

2019 WMGA A-TEAM MATCHES

LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION and ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1. Team Size/Eligibility:** In any particular match, each team shall be composed of one (1) professional and eleven (11) amateur golfers who are 18 years of age or older on the date of the match and is a member of that club. The professional must be a member of the club's professional staff. The professionals will play at the designated home course on the #1 teams and their teams will be the play-off teams when required. A team may not substitute an amateur for a professional. If there is no professional available to play a given match, then a team may send out a lone amateur against the pro/am team of their opponent. Applicants for Amateur Reinstatement (A/Rs) are eligible. Any player who is a member of more than one club may play for only one club, i.e., the first club for whom he plays. Each amateur must have a current USGA handicap index at the club, **verifiable** through the Maryland Handicap Program (www.msga.org) or the Virginia Handicap Program www.vsga.org. **Verifiable means visible on either the MSGA or VSGA (GHIN) websites the day of the match and before the match begins, with a minimum of five current scores posted, and the most recent revision on at least the 1st day of the month in which the matches begin.** The Committee will make the final determination on eligibility.
- 2. Format:** The format is **four-ball match play** without handicap. The scoring in each match is Nassau - one point for front nine, one point for back nine, and one point for the eighteen holes. For each match, three pairings play at home and three pairings play away. Each match is worth a total of 18 points.
- 3. Divisions (Brackets):** With a field of 32 teams, there would be 8 divisions (brackets) of 4 teams each. Each of the four teams would play the other teams within the division. The 8 division winners advance to the final eight single elimination matches. If there are **less than 32 teams**, it will be necessary to have some divisions of 3 teams, who then play two matches each with a bye or off day. If there are **more than 32 teams**, it would again be necessary to have one or more divisions of 3 teams, the winners of which then play off against either a 3 team or 4 team division to see which advances to the final 8.
- 4. Time of Start:** Matches should begin at **11:30 AM**. Any deviation from this standard policy must be pre-arranged by the respective golf professional staffs. **Matches should not start before 10:30 AM and should not start after 1:30 PM.** While it is strongly recommended that the matches at home and away start at the same time, we realize that it is not always practical or possible.

Every reasonable effort should be made to complete matches on a timely basis. If one course is not open or is unavailable for any reason, and cannot accommodate a match before 1:30 PM, then all matches shall be played at the other course. If carts cannot be used then it is understood that matches are suspended/postponed unless the teams agree to play without carts. If weather prevents the play of a match on the scheduled date, then the match should be rescheduled on the date set as the rain date.

Sunday, July 21 is the rain date for any "catching up" necessitated by weather problems in the preliminary matches. It may also be used for any required division play-offs. ***If a round (or match) is officially postponed, that round will be played on the rain make up day.***

Please remember that the Team Matches are a significant commitment which involves myriad scheduling challenges for the clubs involved. In the spirit of the competition, teams should attempt to resolve scheduling conflicts especially as they involve the preferred start time of the matches, on their own, before contacting the Committee in Charge. If a club has a member event scheduled concurrent with the team match, every effort should be made to work the match into or around the schedule. If there is a scheduling conflict at a club due to a club event it is considered reasonable (by the Committee) for the teams involved to schedule the start of a match between the hours of 1030 AM and 130PM. If two teams cannot resolve a scheduling conflict, the Committee will decide.

- 5. Yardage:** Matches should be played from the 'back' tees, but not necessarily the longest yardage available. Clubs should take into account weather conditions when determining the length of the course. Keep the yardage reasonable while keeping in mind that it is the 'A Teams' playing.

6. **Ties/Play-Offs:** Any match ending in a **tied total score** must be played off immediately at the designated home course. The format is sudden-death four-ball match play. The #1 pairing of each team, comprised of the golf pro and amateur partner, are the designated play-off teams.

If two teams in a division are **tied after the preliminaries**, the head-to-head winner will advance to the quarter-finals. If three teams tie, then the team with the most points in the head-to-head matches involving the three teams will advance. If a tie still exists, then the total points of all matches will resolve the tie. The final tie-breaker is a coin flip by the Executive Director.

7. **Rules of Play:** The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and The R & A govern play (effective January 2019). Any local rules must conform to USGA guidelines. If the host club believes that extraordinary conditions justify utilizing a preferred lies policy, then preferred lies may be played in accordance with the USGA recommended local rule as outlined at the end of this document. Any uncertainty concerning local rules should be resolved with Michael Cumberpatch (410-991-7843 cell) prior to the start of a match. Also, before the start of matches, all players should be made aware, preferably in writing, of any local rules in force at the match site. Consult the 'Official Guide to the Rules of Golf' for [model local rules](#).

