

2010 CONDITIONS FOR AWGA COMPETITIONS

Wording in red signifies a change from the 2009 Conditions of Competition

The following information applies to all AWGA tournaments. For pertinent tournament information, please contact the AWGA Office at:

(602) 253-5655 or 1-800-442-AWGA (2942),
(602) 253-6210 (fax)
awga@awga.org (e-mail)
www.awga.org (website)

The Committee in Charge of Competitions will be the AWGA Executive Board of Directors, which is the body that establishes these Conditions of Competition, at the recommendation of the AWGA Tournament Committee. Additionally, the AWGA Tournament Committee will appoint qualified Tournament and Rules Officials to implement these conditions for specific tournaments described here in. For each specific tournament a Rules Official in Charge will have been named, who will decide all Rules questions, with the advice of the committee in charge of that specific tournament.

All AWGA competitions shall be conducted in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf and such Local Rules and Conditions and Notice to Competitors as are published for each tournament, and be governed by the following tournament **policies and** procedures.

The AWGA Board of Directors reserves the right to alter any of the conditions and schedules herein.

The AWGA Board of Directors, by majority vote, may cancel any given tournament at any time. Any tournament with **fewer** than forty (40) entries shall be subject to cancellation.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. ELIGIBILITY

Tournaments are open to female amateur golfers (the USGA transgender policy applies), who:

- A. Are AWGA members in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the first day of the tournament.
- B. Are 14 years of age or older. If between the ages of 14 and 17, they must have a handicap index of 12.0 or less.
- C. Have an AZHN issued handicap index no greater than a 30.0. **Some tournaments have exceptions: Mixed Stix, State Seniors, State Medallion Club Team.** See **those** tournament conditions for exceptions.

The handicap index in effect five (5) business days prior to the tournament shall be used throughout the tournament.

In **all** team events a maximum 8-stroke course handicap difference is required. **See** specific tournament conditions for more information.

2. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. **Each player is responsible for reading the AWGA Player Code of Conduct and understands that any** player who exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct may be subject to censure,

suspension or revocation of the privilege of playing AWGA events (USGA Rules of Golf - Section I Etiquette).

- B. Appropriate golf attire **and footwear** is required (e.g., no short shorts, blue jeans, midriiffs, tank tops, or halters).
- C. All entrants must register at the site. Date and time of registration will be published prior to the tournament.
- D. A competitor who fails to complete a tournament without a reason deemed valid by the Board shall be ineligible to participate in any tournament for a period of up to one (1) year.
- E. Players who withdraw from a tournament prior to its completion must fill out a form supplied by the AWGA stating their reasons for withdrawing.

3. METHODS OF ENTERING COMPETITION

The format, entry fees, maximum field size, tournament dates and location, and other pertinent information will be published in the tournament flyer distributed to member clubs and on the AWGA website prior to the opening date of entries.

- A. Opening date for entries: Six (6) weeks prior to first day of a tournament.
- B. Closing date for entries: Three (3) weeks prior to first day of a tournament.
- C. Entrants must apply using official AWGA entry forms found in the current AWGA Directory and **in the** Tournament Calendar **section** on the AWGA website. Online registration may be available. All applications not completed online must be signed by the entrant. For team events, a signature by one partner is deemed to represent a signature of both partners. Entries completed online imply a signature has been received.
- D. Applications **not completed online** must be sent to the AWGA office, 141 E. Palm Lane, Suite 210, Phoenix, AZ 85004-1555.
- E. Entries should be postmarked, or submitted online, on or after the opening date. Online entries must be completed before the close of business hours on the closing date. Late entries may be accepted with the approval of the **Tournament Operations Manager**, if the field is not filled.
- F. Exemptions into tournaments shall be granted up to the closing date. Exemptions apply only to the criteria which determine how the field is set (e.g., handicap indexes, points)
 - 1) All past AWGA Board members who have fulfilled their term of office will be exempt for the number of years served. All current Board members who have served at least one year will be exempt.
 - 2) A two-year exemption will be granted for the champion, as well as the overall net winner, of the tournament being entered. For team tournaments the exemption is granted to the team, not the individual player.
 - 3) Player of the Year winners will be given a two-year exemption into all individual play tournaments.
 - 4) Volunteer of the Year recipient will be given a one year exemption **into all tournaments-individual and partner**.
 - 5) Special Exemptions will be granted at the discretion of the committee.
 - 6) The winner of the Junior Golf Association of Arizona Girls State Championship will receive an exemption into the AWGA State Amateur Stroke Play Championship.

