**Rules of Competition**

**MWDGA RULES OF COMPETITION – 2023 v4**

**1. COMPETITION**

**a. Rules**
All competition shall be governed by the United States Golf Association Rules of Golf and by the Rules of Competition as adopted by the Milwaukee Women's District Golf Association, and by the duty sheets of the Tournament Representative and Team Captains. (Also See SECTION 6 – RULES GOVERNING
PLAY)

**b. Team Roster/Non-Roster Substitutes/Lineup/Matches**
A MWDGA team shall consist of 10 players and up to 8 alternates. These 18 players will constitute the official” team roster” for which dues will be paid. These roster players will be eligible to play in Field Day and the Tournament of Champions.

In the event a Team Captain cannot field 10 players from the official 18 player team roster for any given play date, she may substitute an eligible player or players from her club in order to have a complete 10-person team for competition. These substitute players shall be referred to as “non-roster substitutes”. Non-roster substitutes must have an official USGA handicap and comply with all of the other MWDGA Rules of Competition. Non- roster substitutes may only be used to bring the total number of team players to 10 and therefore they may not play as alternates on any given play date. Non-rosters substitutes are not eligible to play in Field Day and the Tournament of Champions. Non-roster substitutes are not required to pay dues, but are required to pay daily fees for lunch and a cart or caddie. A member's daughter, 18 years or older and included under the member's family membership, may play only as a non-roster substitute.

A club is responsible for the selection of its roster and non-roster substitute members.

Two rosters may be turned in for a play date: a Competition Roster and an Alternate Roster. The Competition Roster consists of those players who will be competing for points on the play date. The Alternate Roster are those players who will be playing but not competing for points on the play date. Any player may be listed on either roster regardless of relative handicap index. Only rostered players may be listed on the Alternate Roster, non-rostered substitutes are not permitted. Players must be listed in order of handicap index from lowest to highest on each roster for competition purposes. The Team Captain determines the makeup of both rosters. The competition team lineup is determined from the Competition Roster. If a player from the Competition Roster is unavailable to play, the Team Captain must pull a player from the Alternate Roster adding this player to the Competition Roster maintaining the order of handicap indexes. Players 1 & 2 from a team are Match 1 partners; Players 3 & 4 are Match 2 partners. etc. A total of 10 players (5 pairings) compete from each team. A total of 5 matches are played between the two teams slated for competition. A match consists of 4 players, 2 players from each team, unless fewer than 10 team members are available to play.

If one or more team members are unavailable to play, the Team Captain shall use her discretion as to the line-up but in accordance with the handicap rules and the ordering of players as stated above. For example, if one (or more) player(s) is missing, the Team Captain may decide which of the five matches will be played with a single player, but she must still maintain the lineup in order from lowest to highest Handicap Index. A Team Captain could also decide to forfeit a match. (Also see SECTION 4 – ROSTER)

Failure to field a full roster on a given scheduled play or rain date may be considered an offense which may result in a warning from the Executive Board regarding league membership in the future. The continued inability to field a full team may result in removal of a club’s membership in the district. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into account. A club may appeal the decision per the Bylaws. (See Article III Membership, Section 5).

**c. Format/Scoring**
The format of play is four ball match play (USGA Rule 23) with the 18-point accumulative system of scoring on 4 separate play dates.

There are ten (10) teams in the competition. Teams are divided equally into two divisions, Blue and Gold, based on the established rotation schedule. The winner of each division is the team with the highest accumulated point total. (In the event of a tie, see Section 10. RULES GOVERNING TIES) The Gold Division winner and the Blue Division winner play each other for the Milwaukee Women's District Championship.

**d. Strokes Given**
For scoring the match, the host course handicap of the four players in a match will be reduced by subtracting the handicap of the player who has the lowest handicap. The lowest handicap player competes at scratch. The other three players will receive 100% of the resulting difference and strokes are taken as they fall on the scorecard.

**2. ELIGIBILITY**

As defined by the By-Laws. (Article lll, section 1 and Rules of Competition 3b.)

**3. HANDICAPS**

**a. Current Handicap Index Used**
United States Golf Association Handicap Index will be used in all Milwaukee Women's District Golf Association events. The player’s Handicap Index will then be converted accordingly on the play date to a course handicap based on the slope rating of the tees played at the host club. Players failing to use their Handicap Index will be disqualified for the day's event. (Do NOT USE the player’s current trend handicap index.)

