



TEAM PLAY

Lowcountry Association

Standing Rules

I. General

- A. The Standing Rules shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- B. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Division Chair for each Division. The Division Chair is responsible for all aspects of the team matches within her Division.
- C. Each member club shall appoint a Team Captain. When a club has two or three teams, a Team Captain may be appointed for each team. Team Captains are the liaison between the Association and their clubs.
- D. The Board may appoint people to assist as deemed necessary.

II. Divisions

- A. The teams belonging to the association will be divided into Divisions.
- B. Teams are listed in order of final standings from the previous season for the purpose of creating match pairings.
- C. A team may advance to a higher Division by winning its Division. A team in last place will move down one Division. The last place team in Division 6 will move to the bottom of the wait list and the first wait listed team will move into Division 6. If no wait list exists, the last place team in Division 6 will remain in Division 6.
- D. Teams will be placed on the wait list as follows:
 1. If a new team - as of the date a written request is received by the General Chair, in accordance with Section VIII. Application for New Team.
 2. Division 6 last place team - on the date of the Division 6 last place finisher's final match.
 3. Team requesting reinstatement – A team requesting reinstatement will be added to the waitlist as of the date the General Chair receives the request. If the request is made during an active Team Match Season, the effective waitlist date will be one day after the Division 6 last-place team is determined. If multiple requests are received during the same Season, priority will be based on the order received. Requests submitted after the Season ends will be added to the bottom of the waitlist upon Board approval.
- E. A plaque for each Division inscribed with the winning teams' name will be presented to the winning team at the Annual Meeting and retained by the winning club for one year.

III. Format for Teams

- A. There shall be six players on a team, which is comprised of three pairings of two players each, in order as listed on the Team Roster.
- B. Players must be positioned in ascending order of their USGA Handicap Index as of the December 15 handicap revision. Players with the same index may be listed at the Captain's discretion, but they must play in that same sequence throughout the season. Captains must list players in rank order on Scoring Summary Sheet on Play Day, as ranked on the Team Roster, or be subject to penalties (Rule X.E.).
- C. The first pairing will be the first and second lowest handicapped players; the second pairing will be the third and fourth lowest handicapped players and the third pairing will be the fifth and sixth lowest handicapped players.
- D. A team's players may change from match to match, but the six players for any team must play in order as listed on the official team roster.
- E. The minimum number of players to comprise a team on a given day is three. (See Rule X. Defaults and Penalties)
- F. There is a limit of three teams per club.
- G. No player may play more than 6 matches scheduled in one season.
- H. Substitutions
 1. Substitutions for vacant positions are filled with the next listed lowest handicapped player with all subsequent players moving up in position to fill the voids.
 2. When a club has multiple teams, players will move up in position, according to ascending handicap index, to fill the voids in upper teams. Subsequent vacancies will be filled from the list of substitute players according to ascending handicap index.
 3. If a void is created as a result, the last position on the lowest team (highest handicapped) will play short.

IV. Format for Matches

- A. Matches will be played under the rules of Four-Ball Match Play (Rule 23 USGA The Rules of Golf).

- B. Matches will be played without handicap strokes.
- C. Matches will be played from the tees designated by the host club, not to exceed 5400 yards. The host captain will determine the yardages for each hole and provide a corresponding scorecard that includes the slope and rating.
- D. Each match shall be worth 18 points, one point per hole. If a hole is tied, each team will receive one-half point.
- E. USGA approved Distance Measuring Devices will be permitted. Sharing these devices with teammates and opponents is permissible.
- F. Use of riding carts is required.

V. Slow Play

- A. A round should be completed in 4½ hours; slow play will be penalized.
- B. The host team must always monitor pace of play with at least two rangers on the course – at least 1 ranger on the front and 1 on the back.
- C. Rangers have the authority to instruct players to maintain pace with the group ahead or speed up play if the group is out of position.
- D. Warned players may be asked to skip a hole, earning ½ point per team, if:
 - 1. At least 1 ½ holes are open ahead; and
 - 2. Players behind are waiting. Play resumes on the following hole.

VI. Dates for Team Matches

- A. The Board of Directors shall set the Team Match Season. The “Season” is that period within a given year during which the team matches are played.
- B. The team matches will be played on the assigned date unless changed by the Board of Directors.
- C. The specific dates of the matches will be determined as follows:
 - 1. Each team Captain will secure two dates from her club by May 15 of the year preceding the matches.
 - 2. The Club Pro or a Club Officer must confirm these dates in writing.
 - 3. A member of the Board will make a calendar for all divisions, trying to schedule so that no division will be scheduled for more than 2 play dates and 1 rain date or 2 rain dates and 1 play date per week.
- D. The General Chair will call a meeting of all Team Captains prior to the season, usually the 2nd week in January.
- E. The Annual Meeting and Luncheon for all players in all divisions will be scheduled after the conclusion of matches.