4. ENTRY ACCEPTANCE METHOD

There will be three classes of tournaments. In all three classes of tournaments, the field will be set on the closing date.

1. Championship Tournaments

2. Association Tournaments

3. Special Events

- A) Championship Tournaments
 - a) **State** Amateur Match Play Championship
 - b) **State** Amateur Stroke Play Championship
 - c) **State** Seniors Championship
 - d) Four-Ball **Stroke Play** Championship

For the Championship tournaments those with the lowest handicap indexes will be accepted first. In the case of the Seniors Championship, the lowest handicap indexes in each of the seven age groups will be accepted first. For withdrawal replacements, within five (5) **business** days of the first day of the tournament, spots will be filled at the discretion of the committee in charge of the competition. If more entries are received than places available, the waiting list will be based on handicaps.

- B) Association Tournaments
 - a) Season Opener Tournament
 - b) Weekend Classic Tournament
 - c) Scotch Play Tournament
 - d) Partners Tournament
 - e) Day in Hades Tournament
 - f) Mixed Stix Tournament

For the Association tournaments, if more entries are received than there are places available, those ~~chosen~~ **accepted** will be based on the number of **points they have earned** during the past 12 months.

The field will be established based on the points earned in the past 12 months:

- 15% from those who have earned no points
- 15% from those who have at least one point
- 70% from those who have accumulated **d** the most points

Ties **for acceptance** will be broken using the player's current handicap index. For withdrawal replacements within five (5) **business** days of the first day of the tournament, spots will be filled at the discretion of the committee in charge of the competition. If more entries are received than places available, the waiting list will be based on points. Any players that have been placed on a waiting list for an Association Tournament will be given preferred status for entry into the next Association Tournament they enter.

Points will be awarded:

1. Depending on the length of the tournament (i.e., one point for a one day tournament, two points for a two day tournament, etc.),
2. For concluded AWGA tournaments that a player entered, but was not chosen (provided the entry was received in the AWGA office by the closing date), **as well as**
3. To volunteers for the number of full days worked/volunteered at an AWGA Tournament.

Note: If a player withdraws from a tournament prior to the start for any reason (**or withdraws during the tournament without a reason deemed valid by the Board**), no points will be given.

- C) Special Events
 - a) 18-Hole **State** Medallion Club Team Tournament
 - b) 9-Hole **State** Medallion Club Team Tournament

Entries into the Medallion Club Team Tournaments will be the low gross and low net winners at the local club level of their State Medallion event.

5. CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS

- A. Requests for refunds for cancellations made after the closing date must be made in writing or by email no later than seven (7) business days after the last day of the tournament. No service fee will be charged for cancellations received prior to the closing date. A \$25 service fee will be charged to all players who cancel after the closing date.
- B. If the player notifies the Tournament Operations Manager of her cancellation after the closing date but more than five (5) business days prior to the start of the tournament, refunds will be granted by the Tournament Operations Manager. The \$25 service fee will apply.
- C. If the player notifies the Tournament Operations Manager of her cancellation five (5) business days or less prior to the first day of the tournament, the refund request will be reviewed by the AWGA Board of Directors on a case by case basis. If the Board agrees to grant a refund, the monies allotted to the prize fund will not be refunded, unless a replacement was found. The \$25 service fee will also apply.
- D. In team events, prior to five (5) business days to the start of the tournament, if one partner must cancel, the remaining partner may choose a replacement partner for the event, if she notifies the Tournament Operations Manager. The replacement partner requires approval by the Tournament Operations Manager. The \$25 service fee will apply to the refund to the cancelling partner if the AWGA will be issuing a refund directly to the cancelling partner and collecting an entry fee from the replacing partner. If both partners must cancel, the refund policy in 5 B or C above will apply to both partners depending on when the players notified the Tournament Operations Manager.
- E. All entrants on the waiting list will be granted a full refund, even if called and are unable to play.
- F. The decision of the AWGA, Board of Directors or Tournament Operations Manager concerning refunds shall be final.

