

NORTHERN NEVADA WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION
STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP
STANDING RULES
Revised April 2015

SECTION 1. GENERAL

- A. The Championship will be a thirty-six-hole stroke play event.
- B. USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all play, except as modified by local rules made by the NNWGA Rules Committee before the first tee time.

SECTION 2. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

- A. The Tournament Chairman may designate a Committee to assist in the organization and operation of the Championship.
- B. The Tournament Chairman and/or Future Sites Chairman with the approval of the NNWGA Executive Board shall set:
 - 1. Location
 - 2. Date
 - 3. Entry Fee
 - 4. Deadlines
 - 5. Refund Date
- C. At least 60 days before the Championship date, the Tournament Chairman will present a projected budget to the Executive Board for their approval.
- D. Any single or combined expenditure that exceeds the original budget in excess of \$100.00 must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board before the expense(s) is incurred.
- E. Entries:
 - 1. At least 45 days prior to the tournament start date, entry forms will be available on the NNWGA web site, www.nnwga.org
 - 2. The tournament field will be filled on a first received basis.
 - 3. Incomplete entries will be considered void and will not be accepted.
 - 4. Entry deadlines will be stated clearly on the entry application.
 - 5. Full refund will be given for cancellations received before the entry closing date, as published on the application.
- F. Play will be suspended or canceled based on USGA Rules of Golf.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY

- A. To compete in the NNWGA Stroke Play Championship, a player must:
 - 1. Be a member in good standing of an NNWGA member club at least 60 days prior to the first day of the Championship.
 - 2. Have a verifiable USGA Handicap Index.
 - 3. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age before the first day of the tournament.
 - 4. Meet amateur status as specified in the USGA Rules of Golf.
 - 5. Those wishing to compete in the Senior Division must be 50-59 years of age prior to the first day of play.
 - 6. Those wishing to compete in the Super Senior Division must be 60-69 years of age prior to the first day of play.
 - 7. Those wishing to compete in the Berta Kirchner Division must be 70 years of age or older prior to the first day of play.

8. At the date of entry, a player's handicap may not exceed 36 on the competition course or courses.

SECTION 4. GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION

- A. The Champion will be a contestant recording the lowest 36-hole total gross score.
- B. The tournament may be "over the field" or flighted. If flighted, the number of entries will determine the number of flights. Flights shall be divided as evenly as possible, with the exception - when contestants have the same handicap for the competition course - contestants shall be put in the same flight. The flights based on handicaps for the competition course will not affect the Senior, Super Senior and Berta Kirchner Divisions.
- C. Recommended pairings for a flighted tournament:
 1. Day one - paired by the most recent USGA handicap index within flights.
 2. Day two - paired by day one gross scores within flights in order of finish.
- D. Recommended pairings for an "over the field" tournament:
 1. Day one-paired by the most recent USGA handicap index. Should handicap indexes be identical, lot shall decide pairing.
 2. Day two-paired by day one gross scores in order of finish.
 3. It is recommended that on the final day of the tournament, players with the lowest gross scores are sent off in the final groups from the first tee.
- E. When using tee times, at the discretion of the Tournament Chairman, the first and tenth tees may be used. Shotgun starts are also acceptable.
- F. A play-off will be held if there is a tie for low gross, low gross runner-up, or low net. Should a course not allow this, then ties will be broken by matching score cards from the second day's score, using the USGA recommended method in the USGA Rules of Golf, Appendix I.
- G. In the case of a tie after 36 holes, winners will be determined as follows:
 1. Ties for Low Gross Champion will be determined by an aggregate three-hole play-off starting from a hole determined by the Committee in conjunction with the golf course staff. If tied after three holes, players shall play off to a sudden death victory.
 2. Ties for Low Gross Runner-up will be determined by an aggregate three-hole play-off starting from a hole determined by the Committee in conjunction with the golf course staff. If tied after three holes, players shall play off to a sudden death victory.
 3. Ties for Low Net Champion will be determined by an aggregate three-hole play-off starting from a hole on the course determined by the Committee in conjunction with the golf course staff using $\frac{1}{6}$ th of each player's Course Handicap. Fractions of one-half stroke or more should count as a full stroke any lesser fraction should be disregarded. (Refer to USGA Handicap Competitions Section 9.5 (ii). If the playoff is less than 18 holes, the percentage of 18 holes to be played should be applied to the player's Course Handicap for the playoff. i.e. $\frac{3}{18} = \frac{1}{6}$ th or 0.0167) For example, Player A has a Course Handicap of 20 ($20 \times \frac{1}{6} = 3.3$ which rounds to 3) and Player B has a Course Handicap of 24 ($24 \times \frac{1}{6} = 4$).
If tied after three holes, play off to a sudden death victory using 100% of the player's Course Handicap. Handicap strokes should be taken as if in competition, where the allocation for "pops" would be assigned.
 - a. It is highly recommended that prior to starting the play-off, the Tournament Chairperson should mark a full scorecard with appropriate stroke allocations. In the event the play-off moves into sudden death, the player's stroke allocations per hole would then be readily available.
 4. All players subject to the play-off must be present at the play-off starting tee, for the call of the starter. Any player not present will be eliminated from the play-off.
 5. The Committee and golf course staff will attempt to have holes set aside for a potential play-off. As an example, holes (1, 2, 3) or (16, 17, 18) or (7, 8, 9) would be logical. However, the definite play-off holes can only be determined at the end of the competition, depending on the course availability.
 6. Should the first Low Net be tied for Low Gross Runner-up, she shall be given the choice of playing off the tie before accepting the Low Net award. Should she elect to play off and lose, she will forfeit her Low Net

