

RIBBLE VALLEY SENIORS' LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION

- 1 The League shall be called the "Ribble Valley Seniors' League"
- 2 The League shall consist of a maximum of eleven Clubs as follows:
 - Ashton & Lea
 - Chorley (1983)
 - Clitheroe (1983)
 - Fairhaven (1996)
 - Fleetwood (1983)
 - Leyland
 - Penwortham
 - Pleasington (2007)
 - Preston
 - Shaw Hill
 - St Annes Old Links (1983)
- 3 The Management of the League shall be entrusted to a General Committee comprising two representatives from each Club together with the Officers of the League. Each Club shall have one vote at the meetings, there being a minimum of two meetings each season, one of which will be the Annual General Meeting to be held no later than the first week of March. A meeting can proceed with a quorum of representatives from 6 of the member clubs. Decisions can be made by a majority vote of those attending. In the event of a tie, the Secretary will have a casting vote. Note that amendments to Clause 2 of the Constitution can only be amended with a unanimous vote of all of the clubs in the RVSGL.
- 4 The Officers of the League shall consist of the President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, Honorary Secretary. The President and Vice President, nominated by the Clubs in rotation, shall hold office for one year with the Vice President succeeding to the Office of President at the Annual General Meeting each year. The retiring President shall hold office for one year as Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President will be the Auditor for the year.
- 5 All clubs in the League shall pay an annual subscription at a rate decided by the General Committee at the AGM each year.
6. The object of the League is to enable Senior male Golfers to participate in and enjoy games of golf with their contemporaries and friends within other Clubs in the League. The aim is to engage in friendly rivalry at all times.
7. All players in the league must have attained the age of 55 and possess a World Handicap System (WHS) handicap index. A player's handicap record must include a minimum of five scores achieved during the 12-month period

prior to the date of participation in a Ribble Valley League match, except that any player having so qualified and participated is deemed to be qualified to play in any subsequent match for the duration of that season without further reference to the 12-month qualifying period. General Play scores do not count towards the minimum five scores. A maximum WHS handicap index of 25.0 is allowed in matches, whilst not precluding the participation of players with a higher handicap index. In accordance with WHS provisions, stroke allowances for all players in a match will be allocated on the basis of 90% of the difference of playing handicaps based from the low handicap player, with the low player receiving no strokes.

8. Each team shall consist of twelve players.
9. Each game shall comprise six four ball better ball matches with home and away fixtures.
10. Two points shall be awarded for a win in a four ball match (1 point each if match is halved) to give 12 points for the total game.
11. If there is a tie on points at the top of the League table at the end of the season then the Clubs shall hold the Trophy for six months each.
12. The home team is responsible for advising the League Secretary of match results as soon as possible.
13. Team shortages – in the event of a team turning out without one or more pairs the 2 points for each match affected shall be awarded to the opposing team. Should a team provide only an odd number of players e.g. 9 or 11, the single player may compete against the two opponents in the match or, by agreement between the Captains, a player may be “borrowed” from the other Club. In either event the two points will be awarded to the winning side of the match.
14. A game may be postponed because of adverse weather, ground conditions or unforeseen emergency. Teams should attempt to re-arrange the fixture. If this is not possible then the teams will each be awarded 6 points each
15. Matches abandoned during play:
 - 1 A game is deemed to have started when the first 4 ball has teed off
 - 2 Matches not completing 9 holes when play is abandoned shall be halved
 - 3 Matches completing 9 holes but not 18 – the score at the agreed point of abandonment shall stand and points be awarded accordingly.
 - 4 Matches completing 18 holes – the score shall stand and points be awarded accordingly.
 5. When a course is affected by adverse weather or other circumstances, the match can be played over available holes, providing that a minimum of nine holes are in play. Otherwise, article 14 applies.

16. Any player who is a member of more than one golf club in the Ribble Valley Seniors' League must nominate his home club for the year and will only be allowed to play for that club in the Ribble Valley Seniors' League during that year.
17. At the end of each season a President's Day shall be held at the home club of the President, the format and arrangements being decided by the General Committee.
18. In the event of the Ribble Valley Seniors League being wound up, any assets remaining after the payment of debts and liabilities will be transferred to a not for profit institution or institutions. No remaining assets will be distributed to members.

