. CATERING

Catering for competitors and their guests will be available in both Clubhouses. Catering will open

one hour before the first tee-time at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale on each Championship and Official Practice Day.

Throughout the Championship, at Royal Birkdale, food will be available until 11.00am in the downstairs lounge area and from 11.00am to 7.00pm upstairs in the Clubhouse dining room.

At Southport & Ainsdale, food will be available until the last competitors have finished play.

## 7. PRACTICE

On the two official Practice days, Sunday 9 and Monday 10 August, the 1st tees will be open at 8.00am. On Sunday 9 the 1st tees will close at 4.30pm and on Monday 10 the 1st tees will close at 2.30pm.

At Royal Birkdale practice times should be reserved by telephoning +44 (0) 01704 552020 (Option 1) or e-mailing [secretary@royalbirkdale.com](mailto:secretary@royalbirkdale.com) At Southport & Ainsdale practice times should be reserved through the Professional's Shop by telephoning +44 (0) 1704 577316 or e-mailing [JimPaynegolf@gmail.com](mailto:JimPaynegolf@gmail.com) Each player may reserve only one practice time on each day. To avoid disappointment, please reserve practice times in advance.

Competitor's wishing to practice outwith the above official practice times may do so at the discretion of the host venues. The agreed rate for practice rounds out with the official practice times at Royal Birkdale is £140 and at Southport & Ainsdale is £50. Competitors wishing to check on availability should use the contact details noted above.

Competitors should make note of the two points below and are requested to play in fourballs wherever possible.

- (a) ONE BALL ONLY MAY BE PLAYED DURING THE PRACTICE ROUNDS WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTION:  
If a player misses the green with his shot to the green, he may play one additional shot.
- (b) COMPETITORS MAY NOT PLAY FROM ANY ROPED OFF AREAS OR PROTECTED AREAS ON TEES.

R&A Officials will monitor practice on the course during these days and we would be grateful if you could adhere to any instructions which they may require to issue.

## 8. PRACTICE GROUND/PUTTING GREEN

A controlled practice ground, with complimentary balls will be operated at both Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale.

The R&A are indebted to Titleist for providing practice balls for the Championship.

**PRACTICE BALLS MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM THE PRACTICE GROUNDS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. ANY PLAYER FOUND GUILTY OF THIS ACTION WILL BE LIABLE TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE.**

At Royal Birkdale, the practice ground facility is located an approximate 5 minute walk from the Clubhouse. **Please note: In view of the approximate 5 minute walk time between the Practice Ground and Clubhouse it is each player's responsibility to ensure enough time is allowed to be ready to play at his assigned tee-time.**

At Southport & Ainsdale, the practice ground measures a maximum of 200 yards to the furthest part. **Competitors MUST not hit beyond this distance under any circumstances.** With this in mind, **NO DRIVERS are permitted.** Nets for drivers are available adjacent to the practice ground. Failure to comply may lead to disciplinary action by the Championship Committee.

The practice putting greens and short game areas are located adjacent to each practice ground.

The opening and closing times will be as follows:

Sunday 9 & Monday 10 August	7.00am – 6.00pm (both venues)
Tuesday 11 & Wednesday 12 August	6.00am – 7.00pm (both venues)
Thursday 13 August	6.30am – 6.00pm
Friday 14 August	6.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday 15 August	7.00am – 8.45am, 12.00pm – 1.15pm
Sunday 16 August	7.30am – 8.30am, 12.00pm – 1.00pm

At peak times access to the practice grounds at both venues maybe restricted to players within the one hour leading up to their tee time. As an example, a player with a 2.30pm tee time may only use the Practice Ground between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Following the last tee time on each day, access will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

**We trust you will treat all of these practice facilities with respect and obey the instructions of the Attendants supervising these practice grounds. Competitors using any of these practice facilities do so at their own risk.**

## 9. CADDIES

**The use of a caddie is NOT PERMITTED at any stage during the Championship.**

Complimentary pull trolleys are available at both venues. There are also a limited number of electric trollies available at a cost to the competitor.

## 10. RECORDING

During stroke play, it is each player's responsibility to ensure that his scorecard is handed to the Recorders as soon as possible after the completion of the round (Rule 6-6b). At both venues the Recorders' office will be located in a portacabin as you exit from the course.

During match play, it will be the responsibility of the winner of a match to report the result to the Recorder's Office as soon as possible after the match is completed. No further play is permitted after the conclusion of a match.

