



GUIDE

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1. Overview, Format and Pod Play:

- a. **Overview** – We are excited to announce the 2022 Golf Net Four-Ball Match Play. The event is open to all WA Golf members 18 years and older with an active handicap index, featuring both a Men’s and Women’s field. In 2022, the event will be limited to 256 men’s teams and 128 women’s teams. Unlike 2021, **all teams will be guaranteed three matches**; teams will be placed into a pod of four where each team plays each other once. Teams will have two months to schedule and complete their three Pod Play matches. The two teams with the best records in each pod after completion of matches will advance to Bracket Play. Teams that advance to Bracket Play will have approximately one month to play their match in each round. The final eight teams remaining in both the Men’s and Women’s fields will receive an invitation to compete in the **Final Weekend at [Gamble Sands](#) during the weekend of September 30 – October 2**. Double occupancy lodging, golf, cart fees and daily lunch will be covered for all teams that reach the Final Weekend.
- b. **Format** – All matches are to be played in the Net Four-Ball Match Play format. An 85% handicap allocation should be used for all matches. Two partners compete together as a team, with each player playing his or her own ball, and a team’s score for a hole is the lower NET score of the two partners on that hole. When a team leads the match by more holes than holes remaining, the match is considered won by the leading team.
- c. **Field Breakdown** – Upon signing up, each team will select a region to compete in based on their location (Western or Central/East). Teams and partners are encouraged to select a region in which they reside.
 - i. **Men’s field** – 256 teams split into four divisions of 64 teams based on the region they sign up for. Teams will be randomly split up into 16 pods of four within each division. The top two teams from each pod will advance to Bracket Play.
 - ii. **Women’s field** – 128 teams split into four divisions of 32 teams based on the region they sign up for. Teams will be randomly split up into eight pods of four within each division. The top two teams from each pod advance to Bracket Play.



- d. **Pod Play:** **NEW IN 2022!** – A random draw will place each team into a pod of four teams within their division. All teams are required to play each team in their pod once. After all matches are played, the two teams with the best records in each pod will advance to Bracket Play. (See below for tiebreaker information)

2. Eligibility and Entry Information:

- a. **Eligibility** – Entries are open to teams of male and female amateur golfers who have an up-to-date USGA Handicap Index issued by Washington Golf. Men’s field players must reach their 18th birthday by April 1, 2022 and Women’s field players must reach their 18th birthday by May 1, 2022.
- i. **All Entries Open** – Monday, January 31, 2022. Entries will be accepted according to the time of receipt. Waitlists will be available when filled.
 - ii. **Men’s Entry Deadline** – Monday, March 28, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
 - iii. **Women’s Entry Deadline** – Monday, April 25, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
- b. **Entry Information** – \$150 per team
- i. **Includes** – Two tee prizes, one for each player. \$10,000 Merchandise Payout (based on full Men’s and Women’s fields) awarded to teams reaching the semifinals and finals in each of the four divisions. Each of the final eight Men’s and Women’s teams will receive an invitation to compete in the all-inclusive Final Weekend at Gamble Sands during the weekend of September 30-October 2. **Note:** The individual that completes registration for the team will receive the package with tee prizes.
 - ii. **Playing Matches/Green Fees** – All players are responsible for covering their own green fees during each match. Matches should be played at a mutually agreed upon course, public or private. Players are encouraged to check out wagolfpass.com for discounted greens fees across the state. Teams that advance to the Final Weekend will have their green fees covered at Gamble Sands.
 - iii. **Refunds** – No refunds will be issued after the close of entries.

3. Event Schedule/Scheduling Matches/Reporting Match Results:

- a. **Event Schedule** – The following dates are the windows in which matches are to be completed. Matchups will be sent out at the beginning of each round. Each team has two months to complete their three Pod Play matches and approximately one month to complete each Bracket Play Match.
- i. **Men’s Schedule:**
 1. **Pod Play:** April 1st – May 31st
 2. **Bracket Play Round 1:** June 1-30
 3. **Bracket Play Round 2:** July 1-31
 4. **Bracket Play Round 3:** August 1-31
 5. **Bracket Play Round of 16:** September 1-25
 6. **Quarterfinals:** Friday, September 30th at Gamble Sands



7. **Semifinals:** Saturday, October 1st at Gamble Sands
8. **Final matches:** Sunday, October 2nd at Gamble Sands

ii. Women's Schedule:

1. **Pod Play:** May 1st – June 30th
2. **Bracket Play Round 1:** July 1-31
3. **Bracket Play Round 2:** August 1-31
4. **Bracket Play Round of 16:** September 1-25
5. **Quarterfinals:** Friday, September 30th at Gamble Sands
6. **Semifinals:** Saturday, October 1st at Gamble Sands
7. **Final matches:** Sunday, October 2nd at Gamble Sands

iii. Final Weekend at Gamble Sands – September 30 – October 2, 2022:

1. The final eight teams in both the Men's and Women's fields will advance to the all-inclusive Final Weekend at [Gamble Sands](#).
2. Two nights lodging (*Friday and Saturday*) in a double occupancy room at the [Inn at Gamble Sands](#) will be covered by WA Golf for each team.
3. Golf and Cart fees will be provided for each team each day.
4. Lunch or Breakfast will be provided each day.
5. Awards will be provided to all Final Weekend Players.

b. Scheduling Matches:

- i. At the start of Pod Play, WA Golf Staff will email all four teams in the pod to exchange contact information. Men's teams will have from April 1st – May 31st to schedule, play and report their three Pod Play matches. Women's teams will have from May 1st – June 30th to schedule, play and report their three Pod Play matches. Each team will play one match against each other team in their pod. The two teams with the best records in each pod after the completion of matches will advance to Bracket Play. The team with the best pod record will be the one seed, the team with the second best record will be the two seed. **NOTE:** All matches should be scheduled within 30 days of the start of Pod Play.
- ii. At the start of each Bracket Play round, WA Golf Staff will email the teams facing each other to exchange contact information. Teams will have approximately one month to schedule, play and report their match from each round. The winning team will advance to the next round and the losing team will be eliminated.
- iii. If teams in a match cannot decide on a course, WA Golf Staff will choose a centrally located course for the match. If a date cannot be decided on and if a match is not played, the match will be decided by a coin flip by WA Golf Staff.

c. Reporting Match Results

- i. A match will be considered final after it is [reported to WA Golf Staff through the online submission form on the WA Golf website](#). Players **must upload a picture of the match scorecard** to the form for verification purposes.



4. Playing a Scheduled Match | Handicaps & Rules & Tiebreakers:

- a. Players are encouraged to arrive at the course at least 20 minutes prior to their tee time for the match.
- b. **Handicaps** – Handicap Indexes will be used as they stand on the day of the match. All players will choose the set of tees they would like to play from. **Players will receive 85% of their course handicap for net scoring.** All matches will be played off the low Playing Handicap in the group. Here is an example of playing off the low Playing Handicap (P.H.):

Torrin's P.H. of 3 is the lowest in the group, so his Shots Off (S.O.) becomes zero, meaning he will not be receiving any strokes in the match. Vincent's P.H. is 14, which is 11 more than Torrin's, meaning his S.O. is 11. Vincent will receive one stroke on handicap holes 1 through 11. Adam's P.H. is 4, which is 1 more than Torrin's, meaning his S.O. is 1. Adam will receive one stroke on handicap hole 1. Collin's P.H. is 17, which is 14 more than Torrin's, meaning his S.O. is 14. Collin will receive one stroke on handicap holes 1 through 14.

The **GHIN Mobile App must be used** to determine playing handicaps from each player's selected tee. [PLEASE REFERENCE THE HANDICAP CALCULATOR GUIDE](#)

- c. **Match Tiebreakers** – **No match may end in a tie.** Players are encouraged to settle on a potential tiebreaker scenario **BEFORE** playing their match. Some recommendations are as follows:
 - i. *Play extra holes until a winner is determined* – any match that is tied after 18-holes should check with the golf course to see if they can continue playing extra holes until a winner is decided (same stroke allocation).
 - ii. *Play another match* – if a match is tied after 18-holes, players may choose to play a second match on a future date to decide a winner. This match must be completed prior to the round deadline.
 - iii. *Flip a tee* – players may flip a tee to determine the winning team.
 - iv. *Allow WA Golf Staff to decide* – if players cannot settle on tiebreaker, WA Golf Staff will flip a coin to determine the winning team.
- d. **Pod Play Tiebreakers** – Each team will play one match against each other team in their pod. The two teams with the best records in each pod after the completion of all matches will advance to Bracket Play. The team with the best record will be the 1 seed, the team with the second-best record will be the 2 seed. If there is a tie, the tie will be broken using the following procedures:
 - i. Head-to-head matchup
 - ii. If three teams have identical records: **The best +/- differentials will advance.** (Example: Team 1 | Match 1: Wins 3&2 (+3) | Match 2: Loses in 24 HOLES (-1) | Match 3: Wins 6&5) (+6) | $3-1+6=8$ | **Team 1 Differential = +8**
 - iii. If three teams are tied and two of them have identical +/- differentials, revert to head-to-head to break tie.
 - iv. If three teams are tied and all have identical +/- differential, WA Golf Staff will blind draw from hat:
 1. *Example of pod standings with three-way and two-way ties:*



