

**NEVADA STATE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION
PARTNERS' TOURNAMENT STANDING RULES**

SECTION 1. GENERAL

- A. The Partners' Tournament is a Four-Ball Stroke Play (best ball) competition.
- B. All participants must be members in NNWGA or WSNGA.
- C. The tournament will be a 36-hole event.
- D. The lower score of the partners is the score for the hole.
- E. The winning teams will be those with the lowest 36-hole total gross and net score.
- F. Equal prizes will be awarded for both gross and net teams.
- G. The tournament will be held in the North during even calendar years and in the South during uneven calendar years.

SECTION 2. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

- A. The NSWGA Director of Tournaments will designate a committee to help with the organization and operation of the tournament.
- B. The NSWGA Director of Tournaments, with the approval of the NSWGA Executive Board shall set:
 - 1. Location
 - 2. Dates
 - 3. Entry Fee
 - 4. Deadlines
 - 5. Refund date
- C. At least 60 days prior to the tournament date, the Director of Tournaments will present a proposed budget to the NSWGA Executive Board for approval.
- D. Expenditures that exceed the original budget in excess of \$100 must be approved by a majority of the NSWGA Executive Board before they are incurred.
- E. Entries:
 - 1. Entry forms are to be provided to member clubs at least 45 days in advance of the tournament starting date.
 - 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 must be stated clearly on the application.
 - 5. The full refund date must be stated on the entry.
- F. Play will be suspended or canceled based upon the USGA Rules of Golf.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The entrant must be a member in good standing of the NNWGA or WSNGA.
- B. The entrant must have a verifiable USGA handicap.
- C. Be at least eighteen years of age prior to the first day of the tournament.
- D. Meet amateur status as specified in the USGA Rules of Golf.
- E. At date of entry, a player's handicap may not exceed 36 on the competition course or courses.

SECTION 4. GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION

- A. Play shall be for gross and net.

NSWGA Standing Rules

Partners Tournament

As revised 6/3/07; 8/25/07; 9/29/08; 1/17/09, 1/30/10

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- B. Tournament handicap:
 - 1. Course Handicap will be determined by the most current GHIN revision.
 - 2. The USGA Handicapping Guidelines for Four-Ball Stroke Play will be followed. Each player will first receive 95% of her Course Handicap. After allowance, a maximum 10 stroke difference in player handicaps will be permitted. The higher handicapped player must play down to a handicap no greater than 10 strokes above her partner.
- C. Handicap strokes shall be taken in the order assigned on the scorecard of the tournament course(s).
- D. Pairings on day one of the competition shall be according to the handicap total of the teams.
- E. Pairings of the teams on day two of the competition shall be according to the total gross scores from day one.
- F. If possible, a play off will be held if there is a tie for low gross or low net. If not possible, ties will be broken by matching score cards from the second days' combined total scores, using the USGA recommended method in Appendix I, USGA Rules of Golf
- G. Each team shall have an official scorecard and its official score shall be kept by a fellow competitor or appointed marker.
- H. Individual scores shall be posted for handicap purposes.
- I. Rules Committee:
 - 1. NSWGA Director of Rules from the area the tournament is being held will appoint a Rules Committee.
 - 2. Any decision needing interpretation of the rules shall be presented to the Rules Committee immediately after any eighteen hole round.
 - 3. Rules other than disqualification may not be changed or waived once the competition begins.
 - 4. The Committee's ruling shall be final.
 - 5. The enforcement of the NSWGA pace of play policy shall be the responsibility of the NSWGA Rules Chairman from the area in which the tournament is being held. The Rules Chairman will work with the Tournament Director and course personnel to secure personnel necessary to monitor and enforce the pace of play policy.
- J. Team contestants do not have to belong to the same club or association.
- K. Golf Course Set-Up Recommendations:
 - 1. Hole locations: 6 easy, 6 average, 6 hard.
 - 2. Teeing Grounds: Tee markers should be installed so that the course will be balanced and play about the same length in each round.
 - 3. There should be a sign of some kind on each hole containing hole number, par, and yardage
 - 4. Course length: The recommended yardage is between 5,400 and 5,600 yards.
 - 5. Daily hole location sheets should be provided.

