



SPRING TEAM MATCHES

2020 PAMPHLET



1. ABOUT

The Women's Spring Team Matches are a statewide tournament consisting of 5 matches played on Thursdays (April & May) between 6 Mass Golf Member Club teams in each Cup. The team with the most points at the conclusion of the 5 matches will be the winner of that Cup.

2. FORMAT

Teams:

Teams are made up of 5 players from a Club or course. Each player on a team is affiliated with and represents their home Club and team. All team members should be available to play on each of the match dates and will be listed on a set roster. A Club or course can field one, two or three teams (up to a total of 15 players). Once a team is set, substitutes may be used only if necessary.

For Clubs fielding more than one team, any player affiliated with that Club may play for only one team. Players who are affiliated with and maintain an active GHIN index at more than one Mass Golf Member Club may play for only one team from one Club.

A player must have an active handicap index of 54.0 or less and must have posted at least five, 18-hole scores during the 2019 season. Players with a handicap index of higher than 36.0 will be limited to a 36.0 index for Spring Team Matches.

Each team must be willing to offer more than one available date to host one match day at their club or course.

Cups:

Each Cup will consist of 6 teams with each team hosting one match day at their course and one team in each Cup is designated as a "travel" team.

Match Days:

There are 5 match days: April 23rd, April 30th, May 7th, May 14th and May 21st. The 6 teams in each Cup will compete against each other over the course of the 5 match days. Each match day will consist of a team competing against another team in 5 matches.

Matches:

The format is singles match play net at 100% handicap allowance. Players from each team will be paired by handicap index (lowest to highest) for each match. Each match consists of 18 holes. Points are awarded for each hole won or tied.



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3. HANDICAPS

The USGA GHIN revision as of November 1, 2019 will be used for player handicaps for registration purposes. Due to the introduction of the World Handicapping System in January, a 2020 handicap index revision will be used to determine final playing positions for all matches.

Handicap strokes will be calculated off the player with the lowest handicap in each match, with no more than one stroke per hole given to a player, regardless of course handicap.

4. SCORING OF MATCHES

Scoring will be hole by hole with one point for winning a hole and ½ point for tying a hole. A total of 18 points may be awarded in each match.

Players may not arbitrarily split points during a match. If Player A has started a match and is unable or otherwise decides not to continue and if fewer than 11 holes have been completed, the match is defaulted and Player B wins 11-0. If 11 or more holes have been completed, both Player A and Player B retain the points earned and Player B earns one point for each of the remaining unplayed holes.

Players are responsible for posting their own scores as either “Home” or “Away” scores and NOT as “Competition” scores.

5. STARTING TIMES

Fifteen matches will need to be played on an unobstructed course in the morning only, and no match shall begin before 8:30 a.m. It is preferred that shotgun starts be used whenever possible and that matches be played in foursomes. However, the matches may be played in twosomes, if preferred by the host Club. If your Club prefers a mini-shotgun start, it is requested that no more than two groups be started on any one hole.

Please see the “Match Rotation Schedule” for which team has the honour to start each match.

6. PACE OF PLAY

Matches should be completed in less than 4 hours. Lower handicap groups should be positioned at the front of the field. Incidents of slow play should be reported to fellow Captains or Mass Golf.

7. GOLF GENIUS/TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

Captains are encouraged to use Golf Genius/Tournament Management to manage each match day and enter results. Captains should inform Mass Golf who their designated Club staff member is (name/email) so that the designated Club staff will be given Golf Genius/Tournament Management access. For Spring teams Golf Genius/Tournament Management must be accessed via a dedicated link provided by Mass Golf and cannot be accessed through Club accounts. If you have used Golf Genius/Tournament Management in the past, you will continue to have access using your existing username/password. Match day pairings, scorecards and cart signs can be printed directly from the Golf Genius/Tournament Management program prior



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to each match day, either by the Captain or the designated Club staff member. Instructions on Golf Genius/Tournament Management will be sent to Captains in April.

8. REPORTING OF SCORES

Host Captains will be responsible for entering all match day results from their Cup using Golf Genius/Tournament Management by 3pm of the match day. Host Club staff may provide assistance if needed. Results entered will be immediately visible for all to view via the Golf Genius/Tournament Management portal.

9. HOSPITALITY

Host Captains are required to coordinate the match day arrangements for golf and lunch with their Club staff and should complete and send a “Host Club Information Form” to fellow Cup Captains at least 2 weeks prior to the match day. The blank form will be sent to all Captains and be available on the Spring Team landing page in March. The form will include important information on starting times, carts, food and beverage service, costs and other event specifics.

Host Captains are suggested to arrange for a modest lunch menu and cost. Continental breakfast and coffee may be served at the discretion of the host Club. All players are expected to pay and stay for lunch following their match. Captains are required to notify the host Captain in advance if any of their players cannot stay for lunch. The host Club should provide a “to go” option for those players unable to stay for lunch. The host Captain and or host team is encouraged to collect payment for both cart and lunch fees before the matches begin.

Please note that a “Captain’s Match Day Checklist” will be sent in the future.

10. TEAM ROSTERS & SUBSTITUTES

Captains should make any necessary adjustments to their rosters in Golf Genius/Tournament Management by 12pm on the Tuesday before a match and all other Captains should be notified of any such changes. If required, please contact Mass Golf for assistance.

