



Dear 2018 Team Match Captain,

In establishing the 2018 NCGA Team Match Program, the NCGA Team Match Committee asks all contestants to adhere to the following “Spirit of Fair-Competition Policy.”

The game of golf is based on the premise that a golfer will play to the best of his abilities. Under the USGA Handicap system a player is required to record a score for a hole not finished, not played or not played under the Rules of Golf, and to adjust any score when it is higher than the maximum number allowed under Equitable Stroke Control.

It will be the Team Captain’s responsibility to ensure that every score by each member of his team reflects the “Spirit of Fair-Competition.” It will be this person who is also responsible to verify that scores have been recorded, adjusted and posted accurately.

The NCGA Team Match Committee and Staff will monitor the scores of competitors and, if necessary, adjust handicaps to protect the competition. The NCGA provides this great competition that fosters a large participation from its member clubs.

In closing, the members must abide by the “Spirit of Fair-Competition Policy” so that the future of the Team Match Program can continue to be successful and enjoyed by all.

Sincerely,

Gary Fox,
NCGA Operations Committee Chairman

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION
2018 TEAM MATCH COMPETITION
RULES OF PLAY**

1. **Golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.**

2. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

NCGA tournaments are open to amateur golfers who are members in good standing of a current NCGA member club. This includes being in compliance with the Handicap Certification Program. Members of clubs that are not in compliance will not be able to participate in NCGA tournaments. Qualified clubs with NCGA membership may enter players meeting the following criteria:

- a. Any player currently serving a suspension from the NCGA is not eligible to compete in the Team Match Program. Players will remain ineligible during the appeal process. (i.e., no show in an NCGA event)
- b. The player must be a member in good standing of the club, have a current numeric index and be listed on the club's index report as of June 1, 2018. Members affiliating with the club or establishing an index after that date are not eligible to compete in 2018. Any member who has not established a current numeric index is ineligible. **Players may represent only one club but may play on both teams (Thursday and Saturday) during the regular season. Players may represent only one team during the playoff.** If an ineligible player participates in any match, the team in violation shall forfeit all individual and/or team four-ball match points won during the match by the player(s). Additionally, the club may incur a one year suspension from the Team Match Program.
- c. Players must be at least 21 years of age as of June 1, 2018.
- d. Either the current club professional or assistant professional who is a member of Northern California Professional Golfer Association or Northern California Golf Association may participate in the same scheduled team competition. **(NOTE: Eligible professionals must have a current numeric index).** Only one professional or assistant professional may participate on the day of the match.
- e. Non-Professional employees appearing on the clubs index report may participate. A non-professional employee is taking a members spot.

3. **CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES**

Clubs participating in the Team Match Program shall make their home course available and host green fees for the visiting team during all scheduled regular season and playoff matches to include make-ups of postponed or suspended matches. When a club has two 18-hole courses and fields two teams for either day, matches must be played on the designated course unless the team captains agree otherwise. **CLUBS PARTICIPATING IN THE PLAYOFFS MUST HOST PRACTICE ROUNDS FOR THE SIX OPPONENT/GUESTS WHO WILL BE COMPETING AT THEIR CLUB AT EACH LEVEL OF THE SINGLE ELIMINATION PLAYOFFS. ANY CLUB THAT DOES NOT PROVIDE A PRACTICE ROUND DURING THE PLAYOFFS WILL FORFEIT THE MATCH.**

4. **CLUB OPTIONS**

Participating clubs may provide complimentary services such as practice rounds, golf carts, range balls, food and/or beverages as part of their host functions; however, they are under no obligation to do so. Normally the extent to which a club exercises these options depends on the ability to reciprocate and is mutually agreed upon by all clubs competing against each other during the regular season. During playoff rounds, these same options are available to competing clubs; however the NCGA recommends that unless both clubs involved can reciprocate, neither should expect it.

5. TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Match Arrangements – The Team Captains shall:
- (1) Arrange for matches to be played by the date published by the NCGA. If the host club cannot make the course available, arrangements must be made for an alternate date within the allowable schedule. **ALL REGULAR SEASON MATCHES MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE NCGA RESERVED WEEK. MATCHES MUST BE DONE BEFORE AUGUST 18.**
 - (2) Arrange **starting times for matches that are at a reasonable hour to accommodate the visiting team's travel.** (Whenever possible, the NCGA recommends that the first tee be closed for 20 minutes prior to the start of play.)
 - (3) Stipulate the round. Normally this will be as defined in the Rules of Golf; however if circumstances dictate, matches may be started on other than Hole #1 and "shotgun starts" are permissible.
NOTE: The NCGA recognizes that previously scheduled club events can have an impact on scheduled Team Matches. However, the policy of permitting Thursday or Saturday teams to play on other days of the week when necessary provides sufficient flexibility to accommodate all clubs and Team Captains are expected to cooperate with each other. **THE NCGA TEAM MATCH COMMITTEE WILL NOT MAKE PROVISIONS FOR A TEAM ASKING FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION DUE TO OTHER CLUB OR INDIVIDUAL PLAYER COMMITMENTS.**
 - (4) Time of starting. Players are solely responsible for knowing their starting time and must be present and ready to play at the time laid down by the team captains. A player that is late, but within the five minutes, shall lose the first hole in his singles match. Any player who arrives at the tee five minutes after the starting time loses to his opponent in the singles match. The absent partner may join the four-ball match between holes, but not during the play of a hole. The absent partner may give advice prior to joining the match.
- c. Player Lists – Team Captains should exchange a list of their players, to include their current index, at least 24 hours prior to the start of each match. All players shall then play to appropriate course handicap for the particular match. If a question arises and the current index of a player cannot be verified he shall be disqualified from that day's competition.
- d. Match Rulings – Team Captains shall resolve any match rulings or claims arising during a match under Rule 2-5. If the captains involved cannot agree, they shall follow the procedure set forth in Team Match Rules 19 (Match Play Claims) and 20 (Protests).
- e. Match Results – All results must be posted in the USGA TM by the host captains. All points and match scores must be posted within 24 hours of the match date so the NCGA Staff can verify the results. Any and all questions must be sent to Rick Leoncio (rleoncio@ncga.org) or Spencer Sorensen (ssorensen@ncga.org).

6. NCGA TEAM MATCH RULES

- a. Team Composition – Each Thursday or Saturday team will consist of 12 players. No permanent roster is required for each team and there is no limit on the number of players that may be used during the regular season. New players may be added at any time during the **regular season only** if they meet all Team Match eligibility requirements. **All players used during the playoffs must have participated in at least one COMPLETE regular season match. Teams qualifying for the playoffs will provide a roster of eligible players to the NCGA Rules & Competitions Department.** Copies, if requested, will be provided to participating teams.
- b. Rules of Play – USGA Rules of Four-Ball Match Play (Rule 30), and this document shall govern all matches, and shall not be waived for any reason. **IF ANY POINT IN DISPUTE IS NOT COVERED BY THE RULES, THE DECISION SHALL BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EQUITY.** (Rule 1-4)
- c. Conforming Balls – Only golf balls on the most current USGA list of conforming golf balls may be used. The penalty for use of a non-conforming ball is **disqualification**. X-Out golf balls are permitted.

7. COURSE HANDICAPS AND PAIRINGS

All players currently serving a handicap reduction from the NCGA must use that index issued by the NCGA for all Team Match Play matches.

- a. Handicaps – All players will play to their course handicap (CH) as determined by their current index (CI) for the month in which the match is scheduled. When both men and women compete, the women should play from a forward set of tees, unless the player and captains agree to play from a different set of tees.

(1) Different Tees – Different tees usually have different course ratings. Since course ratings reflect the probable scores of scratch golfers, the higher rated course is more difficult, and the player playing from the set of tees with the higher course rating receives additional strokes equal to the difference between the Course Ratings, with .5 or greater rounded upward. First, the course handicaps should be determined and then the additional strokes are added to the Course handicap of the player playing from the higher-rated set of tees.

Example 1: If women playing from the forward tees where the women's Course Rating is 73.4 compete against men playing from the middle tees where the men's Course Rating is 70.9, the women will add three strokes ($73.4 - 70.9 = 2.5$ rounded to 3 strokes) to their Course Handicaps.

(2) Handicap Allocations – In accordance with the USGA Handicap System, the following policy is in effect: In mixed competitions where each player plays his own ball and where allocations are different for men and women, the players receive strokes based on their respective stroke allocations.

NOTE: USGA Handicap Manual Decision 9-4a/3 Result of a Hole If Men's and Women's Par Is Different.

QUESTION: In a match-play competition, one hole is par four for men and par five for women. In a match between a man and a woman, if both score par, what is the result of the hole?

ANSWER: Par is irrelevant. The player who completes the hole in fewer strokes wins the hole.