VII. Eligibility Standards

- A. Individual Players:
 - 1. To be eligible to play in team matches, a player must:
 - a) Be an annual (i.e. 12 month) golf member of the club or
 - b) Be a property owner in the respective community and be a resident of Beaufort or Jasper County for a minimum of 6 months.
 - 2. Reach age 25 by the date of roster submission deadline.
 - 3. Pay a handicap fee and have a USGA Handicap Index at the club.
 - 4. A member having multiple club memberships among the LCTP clubs may be listed and play for one club only.
 - 5. Each member club may impose further eligibility requirements.
 - 6. A player who joins a club during the Season and meets eligibility requirements may be added mid-season, provided the General Chair and Division Chair are notified before her first match and the team’s roster does not exceed 40 players. Before competing, the Division and General Chairs must receive an updated roster and a USGA Handicap Index report (dated December 15 of the preceding year) from the players’ previous club.
 - 7. No player may be added to a Team Roster after the submission deadline has passed, except as in Rule VII. 6. above.
 - 8. The Team Captains must monitor eligibility.
- B. Teams
 - 1. Each member club must ensure that its club will grant tee times during the Season.
 - 2. For clubs with ONE team, there must be a minimum of 10 players (a maximum of 40) listed on the roster.
 - 3. For clubs with two or three teams, there must be a minimum of 20 players (a maximum of 40) listed on the roster.
 - 4. The first six players listed on the roster will comprise Team I, the next six listed players comprise Team II and the next six listed players comprise Team III. The six players comprising Team I are not eligible to play on Team II or III and the second six listed players are not eligible to compete on Team III.
 - 5. For clubs with two teams in the same division, Team I hosts at home and plays at a neutral site, and Team II hosts at a neutral site and plays at home.

VIII. Application for New Teams

- A. Clubs requesting membership in the organization must submit a written letter (email is acceptable) by June 30th of

the preceding year. Acceptance shall depend upon available openings, fulfillment of eligibility standards, and a review of their Course Reservation Contract, which includes the tournament fee. Approval requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Any new team approved by the Board would be seeded on the wait list in the manner described in Section II. D. or the last Division if no wait list exists.

- B. A club wishing to enter an additional team must apply as listed above (Rule VIII.A.)
- C. A team that withdraws their membership after June 30th and requests reinstatement will be placed at the bottom of the wait list in the manner described in Section II.D.3.

IX. Ties

- A. If teams are tied within their Division at the end of the Season, ties will be resolved as follows:
 - 1. First Place Ties:
 - a) Head-to-head results among tied teams.
 - b) If still tied, compare results against the next highest-placed team (e.g., 3rd place), continuing downward until resolved.
 - 2. Second-Fifth Place Ties:
 - a) Head-to-head results among tied teams.
 - b) If still tied, compare results against progressively lower-placed teams (e.g. 4th for 2nd place ties, 5th for 3rd place ties, etc.)
 - c) If still unresolved, compare results against higher-placed teams, starting with 1st place, continuing as needed.
 - 3. Sixth-Seventh Place ties:
 - a) Head-to-head results among tied team.
 - b) If still tied, compare results against higher-placed teams, starting with 1st place, continuing as needed.
- B. A team must field a minimum of three players per match. One player must play in each pairing/position. If a team cannot field three players for one match, they will be disqualified for the remainder of the season. A team failing to field at least 5 players for two matches will be disqualified for the remainder of the season. Disqualified teams and their opponents will forfeit all points previously won.
- C. If a team fields fewer than six players, they must fill positions in order, having at least one person in each pairing (i.e. 5 players – 2 in position 1, 2 in position 2, 1 in position 3; 4 players - 2 in position 1, 1 in position 2, 1 in position 3; 3 players – one player in each position).
- D. A team that is disqualified may apply for reinstatement the following season. The team will be placed at the bottom of the waitlist in the manner described in Section II.D.3., if a wait list exists, and will re-enter at the bottom of the last division when space is available.
- E. A team fielding players out of order from the team roster will be penalized. The penalty will be the forfeiture of all points the pairing won during the match. The forfeited points will not be awarded to the opponent. The Board will review any other circumstances.
- F. If a player plays more than 6 matches in a season, the points earned by the player's pairing in any match after her 6th match will be forfeited but not awarded to the opponent.