The **WMGA 'Hard Card'** is available on the website or click [HERE](#).

The **WMGA Code of Conduct** is [HERE](#).

Note - **Model Local Rule E-5**, Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds, **MAY NOT BE USED** during the team matches.

WMGA Rules officials will be in attendance at both courses **only for the final match**. The WMGA hereby appoints the Head Golf Professional or his designated agent at each course to act in the WMGA's behalf on **rulings** during play of matches prior to the finals.

8. **Forfeitures:** Any team that forfeits a match in the preliminaries risks forfeiting the right to enter the 2019 matches. If at all possible, forfeitures should be avoided, even if it means fielding an incomplete team. Remember, every point gained or lost impacts all the teams in the bracket.
9. **Disqualifications:** Any violation of an eligibility issue (e.g., age, amateur status, handicap, playing for more than one team) will result in disqualification of the side involved. If the violation is egregious, the entire team will be disqualified.
10. **Reporting Results:** Immediately upon the completion of play a representative of the winning team shall immediately call or text 410-991-7843 to report results.
11. **Notes:** It is the responsibility of each team captain to advise his team members of the rules, terms of the competition, and additional information presented herein. Team Captains - a team may appoint a non-playing captain to coordinate the activities of the match.

It is recommended that prior to each match the golf professionals from the opposing clubs contact each other to ensure that cart/caddie policies, especially in regard to payment, are consistent. In other words, if one club comps golf carts, the other should do the same.

The Committee reserves the right to add a team/teams to the field, after the initial draw is published, to bring three team brackets to four, up to two weeks out from the first round of matches.

12. Visiting teams must comply with the policies of the host club regarding the use of carts, employment of caddies (including use of non-club caddies), allowances for or restrictions on use of push/pull carts, or restrictions on players carrying their own golf bags. If a club requires the use of caddies, the visitors must also be prepared to compensate the caddies per the rate established by the host club. The host club should make certain that the visiting team is aware of any restrictions/policies and the visiting team should also inquire as to what policies may exist at the host club.

13. A club, whose course is closed for renovation/restoration, is encouraged and permitted to compete in the matches. If a golf course is closed for a renovation/restoration project, that team will have to play all of its matches away. The opposing club should be certain to make enough start times available to accommodate the extra matches at their site. As all the matches will be played at one site, the pros should agree in advance on any arrangements regarding fees for golf carts or post match refreshments, so that the burden is shared equally.

Distance Measuring Devices - Preferred Lies - Cleaning the Ball - Penalty Areas

(1) Distance-Measuring Devices

Distance-measuring devices are now OK under the Rules of Golf (unless prohibited by a local rule) - see Rule 4.3a(1) for guidelines . If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3a/1.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4.3: Match Play - loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes
For subsequent Offense -Disqualification

Note: Remember, the device must not be used for any purposes that are prohibited by Rule 4.3, including but not limited to: • the gauging or measuring of slope; • the gauging or measuring of other conditions that might affect play (e.g. wind speed or direction); • recommendations that might assist the player in making a stroke or in his play (e.g. club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading or any other advice related matter); or • calculating the effective distance between two points based on elevation changes or other conditions affecting shot distance.

(2) Preferred Lies Recommended Language

Model Local Rule E-3

“When a player’s ball lies in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less of the hole being played, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this *relief area*:

- **Reference Point:** Spot of the original ball.
- **Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point:** The size of the relief area, shall be one *club-length*, from the reference point, but with these limits:
- **Limits on Location of Relief Area:**
 - Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point, and
 - Must be in the *general area*.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for *replacing* a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

(3) Cleaning the Ball (aka Lift, Clean, and Replace) Recommended Language

Model Local Rule E-2

“When a player’s ball lies in [identify area, such as the *general area*, at the 6th hole, in the *general area* cut to fairway height or less, etc.], the ball may be lifted cleaned and *replaced* without penalty. The player must *mark* the spot before lifting the ball (see Rule 14.1) and the ball must be *replaced* on its original spot (see Rule 14.2).

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.”

“Preferred Lies” or “Cleaning the Ball” Local Rule to be adopted at the discretion of the host facility only in the case of exceptional circumstances. In no case should preferred lies be adopted throughout the General Area.

(3) Penalty Areas

Be sure to designate areas that are played as Penalty Areas. If they are not marked with lines/stakes, be specific as to how they are identified before the match begins so there are no questions later.

Note - the [WMGA 'Hard Card'](#) is available on the website.