



2026 Cardinal League Charter

Organising Committee for the 2026 Cardinal Season

Role	Primary
The Captain	Steve Eastman
Gamebook Czars	Kim Wittrog, Manzi
Teamer Czars	Nick Caldwell
Booking Czars	Jimmy Evans, Kim Wittrog, Manzi
Treasurer & Penalty/Fines Master(s)	Chris Emslie / Chris Brankin
Score Keeper & Leader Board	Steve Eastman
Website Master	Andrew Kemp
Match Play Events	Nick Caldwell
Overseas Tour	Mark Bufton
Diamond Dogs	Mike Kerr, Cookie, Branks, Buffy, Jimmy, Big Fella
Challenge Cup Captains	Big Olli & Cookie
World Cup Captain	Steve Eastman
Non Tour Events (plus Trophies)	Ming Wong

2026 Charter Highlights

Key dates

- Season – 10th Jan – FRIDAY 4th December
- Challenge Cup Saturday 26th September
- Tour – TBC
- World Cup – TBC
- Matchplay (Pairs & Singles) 17th Jan – 28th November

Financials

- Initial Subs – now \$400 to cover (2 shirts – League & Challenge Cup, Prizes, Event & Staff collection subsidies)
- Most fines remain the same however stronger enforcement will be applied, especially anyone who cancels after tee times are booked without an MC
- New fine - \$50 per player for refusing to play their matchplay at first opportunity. If GB Czars can setup the matchplay as all players are available, they will (Priority given to Pairs games). If they do, then matchplay must be played to avoid the fine.



Scoring

- Scoring scale remains the same as 2025
- Side games with points will be re-introduced
- Bonus Points available for successful Cardinal Puff and Half Yard completion
- Double points (Main game only), fines & prizes on 3rd Cardinal Saturday of each month (Jan-Nov)
- Finals day will be TRIPLE points!

Rules are Simple – Follow them!!

- 1) What The Captain says goes!! It will be the rule for 2026
- 2) Cardinal Puff – Serious attempt required (must at least get to Cardinal Puff, Puff, Puff!!) before 30th June 2026.
 - a. Successful completion is worth 200 league points
 - b. Post 30th June 2026, No Serious Attempt means.....
 - i. No league points until serious attempt performed.
 - ii. Exclusion from team challenge games.
 - iii. Not eligible for 200 point completion bonus
- 3) Annual Half Yard – Optional but worth 200 Points
- 4) Rain Delay - Event only cancelled if nobody starts (includes morning & afternoon flights) otherwise **stableford** points stand as-is when you finish (voluntary finish or not)
- 5) League Entry Fee: \$400 if paid by January 31st; \$500 thereafter
- 6) \$20 weekly participation fee
- 7) If any rule is unclear, Refer to Rule 1
- 8) Infractions and fine amounts for the 2026 Cardinal season are self explanatory and WILL BE ENFORCED, especially withdrawals once tee times are booked, without an MC!!!!

Infraction	Fine (\$\$)
Cancellation / No Show (after tee times are booked, without MC)	\$100 + any Club fee
Turning up late, after playing partners tee off	\$50
Hitting someone with golf ball	\$50
Failure to update handicap on GB	\$50
Throwing up on-course	\$50
Bandit Fine (≥40 pts)	\$30



Amateur Fine (<25 pts)	\$30
General Cockup Fine	\$20
“Fashion Fine” - Failure to wear dictated attire	\$20
Unable to reach Ladies tees	\$10
Air Shot	\$10
The ‘Gordo’ (Ladies + Air Shot)	\$20
Golf Etiquette Abuse	\$20
Course, Equipment, or Club Abuse	\$20
Booking Absentee Fine	\$20
WhatsApp message board abuse (e.g. deleted messages, inappropriate Notice Board chat posting, etc)	\$10
Refusal to play Matchplay Game on first available opportunity	\$50 per player



Official Cardinal Competitions for 2026:

- There are expected to be a number of Cardinal competitions during the 2026 season:
 1. The Cardinal League Cup:
 - a. Regular Season will be played from 10th Jan to 4th December
 - b. The Divisional Play-offs will commence the weekend after the Challenge Cup
 - c. The Grand Final will be held on Friday 4th December, which will crown the Annual Cardinal Champion, plus Divisional Winners and Grumpy Santa (Morning Final round to decide trophies, Afternoon Scramble, Dinner/Drinks)
 2. The Pairs Match Play Tournament which will run all year
 3. The Individual Match Play Tournament which will run all year
 4. The Challenge Cup – Saturday 26th Sept 2026 (2 rounds plus dinner/drinks)
 5. The Overseas Tour – Date TBC
 6. The Cardinal World Cup (vs Sandy Cardinals) – Dates/Format TBC

Competition 1: Cardinal League Cup

- Year-long contest to determine the Cardinal Champion.
- Each weekly event in the Cardinal League, the Divisional Play-offs consists of an individual Stableford game and a side game in a format as determined by the Gamebook Czars. The Gamebook Czars have the flexibility to decide the best week to play match play given the number of participants.
- Points are awarded in accordance with the Cardinal League Points table in Appendix 1
- Players will be deemed to have 'signed an incorrect scorecard' if their Gamebook handicap is not updated according to their SGA official handicap. Player will be disqualified and fined, and points will be forfeited.