(3) If a question arises and the CI of a player cannot be verified, the player is disqualified from that day's competition. Players with a CI higher than 18.4 may play in any match but must play to a maximum of 18.4. Players participating in a make-up match shall use the current index applicable to the make-up date.

- b. Handicap Strokes

(1) In individual competition, allow the higher-handicapped player the full difference between the course handicaps of the two players; the lower-handicapped player shall then play at scratch.

(2) In each of the four-ball matches, the lowest-handicap player will play at scratch and each of the other three players in the group will receive the full difference in strokes between their course handicap and that of the lowest-handicapped player.

(3) In all matches, the allocations of handicap strokes will be as listed on the score card.

(4) **In accordance with Rule 6-2, before the start of each match it is the responsibility of each individual player to ensure that his correct handicap is being used for the competition and to know the holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received.**

- c. Pairings

(1) During the regular season, players for each club must be paired in COURSE HANDICAP sequence from low to high, including the two-man teams, with the lowest-handicapped player listed first. (Example: the two lowest-handicapped players must be paired together and play as Team #1, the next two as Team #2, etc.)

(2) In the event that a last minute substitution would result in an improper sequence, the substitute player must play with a handicap that is in proper sequence. (Example: A substitute with a handicap of 10 cannot be placed between players with handicaps of 6 and 8. The substitute would be required to play with a handicap of 7 in this instance.) However, if time permits, the pairings should be adjusted. A Player with a lower handicap may not be substituted without adjusting the pairings.

(3) If players are not paired in course handicap sequence according to the procedures outlined above, OR, if a player should play with an improper handicap, the team in violation shall forfeit all individual and/or team four-ball match points won during the match by the player(s).

NOTE: During playoffs - players will be paired in CURRENT INDEX sequence.

8. ORDER OF PLAY

It is recommended that the two-man teams tee off in numerical order (#1 teams first, #2 teams second, etc.) at each match. BOTH CAPTAINS MUST MUTUALLY AGREE TO ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS RECOMMENDATION.

9. FORMATS AND SCORING

The six two-man teams of each club compete against each other in three simultaneous matches as shown below. The total possible points for each team: 6; for each club: 36.

- a. Match #1 (2 points) – The lowest-handicapped player on each of the two-man teams plays his corresponding opponent in an 18-hole individual match.
- b. Match #2 (2 points) – The second lowest-handicapped player on each of the two-man teams plays his corresponding opponent in an 18-hole individual match.
- c. Match #3 (2 points) – Each two-man team plays their corresponding opponents in an 18 hole four-ball match.
- d. Ties – A tie in any of these matches results in 1 point awarded to each team.

10. POSTING OF INDIVIDUAL SCORES

The game of golf is based on the premise that a golfer will play to the best of his abilities. Under the USGA Handicap System, a player is required to record a hole score for a hole not finished, not played, or not played under the Rules of Golf, and to adjust any hole score when it is higher than the maximum number allowed under Equitable Stroke Control. Each Team Captain is responsible for insuring that the ADJUSTED score for each of his players is entered in the USGA TM following completion of play.

NOTE: HOST CAPTAINS WILL POST ALL SCORES AS TOURNAMENT SCORES IN THE USGA TM. SCORES MUST BE POSTED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE MATCH DATE. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE MAY RESULT IN A ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION.

- a. Incomplete Holes – If a player starts but does not complete a hole, he shall, for handicap purposes, record the score he most likely would have made if the hole had been completed, but such a score shall not exceed the limit in the Equitable Stroke Control (Adjustment) formula.
- b. Incomplete Rounds – In the event that individual and four-ball matches have been “closed out” before 18 holes have been played, the stipulated round is deemed completed and players should leave the course. FOR HANDICAP PURPOSES, THE PLAYERS SHOULD RECORD “PAR PLUS” (PAR PLUS ANY HANDICAP STROKES THE PLAYER IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ON A PARTICULAR HOLE) FOR THE HOLES NOT PLAYED.
- c. When the Match has been Completed – All players are required to leave the golf course when the match has been completed. FOR HANDICAP PURPOSES, THE PLAYERS SHOULD RECORD “PAR PLUS” (PAR PLUS ANY HANDICAP STROKES THE PLAYER IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ON A PARTICULAR HOLE) FOR THE HOLES NOT PLAYED. **However, if**

players complete play of the remaining holes, they **MUST** record the scores taken on those holes, but such scores shall not exceed the limit in the Equitable Stroke Control (Adjustment) formula.

