



# WA GOLF NET FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY MANUAL

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## 1. Overview and Format

- a. **Overview** – We are excited to announce the inaugural WA Golf Net Four-Ball Match Play. The event is open to all WA Golf members 18 years and older with an active handicap index of 54.0 or lower, featuring both a Men’s and Women’s bracket. For the first year, the field will be limited to 192 men’s teams and 128 total women’s teams. There will be four regions: North Sound, South Sound, Central WA and Eastern WA & Northern ID. The North Sound and South Sound Men’s regions will have 64 teams, while the Central and Eastern regions will each have 32 teams. Each women’s region will have 32 teams. Teams will have five to eight weeks to play their scheduled match. The first five rounds will take place at an agreed time and place between each team involved. The Regional Finals, Semi-Finals and Final Match will take place at The Home Course in DuPont, WA during the weekend of October 1-3, 2021. The eight men’s and women’s teams that advance to the final weekend will have all lodging and golf costs covered with a merchandise payout and awards for the advancing teams
- b. **Format** – Net Four-Ball Match Play – A blind draw within each of the four regions will determine the bracket of 192 Men’s Teams and 128 Women’s Teams. An 85% handicap allocation will be used for all matches. Two partners compete together as a side, with each player playing his or her own ball, and a side’s score for a hole is the lower NET score of the two partners on that hole. When a side leads the match by more holes than holes remaining, the match is considered won by the leading side. Any matches that are tied upon the completion of 18 holes will go to a sudden death playoff.

## 2. Eligibility and Entry Information

- a. **Eligibility** - Entries are open to sides of male and female amateur golfers who have an up-to-date USGA Handicap Index issued by WA Golf not exceeding 54.0. Men’s division



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players must reach their 18th birthday by March 1, 2021, and women's division players must reach their 18th birthday by April 13, 2021.

- i. **Field Limit** - Field will be limited to 192 teams in the Men's Bracket and 128 teams in the Women's Bracket. Entries will be accepted according to the time of receipt of entry and entry fee. Waitlists will be used for each of the four regions.
  - ii. **All Entries Open** – Monday, January 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
  - iii. **Men's Entry Deadline** - Central and Eastern region deadlines extended until March 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m., or until filled. North Sound and South Sound regions are full.
  - iv. **Women's Entry Deadline** - April 13, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- b. **Entry Information** - \$100 per team
- i. **Includes** - Two custom logoed hats, two custom logoed towels. The final eight teams in both the men's and women's brackets will receive an invitation to compete in the Regional Finals, Semi-Finals and Final Match at The Home Course during the weekend of Oct 1-3, 2021. **Note:** The team member that completes registration for each team will receive a package with the items listed above.
  - ii. **Playing Matches/Green Fees** - Each team is responsible for covering green fees during each round's match at a course mutually agreed upon between each team. Matches may be played at public or private courses. Players are encouraged to check out [wagolfpass.com](http://wagolfpass.com) for discounted rates across the state.
  - iii. **Refunds** – No refunds will be issued after the close of entries.

### 3. Schedule of Rounds/Scheduling Matches/Reporting Match Results

- a. **Schedule of Rounds** – The following dates are the windows in which matches are expected to be completed.
- i. **Men's Schedule**
    1. Round One: Begins: Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> | Ends: Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>  
*\*\*\*Rounds one and two for Central and Eastern regions have been combined\*\*\**
    2. Round Two: Begins: Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> | Ends: Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>
    3. Round Three: Begins: Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> | Ends: Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>
    4. Round Four: Begins: Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> | Ends: Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>
    5. Round Five: Begins: Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> | Ends: Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>
    6. REGIONAL FINALS: Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> @ The Home Course
    7. FINAL FOUR MATCHES: Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> @ The Home Course
    8. FINAL MATCHES: Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ The Home Course



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### ii. Women's Schedule

1. Round One: Begins: Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> | Ends: Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>
2. Round Two: Begins: Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> | Ends: Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>
3. Round Three: Begins: Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> | Ends: Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>
4. Round Four: Begins: Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> | Ends: Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>
5. REGIONAL FINALS: Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> @ The Home Course
6. FINAL FOUR MATCHES: Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> @ The Home Course
7. FINAL MATCHES: Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ The Home Course

### iii. Final Weekend at The Home Course – October 1-3, 2021

1. The final eight teams in the Men's Bracket and the Women's Bracket will advance to the all-inclusive final weekend at The Home Course.
2. Lodging costs will be covered by WA Golf for the final eight Men's and Women's Teams.
3. Golf and Cart fees will be included for all three days of the Final Weekend.
4. Lunch vouchers will be provided to advancing teams each day.
5. Awards will be provided the Regional Winners, Final Four-Participants, Washington Net Four-Ball Match Play Runner-Ups and the Washington Net Four-Ball Match Play Winners.

### b. Scheduling Matches

- i. At the start of each round, WA Golf staff will email both teams involved exchanging contact information. Teams will then have to schedule and complete their match in the five-to-eight-week window. WA Golf staff will also provide a list of courses in the region that are offering WA Golf Pass deals. If the two teams involved in the match cannot decide on a course, WA Golf Staff will decide a course for the match. If a date cannot be decided on, the match will be decided by coin flip.

### c. Reporting Match Results

- i. A match will be considered final after it is reported to WA Golf Staff via email. A picture of the scorecard along with a written final result is preferred.
- ii. The winning team should send the results with the losing team CC'd on the email to the WA Golf Staff Member representing your region.