6. The Tournament and Rules Directors should check the course set-up each morning before play commences.
- L. No caddies will be allowed.

SECTION 5. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- A. A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the low gross team.
- B. A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the low net team.
- C. A memento will be awarded to each of the overall winners in the gross and net divisions.
- D. Prize Fund:
 1. Will be distributed equally to gross and net players.
 2. Will be distributed to at least one-third of the field.
 3. All ties will be combined and paid equally.
 4. The prize fund will be set at no more than \$40 per player.

SECTION 6. TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION POLICY

- A. A contestant who must withdraw after the posted refund date may be given a full refund in the following circumstances:
 1. A medical emergency has occurred in her immediate family (proof of such emergency is required).
 2. An injury has occurred to the player that does not allow her to play (proof of such injury is required).
 3. The contestant has become ineligible by not meeting a NSWGA requirement.
- B. The tournament committee will recommend to the NSWGA Executive Committee 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 NSWGA 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 Committee 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. NSWGA 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 NSWGA Executive Board to determine if further action is warranted.

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

- A. A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, **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 use of an electronic device (such as a cellular phone, pager, hand-held computer, calculator, TV or radio) on the competition course is not itself a breach of Rule 14-3. However, players should ensure any device taken onto the course does not distract other players.
- C. 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).
- D. 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 in 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.
- E. 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 states, in part: "The player SHALL play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the Committee," and thereafter prescribes penalties for slow play.
- B. In the interest of all, the pace of play shall be reasonable and shall be set by the Tournament Committee with due regard to the course conditions, length, slope, rating and the number of players in each group.
- C. Definition of "Out of position" guidelines:

1. The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the group is behind the allotted time to play as listed on the Pace of Play Time Chart.
 2. Any following group will be considered out of position if it:
 - a. is taking more than the allotted time to play, **and**
 - a. reaches the teeing ground of a par 3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the teeing ground; reaches the teeing ground of a par 4 hole and the hole is open; or reaches the teeing ground of a par 5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green.
 - b. Except for the first group to start, **both** (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.
- D. Out of position consequences:
1. Groups out of position will be alerted and requested to play at a faster pace.
 2. Such groups will be monitored - the time each competitor takes to play a stroke.
 3. When a group is out of position, each player in the group is expected to play any stroke within 40 seconds after timing of a player's stroke begins. The timing of a player's stroke will begin when she has had reasonable opportunity to reach her ball, it is her turn to play, and she can play without interference of distraction.
 4. Other than on the putting green, timing of a player's stroke will begin when she has had reasonable opportunity to reach her ball, it is her turn to play and she can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.
 5. On the putting green, the timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable time to lift, clean and replace 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 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.
 6. Timing will only be performed at the direction of the Tournament Director or the Official- in-Charge.
 7. Any player in a group out of position who takes more than 40 seconds to play a stroke on two (2) occasions will be informed as soon as possible that she has been penalized one (1) stroke. If she exceeds 40 seconds on one (1) more occasion (a total of three timings exceeding 40 seconds), she will be informed as soon as practicable the she has been penalized an additional two (2) strokes. Any player who takes more than 40 seconds to play a stroke on one (1) more occasion (a total of four (4) timings exceeding 40 seconds) will be informed as soon as practicable that she has been **disqualified**. The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any player in a group

being timed who takes more than 40 seconds to play a stroke after timing of the player's stroke begins:

One bad timing of more than 40 seconds-**warning**

A second bad timing- **one (1) stroke penalty**

A third bad timing- **Additional two (2) stroke penalty**

Fourth bad timing- **Disqualification**

8. If the group in question regains its proper position, any previous timings of more than 40 seconds will be carried over for the remainder of that round in the event the group requires additional monitoring.
9. If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

SECTION 11. SPECTATOR POLICY

- A. NSWGA encourages friends and relatives to follow players.
- B. The player may only receive advice from her partner.
- C. Spectators shall stay 25 yards from the players.
- D. Spectators shall not walk in the fairways.
- E. Spectators shall refrain from conversation with the players.

SECTION 12. PUBLICITY

- A. A detailed list of all winners must be submitted to the NSWGA Secretary no later than 10 days after the tournament.
- B. The Tournament Director and the Director of Publicity of NSWGA will work together to encourage media coverage and publishing of tournament results.