



2024 WMGA SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

2023 Champion: Manor CC
2023 Runner-up: Congressional CC

Divisions and Teams

Division 1	Division 2	Division 3
A. Manor CC	A. Congressional CC	A. Belle Haven CC
B. Argyle CC	B. Bethesda CC	B. Army Navy CC
C. Crofton CC	C. CC of Fairfax	C. Fort Belvoir GC
D. Hobbit's Glen GC	D. Washington G & CC	D. Laurel Hill GC
Division 4	Division 5	Division 6
A. Springfield G & CC	A. Columbia CC	A. The Cannon Club
B. Evergreen CC	B. Kenwood G & CC	B. Swan Point YGC
C. Prince William GC	C. Beaver Creek GC	C. Norbeck CC
D. Augustine GC	D. Lakewood CC	D. Montgomery CC
Division 7	Division 8	
A. Loudoun G & CC	A. National GC	
B. Mount Vernon GC	B. GC at South River	
C. The Piedmont Club	C. Breton Bay G & CC	
D. International CC	D. University of MD GC	

Number/size of divisions subject to change based on number of team entries - xx teams

4 Semi-Final Teams from the previous year (2023) are in brackets 1, 2, 3, and 4

All teams will play 3 matches in 2024.

No team will play a team in the 2024 preliminaries that they played in 2023 preliminaries.

Schedule of Matches

Winning Team Captain or Golf Professional Staff: Please call Moose Brown at 443-463-8940 with the results immediately after the match. Thank you for your cooperation.

Asterisk (*) indicates the Home Team - site of a play-off, if necessary.

Preliminary Match Schedule

Divisions 1 - 8

Sunday, April 7	A* vs. D	B* vs. C
Saturday, April 13	A vs. C*	B vs. D*
Sunday, April 14	A* vs. B	C* vs. D

Saturday, April 20 – Make-Up Day

FINAL 8 – Single Elimination

Bracket Winner Battles	Winner 1* vs. Winner 8	Winner 4* vs. Winner 5
Sunday, April 23	Winner 2* vs. Winner 7	Winner 3* vs. Winner 6
Final Four	Winner 1/8 vs. Winner 4/5*	
Saturday, April 29	Winner 2/7 vs. Winner 3/6*	
Final – Sunday, April 30	Final Four Winners – home team decided by flip of the coin	

● ● ● Match Results and Updates will be posted [HERE](#) ● ● ●

~ See Following Pages for Additional Information ~

2024 WMGA SENIOR TEAM MATCHES

LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION and ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. **Team Size/Eligibility:** In any match, each team shall be composed of eight amateur golfers who are 55 years of age or older on the date of the match. 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 <http://www.ghin.com/>. Verifiable means visible on either the MSGA or VSGA (**GHIN**) websites the day of the match and before the match begins listed under the name of the club they are playing for, with a minimum of five current scores for the club they are playing for posted. The player must have an active revision history prior to the start of the first-round matches. We do not care what they have shot, what their handicap is, or how often they post - we do care that the player is a legitimate member of the club they are playing for. If the handicap system does not show an affiliation with the club they are scheduled to play, **do not play them!** An up-to-date handicap index is a numerical value at the member club, not a recent transfer stating “none”. **DOUBLE CHECK** your players before the matches to **ensure they are eligible!!** The Committee will be the final arbiter of eligibility issues.
2. **Format:** The format is **four-ball match play** without handicap. The scoring in each four-ball match is Nassau - one point for front nine, one point for back nine, and one point for the eighteen. For each team match, two pairings play at home and two pairings play away – 3 points per pairing. Each team match is worth a total of 12 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 will 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 will 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.
2024 - There are brackets of 4 teams and 8 brackets of teams – 32 total teams. No team will play a team in the preliminaries that they played in 2023.
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 10:00 AM and should not start after 2:00 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, or is closed to carts, and cannot accommodate a match before 2:00 PM, then all matches shall be played at the other course. If carts cannot be used at both, 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 (Sat, April 20).

Saturday, April 20 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 club 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 1000 AM and 200PM. The

team that cannot access their course should plan on playing all matches at the opponent's club. If two teams cannot resolve a scheduling conflict, the Committee will decide.

5. **Yardage:** Yardage for the Senior Team Matches shall not exceed 6,500 yards. Clubs should take into account weather conditions when determining the length of the course. Keep the yardage reasonable.
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. Each play-off team at the home course may be composed of **any two** of the four players who played in the team match that day at that course and may be designated at any time prior to the beginning of the play-off.

If two teams in a division are **tied after the preliminaries**, the head-to-head winner will advance to the quarterfinals. 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 tiebreaker 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 2024). 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 Moose Brown (443)463-8940 (cell) prior to the start of a match. Before the start of matches, all players should be made aware, preferably in writing, of any local rules in place at the match site. Consult the 'Official Guide to the Rules of Golf' for [model local rules](#). Recommended language for select Local Rules is at the end of this document.

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 attend 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 preliminary's risks forfeiting the right to enter the matches the following season. If possible, forfeitures should be avoided, even if it means fielding an incomplete team. **Remember, every point gained or lost impacts all the teams in a 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. **Report Results:** Immediately upon the completion of play a representative of the winning team shall immediately text or e-mail **Moose Brown at 443-463-8940 - Moosebrown1@icloud.com**
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.

The Team Captain and Club Pro are responsible for ensuring that their team members read and agree to the terms of the 'Participation Liability and Release Agreement' for the WMGA Team Matches. By entering and playing in the WMGA Senior Team Matches it is understood that the Agreement has been shared and all players agree to the terms of the Agreement.

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 about payment, are consistent. In other words, if one club comps golf carts, the other should do the same.

The Committee reserves the right to adjust the size of the brackets at any time after the initial draw is published and before the start of the matches if necessary due to WD's. No teams will be added to the field after the brackets are published.

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 or a major club function which closes the golf course for all or part of a season, or a period of time which prevents the playing of the team match at that course, is encouraged and permitted to compete in the matches. If a golf course is closed 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. Clubs facing that situation should first check with the committee before the entries are finalized to gain approval.

Distance Measuring Devices, Preferred Lies, and Misc

(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.

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

* “Preferred Lies” 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.

(4) Sprinkler Heads on collars and aprons that may interfere on the line of play – This is now covered on our Hard Card and is used for all WMGA competitions.

Ball in Closely Mown Area and Sprinkler Heads Intervene

The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction (sprinkler head/drain) is on the line of play and is: 1) within two club-lengths of the putting green, and 2) within two club-lengths of the ball.

Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

This Local Rule only applies when both the ball and the obstruction are in a part of the General Area cut to fairway height length or less. **Model Local Rule F-5.2**

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 Participation and Liability Release

The WMGA Participation and Liability Release statement is below. Pros/Captains are required to share this with their players. By playing all players have agreed to the release. [HERE](#)

Note - the [Hard-Card-WMGA-2024](#) is available on the website.

3/25/2024