

THE 16th ARMY WOMEN'S MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

SAUNTON GOLF CLUB 7 – 8 JULY 2026 – ADMIN INSTRUCTION

1. **General.** The 16th Army Women's Matchplay Championship will take place at Saunton Golf Club (SGC) over the period 7 – 8 July 2026. SGC, located in North Devon, is a traditional links venue and the event will take place on the East Course, a championship course measuring 5960 yards (SSS 74).

2. **Competitions.** On the direction of the AGA Executive Committee, the format is as follows:

- a. **Main Event.** The Army Championship will be a singles scratch Matchplay event, comprising a maximum of 16 players with each round played over 18 holes under R&A rules on 7 & 8 Jul 26. Halved matches will be decided by sudden death from the 1st hole and then holes 2, 17, 18, 1 etc in that order.
- b. **Plate Competition.** Those defeated in the first round of the main championship will take part in a subsidiary Matchplay plate competition commencing pm Tue 7 Jul 26.
- c. **Stableford Event.** Those players knocked out of the Matchplay events on Tue 7 Jul 26 are eligible to play in the 18 hole handicap Stableford competition on Wed 8 Jul 26.
- d. **Programme.** The overall programme is:
 - Mon 29 Jun 26 – Competitors Entry Closing Date (by 1230 hrs).
 - Tue 30 Jun 26 – Competition Draw.
 - Tue 7 Jul 26 – Championship Rounds 1 and Quarter Final, Plate Competition Round 1 (pm).
 - Wed 8 Jul 26 – Championship, Plate Competition and Semi-Finals and Finals and Stableford Competition. All participants not in the finals are expected to watch the finals. There is also the 2026 AGA Annual General Meeting following the prize-giving from approximately 1830 hrs.

3. **Eligibility.** The Championship is open to all female officers and soldiers on Regular and Reserve service engagements, who are members of the AGA. The entry fee is either £70 for Junior Rank Golfers (Cpls and below and 2Lts/Lts) and £80 for the remainder, which includes all competitions and the evening BBQ on Tue 7 Jul 26. Entry forms must be submitted electronically via individual's [AGA membership record](#) and both the form and payment are to be with the AGA Assistant Secretary by 1230 hrs on Mon 29 Jun 26.

4. **Numbers.** The Championship is limited to a total of 16 players. If numbers exceed this figure, applicants will qualify by exact handicap. **You must hold a WHS handicap in order to play in this event. If you are not a member of a club you can still obtain a WHS handicap via the iGolf platform – <https://englandigolf.co.uk/>**

5. **Draw.** The draw for the championship will be made by 1500 hrs on Tue 30 Jun 26 at the AGA Office. There will be 2 seeds, and these will be the winner and runner up from 2025 if available. If one or neither is available, then seedings will be determined by the Women's Captain. The remaining 14 players, comprising non-seeded players will be drawn as an 'open' draw on Tue 30 Jun 26. Details of the draw will be available from the Assistant Secretary from 0900 hrs on Wed 1 Jul 26 and will be published on the AGA Website. They will also be posted in the SGC from 1230 hrs Mon 6 Jul 26.

6. **Etiquette.** Competitors should acknowledge club members and their rights throughout the Championship. Saunton has challenging links courses with traditional rough; players and caddies should watch ball flight closely to assist with finding errant balls and to help speed play which tournament officials will monitor. If it becomes obvious that a ball may be difficult to find, following matches **must** be called through without delay. As normal, care must be taken to rake all bunkers and repair divots and pitch marks.

7. **Other Administrative Details.**

- a. **Food.** Breakfast will be available in the clubhouse from 0645 hrs daily. Payment for food is an individual responsibility. Evening meals, for groups, may be arranged separately with the club catering staff. There will be an informal BBQ for all players and officials from 1930 hrs on Tue 7 Jul 26, the cost of which has been included in the entry fee.
- b. **Club Dress Code.** SGC's dress code is smart/casual at all times during the day, but no jeans, trainers, collarless shirts, outdoor/waterproof clothes or shoes worn on the golf course are to be worn in the public rooms. A blazer/jacket will be required for evening meals after 1900 hrs and at the Prize Giving and AGM on Wed 8 Jul 26.
- c. **Local Accommodation.** Reasonable B&Bs are available locally. Details can be sought from local tourist information offices. Military accommodation may available at RMB Chivenor and anyone wanting to book accommodation there should seek guidance from the Women's Team Manager. All accommodation arrangements are an individual responsibility.

8. **Travel at Public Expense.** Travel is authorised in accordance with 2019DIN10-025. Every effort must be made to minimise publicly funded travel costs by sharing vehicles.

9. **On Duty Status.** Competitors should advise their RAO to ensure that their participation in the event has been published on respective Unit Part 1 Orders, to formalise their 'on duty' status for this event.