



Women's Team Matches
2025 Policy & Operations Improvements

1. Handicap Index® revision date.

- a. Old policy
 - i. Spring Teams: Use April 1st for a revision date for all 5 weeks.
 - ii. Fall Cup: Use September 1st (or similar) for a revision date for all 3 weeks.
- b. **New policy**
 - i. Playing Handicap™ determined by Handicap Index from the USGA® GHIN® revision as of 1 week before each match.
- c. Context
 - i. Golf Genius software has the capabilities to pull a Handicap Index from a specific date for Team Matches, allowing a more accurate representation of each golfer's Handicap Index for both Spring Teams and Fall Cup.

2. Eligibility - Each player must have posted five, 18-hole scores during the prior calendar year.

- a. Old Eligibility
 - i. Open to any female player. Must have an active Handicap Index® of 54.0 or less and be active on the GHIN roster of the club or course the team is representing. Each player must have posted five, 18-hole scores during the prior calendar year.
- b. **New Eligibility** (removes this requirement)
 - i. Open to any female player. Must have an active Handicap Index® of 54.0 or less and be active on the GHIN roster of the club or course the team is representing.
- c. Context
 - i. With the updates to the WHS™ and GHIN system (daily revisions, easy access to score posting via the GHIN App and an established Handicap Index after posting 54-holes) and numerous requests for exceptions to this policy (injury or sickness) throughout the season, this change allows for more inclusive eligibility.

3. Set roster required during November registration – Spring Teams

- a. Old Registration Requirement
 - i. Captains are responsible for submitting their rosters during the registration process in November, prior to the season.
- b. **New Registration Requirement**
 - i. Rosters do not need to be submitted during registration.
 - 1. Captains will submit their team roster, inclusive of substitutes, once access is granted to Golf Genius.
 - 2. Pairings are set on a weekly basis, inclusive of those subs that are needed.
- c. Context
 - i. Often, players that are submitted at the time of registration do not always reflect the players that play once Spring Teams begin. Captains have expressed difficulty

identifying a set 5-player roster during the registration process, which occurs several months before the season begins. With the changing demographic of players (working, injuries, busy schedules, etc.) there is a strong need for flexibility once the season begins. In addition, survey results were 80% in favor of allowing a roster to be submitted closer to the start of Spring Teams, rather than during registration in the winter.

4. Top 3 Cups No Longer in Effect – Spring Team

- a. Old Cup Building Criteria
 - i. Cups 1-3 are determined solely based on aggregate team Handicap Index.
- b. **New Cup Building Criteria**
 - i. Cups 1-3 will no longer be determined solely based on aggregate team Handicap Index. All cups will be assigned based on a combination of aggregate team Handicap Index, host date availability, and travel distance. The numbers assigned to each cup are not reflective of Handicaps.
- c. Context
 - i. Due to changing demographics, in recent years it has been difficult for teams within the top three cups to secure a team that can travel long distances that often comes with the assignment of a top 3 cup, leading to team declining their spot in the top three cups or defaulted matches. Also, as noted above, rosters that are submitted at the time of registration do not always reflect the players that play once Spring Teams begin, leading to an inaccurate calculation of aggregate team Handicap Index.

5. Food & Beverage

- a. Old Policy
 - i. ...Host captains are suggested to arrange for a modest lunch menu and cost (maximum of \$30 including taxes and/or services charges). Continental breakfast and coffee may be served at the discretion of the host club...
- b. **New Policy**
 - i. ...Host captains are suggested to arrange for a modest lunch menu and cost (maximum of \$35 including taxes and/or services charges). Continental breakfast and coffee may also be served at the discretion of the host club, provided it does not exceed the maximum suggested cost of \$35 stated above...
- c. Context
 - i. This update to F&B pricing suggestion is necessary to keep up to date with rising costs and to allow more guidance regarding optional breakfast that has led to an uptick in costs associated with a player's F&B portion of their match day expenses.

6. Affiliate Member Clubs

- a. Old Eligibility
 - i. *No mention of Affiliate Member Clubs* - Teams are made up of 5 active female golfers on the GHIN® roster of the club or course the team is representing. For clubs with more than one team, they may form team rosters as they see fit with the exceptions outlined in Section 9. Each player on a team must be affiliated with and represent their home club and team.

- b. **New Eligibility**
 - i. *Add to the existing policy* - Mass Golf Members from Affiliate Member Clubs are eligible to participate and form a team after gaining consent from a Member Club willing to host that team's match. Member Clubs may host matches for more than one team.
- c. Context
 - i. Affiliate Member Clubs are just as much a Member Club as a green grass facility, adhering to Member Club policies and dues, ensuring the Women's Team Matches are inclusive for all Member Clubs.

7. Pace of Play – Spring Teams

- a. Old Policy
 - i. Matches should be completed in less than four and a half hours for foursomes and four hours for twosomes. It is expected that the pace of play will be enforced by the captain of each team. Lower handicap groups should be positioned at the front of the field.
- b. **New Policy**
 - i. Matches must be completed in less than four and a half hours (4.5) for foursomes and three hours and forty-five minutes (3:45) for twosomes. At the end of the allotted time (or longer as determined by the host club and host captain and **announced prior to the start of the match**), all play will conclude. If a hole is started but not completed before the specific time expires, the hole should be played and will conclude the match. Any holes remaining beyond the match time limit will be tied. **It is the responsibility of the captain of each team to enforce this policy, NOT the host club staff.**
- b. Context
 - i. This updated policy allows for more concrete guidelines for captains to follow during match days and is one of the top concerns Mass Golf receives from both players and club staff alike. In addition, survey results were 84% in favor of updating the Spring Teams pace of play policy to mirror the Fall Cup policy.

8. Registration Questions

- a. Add question regarding travel preference
- b. Add question regarding hosting multiple teams on same date

9. Implement Webinars before each season starts

- a. Captain duties and best practices
- b. Golf Genius Q&A

10. Implement Educational Emails before each season starts

- a. Pace of Play
- b. Match Play Etiquette
- c. Rules of Golf