

2017 Policy for AWGA Competitions

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

(602) 253-5655
awga@awga.org (email)
www.awga.org (website)

The AWGA Board of Directors is the body that establishes these Conditions of Competition, at the recommendation of the AWGA Tournament Committee. The AWGA Tournament Committee will appoint qualified Tournament and Rules Officials to implement these conditions for specific tournaments. The Committee in Charge of each competition will include the appointed officials in addition to the Player Programs Manager. 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 are conducted in accordance with this Policy, Rules of Golf, The USGA Handicap System Manual (section 9), Local Rules and Conditions, Notice to Players and any information sent to players that is published for each tournament, and are governed by the tournament procedures established by the AWGA Tournament Committee.

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

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to cancel any given tournament at any time. Any tournament with fewer than 40 entries is subject to cancellation.

The AWGA Board of Directors must approve the tournament calendar.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. ELIGIBILITY

Tournaments are open to female (and men for Mixed Stix and Weekend Classic Tournaments) amateur golfers (the USGA transgender policy applies), who:

- A. Are AWGA members in good standing. An amateur golfer who is not a member of the AWGA may enter a tournament for an additional fee of \$50 only if the field is not full. This fee applies for each tournament entered.
- 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 a USGA 18-hole Handicap Index verifiable by the Tournament Committee no greater than a 36.0. Some tournaments have exceptions: Mixed Stix and Weekend Classic (Men's maximum is 27.0), State Seniors (maximum is 40.4), and State Medallion Club Team (maximum is 40.4 for 18 holes and 20.2 for 9 holes).
- D. The Seniors Championship is open to senior amateur golfers only (age 50 and older as of the first day of the event).

The Handicap Index in effect 5 business days prior to the tournament shall be used throughout the tournament.

2. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each player is responsible for knowing the rules and conditions under which the tournament is to be played.
- B. Each player is responsible for reading the AWGA Player Code of Conduct (http://www.awga.org/pdf/BP.05.20.12-Player_Code_of_Conduct_Policy.pdf) and understands that any player who exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct may be subject to censure, suspension or revocation of the privilege of playing AWGA events (Rules of Golf - Section I Etiquette).
- C. Appropriate golf attire and footwear is required (e.g., no short shorts, blue jeans, midriffs, tank tops, or halters).
- D. If registration is required, date and time will be published prior to the tournament and all entrants will be expected to register.
- E. A competitor who fails to complete a tournament without a reason deemed valid by the AWGA Tournament Committee may be ineligible to participate in any tournament for a period of up to one year.
- F. A player who withdraws during a tournament prior to its completion must fill out a form supplied by the AWGA stating the reason(s) for withdrawing.
- G. In the event a player is disqualified or withdraws during a tournament, she may not remain in the field as a non-competing participant without specific authorization from the Committee in Charge of the competition, which will be considered only on the basis of special circumstances.
- H. The player is responsible for an accurate handicap. In accordance with Section 9 of The USGA Handicap System Manual, the Committee reserves the right to adjust handicaps.

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 Fact Sheet distributed to member clubs and on the AWGA website prior to the opening date of entries.

- A. Opening date for entries: Six weeks prior to first day of a tournament.
- B. Closing date for entries: Three weeks prior to first day of a tournament. If the tournament is not filled, the original closing date may be extended at the discretion of the Player Programs Manager.
- C. Entrants must complete an online application through the AWGA website (<http://www.awga.org/event.asp?id=23&pid=6>) or by using an official AWGA entry form found in the current AWGA Directory. Entries completed online imply a signature has been received. All applications not completed online must be signed by the entrant. For team events, a signature by one partner is deemed to represent signatures of both partners, for entry application only.
- D. Applications not completed online must be sent to the AWGA office, 141 E. Palm Lane, Suite 210, Phoenix, AZ 85004-1555.
- E. Entries must be postmarked, or submitted online, on or after the opening date. Online entries must be completed before the close of business on the closing date. Mailed

entries must be postmarked on or before the closing date. Late entries may be accepted with the approval of the Player Programs 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 are exempt for the number of years served. All current Board members who have served at least one year are exempt.
 - 2) A two-year exemption is granted for the champion and the overall net winner of the tournament being entered. The exemption is granted to the team, not the individual players, in a partner tournament.
 - 3) Player of the Year winners are given a two-year exemption into all individual play tournaments.
 - 4) Volunteer of the Year recipient is given a one-year exemption into all tournaments, individual and partner.
 - 5) AWGA staff are exempted into all tournaments, individual and partner.
 - 6) Special exemptions may be granted at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
 - 7) 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 are three classes of tournaments.