**b. Maximum Handicap Index – 28.0**
A player may be on a District team with a higher Handicap Index than 28.0, but must play with a Handicap Index no greater than 28.0. This maximum applies to non-roster substitute players as well.

**c. Posting Scores (Also see SECTION 6e – Posting Scores)**
Scores for handicap must be turned in provided they are played on courses which have been rated according to United States Golf Association guidelines.

**4. ROSTER**

**a. 18-Person Roster**
The 18-person team roster should be submitted by February 1st to the First-Vice President. Changes to the roster may be made up until the Wednesday prior to the first scheduled Friday play date.

**b. Substitution after Start of Season**
Substitution to the roster of a team after the season has begun may be allowed at the discretion of the MWDGA Board in unusual circumstances. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to: injury or illness to a player, death, or relocation of a player.

**c. Substitution after Lineup Submitted**In case of an emergency between Wednesday submittal and Friday AM check-in time, the Team Captain may substitute within her roster. (For example, if a 10-person lineup was submitted on Wednesday and a player becomes ill, the Team Captain may add to the lineup one of the alternates from her 18-person roster or a non-roster substitute from her club, even though her name was not included on the original lineup submitted on Wednesday.)

**5. TEAM SELECTION**

Team selection shall be determined by the MWDGA's Board of Directors. There are ten (10) Member teams in the competition. The teams are divided equally into two divisions; Blue and Gold, based on the established rotation schedule. The winner of each division is the club with the highest accumulated point total. (In the event of a tie, see Section 10. RULES GOVERNING TIES)

The Gold Division winner and Blue Division winner play each other for the Milwaukee Women’s District Championship in the Playoff. (See Section 9. PLAYOFF)

**6. RULES GOVERNING PLAY**

**a. USGA Rules of Golf Govern**
All competition shall be played in accordance with the United States Golf Association Rules of Golf.

**b. Committee**
The Committee for a play date shall consist of the Golf Professional, the Greens Superintendent (if applicable), the Tournament Representative of the host club, the Team Captains and any current executive board members present. This Committee shall make all decisions concerning infractions on the course

**c. Time Limits**
Foursomes will be timed for the entire 18 holes with the expectation the round and match will be completed in 4 hours and 20 minutes. Slow playing foursomes will be identified by the course marshal who has the authority to speed up play. All teams must turn in their attested and signed scorecards by 12:30 (or 4 hours and 30 minutes after the round had begun) to the scoring table. Failure to complete the match or to turn in a completed scorecard by the allotted time will result in a negative one (1) point penalty assigned to each involved team. Each team member will also receive a warning letter from the MWDGA Board of Directors. Anyone receiving two letters (they may carry over to next year) will be ineligible for the next play date. This will apply to alternates as well. PLAYERS SHOULD PICK UP THEIR BALL WHEN THEY HAVE NO CHANCE TO WIN OR HALVE A HOLE. For the purposes of posting a score, a putt of 12 feet or more should be counted as 2 strokes and a putt less than 12 feet should be counted as 1 stroke.

**d. Scorecards**
A score card must be dated, signed, attested and turned in upon completion of the round.

**e. Posting Scores**
All SCORES shall be POSTED as Away scores, in compliance with USGA. All players must post a score for each play day, using the equitable stroke formula (a reasonable score no higher than your normal handicap allowance), and these scores are to be posted in the computer under "Away Games," using the slope and rating for the course played. (Failure to comply could result in disqualification.)
**f. Registration**
Players are to report to the registration area no later than 45 minutes before their tee time. The Team Captain of each club should confirm at the registration table that all players have checked in. When a player is not present by 7:40A.M, the Team Captain will at her discretion, make the determination whether or not to adjust the line-up. This is a final decision.

**g. Carts and Caddies**
Players must make their choice of carts or caddies before the Team Captain sends the play date line-up to the host club and Tournament Representative. Players and alternates who do not cancel before the 7:00 A.M. deadline must pay the full caddie fee. Players should be aware that some clubs require a caddie be used in foursomes using two carts. No club may bring their own caddies unless asked to do so by the host club. Tip as posted.

**h. Maximum Club Rule**
The penalty for any breach of USGA #4.1b (maximum of 14 clubs) shall be applied to the status of points at the end of the match.