6. PACE OF PLAY POLICY

- A. The Committee in charge of each competition will establish an expected pace of play for each golf course being played, based on the length and difficulty of the specific course, of approximately 4 hours and 30 minutes.
- B. The Check Point Pace of Play procedure with the flag system will be utilized to ensure that all players maintain this pace of play and do not unduly delay play (Rule 6-7).
- C. Players found to be in breach of Rule 6-7 will be assessed the appropriate penalties in accordance with the **USGA** Rules of Golf.

7. FLIGHTS

- A. **All tournaments will be flighted with prizes awarded in each flight.**
- B. Flights for all competitions, except the State Match Play Championship, are determined by the Tournament **Operations Manager** and the Tournament Committee as the size and composition of the field warrants.

8. PRIZES/TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURES

- A. The Champion(s) of each tournament (other than Match Play and State Medallion Club Team Tournament, which have special criteria) shall be the low gross scorer(s) over the field.
- B. Prizes shall be awarded on the basis of at least one (1) prize for each four (4) entrants.
- C. With the exception of special event awards, participants are eligible to win no more than one prize in each tournament.
- D. Ties for the **title of Champion** shall be decided by a hole-by-hole play-off. In the event of a play-off of any kind, a competitor who is unavailable for such play-off forfeits the play-off.
- E. All other ties will be broken **using the** USGA Recommended Tie Breaker Procedure (Appendix I):
- F. Overall low gross and overall low net prizes will be awarded in each tournament. See specific tournament conditions for exceptions.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Carts will be required unless the Committee in Charge of a specific competition announces that caddies and/or walking will be allowed. Whether or not caddies and/or walking are allowed will be included as part of each tournament announcement and the AWGA caddie policy as published on the AWGA website will be in effect.
- B. Spectators must remain clear of play and refrain from **communicating in any form** with the competitors during the play of a round. Spectators are not permitted to use motorized carts unless authorized by the Tournament Committee **and agreed to by the Host Club**.
- C. The USGA policy on gambling is in effect in all AWGA tournaments.
- D. Contestants who compete in tournaments do so at their own risk. The Board and the Association shall be relieved individually and collectively of all responsibility for any damage or personal injury incurred during such tournaments. **All entrants must sign a Release of Liability.**
- E. In the event a player is disqualified or withdraws during a tournament, she will not be permitted to resume play in that tournament.
- F. Only advertising authorized by the Tournament Committee shall be allowed at any AWGA Tournament.
- G. A handling charge will be issued for any NSF checks received.

CONDITIONS FOR SPECIFIC TOURNAMENTS

1. STATE **AMATEUR** MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The competition shall be match play at scratch within flights. The field shall be limited to a maximum of 96 players. If byes are necessary, the top seeded participant in the flight (beginning with the last flight) will receive a bye.
- B. There will be two divisions of the championship, an Open Division and a separate Senior Division. Those entrants 50 years and older who desire to play in the Senior Division must indicate so on their entry. Anyone who does not select the Senior Division on her entry form will play in the Open division. All division selections are final five (5) **business** days prior to the first day of the tournament. Based on the overall characteristics of the entries, total entries in each division may be limited to multiples of 8.

