



# CHICAGO WOMEN'S DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

## INSTRUCTIONS GOVERNING FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY – 2017

### POLICIES REGARDING FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY

**General:** CWDGA conducts Four-Ball Match Play yearly in each of its five sections – Central, Northeast, Northwest, South and West. A member club is entitled to submit teams of eligible players to compete in one of the four divisions of the club's respective section. A lottery may be used for the second or third teams if the section is oversubscribed. A team consists of four players who play as a unit.

The form of play is Four-Ball Match Play (USGA Rule 30-1 and 30-3 apply) with an eighteen-point system of scoring, which is played on five separate dates. The cumulative team points are available on the CWDGA website.

All team players compete to their current Course Handicap at the host-club. If handicaps are the same, they are placed in a position according to the Handicap Differential. If the Handicap Differential is the same, the players will be positioned alphabetically by last name. Note: If a player's Handicap Index later changes and exceeds 28.0, she must play to an index of 28.0.

For scoring the match, the host-club Course Handicaps of the four players in the match will be reduced by subtracting the handicap of the player who has the lowest handicap. The player with the lowest handicap competes at **scratch**. The other three players, regular or substitute, will receive 100 percent of the resulting difference. Strokes are taken as they fall on the scorecard.

**Team Selection:** Each member club is responsible for the selection of its team members. An "eligible player" must have golf privileges at a CWDGA member club, have amateur status and must maintain a current, valid CDGA handicap at that club. She must have a Handicap Index not to exceed **28.0** when submitted as a team member.

A player who may be a member of more than one club shall select the club that she shall represent in all CWDGA competitions and shall not be permitted to make any change during the year unless permission is granted by the CWDGA Board of Directors. However, a player who has active CDGA memberships at clubs in different sections may qualify to be a substitute.

Each team should have at least two reliable substitutes who can meet the handicap eligibility requirement.

Each team must be represented by at least one regular team member each play day. **All regular members of a team must play at least three-scheduled Four-Ball Matches for the team to be eligible for prizes.**

**Permanent Replacements** may be made up until April 28th. After this date, the Team Match Chair must approve all Permanent Player replacements and the original player may not substitute during the current season.

**Substitutes:** Each player is responsible for notifying her Team Captain well in advance if she is unable to play any Four-Ball

Match Play dates. Substitutes must be entered no later than **36 hours** in advance of Four-Ball Match Play. Substitutes with a Handicap Index over 28.0 need approval from the Sectional Handicap Chair, and will play to a 28.0 index.

A substitute may play in any division, however, if a club fields more than one team, and more than one of its teams require substitutes, the player with the lower Handicap Index must substitute in the lower handicap division. A permanent team member may not substitute or otherwise play on another team of the club.

Each substitute is required to pay a \$5.00 substitution fee. This fee will be refunded only if the course is declared closed before the substitute has teed off.

In case of emergency, every effort will be made to accommodate substitutes within the **36-hour** period. No substitute appearing on the day of play without prior notice will be accepted regardless of circumstances.

**Byes:** In the case of a bye, the team with the bye has the option of playing the course with the field. At least 2 regular players must be in attendance and any substitutes **MUST** have a handicap index of or lower. The team players will play as a foursome and their scores will be posted by the CWDGA. This however, does not count as a scheduled match for these players so they must play two of the other four play dates to be eligible for prizes. Thirty-six points are awarded for a team with a bye since each team in the division will also have one bye.

### POLICIES REGARDING THE DAY OF PLAY:

The Committee is made up of the CWDGA Sectional Team Chair and Sectional Handicap Chair.

**Time of Starting:** Players should be prepared to **tee-off** at the time published on the schedule. If only one player of the side fails to report to the tee on schedule, Rule 30-3a applies. If both members of the side fail to report to the tee on schedule, but at least one does arrive, ready to play, within five minutes after the starting time, the **PENALTY** is loss of the first hole.

**Communication Devices:** CWDGA Rules strictly prohibit contestants and caddies from using cell phones, other internet communication devices, smart watches, or any devices that emit sounds during a stipulated round (range-finders that beep must not disturb other players). CWDGA does not allow smart phones or watches to be used as a Rules of Golf source or as a distance-measuring device in any CWDGA-sponsored event. If the Committee determines that a violation of this policy has resulted in an opponent or a fellow-competitor being placed at a significant disadvantage, the player will be disqualified due to a serious breach of etiquette. Otherwise, a violation of this policy will result in a warning to the player; a second violation in any CWDGA event will result in disqualification for the remainder of the current playing season. (Rule 33-7).