- a. 3-0 | 1-2 | 1-2 | 1-2
- b. 2-1 | 2-1 | 2-1 | 0-3
- c. 2-1 | 2-1 | 1-2 | 1-2
- v. Forfeits and coin flips:
 - 1. Forfeits will be treated as a 3&2 loss for the team that forfeits.
 - 2. Teams that win by coin flip will be given a 1 up result.
- e. **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 should be played with one team missing a player.
- f. **Suspension of play due to weather or darkness** – If both teams mutually agree to suspend their match due to inclement weather, lightning, darkness or any other complication, and the match cannot be resumed on the same day – teams involved should attempt to reschedule to another day IF less than 9-holes have been completed. If teams are unable to find a makeup date before the window closes, use the following steps to decide the winner:
 - i. **IF NINE OR MORE HOLES HAVE BEEN PLAYED** – The team holding the lead at the time of suspension wins the match.
 - ii. **IF LESS THAN 9-HOLES PLAYED OR THE MATCH IS TIED** – Coin flip by WA Golf Staff will determine winner.
- g. **Resolving Rules Situations** – All players are encouraged to download the **USGA Rules of Golf App**. In match play, if a member of the committee is not available to resolve the situation, **players are encouraged to resolve rules situations by agreement** using their best understanding of the rules ([Rule 20.1b](#)).
- h. **Event Committee** – WA Golf Staff will make final decisions on any rules conflicts or scheduling conflicts between the two teams involved.
- i. **Contact Staff** – Any issues should be directed to the WA Golf staff member representing your division:
 - i. **West 1:** Collin Westwood | cwestwood@wagolf.org
 - ii. **West 2:** Torrin Westwood | twestwood@wagolf.org
 - iii. **West 3:** Audrey Orem | aorem@wagolf.org
 - iv. **Central/East:** Vinny Fiorino | vfiorino@wagolf.org
- j. **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.
 - 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 should be posted as Competition scores.**



- iii. **INCOMPLETE ROUNDS** – In the event a match is finished 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 that isn’t 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 9-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 most likely score that they would have made on the hole.

5. Pod Play & Bracket Play Rounds Breakdown + Partner Information:

- a. Upon signing up, each team will select a region to compete in based on their location (West or Central/East). Teams and partners are encouraged to register in the area in which they reside.
- b. **Pod Play** – Each team will be randomly placed in a pod within their division.
 - i. Men’s field: 256 total teams
 - 1. Four divisions: West 1, West 2, West 3 and Central/East
 - 2. 16 pods per division
 - 3. Four teams per pod
 - 4. Top two teams advance from each pod to Bracket Play
 - ii. Women’s field: 128 total teams
 - 1. Four divisions: West 1, West 2, West 3 and Central/East
 - 2. Eight pods per region
 - 3. Four teams per pod
 - 4. Top two teams advance from each pod to Bracket Play
- c. **Bracket Play Rounds** – In the first round of Bracket Play, top-seeded teams from each pod will play second-seeded teams from another pod. Single elimination Net Four-Ball Match Play will take place until the Final Weekend at Gamble Sands – (all Final Weekend teams are guaranteed three matches at Gamble Sands).
- d. **Partner Information** – Only men may play in the Men’s field and only women may play in the Women’s field. Both partners must be members of Washington Golf. Partners are encouraged to live within a reasonable distance of each other, but are not required to do so.

6. Prize Fund Information

- a. **\$10,000 merchandise payout based on a full field of 256 Men’s and 128 Women’s teams.**
- b. The final payout will be announced at the beginning of Bracket Play for each division.



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.