- C. A championship flight will be **determined** in each division based on an 18-hole stroke play qualifying round. **Those not vying for either one of the Championship flights may use the qualifying date as a practice round. There will be no qualifying for these players.**
- D. The sixteen (16) lowest handicap entrants in the Open Division and the eight (8) lowest handicap entrants in the Senior Division shall be required to play in the qualifying round. In addition, any player within seven (7) full index points of the sixteenth (16th) player in the open division, or of the eighth (8th) player in the senior division, may opt into the qualifying round. After the qualifying round those with the low sixteen (16) scores in the Open division shall enter the Championship flight for the Open Division, and those with the low eight (8) scores in the Senior Division shall enter the Senior Championship flight. The remainder of the field (**including those who do not qualify for their respective Championship flights**) will be in flights of eight (8). Composition and seeding of these flights shall be determined by Handicap Index **-without designation of Open or Senior Division.**
- E. For the qualifying rounds, ties for last place or places in the Championship Flights shall be decided by a hole-by-hole play-off. All **other** seeding ties will be determined by blind draw. For the purpose of settling a tie in match play, the stipulated round shall be extended to as many holes as are required for the match to be won.
- F. Should split tees be used, only the **Open Division** Championship flight qualifying round **and its subsequent matches** will be played from the longer set of tees. Those not **qualifying in** the low sixteen (16) after the qualifying round **of the Open Division** will go into the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th, etc. flight and will play the balance of the tournament from the shorter set of tees. The remainder of the field (including the Senior Division Championship flight) will play from the shorter set of tees for the entire tournament.
- G. For the Open Division ONLY, the low sixteen (16) players shall play a double round the first day of match play. The winners of the first round of the low sixteen (16) shall comprise the Open Division Championship Flight. The losers of the first round of the low sixteen (16) shall comprise the Open Division First Flight **and will continue play from the longer set of tees.**
- H. There shall be a consolation flight for **all** losers of the first round of Match Play (**as well as for those losing in the** second round for the Open Division low sixteen (16)).
- I. **There will not be a “Never Say Die” flight. Those players who have lost two or more matches before the final day may be offered volunteer opportunities for the final day.**
- J. Prizes
 - 1) Perpetual trophies are awarded to the Champions.
 - 2) Prizes shall be awarded to the winner and runner up in each flight. Prizes shall be awarded to the winner of each of the Consolation Flights. No one may win one of these prizes without first winning a match.
 - 3) There shall be an **award** for the Open Division Medalist and the Senior Division Medalist of the qualifying rounds.

2. **STATE AMATEUR STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP**

- A. The Championship shall consist of fifty-four (54) holes of stroke play.
- B. The twenty-four (24) players with the lowest Handicap Indexes will vie for title of State Stroke Play Champion and will play in the first two (2) flights, (1st and 2nd flight). Anyone within seven (7) index points of the twenty-fourth (24th) lowest index may opt to play in

- these first two (2) flights and vie for the title.
- C. These players will be evenly split (as closely as possible) between the first (1st) and second (2nd) flights according to Course Handicap.
 - D. Split tees will be used. All players in the first two (2) flights will play all fifty-four (54) holes from the longer set of tees. All other players will play from the shorter set of tees.
 - E. A perpetual trophy is awarded to the Champion. The Champion will come from the 1st or 2nd flight.

3. STATE SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The Championship shall consist of 54 holes of stroke play. **The maximum handicap index for this competition will be 40.4.**
- B. Age divisions (as of first day of Championship) are:
 - 1) 50-54 Freshman
 - 2) 55-59 Sophomore
 - 3) 60-64 Junior
 - 4) 65-69 Senior
 - 5) 70-74 Postgraduate
 - 6) 75-79 Super Senior
 - 7) 80 + Masters
- C. If two sets of tees are used, the Super Seniors and the Masters will play from the shorter set for all three days.
- D. Division winners shall be the low gross scorers in each of the seven (7) Divisions.
- E. Other Division prizes shall be awarded as determined by the Tournament Committee. Number and composition of flights, within the Age Divisions, shall be determined by the Tournament Committee. Prizes shall be awarded on both gross and net scores.
- F. A perpetual trophy is awarded to the Champion.
- G. Special Prizes:
 - 1) The Mary Lou Sauer Memorial Trophy shall be awarded to the member club, which has any two of its participants with the lowest combined net score. **An individual's club affiliation must be received by Tournament Operations Manager five (5) business days before start of Championship.**
 - 2) The Mo Cruikshank Memorial Trophy shall be awarded to the member club which has any two of its participants with the lowest combined gross score. **An individual's club affiliation must be received by Tournament Operations Manager five (5) business days before start of Championship.**
 - 3) The Legends Championship Trophy – **Gross** shall be awarded to the lowest gross scorer of the Super Seniors and Masters Divisions combined.
 - 4) **The Legends Championship Trophy –Net shall be awarded to the lowest net scorer of the Super Seniors and Masters Divisions combined.**