**Distance-Measuring Devices:** Distance-measuring devices



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that conform to USGA specifications will be allowed in all CWDGA events at the host-club where the Local Rule allowing such devices is in effect. (Rules of Golf Appendix 1, Part A, #7)

**Caddies/Carts:** If a host-club has provided caddies, and caddies are available, a contestant must use a caddie or a cart with a caddie. Contestants **may not** provide their own caddies. Reserved caddies must be used. A player wishing to change her cart/caddie request must have her Team Captain inform the Sectional Handicap Chair of the change before the 36 hour deadline. On the day of play only the Sectional Handicap Chair can authorize changes from caddie to cart or cart to caddie.

**Attire:** Players and caddies must be properly attired on both the golf course and the premises of the club. Jeans of any color, T-shirts and tank tops are prohibited. Collared shirts are strongly suggested. Shorts and golf skirts must be mid-thigh in length. Any additional dress code restrictions of the club hosting the event are in effect. It is always advisable to consult the host-club for clarification of policies.

**Returning Scorecards:** A player from one side shall sign and a player from the opposing side shall attest one scorecard, **immediately** upon completion of the match. The scorecard must show both a team score and an adjusted eighteen-hole score for each individual player. The points won by each should be clearly marked and **both players** shall return that card to the Sectional Team Chair. No changes will be made after the players have left the scoring table.

**Posting Scores:** The CWDGA Sectional Handicap Chair will post a score for each player in the CDGA Handicap System. This score will NOT be posted as a "T" score. Each week's match results will be posted on the website.

Failure to return a score for a particular match may result in a penalty score being entered in the player's record for the missing score. This score may be "equal to the lowest Handicap Differential in the player's scoring record." (*The USGA Handicap System* manual Section 8-4b, page 56). For any questions about this policy, please review *The USGA Handicap System* manual or contact the CWDGA Handicap Chair, Sandi Dvorak, at [sdvorak@cwdga.org](mailto:sdvorak@cwdga.org).

**Weather:** Regardless of weather, players, including substitutes, must appear at the host-club to receive points, unless the course is declared closed and the match officially canceled prior to start of the matches. If a team is not present, it shall be disqualified from Four-Ball Match Play for the current season and all points earned by and against the team for the season shall be null and void. The individual team members involved will forfeit their right to play in all CWDGA events for that current season and in Four-Ball Match Play for the following season.

Play will start as scheduled and continue unless the course is declared unplayable. Play will be resumed unless the course is declared closed. Players are expected to wait at least one hour if the course is declared unplayable to determine if the course will be closed.

If the course is declared closed before Four-Ball Match Play has begun and the matches cannot be rescheduled, the points will be divided equally. If the course is declared closed

after play has begun, the points for the holes played stand as earned and the points for any holes not played are divided equally.

In an electrical storm, players shall discontinue play and take shelter. Balls may be picked up and marked with a tee, or left on the course. The Committee (Sectional Team Chair and Sectional Handicap Chair and/or CWDGA Board Member) will determine when and if play continues or discontinues.

**Discontinuance of Play:** For breach of Rule 6-8, in addition to disqualification, the individual team members involved will forfeit their right to play in all CWDGA events for that current season and in Four-Ball Match Play for the following season. If an entire team or a side fails to play or discontinues play for any reason, whether a breach of Rule 6-8 or not, all points earned by and against the team for the season shall be null and void. Discontinuance of play is communicated by a CWDGA official only.

**Ties:** If two teams that are tied have previously played each other during regular Four-Ball Match Play, the winner of the original match is the winner. If the tie is for first place, the loser is the second place winner.

If the two teams that are tied have played each other and the original match was a tie, A scorecard playoff will be determined in the following order:

- The winner of the back nine of the original match
- If tied, the winner of the last six holes on the back
- If tied, the winner of the last three holes on the back
- If tied, the winner of the eighteenth hole

If the two teams that are tied did not play each other during regular Four-Ball Match Play, an eighteen-hole playoff will take place at a neutral club selected by the Sectional Team Chair. If this playoff results in a tie, a scorecard playoff will determine the winner.

**Slow Play:** Pursuant to USGA Rule 6-7, the CWDGA has established the following pace of play guidelines. A group of four players is expected to take no more than 15 minutes per hole – **4 hours and 30 minutes per round** to play. Any group that fails to hold its position on the course will be alerted and requested to play at a faster pace. After being warned, the group will be monitored. The time each player takes to play each stroke will be recorded. Any player in a group out of position that takes more than 45 seconds to play a stroke on two occasions will be advised of that fact and told that if she exceeds the time limit on two more shots, she will incur the **penalty** provided in Rule 6-7.

**Tips:** The CWDGA tips at each play date. Players may use their discretion in handling extraordinary service they received.