



## GUIDE

1. Overview, Format and Pod Play (Page 1-2)
  2. Eligibility and Entry Information (Page 2)
  3. Event Schedule/Scheduling Matches/Reporting Match Results (Page 2-3)
  4. Playing a Scheduled Match | Handicaps, Rules (Page 4-5)
  5. Tiebreakers (Page 5-6)
  6. Code of Conduct (Page 6)
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### **1. Overview, Format:**

- a. **Code of Conduct** – WA Golf Net Four-Ball Match Play participants are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the WA Golf Code of Conduct Policy. View page 6 for the full Code of Conduct Policy.
- b. **Overview** – The event is open to all active WA Golf male members over 18 years of age with an established handicap index. The event will be limited to 256 teams. **All teams are guaranteed three matches**; teams will be placed into a pod of four where each team plays each other once (three matches). Teams will have three months to schedule and complete their three Pod Play matches. The one team with the best record 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 left standing will receive an invitation to compete in the **Final Weekend at [Gamble Sands](#) during the weekend of October 11-13**. Double occupancy lodging, golf, cart fees, and daily lunch will be covered for all teams that reach the Final Weekend.
- c. **Format** – All matches are to be played in the Net Four-Ball Match Play format. An 85% handicap allocation must 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.
  - i. **Pod Play** - 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 team with the best record in each pod will advance to Bracket Play. (See below for tiebreaker information). Each team will play one match against each other team in their pod. The team with the best record in each pod after the completion of matches will advance to Bracket Play.

**Pod Play Rules – Teams that fail to play all three Pod Play matches will be ineligible to advance to Bracket Play. The event committee will hear appeals based on extenuating circumstances. These rules are in place to ensure the integrity of the event.**



- ii. Bracket Play - The winning team will advance to the next round and the losing team will be eliminated.
- iii. Match Play – The USGA’s guidelines for how to play Match Play are in effect for this event. [Click here](#) to view more information on how to play Match Play and FAQs on common questions that come up in Match Play. **We strongly encourage participants to always have clear communication with their opponents about the status of the match. Both teams should also keep a scorecard.**
- d. **Field Breakdown** – Each team will be randomly placed into a region to compete in based on their location. The field of 256 teams will be split up into four divisions of 64 teams each. Teams will be split up into 16 pods of four within each division. Teams play three matches in each pod and the top finishing team from each pod will advance to single-elimination bracket play.

## 2. Eligibility and Entry Information:

- a. **Eligibility** – Entries are open to two-person teams of male amateur golfers with an established Handicap Index issued by Washington Golf. Players must reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by April 1, 2024.
  - i. **All Entries Open** – Thursday, February 1, 2024. Entries will be accepted according to the time of receipt. Waitlists will be available when filled.
  - ii. **Entry Deadline** – Monday, March 25, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
- b. **Entry Information** – \$150 per team
  - i. **Includes** – Two tee prizes, one for each player. Each of the final eight teams will receive an invitation to compete in the Final Weekend at Gamble Sands. **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. 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 three months to complete their three Pod Play matches and approximately one month to complete each Bracket Play Match.
  - i. **Schedule:**
    1. **Pod Play:** April 1-June 30
    2. **Bracket Play Round 1:** July 1-31
    3. **Bracket Play Round 2:** August 1-31
    4. **Bracket Play Round of 16:** September 1-30



5. **Final Weekend:** October 11-13 at Gamble Sands
- ii. **Final Weekend at Gamble Sands – October 11-13, 2024:**
  1. The final eight teams in will advance to the 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 will be provided each day.
  5. Awards will be provided to all Final Weekend Players.
  6. **Please note:** Practice rounds at Gamble Sands are NOT included or scheduled.
- 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. Teams will have to schedule, play and report their match results during their set Pod Play window. **NOTE:** All matches should be scheduled within 30 days of the start of Pod Play to best accommodate potential scheduling conflicts.
  - 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.
  - iii. If teams in a match cannot decide on a course, WA Golf Staff will choose a centrally located course for the match.
- 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. Match results must be reported the day the match is completed.

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

- 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.
  - i. **Tee selection** - All players may play any set of tees as long as it is rated and available in the GHIN app. Players may play a different set of tees from their partner or competitors.
  - ii. **Handicap - Players will receive 85% of their course handicap for net scoring.** This reduced handicap becomes the players' Playing Handicap. 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. Vinny's P.H. is 14, which is 11 more than Torrin's, meaning his S.O. is 11. Vinny 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. **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 and team schedules allows. If rescheduling is not possible, the match should be played with one team missing a player on the originally agreed upon date.
- d. **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.
- e. **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](#)).
- f. **Event Committee** – WA Golf Staff will make final decisions on any Rules conflicts or scheduling conflicts between the two teams involved.
- g. **Contact Staff** – Any issues should be directed to the WA Golf staff member representing your division:
  - Ryan Moore Region:** Vinny Fiorino | [vfiorino@wagolf.org](mailto:vfiorino@wagolf.org)
  - Joel Dahmen Region:** Vinny Fiorino | [vfiorino@wagolf.org](mailto:vfiorino@wagolf.org)
  - Fred Couples Region:** Collin Westwood | [cwestwood@wagolf.org](mailto:cwestwood@wagolf.org)
  - Andrew Putnam Region:** Collin Westwood | [cwestwood@wagolf.org](mailto:cwestwood@wagolf.org)
- h. **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 to their GHIN record.
  - 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.



- 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. Tiebreakers:

- a. **Match Tiebreakers – No match may end in a tie.** Players must 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.
- b. **Pod Play Tiebreakers** – Each team will play one match against each other team in their pod. The team with the best record in each pod after the completion of all matches will advance to Bracket Play. If there is a tie, the tie will be broken using the following procedures:
  - i. Head-to-head matchup result.
  - ii. If three teams have identical records: **The best +/- differentials will advance.** (Example: Team 1 | Match 1: Wins 3&2 (+3) | Match 2: Loses 1 Down (-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 matchup to break tie.
  - iv. If three teams are tied and all have identical +/- differential, WA Golf Staff will blind draw the team to advance:
    - 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. **Please note: Teams that do not complete all three Pod Play matches are ineligible to**



**advance to Bracket Play. The committee will hear appeals based on extenuating circumstances.**

2. Teams that win by coin flip will be given a 1 up result.

## **6. Code of Conduct Policy**

WA Golf expects all contestants, caddies, gallery, and guests to exhibit proper conduct and behavior on the golf course and anywhere on club property during a WA Golf event. Unbecoming conduct or behavior may be grounds for immediate disqualification, at any time, from any WA Golf event. The following are some examples of unbecoming conduct or behavior:

- Repeated use of loud, abusive, and/or profane language
- Throwing and/or breaking equipment (club, ball, etc.) in anger or frustration
- Damaging host club, WA Golf, and/or fellow contestant property
- Public criticism or verbal abuse of host club, officials, volunteers or staff, and/or WA Golf volunteers, staff or fellow contestants
- Potential endangerment of others
- Intentionally violating stated club policy
- Violation of WA Golf Dress Code and/or Footwear Policy
- Other conduct deemed unbecoming

The Committee in charge of the competition shall be the sole judge of determining Conduct Code violations.