4. MIXED STIX

- A. This shall consist of 36 holes of Four-Ball stroke play (Better Ball of partners), conducted in accordance with Rule 31, USGA Rules of Golf.
- B. The teams shall consist of one man and one woman, both of whom must be members of either the AGA or the AWGA.
- C. Handicap index maximum shall be 24.0 for men and 30.0 for women. There shall be an 8 stroke maximum course handicap difference between partners, with the higher handicapped player losing the necessary strokes to conform to the 8-stroke course handicap requirement. The men shall receive 90% of their course handicap and the women

- 95% of their course handicap.
- D. The Champions shall be the team with the lowest gross score over the field.

5. SCOTCH PLAY TOURNAMENT

- A. This tournament shall consist of 36 holes of stroke play conducted in accordance with the Chapman system (also known as Pinehurst) and with Rule 29, USGA Rules of Golf. The partners both drive from the tee, each partner plays a second shot with the other's ball after which a choice is made as to the ball with which the hole is to be completed, continuing with alternate shots until the ball is holed.
- B. Partners may have no more than eight (8) strokes difference in course handicap on the competition course; the higher handicap player may lose no more than 3 strokes to conform to the 8-stroke course handicap requirement. Teams will be allowed 60% of the lower handicapped player's course handicap plus 40% of the higher handicapped player's course handicap, rounding the total.
- C. Perpetual plaques are awarded to the Champions.

6. FOUR-BALL STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. This tournament shall consist of 36 holes of Four-Ball stroke play (sometimes referred to as Better Ball of Partners), conducted in accordance with Rule 31, USGA Rules of Golf.
- B. Partners may have no more than eight (8) strokes difference in course handicap on the competition course; the higher handicap player may lose no more than 3 strokes to conform to the 8-stroke course handicap requirement, with each player receiving 95% of her course handicap on the competition course. Two competitors play as partners, each playing her own ball. The lower gross and net scores of the partners will count.
- C. Perpetual plaques are awarded to the Champions.

7. PARTNERS TOURNAMENT

- A. This tournament shall consist of 36 holes, the first 18 holes to be played under Rule 31, Four-Ball Stroke Play (Better Ball of Partners). The second 18 holes to be played under Rule 3, Stroke Play, two competitors play as partners, each playing her own ball. **On Day 2, both** partners' gross and net scores will count.
- B. Partners may have no more than eight (8) strokes difference in course handicap on the competition course; the higher handicap player may lose no more than 3 strokes to conform to the 8-stroke course handicap requirement, with each player receiving 95% of her course handicap on the first day and 100% on the second day.

8. SEASON OPENER TOURNAMENT

- A. This tournament shall consist of 18 holes of individual stroke play.
- B. Scoring shall be a modified Stableford.

9. WEEKEND CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

This tournament shall consist of 18 holes of individual stroke play.

10. DAY IN HADES TOURNAMENT

This tournament shall consist of 18 holes of individual stroke play.

