

Ladies, the snow has finally melted, and I look forward to beginning our 2026 ARFAX season! We have 19 clubs participating and currently 412 members are signed up for this year. But ... there is still time to join ARFAX and play in the Cup and Special Tournaments.

We are excited to kick things off with our Icebreaker Tournament at River Creek on March 18th. Registration is now open and closes on March 11th.

Team Match Play begins on April 8th. We have 17 Clubs participating in 5 Divisions. The first 4 Divisions have 6-lady teams, and the 5th Division is a 4-lady team division. Match play will end approximately mid-May, depending on if any rain dates are used. A friendly reminder - tipping of host club staff assisting with golf bags to and from cars is not included in our team match play budget so we suggest that you compensate them as you do at your own club.

We are pleased to tell you that we will hold two Zoom seminars on the Rules of Golf with specific emphasis on Stroke and Match play. The sessions will be held in mid-to-late March and will be approximately one hour in length. An email will be sent out to all of you shortly giving the details and dates. We hope that you will take this opportunity to watch one of these seminars.

Ladies, for several years we have worked hard to keep our tournament entry fees from rising despite inflation going up every year. This year, however, we have made the decision that we must raise them. At our February Executive Committee meeting, our Delegates voted to increase the cost of our Special Tournaments from \$90 to \$110 per player. This increase was driven mainly by two factors. Firstly, most, if not all the Clubs are making the decision to increase their cart fee to \$40 this season for leagues playing at their clubs. Secondly, Fairfax County has just implemented a new 4% Food and Beverage Tax on all prepared food and drinks. The increased entry fee will cover these additional costs.

As we begin our new season, we hope that you will visit our ARFAX website frequently as it is an excellent resource. It includes all the upcoming tournaments, the results for match play, cups and special tournaments, our Bylaws and Rules, our Code of Conduct and much more. Please take this opportunity to peruse the site at www.arfaxgolf.org

I'd also like to remind everyone that we need to be respectful of each other. In recent years, the USGA has placed greater emphasis on the expected standards for player conduct. It has declared that "players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by acting with integrity and showing consideration to others." As a result, ARFAX instituted a Code of Conduct in 2024 with guidance for all members to follow.

Lastly, I look forward to making new friends this season! This is what ARFAX is all about. Scores fade and trophies are forgotten. Golf is about the friends we make along the way.

Peggy Cifrino

President, ARFAX