



## Women's Public Links Golf Association of Southern California 2026 Team Play Competition

# GUIDELINES FOR CAPTAINS

## TEAM PLAY FORMAT

**FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY GROSS AND NET** Eight (8) Players, competing as Four (4) Sides in a team competition. Two (2) partners compete together as a Side, with each player playing their own ball. A Side's Gross score for a hole is their better ball score against the better ball Gross score of their opponents'. Net scores are based on where handicap strokes are given and will be based on 100% of the player's Course Handicap, using their January 1, 2026 Handicap Index.

**SCORING** Based on the Sides better ball score (1) point Gross and (1) point Net is awarded for each hole. Tied holes will result in  $\frac{1}{2}$  point awarded to each Side. At the completion of 18 holes, the Team with the most points, Gross and Net, will receive an additional one (1) bonus point, or the bonus point will be halved if tied. Bonus points are added to the winning team's total Gross and Net points. The Teams accruing the highest cumulative total of Gross or Net points will be declared the Division Winners. Those teams will advance and compete for the Area Gross or Net Titles.

**MATCH RESULTS** Weekly Division Results will be emailed to the Team Chair on the day of play, and will be posted on the WPLGASC website once all results have been received and verified. Matches are final once emailed/posted. A COPY OF THE SIGNED RESULTS FORM WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE EMAIL TO CONFIRM PLAYER PARTICIPATION POINTS.

**TEAM GROSS AND NET WINNERS** In the event a team wins both Gross and Net in their Division, that team will go forward to compete in the Area Gross Final. Second place Net will compete in the Area Net Finals.

**RESOLVING DIVISION TIES** In the case of a Gross or Net tie in a Division, the Team's Total Score (match + bonus points) for the last match played will determine the Division winner. If still tied, the second to the last match Team Scores will be used. This method is repeated until a winner is determined. The WPLGASC Team Chair will notify the teams of the result.

**AREA TITLES (Finals)** Similar to the Division Team Play season, WPLGASC will notify Gross and Net Division Winners of their designated competition course and competition dates, and will supply Course Handicap Tables for the finals matches. Team Rosters and Player Handicap Indexes remain the same for finals matches.

**RESOLVING AREA TIES (Finals)** In the event of a tie for the Area Title, the match for those Teams is extended. All four Sides will continue in a hole-by-hole play-off, until there is a winner. The accumulated hole-by-hole Team Point Total will determine the Area Winner. Area Net extra holes, handicap strokes are given by hole in the same way as the 18-hole round.

**AREA TITLE RESULTS** Results of the Area Title matches are final when the Winners are posted by the Team Chair.

## TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

### BEFORE THE START OF THE MATCH PLAY SEASON

Each Captain will receive one (1) Official Team Roster validated by the Team Committee with Team players listed in handicap order based on their January 1, 2026, Handicap Index. Captains will also receive a Team Play Schedule, Course Handicap Conversion Table for the course(s) where their matches will be played, Local Rules and Terms of Competition and a document describing major differences in Rules between Match Play and Stroke Play.

Once assignments and schedules are received the Team Captains should:

1. Become familiar with **USGA Rules 3.2 and 6.4a Match Play** and **Rule 23 Four Ball (Match Play)**
2. Schedule and conduct a Team Meeting or meet with players individually to:
  - Review the Team Play Format and unique rules of Team Play.
  - Review Match Play Scoring, how points are won and the use of scorecards.
  - Explain how certain Rules and Penalties are different in Match Play than in Stroke Play.
  - Advise players how golf course green fees will be paid (individually or collected for single payment)
3. Explain how *Participation Points* will be awarded to the players (new allocation starting this year)
  - One point for each Match played, to a maximum of 4 points
  - No points for being on the Roster without playing in a Match
4. Schedule Practice Rounds at the Team Captain's discretion.

NOTE: Additional Rules/Procedures documents will be provided in a subsequent emailing prior to the start of play

## **PRIOR TO MATCHES:**

1. Establish the 8 player / 4 Side line-up. Players must be listed and play in Course Handicap order, from lowest to highest Course Handicap. Use the Course Handicap Table for your competition course(s) to determine playing handicaps. **If the Handicap Indexes of more than one player on a team are calculated to the same Course Handicap, the Team Captain may determine their order of position on the team's line-up.**
2. Team Captains may exchange Team Line-ups (8 players / 4 sides) for planning purposes at any time prior to the start of the match (usually 2-3 days in advance). However, Team Line-ups are not final until 30 minutes prior to the start of the first scheduled Team Match.
3. Prepare and provide scorecards to assist the players with the tracking of Gross and Net points won during a match. Handicap strokes for each match are based on the lowest Course Handicap of the foursome in each match. In each four-ball match, the lowest handicap player will play at scratch and each of the other three players in the group will receive the full difference in strokes as they fall on the scorecard.
4. A Team Captain who is not present for all or any part of a match must appoint a Co-Captain or Acting Team Captain from the team's Roster to represent her. Be certain the representative has the Official Roster.

