

# MC DONNELL CUP 2026

<b>Preliminary Round</b>	<b>First Round</b>	<b>Second Round</b>	<b>Semi Finals</b>	<b>Final</b>
Not later than April 27th 2026	Not later than May 25th 2026	Not later than June 29th 2026	Not later than July 27th 2026	Not later than August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2026

	<u>CORBALLIS</u>
	HOLLYWOOD LAKES
(A) <u>ROYAL DUBLIN</u>	<u>THE ISLAND</u>
CLONTARF	ST MARGARETS
	<u>ROGANSTOWN</u>
(B) <u>ELM GREEN</u>	WINNERS (B)
DONABATE	<u>MALAHIDE</u>
	SKERRIES
(C) <u>SUTTON</u>	<u>LUTTRELLSTOWN</u>
RUSH	ST ANNES
	<u>WINNERS (A)</u>
	CORRSTOWN
	<u>DEER PARK</u>
	WINNERS (C)
	<u>SWORDS</u>
	FORREST LITTLE

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Please advise all results promptly to George O’Doherty, Hon. Secretary - Ph. 087 2445570 Email: [gmodoherty63@gmail.com](mailto:gmodoherty63@gmail.com)

1. To be eligible, players must (a) hold membership of their Club and be of a minimum age of 25 years on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026; and (b) have a Fully Developed WHS Handicap Index on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 AND have held such a handicap index that was not lower than 15.5 in the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. Each match to be played off Course Handicap of the Course being played, subject to the maximum effective handicap of 19. A player whose handicap index is reduced below 15.5 after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 is still eligible to play in the competition but must play off the reduced handicap index and concede additional shot(s) where relevant. Any breach of the rules as regarding a player’s eligibility will result in disqualification of offending team.

2. Teams to consist of 5 pairs – the Draw procedure is outlined in \*Note A beneath.

3. The Final will be played on a two-leg home and away basis, with five matches in each leg. The first leg of the Final shall be played on the course of the club at the top of the draw. Handicap indices for the second leg of the Final shall remain unchanged from the first leg of the Final.

4. All matches to be played to a finish except in the Final. In the Final half matches will count. In the event of a tie after the second leg of the final the last match alive shall play sudden death starting at the first tee.

5. Customary procedure of taking shots in Fourball Match-Play will apply, I.E 90% of the players Course Handicap on the Course being played, then higher handicap players take the full difference in playing handicap from the low players, subject to the maximum effective handicap.

6. Matches in each tie shall commence not later than 3.00pm, except for the two legs of the final when matches shall commence not later than 1.00pm.

7. The Golf Ireland Rules of Golf with regard to the use of Distance Measuring Devices shall apply in accordance with the Rules of Golf Handbook.

8. No extensions will be granted without reference to the Committee who MAY grant an extension in EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. If a match is not played by the closing date, both clubs will be disqualified, unless one of the clubs has received a walk-over. Team managers shall exchange a Team list containing their teams’ names in order of play and the names of substitutes at least ten minutes before start of play. The lists shall be in line with those required for Golf Ireland competitions and show current handicaps indices of all players and substitutes. A standard Team Sheet to be used is being issued by the Committee for 2026.

**\*Note A (Draw Procedure)**

In the conducted draw, the team that appears first in the draw will have home advantage (three games at home and two games away).

Thereafter home advantage will be determined on a round by round basis as follows:

- 1) If one of the teams was at home in the preliminary round, they shall play away in the subsequent round.
- 2) If one of the teams was away in the preliminary round, they shall have home advantage in the subsequent round.
- 3) If one of the two teams was at home and the other away in the previous round, the away team will have home advantage.
- 4) If the two advancing teams were both away in the previous round, home advantage will go to the team at the TOP of the draw.
- 5) If the two advancing teams both had home advantage in the previous round, home advantage will go to the team at the BOTTOM of the draw.