

# MINNESOTA WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

## Tournament Player's Information

If you plan to participate in a tournament sponsored by the Minnesota Women's Golf Association (MWGA), it is important that you read the following information. It is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations concerning participation in MWGA events or competition.

**ENTRIES AND ELIGIBILITY:** An individual member of the MWGA is eligible to participate in all championships, tournaments, and events if the club to which she belongs is a duly elected Member Club in good standing with the MWGA. The deadline for MWGA Individual Membership is the closing date of the MWGA event an individual enters. Minnesota women other than MWGA individual members may apply for entry to state amateur championships provided that they meet the handicap regulations and limitations. Entrants must conform with the USGA Rules of Amateur Status in every respect.

Entries with checks returned for insufficient funds will be considered incomplete and unacceptable and will be withdrawn. The entrant will be responsible for paying any fees incurred by the MWGA in addition to a \$20 service charge.

**HANDICAP REGULATIONS:** In all events conducted by the MWGA, only handicaps computed under a system approved by the MGA will be used. Players must have an established USGA Handicap index not to exceed the limit stated in the tournament documentation. The MWGA shall have the right to place a player in an appropriate flight. If a flight change is deemed necessary, the player shall be notified in writing of the adjustment and reasons for it.

**RULES AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY:** All competition shall be played in accordance with USGA Rules of Golf with such local rules and regulations adopted by the MWGA and published for the course over which the competition takes place. All disputed points will be decided by the Committee. Players are strongly urged to carry a current copy of the Rules of Golf for ready reference. The Local Rules issued for each MWGA tournament supersede any rules posted on either the course or the scorecard of the host club. The Committee reserves the right to alter any of the conditions and schedules herein, and its decision in any matter shall be final.

The competitor is solely responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole. The Committee is responsible for the addition of the scores and application of the correct handicap.

If the Committee or its authorized representative considers that for any reason the course is not in a playable condition, or that there are circumstances which render the proper playing of the game impossible, it shall have the power in match or stroke play to order a temporary suspension of play, or in stroke play to declare the play null and void and to cancel all scores for the round in question.

**MWGA PLAYER CONDUCT POLICY:** By submitting an entry, or by participating in any MWGA-sponsored event or competition, the player understands that her participation shall be at the sole discretion of the MWGA. Unbecoming conduct or actions by the player or her caddie at any MWGA event or state event that are deemed detrimental to the MWGA, the spirit of the game, or to the host facilities shall be grounds for disqualification. The decision by the Rules Official in Charge shall be final.

Unbecoming conduct includes, but shall not be limited to:

1. Cheating
2. Willful destruction of the golf course or MWGA property
3. Abusive language or conduct towards MWGA or host facility, staff, volunteers, or other players
4. Abusive or derogatory criticism of the MWGA or host facility, staff, volunteers, or other players
5. Club throwing or physical endangerment of others
6. Offensive or excessively loud behavior
7. Alcohol or substance impaired behavior
8. Withdrawals or "no cards" during or after completion of a round
9. Inappropriate golf attire
10. Other conduct deemed to be unbecoming

Should such an incident occur, the player shall be disqualified (Rule 33-7) and the Official in Charge shall submit a report to the Committee for review. The Committee may impose future sanctions ranging from suspension from future MWGA events to ineligibility for MGA and Allied Associations events and/or competitions. This may include losing exempt status for future year(s). However, any further sanctions imposed by the Committee may be appealed to the MWGA Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final.

**SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT:** Spectators shall abide by the following guidelines for the benefit of the players:

1. The use of electronic communication devices on the golf course or practice areas shall be strictly prohibited.
2. The use of motorized golf carts shall be strictly regulated.
3. Cameras and camcorders shall be prohibited on the golf course.
4. Spectators shall walk in the rough and stay 10 yards away from the players.
5. Spectators shall keep up with the group they are following so that the group behind is not delayed.
6. Spectators shall remain a fair distance away from the green.
7. Spectators shall not display unbecoming conduct, use abusive language or act in a manner deemed detrimental to the MWGA, the spirit of the game, or to the host facilities or the tournament volunteers.

Spectators not adhering to the above guidelines shall be subject to removal from the grounds.

**REFUNDS:** Refunds for Tournaments: Entry fees shall be refunded, regardless of reason, if the MWGA office is notified in writing before the close of entries. After the close of entries, the entry fee shall be refunded in event of injury or illness if the MWGA office is notified 24 hours before the first round of play. An individual may request a refund by submitting a written request (e-mail is acceptable) within 7 days of the event. A \$20 administrative fee shall be deducted from all refunds.

Refunds for Association Days & other events: Entry fees shall be refunded, regardless of reason, if cancellation is made before the deadline. After the deadline and before the event begins, entry fees shall be refunded less any non-refundable deposits that have been made and less a \$20 administrative fee. An individual may request a refund by submitting a written request (e-mail is acceptable) within 7 days of the event.

**DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES:** The use of these devices is permitted in all MWGA Championships, tournaments and events per the Local Rules found in Appendix 1, Section B #6.

**CELLULAR PHONES:** The use of cellular telephones is prohibited on the golf course during all MWGA Championships, tournaments and events. The Committee will designate an area where cellular telephones are permitted.

**WITHDRAWALS/NO SHOWS:** A player who has applied to participate in an MWGA event/tournament and wishes to withdraw for any reason must notify the MWGA Tournament office by phone prior to the event. If a player wishes to withdraw on the day of the event, she shall call the pro shop of the tournament course. A player who fails to follow this procedure will be listed as a "no-show" which may result in the rejection of the player's entry for future events.

**NO CARD:** A player who withdraws during a round must return her official scorecard to the Committee with an explanation; otherwise the player shall be listed as a "No Card" which may result in rejection of future applications.

**SCORE POSTING:** All tournament scores recorded in any MWGA individual stroke play competition will be posted by the MWGA for handicap purposes. Please do not post tournament scores individually. However, scores in team events will not be posted and players should post these scores individually.

**15-STROKE RULE:** Players shall exhibit playing skills that are comparable with their peers. Thus, if a player returns two tournament scores within a tournament season that are 15 strokes over the course rating plus her handicap, the MWGA may reject the player's entry into future events. The player shall be notified in writing of her status and is expected to prove that her playing ability is consistent with the requirements of the MWGA by submitting supporting evidence.

**CADDIES:** In all MWGA tournaments other than the Junior Girls' State Championship, the contestants may use caddies assigned by the host club in accordance with the rules and customs of such clubs. If caddies are not available for contestants, the Committee is authorized to make other arrangements. Players may provide their own caddies. Contestants who reserve a caddie from the host club will be responsible for the daily caddie fees whether or not they use them.

**USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY:** By submitting a tournament application, the player agrees to allow the MWGA to use the player's photographic/video image for MWGA media-related purposes.

The use of cameras, camcorders, etc., shall be prohibited on the golf course. Only persons with authorization from the MWGA may use this equipment during the event or tournament. Any unauthorized person using a camera or camcorder on the golf course shall be subject to removal from the grounds.

**DRESS CODE:** For all MWGA-sponsored events and competitions, players and caddies shall be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing. The following dress code shall apply to all grounds of the host club.

Appropriate golf attire in accordance with the host club's dress code policy is required. In addition, MWGA policy requires that sleeveless tops must have a collar. Shorts, skorts, or skirts should be fingertip length or longer (i.e. When the player's arms are at her sides, the garment hem should be at or below the level of her fingertips.) In cases where the host club dress code and the MWGA dress code conflict, the stricter policy will apply.

Attire that is not acceptable includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Cut-offs
- Sweat pants
- Midriff tops
- Racer-back shirts
- Tank tops
- Athletic shorts
- T-shirts
- Blue denim jeans or shorts

The player and caddie shall check in at the registration table on the first day of the tournament. Thereafter the player and caddie shall check in with the starter 10 minutes before her scheduled starting time. The Rules Official shall decide whether the dress code requirement has been met and shall have authority to withdraw the entry of a player not complying. If a player or caddie falls out of compliance on the golf course the player shall be disqualified.

**BREAKING OF TIES:** USGA Rule 33-6 empowers the Committee to determine how and when a halved match or a stroke play tie shall be decided. The method used for deciding ties shall be based on the recommendations in the USGA Rules Book Appendix I-C-33-6 and shall be published in advance for each tournament or event. Hole numbers shown as "hole #\_\_\_ shall also be determined in advance for each tournament."

#### **Match Play**

In the event of a tied match, the winner shall be determined immediately by a hole-by-hole play-off restarting on the hole the Match started or another hole determined by the Committee, and the stipulated round is deemed to extend to as many holes as are required for the match to be won. (The USGA exercises this authority to prevent a player who is all square with her opponent after the regulation round from changing clubs, receiving advice, etc., before playing extra holes.)

## **Stroke Play**

### *Championship Flight*

In the event of a tie for first place, the players shall have a 3-hole play-off on holes # \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. If the players are still tied there shall be a sudden death play-off starting on hole # \_\_\_\_, then # \_\_\_\_, and continuing on # \_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_, until settled.

In the event of a tie for any other place in the Championship Flight, the Official-in-Charge shall match scorecards from the last nine holes. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine holes, the winner shall be determined on the basis of the last six holes, then the last three holes, and finally the 18th hole. If this does not produce a winner, the Official-in-Charge shall determine the winner by lot. The players shall split the gift certificates and player points.