If a team player is unable to play, the Captain may use a substitute. Captains are requested to select a substitute whose handicap index is as close as possible to the original player’s index. The substitute may be any female player with an active GHIN index (by 5pm of the Monday prior to the match being played) at the Club for which team she will play. Substitutes may play for any team from their Club. If the substitute holds a GHIN index at more than one Mass Golf Club, she may substitute for any teams at any of those Clubs. Team players may not serve as a substitute for any other Club or any other team. It is the Captains’ responsibility to verify a substitute player’s status and eligibility. If an ineligible substitute plays, that match will be defaulted and 9 points awarded to the opposing team.

Each Captain is responsible for verifying their players are correctly positioned for each match pairing (low to high index). If a Captain or team places a substitute in the wrong position for match pairings, that match is defaulted and 9 points awarded to the opposing team.

A team is allowed a maximum of three substitutes per match.



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11. DEFAULTS

If a team accumulates more than two defaulted individual matches during the Spring Team season, they are disqualified from the Cup. In this case, all points earned by the opposing teams in that Cup from any previous matches will be nullified and each team's aggregate score adjusted accordingly. Defaults will occur under the following circumstances:

Number of Players – If a team is unable to field 5 players, the opposing team and host Captain must be notified no later than the 9pm the night before the match day. If a team arrives with less than 5 players, the vacant position (in which the originally assigned player was to play) is defaulted and 9 points awarded to the opponent for the defaulted match. All other players shall hold their positions.

Note: If a default is acknowledged by both Captains prior to the start of the match, the opponent of the defaulting player need not play or be present on match day to be awarded 9 points for the defaulted match.

Late to Tee – see Rule 5.3a

Positioning of Players – Each Captain is responsible for ensuring their players are correctly positioned for each match pairing. If a Captain or team places a player in the incorrect position for match pairings, that match is defaulted and 9 points awarded to the opposing team. If two or more players on a team are placed in the incorrect position, the team is disqualified from the Cup.

If a team is disqualified for defaulting and the team/Club is scheduled to host a future match day, the Club must honor that commitment to host. Teams that are disqualified from Spring Team matches for defaulting may continue to play in subsequent match days without any standing in the match.

Withdrawals – If a team or Club cannot fulfill its commitment once the Cups and match day schedule are announced and published, that team or Club may be denied entry to Spring Team Matches the following year.



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12. CANCELLATIONS

Rain Dates: In the event of a Cup match day cancellation due to adverse weather, there will be no makeup or rain date for that match day.

Early cancellation (prior to 9pm the night before the match day): If adverse weather has occurred or is forecasted, cancellation is determined by:

- a. The home team Captain when advised to do so by the golf course superintendent and or golf professional.
- b. Any Captain may request an email or telephone vote of the other Captains to cancel the match day depending on the availability of carts/caddies. A majority vote is required to cancel under these circumstances.

Cancellation on the morning of match day or cancellation on match day at the host Club site: In the case of adverse weather, the matches may be cancelled by the host Club staff or a majority vote of the Captains after conferring with their players.

Weather conditions or other circumstances may result in the host Club not permitting the use of carts for the match day: If some or all players require the use of motorized carts to play, cancellation of the match day is an option to be discussed and considered by the Captains. A majority of the Captains must vote to cancel a match day. Captains should be sensitive to the possible physical limitations of fellow competitors and should also present to the other Captains the name of any team member who has a doctor's note requiring the use of a cart.

For any votes taken by Captains that result in a tie, the host Captain's vote will be withdrawn.

Each Captain is responsible for notifying the players on their team when a match day has been cancelled.

13. SUSPENSIONS

Play may be suspended for adverse weather by: the golf course superintendent, golf professional or a majority vote of the Captains. Following a suspension, a decision must be made to either resume play after a reasonable amount of time or conclude the match day.

The match results are valid and scored if each match completes at least 9 holes. If less than 9 holes have been completed by one or more matches, the match day and partial results are cancelled. If 9 or more holes have been completed by all matches, the match results will be scored. In this case, only the least common number of completed holes among the matches will be scored.

14. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

Thunder/Lightning: Discontinue play if you believe you are in danger from lightning ([Rule 5-7a](#)). Seek shelter immediately if lightning is in the area.



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15. CUP RESULTS

Each Cup will be won by the team with the most cumulative points over the 5 match days and the Club's name engraved on that Cup's trophy. In the event of any ties within a Cup, the name of each winning Club will be engraved on the trophy. Players and substitutes of the winning teams who have played in a match will receive commemorative pins.

Non-Regulation Cup: If all teams in a Cup have not played the same number of matches the Cup becomes a Non-Regulation Cup. The winner of the Cup will be determined by dividing the points earned by the number of matches played.

16. FREQUENTLY ASKED RULES QUESTIONS:

For the purpose of Spring Team Matches, the Committee for each match day will consist of the 6 team Captains. The club professional may be consulted as a resource, but the Committee shall make all rulings ([Rule 20.2b](#)).

[Rule 1.3b\(1\)](#) – Applying the Rules and [Rule 1.3c](#) - Penalties

[Rule 3.2b](#) – Match Play - Concessions

[Rule 3.2d](#) – Responsibilities of Player and Opponent

[Rule 4.3a\(1\)](#) – Allowed and Prohibited Uses of Equipment – Distance and Directional Information

[Rule 5.3a](#) – When to Start Round

[Rule 6.4a](#) - Order of Play When Playing a Hole - Please note Exception: Playing Out of Turn by Agreement to Save Time

[Rule 9.6](#) – Ball Lifted or Moved by Outside Influence

[Rule 15.3](#) – Ball or Mall-Marker Helping or Interfering with Play

[Rule 20.1b](#) – Rules Issues in Match Play