Appendix: Roles and responsibilities

The President

The Presidency passes from club to club on a fairly strict annual rotation. The designated club will nominate one of its members as President at the Spring AGM. In the first instance they will act as Vice President for a year before taking over the role as President at the following AGM. The role of President includes the following responsibilities:

1. Chair both the Annual General Meeting and the Autumn meeting which is usually held at their home club
2. Sign off the annual accounts prepared by the Hon. Sec.
3. Hold a pre meeting discussion with the Hon.Sec. to finalise arrangements and ensure any proposals or matters arising are included and understood
4. Agree the minutes of both meetings.
5. Negotiate with their club over the arrangements for President's Day. This to include:
 - a. Date and time
 - b. Post-match meal, especially costs
 - c. Fee agreed with club and the league for use of the course
 - d. Arrangements for the day such as Tee to be used, nearest the hole etc.
 - e. Be available to host dinner for the Past Presidents
 - f. Work with the Hon.Sec. to finalise results
 - g. Present the prizes

Captain and Secretary

Most clubs within the League appoint someone to each role. Some clubs change both on an annual basis whilst others do not but keep the same personnel for several years. Thus, the roles described below may either apply to one role or to both depending upon the arrangements within each club:

1. Attend the AGM and the Autumn meetings of the League
2. When the fixtures are published, check these internally and negotiate any changes with other clubs.
3. Inform the Hon. Sec. of any changes as above.
4. Ensure that contact details are up to date and provided to both the Hon. Sec. and the visiting club.

5. At least two days prior to any fixture, provide a team list for the opposing team. This will usually be initiated by the Home team.
6. Ensure team details including name and WHI are shared and agreed.
7. Confirm that all players in the team are eligible to be selected and meet the criteria agreed in Item 7 of the constitution
8. Provide the following information to the visiting club:
 - a. Tee times
 - b. Catering arrangements on arrival and for the post-match meal
 - c. Ask for any specific dietary requirements for members of the visiting team
 - d. Dress code requirements, if any.
9. Ensure that anyone deputising as captain understands the nature of the competition, especially handicap arrangements as described in the Constitution.
10. After each home match ensure that the result is sent to the Hon. Sec. – preferably within 24 hours so that they can be added to the web page by the end of each week

The Honorary Secretary

A member is invited by the league to act as the Hon. Sec. On the web page you will see that there have been only five since the inception of the league in 1979. The role has evolved with the development of technology. The current incumbent is extremely grateful to the assistance and guidance given by members to achieve a smooth-running organisation! Current tasks include the following:

1. Organise the fixtures for each year. This is now achieved using a computer programme created by a member.
 - a. Circulate as soon as practical to secretaries and captains of each club. Preferably this is soon after the autumn meeting of the league
 - b. Update the main list when changes are notified.
2. Maintain the list of officers provided by each club. Apply any data protection rules and only keep that information that members are willing to provide. It is the responsibility for each club to provide details of the Captain and secretary to whom any correspondence should be sent as well as the method for doing so.
3. Organise both the Annual general Meeting and the autumn meeting. This includes:
 - a. Circulating a notice informing clubs about the forthcoming meeting at least three weeks before each meeting. Invite any proposals or areas of discussion that members wish to see included in either meeting.
 - b. Circulate an Agenda and any essential attachments two weeks before each meeting. This includes the minutes of the previous meeting. If it is the AGM then include a financial statement, a budget for the forthcoming President's Day plus any extra information linked to new proposals.

- c. Prior to each meeting, confer with the President to finalise arrangements, topics of discussion and for the president to sign off the financial statement.
 - d. After each meeting, prepare the minutes, confirm with the President, and circulate to all members preferably within two weeks.
- 4. During the season, collate the weekly results and forward to the web manager. Currently this is Trevor Lafferty at Preston Golf Club.
- 5. President's Day. Held annually at the Home Club of the president. Various roles as follows:
 - a. Meet with the President in the New Year to agree the arrangements for the day. These include the following:
 - i. Date
 - ii. Post competition meal and cost.
 - iii. Fee paid to the host club
 - iv. Budget including a prize list and entry fee
 - v. Starter(s) for the day
 - b. Circulate details to league members and invite entries (see constitution for details)
 - c. Prepare the prize vouchers for the day
 - d. Complete entry list.
 - e. On the day, prepare cards, confirm handicaps. Record results, identify winners. Ideally the President or someone nominated by the President, will act as scrutineer to help sort ties etc.
 - f. Ensure that all bills are paid and that prize vouchers are honoured.
- 6. Finally, there is information to be kept up to date and in times of Pandemic, a role to play in keeping all informed.
- 7. The Hon.Sec. is allowed to draw down an Honorarium from the League Accounts. This is currently set at £450

Wording on paragraph 2 amended June 2008 & Para 10 amended 2016.

Wording in Para 1,3,4,7,13,15,16 & 17. Amended Meeting 22 March 2017.

Clause 7 changed and clause 10 removed. Clause 18 Added at AGM March 2021

Clause 7 amended March 2022.

Item 4 amended to remove reference to Auditor as this is the Immediate past President.

Paragraph 3 and paragraph 7 amended following the AGM of March 2026

Paragraph 6: The word male added to emphasise that this is currently a league for Senior men.

Appendix 1 added after AGM 2023

Items 7&15 Amended after AGM in 2024

Item 7 Updated after AGM 2025

Item 7 Updated after 2026 AGM

March 2026