- position and become third gross.
7. All other ties will be broken using the USGA rules in all flights and divisions.
 8. Ties for the position of Senior Champion, Senior Net Champion, Super Senior Champion, Super Senior Net Champion, Berta Kirchner Champion and Berta Kirchner Net Champion will be determined by the Committee using the recommended method in USGA Rules of Golf, Appendix I.
 9. All play-offs will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in the current issue of the USGA Rules of Golf, Appendix I.
- H. Rules Committee.
1. The Tournament and Rules Chairmen shall designate a Rules Committee for this competition.
 2. Any infraction or decision needing interpretation of the USGA Rules of Golf must be presented to the Rules Committee immediately after any eighteen-hole round.
 3. The Rules Committee's ruling shall be final.
 4. Rules other than disqualification may not be changed or waived once the competition begins.
- I. Each contestant must check her scorecard for accuracy of name and handicap prior to play. Errors must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Chairman before tournament play begins.
- J. Each contestant shall exchange her scorecard with her fellow competitor prior to play.
- K. Each contestant shall keep the score of her fellow competitor unless the Committee has appointed a marker.
- L. Contestants must check their scorecard for accuracy, sign to attest if score is correct, and give to the designated official immediately after play.
- M. Individual scores shall be posted by the Tournament Committee for handicap purposes after the tournament.
- N. Golf course set-up recommendations:
1. Hole locations: 6 easy, 6 average, 6 difficult.
 - a. Teeing grounds: Tee markers should be installed so the course will be balanced and play about the same length each day.
 2. Play will be from a set of USGA rated women's tees on the competition course, as determined by the Tournament Committee and published on the entry form.
- O. A member of the Tournament Committee should check the course set up each morning before play commences.
- P. Caddies
1. Any player may have a caddie provided the host club permits their use.
 2. The player must declare she will be using a caddie, on the player's entry form.
 3. The player is responsible for the conduct of her caddie.
 4. The caddie must register with the Tournament Committee on each day of play.
 5. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to disallow any caddie at any time.
 6. Caddies may be excused from the golf course by the Tournament Committee should they (the caddie) interfere with the rights of other players.
 7. Caddies must conform to the tournament site dress code.
 8. Both the player and her caddie must walk from tee to green. For speed of play, a player and her caddie may accept a ride between holes, provided this is allowed by the host golf course.
 9. A player may act as their own caddie, walk and carry her own clubs.
- Q. Scoreboards
1. All contestants' names and scores shall be posted on a scoreboard either alphabetically, or by handicap, within flights or "over the field". A separate list shall be posted for those competing in the Senior, Super Senior, and Berta Kirchner divisions.
 2. Both gross and net scores shall be recorded for each day's play.
- R. Clubs and balls used by the players must be on the Conforming Balls or Clubs list of the USGA. However, The Rules of Golf defining Club Groove and Punch Specifications, effective January 1, 2010, are **not in effect** for this tournament. These Rules were adopted for the highest levels of amateur golf and competitions with expert players.

SECTION 5. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- A. The Prize fund:
 - 1. Will be distributed to one-third of the field.
 - 2. Will be distributed to 1/3 gross and 2/3 net.
- B. The Champion shall receive the highest monetary award. She shall also receive an engraved award and the Championship Revolving Trophy.
- C. The Gross Runner-up and Net Champion shall each receive the 2nd highest monetary award and it shall be equal in value. They will also be awarded engraved trophies.
- D. Any contestant qualifying for both Gross and Net Awards will receive the highest ranking award with Gross superseding Net.
- E. Contestants are entitled to one prize. (Exception: Senior, Super Senior and Berta Kirchner mementos may be awarded to a player who has won in those divisions as well as in another flight).
- F. In the Senior, Super Senior and Berta Kirchner divisions, a memento will be given for the Lowest Gross and Lowest Net scores. Any player 80 years of age or older will be recognized.

SECTION 6. TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION POLICY

- A. A contestant who must withdraw after the published entry closing date may be given a full refund, if the circumstances are deemed valid by the Tournament Chairman. Circumstances may include:
 - 1. A medical emergency of player or her immediate family,
 - 2. An injury to player affecting her ability to play,
 - 3. Ineligibility determined by NNWGA requirements.
- B. The Tournament Chairman will recommend to the NNWGA Executive Board if a partial or full refund may be given based on the following:
 - 1. Time of withdrawal.
 - 2. Ability to fill the spot.
 - 3. Tournament monetary commitments.
- C. The final decision on refunds will be made by a majority vote of the NNWGA Executive Board.