X. Inclement Weather

- A. Matches may be canceled if the course is deemed unplayable by the host club.
- B. The host club Captain should notify the following people of a match cancellation – Division Team Captains, the General Chair, the Division Chair, and the board member responsible for scoring as early as possible, either the day before or by 7 a.m. on the morning of play. This notification shall be sent by e-mail or text and must be confirmed by the other Captains. If no confirmation is received within 15 minutes, Host Captain must make phone calls.
- C. Team Captains are responsible for notifying their players of cancellations or delays.
- D. If there is an electrical storm or other severe weather during play, the matches may be delayed or cancelled, as determined by the Host Team Captain and the Club Pro. If the match is delayed, play must be resumed within 90 minutes, or the match is deemed cancelled.
- E. If play is suspended after matches have begun, it shall be resumed from where it was discontinued only if resumption occurs on the same day.
- F. If play is suspended after matches have started: only those matches that have been completed shall count. All others shall be played on the same course on the scheduled rain date starting over from the first hole as a new match. Teams do not have to send the same players as in the suspended match, but players who finished their matches may not play again and other players must play in order as listed on the team roster.
- G. If the play date and the rain date are both cancelled, opposing teams will halve the points (9-9). Match results will stand for those teams completing their matches on the rain date. Those teams unable to complete their matches on the rain date, will count their scores on the completed holes, and halve the remaining holes.

XI. Late Arrivals and Playing Short of a Full Team

- A. If a club has a full team scheduled and expected to play, but one player is late for the tee time, the remaining player in that pairing must tee off on time alone. The late player may join her team member upon arrival.
- B. If both players in a position are late, an interpretation of USGA Rule 5.3 will apply. A grace time of five minutes will be allowed.
- C. After the five-minute grace period is past, and both players are still absent, the opposing team shall begin play. The late players may be allowed to join the match as soon as possible; however, they will lose points for all the missed holes. The Board may review any exceptional circumstances causing the late arrival. The late players must have notified the host pro shop for such consideration.
- D. The opposing position players must be present on the course to receive any points forfeited due to late arrivals.

XII. Dues, Tournament Fees, Annual Meeting, and Luncheon Costs

- A. Dues shall be set by the Board of Directors.
- B. Dues for each team shall be collected by the Team Captain at her discretion. Each Team Captain shall reserve a prescribed amount for the bag handlers at her club and then submit the balance to the Treasurer.
- C. Money collected for tips and not given to bag handlers should be sent to the Treasurer for charitable donations.
- D. The Board of Directors will provide an annual recommended tournament fee to the Team Captains by email prior to April 1. Upon receipt of the completed Course Reservation Contracts, the Board of Directors will review submitted tournament fees. The Board, at its discretion, will approve/disapprove each Club's submitted tournament fees. Clubs exceeding the recommended fees will be notified and asked to resubmit their Course Reservation Contract. A Club may be asked by the Board to withdraw from team play if an acceptable tournament fee is not submitted.
- E. The Team Captain is responsible for reporting the number of players attending the Annual Meeting and Luncheon and submitting additional fees should attendees exceed the number allocated by the annual dues.

XIII. Division Chair and Team Captain Responsibilities

- A. Follow the guidelines for Division Chair Responsibilities and Team Captain Responsibilities in the Rules and Responsibilities section of the website.

XIV. Player Responsibilities

- A. Players will follow the established USGA Player Code of Conduct during play, on and off the course. All infractions will be reviewed by the Board on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Every player is responsible for posting their individual scores following the USGA match play guidelines in determining the most likely score one would have earned on each hole not finished. Scores should be posted as Away scores. Players should note the tees played each match.

Rev. October 31, 2025, add Section XV. Player Responsibilities

Rev. August 8, 2018, update Eligibility Standards

Rev. Dec. 12, 2018, update USGA Rule Reference numbers

Rev. July 10, 2019, update for three teams

Rev. Dec. 7, 2021, explanation of penalty for 6+ plays X.F., & Dec 15 Handicap Revision Date

Rev. March 31, 2022, update Inclement Weather

Rev. November 7, 2022, update Eligibility Standards

Rev. November 20, 2022, update Eligibility Standards

Rev. March 02, 2023, update Eligibility Standards

Rev. Dec. 7, 2024, update Slow Play, Defaults/Penalties, Late Arrivals/Playing Short

Rev. March 28, 2025, update V. Slow Play C. and XI. Inclement Weather D.

Rev. May 21, 2025, update II. Divisions C., VIII. Applications for New Teams A., XI. Inclement Weather B. and F., and XIII. Dues, Tournament Fees, Annual Meeting, and Luncheon Costs D.

Rev. April 8, 2026, update II. Divisions D. 1-3, V. Slow Play, A. – D., VII. Eligibility Standards, A. 6-7., VIII. Application for New Teams, C., IX. Ties, A. 1 – 3 & D., and XIV. Player Responsibilities, A. – B.