In the event of a play-off in the Championship Flight involving more than two individuals or teams, prizes will be awarded to runners-up based on their finish in the play-off. If the runners-up are tied in the play-off, then the Official-in-Charge shall match scorecards as described above.

### *Handicap Flights*

In the event of a tie for any of the three places in the handicap flights, the Official-in-Charge shall match scorecards from the last nine holes. If the players have the same score for the last nine holes, the winner shall be determined on the basis of the last six holes, then the last three holes, and finally the 18th hole. If this does not produce a winner the Official-in-Charge shall determine the winner by lot. The last nine holes shall be holes #10 - 18 on the official scorecard.

For purposes of determining pairings, ties shall be decided by the order in which scores are returned. If it is impossible to determine the order in which scores are returned, such position will be determined by a blind draw.

**MOTORIZED CARTS FOR PLAYERS:** When golf carts are permitted in an MWGA event or tournament, their use shall be limited to transporting players, their caddies and their clubs. The MWGA prohibits the use of motorized carts in the Minnesota Women's State Amateur Championship and the Junior Girls' State Championship. The only exception shall be when a Rules Official, in the interest of maintaining pace of play, transports a player and her caddie over a part of the course that she has already walked (i.e., to the place where the previous stroke was played so that it may be replayed). Contestants who reserve a cart from the host club will be responsible for the daily cart fees whether or not they use them. Use of a player's cart by anyone other than the player or players and their caddies during a stipulated round shall be prohibited. Any player allowing unauthorized use of her cart shall be subject to penalty as follows:

#### **Penalty for Breach of Condition:**

**First offense:** Warning

**Second offense:**

*Match play* - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match shall be adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred. Maximum deduction per round: two holes.

*Stroke play* - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred.

Maximum penalty per round: four strokes. In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty shall apply to the next hole.

*Match or stroke play* - Use of any unauthorized motorized golf cart shall be discontinued immediately upon discovering that a breach has occurred. Otherwise, the player shall be disqualified.

## **TRANSPORTATION FOR PLAYERS OR CADDIES WITH A DIS-**

**ABILITY:** A player or caddie with a disability, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), may request authorization to use a motorized golf cart during any event, tournament or championship. The player or caddie should contact the MWGA office to obtain information on procedures for submitting such requests. All such requests and required information, including documentation that her/his disability meets the ADA definition, must be received by the MWGA office 7 days prior to the event, tournament and championship. Cost of the golf cart shall be the responsibility of the player or caddie.

Requests due to temporary injuries or impairments that do not qualify as a disability under the ADA will not be granted.

Use of the cart by anyone other than the authorized player or caddie is prohibited. If the player or her caddie allows the unauthorized use of her/his cart, the player is subject to penalty. See policy Motorized Carts Policy (above).

**MOTORIZED CARTS FOR SPECTATORS:** The use of golf carts by spectators may be allowed as determined by the Committee on a Championship/Tournament basis, and subject to availability. The MWGA office must receive the request for a motorized cart 7 days prior to the tournament; the tournament committee may waive prior notice during the actual event. The spectator must sign an agreement to comply with the following requirements:

1. The spectator shall be responsible for the cost of the cart.
2. The spectator shall follow golf course etiquette.
3. Where cart paths are provided, the spectator must keep the golf cart on the cart path at all times.
4. Where cart paths are not provided, the spectator shall drive the cart in the rough 10 yards behind the group the spectator is following.
5. The spectator must keep up with the group and not delay the following group.
6. The spectator must not disrupt or distract the players with the use of the golf cart.
7. Driving a golf cart in the fairway or crossing a fairway is strictly prohibited.
8. Interference with tournament play or non-compliance with the above rules shall result in immediate loss of cart privilege and non-refund of cart fee.

#### **MOTORIZED CARTS FOR SPECTATORS WITH A DISABILITY:**

The use of golf carts by spectators with valid handicap identification will be allowed at all Championships/Tournaments. The MWGA office must receive a request for a motorized cart 7 days prior to the tournament. The Committee may waive prior notice during the actual event.

**PACE OF PLAY:** Each player shall be responsible for her group or match maintaining proper position on the course in relation to the rest of the field. The MWGA follows the USGA's pace of play policy as described here. The Committee may implement this policy using either four (4) or two (2) checkpoints, to be determined on a course-by-course basis and noted on the Notice to Competitors sheet. Under either system, the time noted on the scorecard is the maximum time allowed for completion of the hole.

## Stroke Play

When a group is out of position at any checkpoint the players in the group are liable to penalty under these guidelines. Players in a group that has missed one or more checkpoints will be liable to penalty according to the following schedule of penalties pending final determination of whether a breach or breaches of these guidelines have occurred. The MWGA will use either a four (4) checkpoint or a two (2) checkpoint system, to be determined on a course-by-course basis and noted on the Notice to Competitor sheet:

### Four Checkpoint System

Checkpoints will be on completion (flagstick in the hole) of the 4th, 9th, 13th and 18th holes.