11. **LOCAL RULES AND “PREFERRED LIES”**

- a. **Local Rules** – Any local rules that are to be in effect during Team Match play, must appear printed on the club score card, or be published and distributed to all players in advance of the start of the match.
- b. **“Preferred Lies”** – In the event that a course has adopted a local rule for “preferred lies”, it is recommended that this local rule be suspended during any Team Match competition at that course. If it becomes absolutely necessary to use “preferred lies”, the procedure for it shall be mutually agreed upon by both Team Captains in advance of the start of the match.

“Preferred Lies” and “Winter Rules”

Occasional local abnormal conditions that might interfere with fair play and are not widespread should be defined as ground under repair (Rule 25). However, adverse conditions, such as heavy snows, spring thaws, prolonged rains or extreme heat can make fairways unsatisfactory and sometimes prevent use of heavy mowing equipment. When these conditions are so general throughout a course that the Committee believes “preferred lies” or “winter rules” would promote fair play or help protect the course, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“If a player’s ball lies on a closely-mown area through the green [or specify a more restricted area, e.g., at the 6th hole] the player may mark, lift and clean his ball without penalty. Before lifting, he must mark the position of the ball. The player must then place the ball on a spot within [specify area, e.g., six inches, one club-length, etc.] of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed (Rule 20-4). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, Rule 20-3d applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other Rule apply.

If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.

***PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE: Match play — Loss of hole**

**If a player incurs the general penalty for a breach of this Local Rule, no additional penalty under the Local Rule is applied.”*

12. **TEE PLACEMENT**

- a. The tees to be used for all Team Match play shall be the set of tees most commonly used by the **MEN’S CLUB**. **At most** participating clubs this will be the middle (white) set of markers; however, if Team Captains **MUTUALLY AGREE, PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MATCH**, a different set of markers may be used. Tee markers should be placed so that the course plays to its rated length. All markers **DO NOT** have to be placed at the NCGA permanent markers to achieve this length; however, unless course conditions dictate, variation from the permanent markers should not exceed 10 yards. In keeping with the Spirit of Fair Play Policy, any changes due to course conditions or maintenance practices should be communicated to the opposing captain with as much notice as possible.
- b. **If Team Captains agree that their players play different tees, they must insure that the players’ scores are being posted to the correct course rating and slope for that set of tees. (i.e., Teams 1, 2 and 3 play the back tees and teams 4, 5 and 6 play the middle tees) The proper course rating and slope must be set in the USGA TM.**

13. **AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND CADDIES**

Automotive transportation will be permitted subject to the host club’s rules and regulations governing the use of golf cars. In the event that caddies are made available by the host club, an equal number of caddies must be made available for each team.

14. ADVICE

In the event a four-ball match is closed out, the players who were partners no longer remain as such and may no longer give advice to each other except as it pertains to the Rules of Golf or matters of public information. Any advice given at that point (e.g., line of play or club selection) would be in violation of Rule 8 and subject the player(s) to penalty. (EXCEPTION: If a player has finished both the four-ball match and his individual match he may now serve as his former partner's caddie and be allowed to give advice. A player who chooses to serve as a caddie in such a circumstance, MAY NOT continue to play.)

NOTE: Any non-playing team captain may give advice to members of the team. The individual acting as the non-playing team captain must be identified to the opposing team captain. The non-playing team captain may not read putts and must remain off the putting surface and out of all hazards. Any breach of the rules by the non-playing team captain will result in the applicable penalty applied to the player whose ball is involved.

15. FEWER THAN 12 PLAYERS

Teams must field a **minimum of six players** to avoid forfeiture (See Team Match Rule 18). When a team has fewer than 12 players for a match, it may:

- a. Use a substitute in accordance with the proper handicap sequence (See Team Match Rule 7c(2)); or
- b. Play with fewer players by playing a one-man team against the opponent's two-man team. The one-man team may be placed in any position in the line-up, as long as he is in proper handicap sequence, and may play only one opponent individually in addition to the four-ball match.

16. POSTPONEMENTS/SUSPENSION OF PLAY

All Team Matches are to be played as scheduled unless postponed/suspended by course management or mutual agreement of the Team Captains involved.

- a. Postponement is defined as the failure to commence play as scheduled or to continue play as scheduled due to unplayable conditions.

- b. Suspension is defined as the temporary halting of play due to unplayable conditions.

- c. Procedures under postponement/suspension:

(1) If the match is postponed by either course management or mutual agreement of the Team Captains and fewer than 9 holes have been played in any of the matches, the entire match must be rescheduled. (It is not necessary that the same players participate in the make-up match).