SECTION 7. DRESS CODE

- A. Proper golf attire is required: no blue denim, cut-offs, short shorts, lycra/spandex type shorts or halter-tops.
- B. The Tournament Chairman has the responsibility to inform participants of specific golf club requirements such as soft spikes.
- C. The Tournament Committee has the authority to disqualify any competitor who does not meet the dress code requirements.

SECTION 8. PLAYER CONDUCT

- A. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.
- B. NNWGA Bylaws and Standing Rules will guide player conduct.
- C. The Rules Committee may disqualify any player whose conduct before, during, or after the tournament is deemed unsportsmanlike.
- D. A player disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct will have the incident reviewed by the NNWGA to determine if further action is warranted.

SECTION 9. ELECTRONIC DEVICES, CELLULAR PHONES, BEEPERS and DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES

- A. In accordance with USGA Rules of Golf, the Note under **Rule 14-3** for all NNWGA Championships and tournaments is in effect. Therefore, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that **measures distance only**. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect her play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is Disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used. Any device measuring slope, wind condition or any other condition is disallowed even when those aids are disengaged.
- B. The following uses for a cellular phone during a stipulated round **are not a breach** of Rule 14-3:
1. Using phone for matters unrelated to golf (e.g., calling home);
 2. Accessing information on advice related matters published prior to the start of the player's round (e.g., yardage book, swing tips);
 3. Obtaining information related to the competition being played (e.g., leader board, projected cut).
- C. The following uses for cellular phones during a stipulated round **are a breach** of Rule 8-1 and will result in Disqualification:
1. Using phone to ask for or give advice is breach of Rule 8-1 (e.g., calling a swing coach);
 2. Accessing information on advice-related matters not published prior to the start of the round.
- D. If the use of a cellular phone consistently disregards the etiquette guidelines (outlined in the Rules of Golf), the offending player will be issued a warning. If the player repeatedly distracts or offends an opponent or fellow competitor by using a cellular phone the player will be **disqualified** under Rule 33-7.

SECTION 10. PACE OF PLAY

- A. RULE 6-7 "The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the committee may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player must not unduly delay play." The responsibility for maintaining the pace of play belongs with the player. If you keep up with the group in front of you, there will be no pace of play issue. If you fall behind, you are expected to play efficient golf and get back into position. If you have a lost ball or a ruling gets you out of position, it is your responsibility to get back into position as soon as possible.
- B. OUT OF POSITION:
1. A group is out of position if: when approaching the tee on a par 3 hole, there is an empty hole ahead of you; when approaching the tee on a par 4 hole, the hole is empty or the preceding group is leaving the green; when approaching the tee on a par 5 hole, the preceding group is on the green.
 2. When a group is out of position, they will be given a verbal warning that they are out of position and are expected to get back into position within the next two holes. If a group doesn't get back into position, individual players may be monitored or timed for failing to comply with the pace of play policy. Each player is expected to play any stroke within 45 seconds during timing of the player's stroke. Timing will begin when a player has had a reasonable opportunity to reach her ball, it is her turn to play and she can play without interference or distraction. Time spent walking backward or forward to determine yardages, taking practice swings or changing clubs once one has been selected for play, will count as part of the time taken for the stroke.
 3. On the putting green, timing begins after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and place or re-place her ball, repair her ball mark and other ball marks on her line of putt, and remove loose impediments on her line of putt. Time spent taking practice strokes and looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

C. PACE OF PLAY PENALTIES:

1. Any player in a group being timed who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke, will be advised as soon as possible. The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any player being timed who takes more than 40 seconds to play a stroke when it is her turn to play.
 2. **1st** timing of more than 45 seconds **Warning**
 3. **2nd** timing of more than 45 seconds **One stroke**
 4. **3rd** timing of more than 45 seconds **Two strokes**
 5. **4th** timing of more than 45 seconds **Disqualification**, if the committee deems there is an extreme case of abuse of the pace of play policy warrants such action.
- D. A player who disputes the penalties assessed by a rules official may take the issue to the rules committee upon completion of the round and before signing and returning her scorecard.

SECTION 11. SPECTATOR POLICY

- A. NNWGA encourages friends and relatives to follow players.
- B. USGA Rule 8-1 states a player may receive advice only from her caddie (two stroke penalty for advice illegally given to player).
- C. Spectators shall stay 25 yards from the players.
- D. Spectators shall not walk in the fairways.
- E. Spectators shall refrain from conversation with a player or her caddie during play.

SECTION 12. PUBLICITY

- A. A detailed list of all winners must be submitted to the NNWGA Executive Director no later than seven days after the tournament.
- B. The Tournament Chair and Executive Director will encourage media coverage and publishing of tournament results.