11. LOCAL CLUB STATE MEDALLION TOURNAMENTS

- A. Competition shall be open to AWGA members on the member's course on Play Day and will consist of two (2) best gross and two (2) best net 18-hole rounds out of a designated four (4) rounds. Players need not participate in all four (4) rounds to be eligible. Determining the winner on the basis of the best two (2) rounds out of four (4) is intended to give players the maximum opportunity to produce two (2) good scores, not to eliminate those players who cannot play all four (4) rounds. The "Niners" competition follows the same format as stated above with the exception that 9-hole rounds will be played. The AWGA recommends that all four (4) rounds be played on the same course. All rounds **should be posted as "T" scores as determined by the local Handicap Committee in consultation with the committee in charge of the competition - see USGA Handicap System definition of Tournament Score.**
- B. Disqualification from one (1) round of the tournament does not disqualify the player from the tournament.
- C. Players may participate in each AWGA member club competition of which she is a member.
- D. Should handicaps change during the play of the four stipulated rounds, or a play-off if necessary, the handicap index in effect at the time each round is played shall be used.
- E. In the event of a tie, the **local committee in charge of the competition** has three options which shall be announced prior to the first day of play:
- 1) Hold an 18-hole play-off (or, in the case of a 9-hole tournament, a 9-hole play-off) within two (2) weeks
 - 2) Hold a sudden death play-off within two weeks
 - 3) Use the USGA recommended tie breaker procedure
- F. The maximum handicap index of 40.4 shall be used, as specified in the USGA Handicap System Manual. In the case of a 9-hole club, the players shall use the maximum handicap index of 20.2. Players may "play down" to that index, if necessary.
- 1) The AWGA Representative of each member club **should be actively involved in the conduct of this tournament at her club.** Medallions will be distributed to each participating member club **for presentation to the gross and net winners.**
 - 2) No participant may win both the low gross and the low net awards. Gross will take precedence over net.

12. STATE MEDALLION CLUB TEAM TOURNAMENT

- A. Entrants in the State Medallion Club Team Tournament shall be the winners of the low gross and low net prizes in her club's State Medallion Tournament that year. In the event that the club's State Medallion Tournament has not been completed for that year at the time of the State Medallion Club Team Tournament, entrants may be the winners from the previous year. In no case may the entrants be the winners from a State Medallion Tournament held more than one calendar year prior to the State Medallion Club Team Tournament being entered. In the event that a club has more than 350 AWGA members in their women's group as of September 1 of the year the winners are determined, the club may choose to send one (1) team for each 350 members, for instance:

350 members:	1 team
351-700 members:	2 teams
701-1050 members:	3 teams

The first team shall be made up of the low gross winner and the low net winner and designated by the letter "A". The second team shall be made up of the second low gross winner and the second low net winner and designated by the letter "B", and so on **as designated by the club on the entry form.**

- B. A two person team is required to enter. Individual entries will not be accepted. Should the first place winner of a club's State Medallion Tournament choose not to represent her club in the State Medallion Club Team Tournament, a club shall field its team by entering the second place finisher of that division, and proceeding down the order of finish until the team has been fielded. For example, a team may consist of the second place gross winner and the first place net winner
- C. There will be NO EXEMPTIONS into this tournament
- D. A player may compete on only one team and represent only one club. The players must appear on the club's roster at the AWGA office. Nine Hole Clubs administered within an 18-hole club's print group qualifies as a Nine Hole Club.
- E. The competition shall consist of individual stroke play.
- F. There shall be an 18-hole competition and a 9-hole competition. Players must compete within the division for which the club's State Medallion was won.
- G. Maximum handicap index limits (40.4) shall be used for the 18-hole competition and (20.2) for the 9-hole competition, as specified in the USGA Handicap System Manual. Players may "play down" to that index, if necessary.
- H. Each player shall play her own ball.
- I. The team score shall be the total of the gross player's gross score and the net player's net score.
- J. A perpetual plaque will be awarded to the Team champions.
- K. Replacements for either partner must be received by the Tournament Operations Manager no later than 2 business days prior to the tournament. If a replacement cannot be found, an individual may play but will not be eligible for Team prizes/awards. Refunds will only be granted per the General Conditions of Competition Section 5 Cancellations/Refunds.