(2) If the match is postponed and all players have completed 9 holes, the match stands as completed at the time play is halted, and Team Captains will verify the results of each match through the number of holes completed and record and attest the results prior to leaving the course.

(3) When play is suspended, if the players are between the play of two holes, they should not resume play until ordered to do so. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they have the option of marking the position of their ball or completing play of the hole. They may not, after being notified of the suspension, commence play of another hole.

(4) If play is resumed after suspension but with certain conditions imposed (e.g. no golf carts, preferred lies, etc.) play will continue from the point at which it was suspended and the conditions imposed shall remain in effect for the remainder of the stipulated round.

(5) If suspended play cannot be resumed, or if Team Captains mutually agree not to resume play, the match is considered to be postponed and shall be treated as prescribed herein.

(6) All postponements, for whatever reason, must be rescheduled on the course for which originally scheduled, at the earliest available date mutually agreeable to both Team Captains.

Exception: Playoffs. (See Team Match Rule 23 f. (2))

(7) The NCGA office must be notified of all make-up dates for postponed matches and all such matches must be completed prior to the start of Playoff Matches. Any match not completed by that date, will be treated as “No Match” for both teams in determining final group standings.

17. WITHDRAWAL

The withdrawal of a team at any time after the pairings have been announced will result in ineligibility for Team Match play until the second year following the year of withdrawal. Any previous matches played by a team that withdraws will be considered as “no match” in determining the final group standings.

18. FORFEITURES

Forfeiture shall be scored as “no match”. All other matches played by the forfeiting team, either prior to or after the forfeited match, shall also be scored in the same manner in order to equalize the advantage of the forfeiture among the other teams within the group. Any circumstances causing forfeiture shall be subject to review by the Team Match Committee.

NOTE 1: INABILITY TO FIELD A FULL TEAM OF 12 PLAYERS IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE REASON FOR FORFEITURE AND THE FORFEITING TEAM IS SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION FROM FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE TEAM MATCH PROGRAM.

NOTE 2: Teams must field a **minimum of six players** to avoid forfeiture. (See Team Match Rule 15)

19. MATCH PLAY CLAIMS

Team Captains should insure that all of their players are familiar with the procedure for making a claim during a match under Rule 2-5.

a. Players Responsibility

(1) If a doubt or dispute arises between the players, and they cannot reach agreement, they **MUST** continue play without delay. Any claim, if it is to be considered at a later time, **MUST** be made before **ANY** player in the match plays from the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before **ALL** players in the match leave the putting green.

(2) The player making the claim **MUST** inform his Team Captain of the circumstances as soon as possible or immediately upon conclusion of his match.

b. Team Captains Responsibility

(1) The Captain receiving the claim shall immediately inform the opposing Captain and attempt to reach agreement on the claim.

(2) If the player making the claim did not do so within the time limit provided herein (Rule 2-5) the claim shall be considered **INVALID** unless it is based on facts previously unknown to the player making the claim **AND** the player making the claim had been given wrong information (see Rule 6-2a and Rule 9) by his opponent.

(3) If the Team Captains determine that a valid claim has been made during a match, they shall resolve the claim under the Rules of Golf and adjust the results of the match accordingly.

20. **PROTESTS**

The NCGA Team Match Committee (Staff representative, Committee Liaison and the Tournament Committee Chairman) will rule on all protests and its decision shall be final. No protest will be considered by the NCGA unless it pertains to the Rules of Golf and the following procedures have been followed.

a. Team Captains Responsibility

(1) If the Team Captains have not been able to reach agreement, during the play of the match, on a question of rules, both may register a protest PRIOR TO ENTERING RESULTS IN THE USGA TM. Once the results are posted in the USGA TM, the results are considered official and no later protest shall be considered by the NCGA except as provided herein.

(2) Within 24 hours following the match, the protesting Team Captain must notify the NCGA by phone (831) 625-4653 or email that a protest has been filed.

(3) Within 72 hours following the match BOTH Captains must submit written support of their respective claims to the NCGA. The statement may be submitted by email.

b. NCGA Actions – The NCGA Team Match Committee will rule on all protests received and its decision shall be final.

(1) No protests shall be considered unless it fulfills all of the conditions and requirements set forth above. However, if the Committee is satisfied that the team against which the protest was registered knew it gave the protesting team wrong information a later claim will be allowed.

(2) The NCGA will not consider any protest that does not pertain to the Rules of Golf.