## 11. DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES

The specimen Local Rule **permitting** the use of Distance Measuring Devices will be in effect for The Boys Amateur Championship – see page 136 in the Rules of Golf.

For additional guidance on permissible and non-permissible Distance Measuring Devices, see <http://www.randa.org/en/Equipment/Distance-Measuring-Devices.aspx>

If you have any queries, please contact the Championship Office.

## 12. PACE OF PLAY

It is the responsibility of each competitor to understand the Pace of Play policy. **Failure to comply with the Pace of Play policy may result in you being penalised.** With this in mind you are asked to read the attached Pace of Play policy. To understand how the timing procedure operates in practical terms please click on the following link: <http://www.randa.org/en/Rules-and-Amateur-Status/Pace-of-Play/RandA-Pace-of-Play-Policy.aspx>

Should you have any questions regarding the Pace of Play policy then please visit the Championship Offices at Royal Birkdale or Southport & Ainsdale where R&A Officials will be happy to assist your query.

## 13. GROOVE CONDITION

The condition requiring golf clubs to conform to the 2010 groove and punch mark specifications will be in effect at R&A Championships this year. All competitors' equipment must conform to the amended groove regulations which apply to all clubs, apart from drivers and putters. Full details can be found in Decision 4-1/1 of Decisions on the Rules of Golf.

For any queries, please visit the webpage [www.randa.org/groovesearch](http://www.randa.org/groovesearch), contact Mrs. Claire Bates ([equipmentstandards@randa.org](mailto:equipmentstandards@randa.org)) or call +44 (0) 1334 460 000. There will also be Equipment Standards staff onsite at Royal Birkdale from the afternoon of Sunday 9 August.

## 14. WITHDRAWALS

Competitors who wish to withdraw from the Championship must inform us in writing as soon as possible. Failure to do so may affect entry into future R&A Championships.

This information should be sent to Jonathan Tippetts-Aylmer at The R&A until 4.30pm on Friday 7 August – Tel: +44 (0) 1334 460000 / Fax: +44 (0) 1334 460005 / E-mail: [jta@randa.org](mailto:jta@randa.org) and thereafter to The R&A Office at Royal Birkdale- Tel: 01334 213400 (Opt.1) E-mail: [euanmordaunt@randa.org](mailto:euanmordaunt@randa.org)

## 15. RESERVES

The first ten reserves on the published list will be entitled to a practice round on both courses and any other player privileges.

## 16. WELCOME HOG ROAST

The R&A will host a welcoming Hog Roast reception at Royal Birkdale with complimentary food and refreshments. This will take place, weather permitting, outside the Clubhouse from 6.00 to 8.00pm on Monday 10 August. The dress code is smart casual. In the event of adverse weather the reception will take place inside the Clubhouse. Invitations will be issued at Registration and it is hoped that as many Competitors as possible will attend.

## 17. ACCOMMODATION

For advice and information with regard to accommodation the following websites are recommended:

[www.englandsgolfcoast.com/accommodation/southport](http://www.englandsgolfcoast.com/accommodation/southport)

## 18. COMPETITOR NOTICEBOARDS

Further information for Competitors will be posted on the Championship noticeboard, located in prominent areas within both Clubhouses.

## 19. CONTACTS

### Royal Birkdale

Mike Gilyeat (Secretary)

Tel: +44 (0) 1704 552 020

Brian Hodgkinson (Head PGA Professional)

Tel: +44 (0) 1704 552 030

### The R&A based at Royal Birkdale

David Boyle (Championship Committee, Member in Charge)

Euan Mordaunt (Director – Amateur Events)

Tel: +44 (0) 1334 213 400  
(Opt. 1)

+44 (0) 7557 765 071

### Southport & Ainsdale

Neil Leadbetter (General Manager)

Tel: +44 (0) 1704 578 000  
(Opt. 2)

Jim Payne (Head PGA Professional)

Tel: +44 (0) 1704 577 316

### The R&A based at Southport & Ainsdale

Charlie Maran (Championship Committee, Member in Charge)

Ed Johnson (Assistant Director – Amateur Events)

Tel: +44 (0) 1334 213 400  
(Opt. 2)

+44 (0) 7557 949 651

I hope you have a very successful and enjoyable Championship.

Yours faithfully



**EUAN MORDAUNT**

Director - Amateur Events