## 4. Playing a Scheduled Match | Handicaps & Rules

- a. Players are encouraged to arrive at the mutually agreed upon course at least 20 minutes prior to their mutually agreed upon tee time.



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- b. **Handicaps** - *Players will receive 85% of their course handicap for net scoring.* All matches will be played off of the low Playing Handicap in the group. All players will determine the tee they would like to play. Handicap Indexes will be used as they stand the day of the match. The **GHIN Mobile App must be used** to determine playing handicaps from each player's selected tee. [PLEASE REFERENCE THE HANDICAP CALCULATOR GUIDE](#)
- c. **Extra Holes** - Any match that is tied after the completion of 18 holes is encouraged to check with the golf course to see if they can head to the first tee or another hole on the course to start extra holes until a winner is decided (same stroke allocation).
- d. **Partner Substitutions** – Partner Substitutions **WILL NOT** be permitted after the entry deadline. If an injury or illness effects a player's ability to play in a match, the match may be rescheduled if time allows. If time does not allow, the match will be played with one side missing a player.
- e. **Suspensions of play due to inclement weather** – If a match is suspended due to inclement weather and cannot be completed the same day. The teams involved should attempt to reschedule (less than 9 holes played) before the round time window closes.
  - i. If both teams are unable to find a make-up date before the window closes, the following steps will decide the winner.
  - ii. **IF MORE THAN 9 HOLES PLAYED** - The team holding the lead at the time of suspension wins the match
  - iii. **IF LESS THAN 9 HOLES PLAYED or TIED** – Coin Flip by WA Golf Staff will determine winner
- f. **Resolving Rules Situations** - All players are encouraged to download the **USGA Rules of Golf App**. In match play, **players are encouraged to resolve rules situations by agreement**, using their best understanding of the rules if a member of the committee is not available to resolve the situation (Rule 20.1b).
- g. **Event Committee** - WA Golf Staff will make final decisions on any rules conflicts or scheduling conflicts between the two teams involved.
- h. **Regional Contacts** – Any issues should be directed to the WA Golf staff member representing each region
  - i. **South Sound Region:** Collin Westwood | [cwestwood@wagolf.org](mailto:cwestwood@wagolf.org)
  - ii. **North Sound Region:** Torrin Westwood | [twestwood@wagolf.org](mailto:twestwood@wagolf.org)
  - iii. **Central Region:** Audrey Orem | [aorem@wagolf.org](mailto:aorem@wagolf.org)
  - iv. **Eastern Region:** Vinny Fiorino | [vfiorino@wagolf.org](mailto:vfiorino@wagolf.org)
- i. **Posting Scores** - All scores should be posted on the day of play. Teams are subject to penalty scores if they are not posting their individual score for each match.



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- i. The game of golf is based on the premise that a golfer will play as well as he/she can. Under the World Handicap System, a player is required to record a score for any hole not finished or not played under the Rules of Golf, and to adjust any hole score when it is higher than Net Double Bogey.
- ii. Each player who participates in the **WA Golf Net Four-Ball Match Play** must record a score for the round played. Scores shall be posted in accordance with the procedures outlined in the World Handicap System for Four-Ball and Match Play tournaments. All scores are to be posted as **Competition scores**.
- iii. **INCOMPLETE ROUNDS** – In the event a match is closed out before 18 holes are played, the round is deemed to be complete. If players decide to “finish the round” they must continue to abide by the Rules of Golf and World Handicap System. If players decide not to “finish the round”, net par must be taken for any hole remaining to be played. “Net par” is the score to be posted for handicapping purposes equal to par plus any handicap strokes the player would be entitled to receive on that particular hole.
- iv. **LESS THAN 14 HOLES PLAYED** – If a match is closed out before 14 holes are played, a nine-hole score must be posted.
- v. **INCOMPLETE HOLES** – If a player starts a hole but does not complete the hole, or is conceded a stroke, the player must record, for handicap purposes, the score they most likely would have made.

### 5. Regional Breakdown and Partner Information

- a. Each team will select a region to compete in, based on their location. Teams and partners are encouraged to select a region in which they reside.
  - i. **South Sound Region** – Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap, Clallam, Jefferson, Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Pacific, Mason, Grays Harbor and Wahkiakum counties
  - ii. **North Sound Region** – King, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan counties
  - iii. **Central Region** – Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Grant, Yakima, Benton, Klickitat, Walla Walla and Franklin counties
  - iv. **Eastern Region** – Spokane, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Adams, Whitman, Garfield, Columbia, Asotin and Northern Idaho
- b. Men’s North Sound and South Sound regions will feature 64 teams, Men’s Central and Eastern regions will have 32 teams. All Women’s regions will feature 32 teams.
- c. **Partner Information** – Only Men may play in the Men’s Division and only Women may play in the Women’s Division. Both partners must be members of a WA Golf Member





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Club. Teams and partners are encouraged to select a region in which they reside, but are not required to do so.

6. **Prize Fund Information** | \$10,000 merchandise payout based on a full field.
  - a. The final payout will be announced with the release of the final bracket.
  - b. Teams in advancing to the Regional Semifinals will receive merchandise credit at The Home Course – redeemable in person or over the phone (drop shipment).
7. **COVID-19 Policies and Procedures:** All participants are encouraged to wear a facial covering whenever social distancing is not an option. All state and local [COVID-19 protocols](#) are to be followed during each match as well as any rules and regulations that are in effect at the course the match is being played.
  - a. [WA Golf COVID-19 News & Updates](#)