21. **DETERMINATION OF GROUP WINNERS**

a. Group winners will be determined at the end of the regular season by awarding 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.

b. In the event of a points tie between two teams, the Group Winner will be determined by the cumulative number of points earned by the two tied teams in their matches against each other during the regular season.

c. In the event that a tie still exists, OR IF MORE THAN TWO TEAMS HAVE IDENTICAL POINTS RECORDS, the team with highest cumulative number of points earned in ALL regular season matches will be declared the Group Winner.

d. If two or more teams are still tied, the cumulative number of points earned by position player 1 will be tabulated to break the tie. This process shall be repeated through the SUCCEEDING POSITION PLAYERS until the tie is broken.

e. If teams are still tied, the group winner will be decided by lot.

22. **QUALIFYING FOR THE PLAYOFFS (Determining the Wildcard Team(s))**

The top 32 teams at the end of the regular season will advance to the playoff. In order to eliminate playoff byes, the NCGA Team Match Committee developed an equitable means of determining which teams will automatically earn a playoff berth and which team(s) will receive a wildcard berth.

The procedure for making these determinations is as follows:

a. All group winners will automatically advance to the playoff.

b. In the case where there are less than 32 group winners, teams that will earn a wildcard berth will be determined as follows:

(1) Best Record - based on 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.

(2) If two or more teams have identical points, the team(s) that will advance will be determined on the basis of cumulative points earned during their regular season matches.

(3) If two or more teams are tied based on cumulative points earned, the team(s) that advances will be determined based on the total points earned by the NUMBER ONE POSITION PLAYER FOR THE TIED TEAMS DURING THE REGULAR SEASON. This process shall be repeated through the SUCCEEDING POSITION PLAYERS until the tie is broken.

(4) If any team is still tied, the final advancing team will be decided by lot.

(New)

23. PLAYOFF MATCHES

Teams advancing to the playoff will be paired by the NCGA Team Match Committee for a single elimination match play to determine the overall Thursday and Saturday League Champions. Playoff matches will be conducted according to all regular Team Match Rules as follows:

- a. The Team Match Committee will designate one team to be “Club A” and the other “Club B” for each playoff match.
- b. In accordance with Rule 33-3, each match has a two week window in which a playoff match must be completed. This provides sufficient flexibility to accommodate all clubs. Team Captains are expected to cooperate with each other. **THE NCGA TEAM MATCH COMMITTEE WILL NOT MAKE PROVISIONS FOR A TEAM ASKING FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION DUE TO OTHER CLUB OR INDIVIDUAL PLAYER COMMITMENTS.**
- c. Participating clubs will arrange their 12 players in CURRENT INDEX sequence (this differs from Regular Season play). Accordingly, Team #1 from each club will be the two lowest indexed players, and so on. The playoff match shall then be played on the courses of the competing teams as follows:
 - 1) Teams #1, #3 and #5 from each competing team will play at “Club A”.
 - 2) Teams #2, #4 and #6 from each competing team will play at “Club B”.
 - 3) “Club A” shall have the honor at each course.
 - 4) **Only players who have played in at least one regular season match are eligible for the playoffs.**
- d. Starting Times – **Team Captains must ensure that all playoff matches start at a time that will allow all matches and any sudden death playoff to be completed prior to darkness.** The NCGA recommends that no playoff match start after 12:00 noon.
- e. Ties – In the event of a tie in a playoff match, there shall be a sudden death playoff between only the lowest handicap teams from each club (i.e. the No. 1 Teams play at “Club A”; and the No. 2 Teams play at “Club B”). Team Captains are responsible for coordinating the sudden death playoff between the two courses.
 - (1) The sudden death will start on the same hole as the original match. If that hole is not available, another hole may be used. This decision should have the agreement of both captains.
 - (2) The sudden death playoff will involve the same format of play as used during the regular match (i.e. two individual matches and one four-ball match in each foursome).
 - (3) Two points shall be awarded for each hole won in the individual matches, and two points for each hole won in the four-ball matches. If a hole is halved, 1 point shall be awarded to each team. A total possible point for one two-man team on each sudden death playoff hole is six (6).

(4) The team accumulating the most points on the first playoff hole, based on the play at both courses, will be declared the winner of the match. If a tie still exists, the playoff will continue to the next hole and any subsequent holes until the tie is broken.

(5) The order of play and handicap stroke allocation for the sudden death playoff shall be the same as used for the regular match.

f. Postponement/Suspension of Play

(1) Definitions – See Team Match Rule 14.