**i. Dress Code**
Players must adhere to the Dress Code of each host club.

**j. Lunch**
Players are encouraged to stay for lunch and are obligated to pay for lunch at the specified lunch rate agreed to by the Board of Directors whether they stay or not.

k**. Local rules for district play:**

**i. Sprinkler Heads around the Green**A ball lying off the green but not in the rough, in the line of a sprinkler head may be moved laterally no closer to the hole to gain relief from the sprinkler head when putting. There is no relief when chipping.

**ii. Range Finders**
Range finders measuring distance only may be used. The information gained from the use of range finders is considered public knowledge and may be shared.

**iii. Driving Carts Ahead of Ball Position to Survey Hole**
Carts may be driven ahead of a player’s ball position in order to survey the hole and any potential hazards of the course. The information from driving ahead is considered public knowledge and may be shared.

iv. **Local Rule G-9 for Replacement of Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged and Local Rule E-12 Ball Played From Outside Relief Area When Taking Back-on-the-Line Relief**These two local rules have been adopted by MWDGA.

**7. POSTPONEMENT OF PLAY**

**a. Weather Cancellations**
Each player must be present at her scheduled starting time, regardless of weather conditions. The decision to cancel play due to weather conditions cannot be made until 30 minutes after the starting tee time, unless the course is closed by the Greens Superintendent or the Golf Professional of the host club.

**b. New Lineups Permitted**
In the event of cancellation without play having occurred, a new line-up with handicap index changes may be submitted. Alternates may play. Non-roster substitutes may play only if a team cannot field 10 players from the 18-person official team roster.

c**. Play Cancelled If Carts Unavailable**If carts cannot be used, the course will be considered closed and play will be cancelled. (Exception: Anywhere on which carts are regularly not allowed.)

**8. SUSPENSION OF PLAY**

**a.** **Suspend Play when Siren Sounds**
When the siren is sounded, play is to be discontinued; USGA rule 5.7b. shall govern procedure.

**b.** **Course Becomes Unplayable**
If after play begins the course becomes unplayable, or there are circumstances which render the proper playing of the game impossible, the committee shall call a temporary suspension. USGA rule5.7 shall govern procedure.

**c. Rain Date**
Should play be canceled or suspended due to weather or other extraordinary circumstances before the completion of all the non-alternate matches, all matches will be completely replayed on the rain date with play starting over again (i.e. 18 holes to be played). A new lineup may be used on the rain date. Alternates may play unless otherwise noted by hosting club. Non-roster substitutes may play only if a team cannot field 10 players from the 18-person official team roster. The same rules will apply on the rain date, in which case a new rain date would need to be scheduled later in the season.

**9. PLAYOFF**

**a. Committee**
The Committee for the play-off shall consist of the President, First Vice-President, the Team Captains, and the Golf Professional of the host club. The Committee shall supervise play, make rules decisions and keep a record of the playoff points.

**b. Format and Rules**
The format and rules of play for the Playoff between the Gold Division winner and the Blue Division winner are the same as for any other play date. Alternates may play and all players are encouraged to stay for lunch. Non-roster substitutes may play only if a team cannot field 10 players from the 18-person official team roster.

**c. Home Course**
In the event that a district playoff occurs at a team's home club location, the schedule will not be changed. Play shall continue per the schedule.

**d. Awards**
Team and individual awards are given out at Field Day. Traveling team trophies are given to each team. Playoff teams are provided cash payouts to distribute to team members or to purchase individual awards as each team deems fit.

**10. RULES GOVERNING TIES**

**a. Divisional Tie**
If two teams are tied within a division after completion of four (4) play days, the division winner is determined by the results of the team head-to-head competition during that season's play. If a tie is still the result, the tie breaker will be determined by the head-to-head results of the first pair position players' match results, then the second pair position players' match results, etc. until the tie is broken. In the eventuality that a tie is not broken after this process, the winner will be determined by a flip of a coin between the Team Captains.

**b. Playoff Tie**Should there be a tie at the division play-off, the first and second position players of each of the tied teams will play sudden death beginning on the first hole under the same "four-ball match format."

**11. RULES GOVERNING RAIN-OUT**
Rainouts that occur on consecutive play dates (i.e. the scheduled date and rain date) will be rescheduled on another date pending available time and date at the host club. Every effort should be made to have matches completed before the next scheduled play date. MWDGA realizes that some clubs are not able to put a rain date on their calendars. Therefore, if a rain date is necessary at one of those clubs, the club Tournament Representative should work with their club pro and the First Vice President to find an available date and time prior to the final play date. The First Vice President shall then communicate that information via email and the website.