## **DAY OF MATCHES**

1. **Arrive Early:** Be at the Golf Course at least 45 minutes prior to the first scheduled Tee Time.
2. **Pay Green Fees:** For single green fee payments, the Team Captain or a designated player presents a list of the club's team players in order of start time to the Course Starter and pays golf course green fees for all players in one transaction.
3. **Exchange Team Roster:** On the day of the match, Captains exchange Rosters and verify player Handicap Indexes and Course Handicaps for that day's line-up.
4. **Declare Final Line Up** of players 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled tee-time, even if Captains have previously exchanged Team line-ups. **NO CHANGES** are permitted once the final line-up is declared.
5. **Ensure Handicap order criteria is met:** All Player(s) and Side(s) must play in Course Handicap order. If a player is determined to have played out of order and it is discovered before the result of a match is final, the Team in violation will forfeit points won during the match by the Side with a player who played out of order **OR** the Team will be disqualified, losing all 18 holes with all Gross, Net and Bonus Points awarded to the opponents. If a player is determined to have played out of order and it is discovered after the result of a match is final, the result of the match will stand, provided the player was not positioned out of order purposefully. If a team knowingly plays an ineligible player or positions a player out of handicap order, the Team in violation will forfeit points won during the match by the side with an ineligible player or player positioned out of order **AND** be disqualified for further participation in the Team Play Competition. There is no time limit on enforcing this penalty.
6. **Finalize and Distribute Scorecards:** Scorecards should reflect Players' names for each Side along with their course handicaps and starting time.
7. **Distribute Notice to Players:** If applicable, WPLGASC may issue updates pertaining to that day's course playing conditions and any related Local Rules. Distribute copies to your players prior to play.
8. **Determine Honors:** Prior to matches, the Team Captains will toss a coin to determine which team has the "honor" to tee off first on the first hole.
9. **Escalate any *unresolved* Player "Requests for Rulings"** under Rule 20.1b(2) to the WPLGASC Team Committee for resolution. (*Request for Ruling* procedures will be provided in a subsequent emailing.)
10. Ensure all Team Players post individual match play scores as Away scores immediately following play. **Deliver Team Play scorecards to Club Handicap Chair with instructions to confirm Team Play scores have been posted.**
11. Notify the Team Chair of any Holes-In-One made by a team member during a team match.
12. **Match Results:** Following weekly Team competitions, one Captain will email the Match Results to the Team Chair. Please see the Team Play Results Instructions for information to include in the Match Results email. **INCLUDE THE SIGNED RESULTS SHEET AS AN ATTACHMENT FOR ALLOCATION OF PARTICIPATION POINTS.**

## TEAM PLAY COMPETITION CLARIFICATIONS

1. A Side in which either partner declares a higher handicap than allowed under Rule 3.2c(1) will be disqualified forfeiting all 18 Gross and Net hole points and any Bonus points. The opposing Side will receive all points for that match. Conversely, if a match has started with a player declaring a lower handicap than entitled, that match will stand as played. Again, player line ups must be listed in low to high course handicap order. Rule 3.2c(1)
2. A minimum of four (4) players from a team are required to begin play of all matches, with one (1) player representing a Side. A Side may be represented by one (1) partner for all or any part of a match. Both partners do not need to be present. An absent partner may join a match between holes, but not during play of a hole. No Team shall begin play with fewer than four (4) players representing four (4) Sides.
3. The Side(s) playing short is assigned by the Team Captain. Any one of the four (4) Sides may play short, but each Side must be represented when the match begins. Course Handicaps must remain in low-to high order should this occur.  
**Note: The handicap strokes are calculated as if all four Players are present and will still be played off the low player's handicap, even if that player is absent (Rule 23, Clarification 23.4/1).** A Side may be represented by one partner for all or any part of a match; all partners need not be present.

## TEAM WITHDRAWS / FAILURE TO COMPETE

1. Should a Team withdraw after January 1, 2026 the club may be liable for all green fees for the course the Team was scheduled to play. Withdrawing a team causes hardship for all teams in a Division and the golf course facilities.
2. If your Team roster dwindles and you are concerned about withdrawing, remember you may compete with as few as 4 players. The inability to field a full team is not an acceptable reason for forfeiture.
3. At the discretion of the Team Committee and the WPLGASC Board of Directors, any Team that withdraws from Team Play after the Official Rosters have been validated, those clubs may be subject to financial penalties as described above and may result in the team's ineligibility for the following Team Play season.
4. If a Team forfeits any or all the Division Matches, the penalty will be disqualification for the remainder of the matches. All points earned by the withdrawing Team will be forfeited. Further, the withdrawing Team will be subject to all contracted green and cart fees, if charged by the course.
5. If a Team fails to compete in the Area Final Match, that Team will be subject to those green and cart fees, if charged by the course.

### Direct all Questions to the Team Play Committee

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***All decisions of the WPLGASC Team Play Committee will be final and will be communicated to the Team Captains involved.***