(2) Procedures – Because all playoff matches must be concluded and a winner determined, playoff procedures differ significantly than those in use during the regular season.

- If conditions exist at either Club “A” or Club “B” which force club management to declare the course unplayable either prior to the start of play or during play, and play cannot be resumed to conclusion and a winner determined, the entire match must be rescheduled. Player substitutions are allowed.
- If after play at both Club “A” and Club “B” has been concluded, but a tie exists and a sudden death playoff cannot begin or be concluded due to unplayable conditions, the sudden death playoff must commence or resume at the point it was suspended and a winner determined before the next scheduled match. No player substitutions are allowed for a sudden death playoff.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION 2018 TEAM MATCH CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETION AND RULES OF PLAY

The NCGA Team Match Program involves both Four-Ball and Individual Match Play. Because of this, certain special rules apply and are summarized herein, together with other reminders peculiar to Match Play.

CELLULAR PHONES: As provided in the Etiquette Section of the Rules of Golf, players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players. For further guidelines refer to Decisions 14-3/16 & 14-3/18.

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES: In NCGA qualifiers and championships, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. 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 14-3.

ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON A PUTTING GREEN: When a player’s ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1. This Local Rule applies only when the player’s ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player’s ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances must be replaced.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by white lines. French drains are deemed to be ground under repair. Rule 25-1.

SODDED AREAS: If a ball lies in or touches a sod seam, the player may, without penalty, lift the ball and clean it. The player shall drop the ball as near as possible to where it originally lay, which is not nearer the hole, avoids interference by the condition and is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

AERATION HOLES: **Through the green**, a ball which comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. **On the putting green**, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed without penalty at the nearest spot to where it originally lay not nearer the hole.

WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS: White lined areas tying into artificially surfaced roads and paths are part of the obstruction.

EMBEDDED BALL THROUGH THE GREEN: Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I shall be in effect.

PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES AND CABLES: If a ball strikes a permanent elevated power line or cable on the course, the stroke shall be cancelled and replayed, without penalty (See Rule 20-5). If the ball is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.

OTHER RULE REMINDERS

RULE 30 – ...FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY

Definition of Four-Ball: A match in which two play their better ball against the better ball of two other players.

RULE 30-1. Rules of Golf Apply. The Rules of Golf, so far as they are not at variance with the following special Rules, shall apply to... four-ball matches.

RULE 30-3.Four-Ball Match Play

A. Representation of Side: A side may be represented by one partner for all or any of a match; all partners need not be present. An absent partner may join a match between holes, but not during play of a hole.

B. Maximum of Fourteen Clubs: The side shall be penalized for breach of Rule 4-4 by any partner.

C. Order of Play: Balls belonging to the same side may be played in the order the side considers best.

D. Wrong Ball: If a player plays a stroke with a wrong ball, except one moving in water in a water hazard, he shall be disqualified for that hole, but his partner incurs no penalty even if the wrong ball belongs to him. The owner of the ball shall replace it on the spot from which it was played, without penalty. If the ball is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.

E. Disqualification of Side:

(1) A side shall be disqualified for a breach of any of the following by any partner:

Rule 1-3 -- Agreement to Waive Rules

Rule 4-1, -2 or -3 -- Clubs

Rule 5-1 or -2 -- The Ball

Rule 6-2a -- Handicap (playing off higher handicap)

Rule 6-4 -- Caddie

Rule 6-7 -- Undue Delay (repeated offense)

Rule 14-3 -- Artificial Devices/Unusual Equipment

(2) A side shall be disqualified for a breach of any of the following by both partners:

Rule 6-3 -- Time of Starting and Groups

Rule 6-8 -- Discontinuance of Play

F. Effect of Other Penalties: If a player's breach of a rule assists his partners or adversely affects an opponent's play, the partner incurs the applicable penalty in addition to any penalty incurred by the player.

In all other cases where a player incurs a penalty for breach of a Rule, the penalty shall not apply to his partner. When the penalty is stated to be loss of hole, the effect shall be to disqualify the player for that hole.

G. Another Form of Match Played Concurrently: In a ... or four-ball match when another form of match is played concurrently, the above special Rules shall apply.

DECISION 30-3/1 – Examples of Rulings in Four-Ball Match with Concurrent Singles Matches

When players are involved in concurrent matches, whenever possible the Rules are applied only to the match affected. When it is not possible to separate the matches, the four-ball match takes precedence.