**12. DELIBERATE NON-APPEARANCE OF AN ENTIRE TEAM**
a. A team which fails to appear as scheduled shall forfeit all points to each team against whom it has or is yet to compete.

b. Opposing teams still to play offending team need not appear to receive the points.

**13. UNUSUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**
If an unusual or extraordinary event occurs once play has begun, causing a team to default, the primary concern is the individual and getting her needs met. In this situation, the team that has defaulted will receive NO additional points for the holes not played. The remaining team will receive ½ point for each of the remaining holes not played. Points awarded in this manner are subject to review by the Executive Committee.

**14. ANNUAL MEETING / FIELD DAY**

**a. Committee**
The Committee for the Annual Meeting / Field Day shall consist of the Second Vice-President and the Tournament Rep and Golf Professional of the host club. The Committee shall supervise play, make rules decisions and keep a record of the winners.

**b. Format**
The format of Field Day is determined by the Second Vice-President. In recent years, the format has been an ABCD player mixed club event, 2 best balls of the foursome as well as on course events.

**c. Prizes**
The prizes for all events are determined by the Second Vice President. In the event of a cancellation of golf, the prizes will be awarded at the luncheon in a random manner determined by the Second Vice President.

**d. Cost of Event**Participants of Field Day will be charged a per person rate for food that is the same as a regular play date. Carts or caddies are the responsibility of the player. All prizes are paid through previously budgeted expenditures.

**e. Eligibility**

Only District Team Roster members are eligible to play in the Field Day event. No Substitutes.

**f. Event Date**

The Annual Meeting / Field Day will be held on the second Friday of September, regardless of weather conditions. All cancellations must be submitted to the Second Vice-President by noon the Wednesday prior to the event.

This date should be requested by the Second Vice President to the host club the fall prior to the year they will host the event.

**15. MWDGA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

**a. Committee:**

The Committee for the MWDGA Tournament of Champions (TOC) shall consist of the First

Vice-President, the Tournament Rep and the Golf Professional of the host club.

The Committee shall supervise play, make rules decisions and keep a record of the winners.

**b. Format:**

Threesomes from each club play as a team for both team and individual events.

Events are:

* Team - Low Net Best Ball (One low net best ball of the threesome)
* Team - Low Gross Total (Combined low gross total score of the threesome)
* Individual - Low Gross (women)
* Individual - Low Net (women)
* Pro on Low Net Best Ball Team
* Pro on Low Gross Total Team
* Individual Low Gross Pro

**c. Eligibility:**

The women eligible to play in the MWDGA Tournament of Champions from each club must meet BOTH of the following two criteria:

1. The player must be on the team roster of her club’s MWDGA District Team. No substitutes.
2. The player must have participated / competed in the current year’s club championship at her club.

In the event that one or both of the women eligible to play in the Tournament of Champions cannot participate for any reason, the criteria for selecting the replacement player(s) must meet the same two eligibility requirements listed above. To protect the field, the replacement player(s) must be selected based on the results of the Club Championships (all flights). For example, if a Club’s Championship Flight has a 3rd / 4th place finisher, these players are “next-in-line” to participate. If there are no additional eligible players in the Championship flight, the First Flight championship results should determine “next-in-line”. Only when there is NOT a clearly definitive “next-in-line” player will it be at the discretion of the District team to select their replacement player(s).

In the event that the Head Golf Professional or Assistant Pro from a club is unable to attend, then the two women from the club would play only in the individual events. No substitutions for the pros will be allowed.

**d. Awards**

Team and individual awards are given out. Traveling trophies and cash prizes are given to each winning team as well as the individual low gross and low net winners. A player is eligible to win multiple team and/or individual awards.

Pros on winning teams receive cash awards.

**e. Date of the Tournament of Champions**

The MWDGA Tournament of Champions will be held on the (third) Tuesday in September. This date should be requested by the First Vice-President to the host club in the fall prior to the year they will host the event.

**f. Team Determination**

The three person team will consist of:

1. the Head Golf Professional (or an Assistant Golf Professional) of the Club
2. the Women’s Club Champion (if a District team member)
3. the Women’s Club Champion Runner-Up (if a District team member)

**16. AMENDMENTS**
The Rules of Competition may be revised or amended by action of the Board of Directors.

**RULES OF COMPETITION -----
REVISED: 1992, 2001, 2002, 2003 AMENDED: 1995, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2014 and 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023**