- Class I. Championship Tournaments
- A. State Amateur Match Play Championship
 - B. State Amateur Stroke Play Championship
 - C. State Seniors Championship
 - D. Four-Ball Stroke Play Championship

The lowest Handicap Indexes are accepted first. A replacement for a partner that withdraws within 5 business days of the first day of the tournament will be filled at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Waiting lists are based on handicaps.

- Class II. Association Tournaments
- A. Season Opener Tournament
 - B. Scotch Play Tournament
 - C. Partners Tournament
 - D. Mixed Stix Tournament
 - E. Weekend Classic Tournament

If more entries are received than there are places available, those accepted will be based on the number of points they have earned during the past 12 months.

- 15% from those who have earned no points
- 15% from those who have at least 1 point
- 70% from those who have accumulated the most points

Ties for acceptance are broken using a blind draw. A replacement for a partner that withdraws within 5 business days of the first day of the tournament is filled at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Any players that have been placed on a waiting list for an Association Tournament are given preferred status for entry into the next Association Tournament they enter.

Points are awarded:

1. One point for each day of an AWGA Tournament or Just 4 Fun Day completed by a player or volunteer or
2. One point for each day of a concluded tournament that a player entered, but was not chosen (provided the entry was received in the AWGA office by the closing date).

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 Committee in charge of the competition), no points will be given.

Class III. 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 are the low gross and low net winners at the local club level of their State Medallion event. Entries are accepted on a first come first serve basis and must be accompanied by full payment. Teams that are placed on a wait list will be in the order their entries were received.

5. CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS

- A. A \$15 service fee is charged to each player who cancels or withdraws after the entry has been submitted. Refund requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A request for refund must be made in writing or by email before the start of the tournament. Later refunds will not be granted.
- B. In team events, prior to 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. The replacement partner requires approval by the Player Programs Manager. The above 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 5A above applies to both partners.
- C. All entrants on the waiting list are granted a full refund, even if called and are unable to play.

6. OTHER TOURNAMENT POLICIES (Champion definition, tie breakers, flights, prizes and pace of play)

- A. The Champion(s) of each multi-day tournament (other than Match Play and State Medallion Club Team Tournament, which have special criteria) is the low gross scorer(s) over the field.
- B. Ties for the title of Champion are 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. If conditions do not permit a play-off, the tie will be decided using the recommended score card matching procedure (Appendix I, *Rules of Golf*).
- C. All other ties are decided using the recommended score card matching procedure (Appendix I, *Rules of Golf*).
- D. All tournaments are flighted with prizes awarded in each flight.

- E. Flights for all competitions are determined by the Player Programs Manager and the Tournament Committee as the size and composition of the field warrants.
- F. Prizes are awarded on the basis of at least 1 prize for each 3 entrants.
- G. Overall low gross and overall low net prizes are awarded in each multi-day tournament.
- H. Participants are eligible to win no more than one prize in each tournament.
- I. The Committee in charge of each competition will establish an expected pace of play and procedure based on the size and composition of the field and the length and difficulty of the specific golf course. The selected pace of play procedure; i.e. the Check Point Pace of Play Procedure with flag system or the AWGA Group Position Procedure, is provided to the players and is utilized to ensure that all players maintain this pace of play and do not unduly delay play (Rule 6-7, *Rules of Golf*).

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Carts are required unless the Committee in Charge of a specific competition announces that walking is allowed.
- B. Caddies are permitted in the Match Play, Stroke Play, and Seniors Championships. The AWGA Caddie Policy is published on the AWGA website (http://www.awga.org/pdf/PR.05.19.14-AWGA_Caddie_Policy.pdf).
- C. For events where spectators are allowed, they must abide by the AWGA Spectator Guideline published on the AWGA website (http://www.awga.org/pdf/Spectator_Guidelines.pdf).
- D. The USGA policy on gambling is in effect in all AWGA tournaments.
- E. Contestants who compete in tournaments do so at their own risk. The AWGA Board of Directors, the Association, the host golf course and all volunteers are 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.
- F. Only advertising authorized by the Tournament Committee is allowed at any AWGA Tournament.
- G. A handling charge is assessed for any NSF checks received.