- 1st missed checkpoint\* – warning
- 2nd missed checkpoint – liable to a one stroke penalty
- 3rd missed checkpoint – liable to a two stroke penalty
- 4th missed checkpoint – liable to disqualification

\*If a group clears the 3rd checkpoint and has not missed any other checkpoint, but is out of position at the 4th checkpoint, each player in the group is liable for a one stroke penalty if in the Committee's view no effort was made by the players to complete their round within the allotted time for the final checkpoint.

### Two Checkpoint System

Checkpoints will be on completion (flagstick in the hole) of the 9th and 18th holes.

- 1st missed checkpoint – liable to a one stroke penalty
- 2nd missed checkpoint – liable to a two stroke penalty

### Allotted Time

Each group is allotted time to complete 18 holes at a pace in accordance with the time chart provided on her scorecard. When a group falls behind – regardless of the reason – it must regain its position. Time for ball searches, rulings and walking time between holes is included in the allotted time.

### Definition of "Out of Position" – Stroke Play

**First Group:** (off the 1st and 10th holes, both morning and afternoon): The first group is **out of position** if it takes more than the allotted time to finish a checkpoint hole.

**Following Groups:** A following group is **out of position** if it

- takes more than the allotted time to finish a checkpoint hole and
- completes play of a checkpoint hole more than 14 minutes after the preceding group completed play of that hole.

Time charts outlining the time per hole, including the finish times for the checkpoint holes, are noted on the scorecard.

### Group Out of Position

When a group is **out of position** at a checkpoint, it will be notified by a Rules Official. When a group has been notified of a missed checkpoint, that group is expected to regain its position before reaching the next checkpoint. If that group reaches the next checkpoint **out of position** each player in the group may incur the applicable penalty for a breach of these guidelines.

Any group that is **out of position** may be monitored by a Rules Rover.

A player concerned about a non-responsive (slow) fellow-competitor in her group, who is delaying play, should request a Rules Rover to monitor the group in case the group is or becomes liable to penalty under these guidelines.

### Final Determination Regarding Breach / Review Process

Before returning her scorecard, a player who is liable for penalty during her round may consult with the Committee to determine if she has incurred a penalty under these guidelines. The Committee will determine that a player who has been found to be **out of position** is not in breach of these guidelines only if:

- the player was delayed by the Committee; or
- the player was delayed by a circumstance beyond control of the player or the group; or
- the player was delayed by another player in the group.

**A player who was out of position during her round and who elects not to consult with the Committee to determine whether she was in breach of these guidelines is deemed to be in breach of these guidelines and incurs a penalty or penalties according to the above schedule of penalties.**

If a player or group incurs a penalty, penalties are to be applied to the checkpoint hole where the breach occurred.

### Match Play

When play is in groups of two, groups will be required to play within the time that is noted on the scorecard (to be determined on a course by course basis).

### Definition of "Out of Position" – Match Play

**First Match:** The first match to start will be considered **out of position** if, at any time during the round, the group is behind the prescribed schedule as detailed on the player's scorecard.

**Following Match:** Any following match will be considered **out of position** if it (a) is taking more than the allotted time to play and (b) reaches the tee of a par-3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee; reaches the tee of a par-4 hole and the putting green is clear; or reaches the tee of a par-5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be **out of position**.

### Pace of Play Penalties – Match Play

An **out of position** match may be monitored and timed. Anytime a match is being monitored and timed, they will be notified of such timing by a Rules Rover.

The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any player in a match being timed who takes more than the allotted time (see below) to play a stroke after timing of the player's stroke begins:

- 1st breach – warning
- 2nd breach – loss of hole
- 3rd breach – 2nd warning
- 4th breach disqualification

### Timing

When a match is being monitored and timed, each player is expected to play any stroke within 40 seconds after timing of the player's stroke begins.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when she 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 determining yardage will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of 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 from 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.

**Note 1:** The Committee reserves the right, at any time, to monitor or time a group/match when the Committee deems it necessary.

**Note 2:** Players should also be aware that the Committee may assess a "bad time" to a player in a match that is out of position if the player makes no effort to help her match get back in position. An example of this would be a player who delays play between shots.

**Note 3:** If the match in question regains its proper position, any previous breach of these guidelines will be carried over for the remainder of the stipulated round in the event that the match requires additional monitoring.

**Note 4:** If a player incurs a penalty for Pace of Play the player shall receive a letter from the Committee. The Committee may impose future sanctions ranging from a warning letter to suspension from future MWGA events/tournaments. However, any further sanctions imposed by the Committee may be appealed to the MWGA Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final.