The Divisional Playoffs and Final Round

- At the conclusion of the 19th September game, players will be split into the following groups:
 - Division A will include the top 10 ranked players
 - Division B will include the 11th – 20th ranked players
 - Division C will include all remaining players
- The rules and points scoring of weekly play will continue through the rest of the season
- **The Final Round:** Final round will be individual stableford only (**Triple Points**) and be played on the course and tees as determined by the OC.



Competition 2: Pairs Matchplay Tournament

- Date and Format: 17th January to 28th November, 4-Ball Better Ball Handicap differential is based on 90% of the course handicap difference between players rounded to the nearest full stroke (with 0.5 rounded up).
- Pairs will be drawn from two pots based on handicap rankings as at Jan 1st. The first pot will contain the lowest handicap rankings and the second pot the higher handicap rankings. If there is an uneven number of entrants, the first name drawn will be given a bye in the first round and his partner will be drawn from all the first-round losers in the opposite group.
- The winners of the previous year can compete as a pair to defend their title for the following season only. If they retain their title, they cannot defend it the following season.
- The lowest handicap player plays off 0, and each other player gets the respective difference in course handicap.
- Handicaps as of the date the match is played.
- Matches can be played on either course as agreed by both teams. If there is disagreement toss a coin.
- Blue tees for men, white tees for ladies. Hybrids may be used on Classic if agreed between the teams. If there is disagreement toss a coin.
- Tied games after 18 holes go back down the 1st hole that was played and carry on till one team wins a hole, unless otherwise agreed prior to commencement of match
- It is the responsibility of the first named team in each draw to arrange the match before the deadline.
- Matches must be completed by the Play-by date stated on the draw sheet. Normal USGA match play rules unless otherwise stated – please see the following pages for key points – ***it is each player's responsibility to know the rules***. Committees' decision will be final.

Competition 3: Individual Matchplay Tournament

Date & Format: 17th January to 28th November, Individual Match Play

- Handicap differential is based on 100% of the course handicap difference between players rounded to the nearest full stroke (with 0.5 rounded up).
- For the avoidance of doubt the player with the lower handicap plays off 0, and the other player gets the number of shots calculated above.
- If there is an uneven number of entrants, the defending champion will be given the first bye, any remaining byes will be given to the next name(s) drawn out of the hat.



- Handicaps are as of the date the match is played.
- Matches can be played on either course as agreed by both players. If there is disagreement toss a coin.
- Blue tees for men, white tees for ladies. Hybrids may be used on Classic if agreed. If there is disagreement toss a coin.
- Tied games after 18 holes go back to the 1st hole that was played and carry on till someone wins a hole, unless otherwise agreed prior to commencement of match
- It is the responsibility of the first named player in each draw to arrange the match before the deadline.
- Matches must be completed by the Play-by date stated on the draw sheet. Normal USGA match play rules unless otherwise stated – please see the following pages for key points – ***it is each player's responsibility to know the rules***. Committees' decision will be final.

For both Pairs Matchplay and Individual Matchplay tournaments, if by the Play By date a definitive result has not been achieved the following will be used to determine the winner:

- 1) If contestants can't agree an alternative (eg putt off or chip off on the practice green) the winner should be determined by coin toss.

Competition 4: The Cardinal Challenge Cup 2026

Date & Format: 26th September, Team Competition

- This year, the Challenge Cup will follow the Ryder Cup format and will be played on 26th September.
- This will be a 36-hole competition between a European Cardinal and a 'Rest of the World' Cardinal team.
- Format to be determined by the Captains

Eligibility & Teams

- All Cardinals participating in the Cardinal League will be eligible to make the teams, unless No Serious Cardinal Puff attempt.

Winners & Losers

- The losing team will host and pay for the dinner of the winning team on 26th September.
- Those not playing in the Cardinal Challenge Cup 2026 teams will be responsible for their own account.



Competition 5: The Annual Tour

Date and Format: TBD, Team Competition

- Three rounds of golf or more at a location yet to be confirmed.
- All Cardinals are encouraged to participate, and every effort will be made to schedule accordingly.
- The Saturday game of the Tour will be an official Cardinal event and will be awarded points as DOUBLE the points of the Singapore game that same weekend.
- Participating Cardinals will be divided into two teams and an inter-tour competition will be created.

Competition 6: The Cardinal World Cup (vs Sandy Cardinals)

Date and Format: TBD, Team Competition

- Format to be confirmed.
- We will be fielding the strongest team possible, taking into account availability and talent in all aspects of international golf challenges.



Appendix 1

Points System	
1st	200
2nd	140
3rd	110
4th	90
5th	80
6th	70
7th	60
8th	50
9th	40
10th	30
11th	20
.....
20th	20
21st	10
.....
32nd	10

3rd Cardinal Saturday of each month is Double Weekly Points, Fines & Prizes

Cardinal Tour points are Double the Home Game points on the same weekend

Weekly side game points will be allocated as follows (Based on Weekly Points Table above)

Default side game will be Matchplay, numbers of players permitting.

If singles/pairs matchplay, total match is worth 50 points (Singles winner gets 50, or pairs get 25 each etc)
25 point bonus per player if on winning red/blue team (if applicable)

If side game is a Team Game, members of team that comes first, gets 200 points divided by number of players
e.g. if team of 4, they get 50 each. If team of 3, 66.6 each, team of 2, 100 each
Second team 140 divided by number of players etc
Third team 100 divided by number of players etc