A and B are playing C and D in a four-ball match. There are also concurrent singles matches between A and C and between B and D. The following are examples of the application of the Rules in such a format:

(1) A concedes a stroke, hole or the match to C but stipulates that the concession is solely for their singles match. The concession is not valid in the four-ball match.

(2) A concedes a stroke, hole or the match to C and does not specify which match the concession is intended for. The concession applies to both the four-ball and the singles matches.

(3) A concedes a stroke, hole or the match to D. The concession applies only to the four-ball match as A has no authority to make a concession in the B-D singles match.

(4) The balls of all four players lie on the putting green and A's ball is the farthest from the hole with B's ball on the same line. Side C-D concedes B's next stroke for the four-ball match only, but B goes ahead and putts before A. In the four-ball match, A is disqualified for the hole (see Decision 2-4/6).

(5) B moves A's ball without authority. In the four-ball match, A incurs a penalty stroke (Rule 18-2a) but, in his singles match against C, he incurs no penalty. B incurs no penalty in any match.

(6) Other than during search, A moves D's ball. In the four-ball match, A incurs a penalty stroke (Rule 18-3b) but, in his singles match against C, he incurs no penalty.

(7) On the 3rd hole it is discovered that B started his round with 15 clubs. In the four-ball match, Side A-B has two holes deducted from the state of the match after the 3rd hole. B has two holes deducted from the state of his singles match against D. A incurs no penalty in his singles match against C.

(8) During the round, it is discovered that B started the round with a non-conforming club. In the four-ball match, Side A-B is disqualified (Rules 4-1 and 30-3e). B is disqualified in his singles match against D. A incurs no penalty in his singles match against C.

(9) On the 5th hole, B holes out in 3 to win the hole for Side A-B in the four-ball match. A has a putt left to win or halve the hole in his singles match against C and asks B for advice. There is no penalty to either player. A and B may exchange advice at any time until the four-ball match has been concluded, at which point A and B are no longer partners and become outside agencies with respect to each other.

DECISION 30-3/2 – Effect of State of Match Penalties in Four-Ball Play

Q. In a four-ball match in which A and B are partners, A employs two caddies at the 3rd hole. Before play of the 3rd hole is completed, A discovers and corrects his breach of Rule 6-4. As the penalty for breach of Rule 6-4 requires an adjustment of the state of the match, how should the penalty be applied in four-ball match play?

A. At the conclusion of the 3rd hole, Side A-B must deduct one hole from the state of the match. In four-ball match play, when a player breaches a Rule that requires an adjustment to the state of the match, the side is penalized. If a breach of a Rule that requires an adjustment to the state of the match in match play arises in four-ball stroke play, both partners incur the applicable stroke play penalty.

RULE 14-2 – ASSISTANCE

In making a stroke, a player shall not:

- a. Accept physical assistance or protection from the elements, or
- b. Allow his caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie to position himself on or close to an extension of the line of play or the line of putt behind the ball.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 14-2: Match play — Loss of hole

RULE 3-3 DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE – There is no provision in match play that allows for the play of a second ball if a player is in doubt of his rights or procedure. (This Rule does not prohibit play of a Provisional Ball under RULE 27-2).

RULE 2-5 CLAIMS – In match play, if a doubt or dispute arises between the players and no duly authorized representative of the committee is available within a reasonable time, the players shall continue the match without delay. Any claim, if it is to be considered by the committee **MUST** be made before **ANY** player in the match plays from the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before **ALL** players in the match leave the putting green.

No later claim shall be considered unless it is based on facts previously unknown to the player making the claim **AND** the player making the claim had been given wrong information (Rules 6-2a and 9) by an opponent. In any case, no later claim shall be considered after the result of the match has been officially announced, unless the committee is satisfied that the opponent knew he was giving wrong information.

PROCEDURE FOR A VALID CLAIM

(1) For a claim to be valid, the claimant **MUST** indicate the facts he believes give rise to the claim **AND MUST ALSO** indicate that he wants the Rules of Golf applied. He must do both within the time required by Rule 2-5. For example, Rule 1-1e prohibits putting from a stance astride an extension of the line of putt behind the ball. In a match between A and B, if A putts from a stance astride an extension of the line and B states “that is not allowed, you are penalized” or “I’m making a claim because of that stroke” the committee should uphold the claim.

(2) Statements by B such as “I’m not sure that’s allowed” or “I don’t think you can do that” do not by themselves constitute a valid claim because each statement does not contain **BOTH** a reference to the facts giving rise to the claim and a desire to have the Rules of Golf applied.