



## 2017 OGA Women's Interclub Play (WIP)

### STRUCTURE

#### DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

The OGA's mission is to develop and promote the game of golf in the markets that they serve. Specifically, the OGA is excited to offer a program that will promote the growth and sustainability of women's golf and all its benefits. The OGA Women's Interclub Play ("WIP") program will be a Women's only interclub four-ball match play competition that will span a designated season within geographic regions served by the Oregon Golf Association. Regions will encompass two divisions of teams that will compete amongst their division playing for points. At the end of the Regular Play season, the division point winners will compete for Regional Champions. Regional Champions will compete to crown an OGA Women's Interclub Champion Team.

#### OGA WOMEN'S INTERCLUB PLAY STRUCTURE

The OGA WIP program will encompass the following:

**OGA Championship Department** - The Interclub Play program is a product of the Oregon Golf Association. It is not a separate entity and thus has no Constitution, Bylaws or financial holdings that are specific to the Interclub Play program. That said, the OGA will provide a staff resource to facilitate much of the operation, financial management and policy of the program and will maintain this document which will guide the policies and procedures included in the program. OGA reserves all rights to determine the viability of the program and has ultimate decision making authority in continuing, discontinuing, modifying, expanding or contracting the program as it deems appropriate.

**OGA Tournament Committee** - The OGA maintains a Tournament Committee that advises and guides tournament activities conducted by the OGA. In addition, the OGA Tournament Committee reviews and recommends action in circumstances of disciplinary action or sanctions. This Committee will be the ultimate review board of any material issues suggesting disciplinary action advanced by the WIP Steering Committee and may be the forum for material changes to the initial program.

**Women's Interclub Play Steering Committee** - The program will enlist and maintain a Steering Committee of at least 5 members for the purpose of establishing and advising on policy matters, disciplinary issues, operations execution and communication. Each steering committee member is at the invitation of the OGA and must be a member of a WIP participating club or a prospect or 'region'. The OGA will endeavor to fill committee positions that represent the variety of geographic regions and

club types (public, private, associate). The Women's Interclub Chair will be a member of the OGA Executive Committee or Tournament Committee.

**Women's Interclub Play Rules Committee** - The program will include a standing Committee for the purpose of establishing and enforcing the Rules and hearing any protests, complaints and claims. This Committee will consist of one OGA representative, the Chairwoman of the WIP program, and one certified Rules Official selected by the Steering Committee.

**Women's Interclub Play Team Captains** - Each participating team will select a Team Captain. The responsibilities of Team Captains are outlined in the section titled Team Captain Responsibilities.

## **CLUB ELIGIBILITY**

Clubs must be an OGA Member licensed club in good standing. Clubs must be in compliance with the Handicap certification program.

**One Team per Club.** Clubs may only enter one team. 36 hole facilities may submit two teams but acceptance of more than one team will be at the discretion of the WIP Steering Committee.

**Combining Clubs.** If two clubs do not have enough players to reliably fill a team, they may combine. However, this must be done and declared before the season begins or at a date established by the WIP Steering Committee. If two clubs combine they MUST declare ONE Team Captain for purposes of communication and conducting the responsibilities of the combined team. A club may not combine with more than one other club.

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- Players must be an amateur in good standing and must have an established index with the club she wishes to represent as of May 1, 2017 and throughout the Interclub Team Play Season.
- Players must be in good standing with the club she wishes to represent as of her date of declaration and throughout the Interclub Team Play Season. Declaration shall be determined by the date the Team Captain first lists the players on the team's roster.
- All players must be at least 18 years of age prior to start of a match.
- Handicap strokes will be determined by using the player's most current Handicap Index.
- Players may declare and compete for only one team in a Region during an Interclub Team Play season, provided they meet all the requirements stated in this paragraph. **Penalty for playing for two teams:** the player is disqualified for the Interclub Team Play season from both teams and the player and team in violation shall forfeit individual and team points won during the match(es) by the player(s) to the opponent(s). Multiple infractions of this section by a single team could result in disqualification (default) of all unplayed matches for the season and subject to review by the OGA Tournament Committee for future eligibility.

## **DEFINITION OF A TEAM**

- Each Team will consist of six (6) players for each match play day (3 teams of 2 players).
- Players must be registered by the Team Captain on the Team's roster. There is no permanent roster required for each team and no limit as to the number of players who may be used during the regular season.
- Playoffs are not regular season games and must comprise players that were on the regular season roster and played at least one regular season match. If a team plays with an unauthorized player in a playoff, that team shall be disqualified.
- If a team has fewer than 6 players, the team playing short of players shall be formed at the discretion of the Team Captain, with the stipulation that 1 match must be played. If a team is unable to field at least 1 player, it will be considered a forfeit. Teams short of players may play with fewer than 6 players by playing a one-woman team against the opponent's two-woman team. The one-woman team may be placed in any position in the line-up, as long as she is in proper handicap sequence. If any team forfeits a match, that team will not be allowed to play WIP for the remainder of the year and will be sanctioned from playing the following year. The WIP Steering Committee will determine the best way to handle any points that some of the teams might have already won against the forfeiting Team.

## **ESTABLISHING REGIONS AND DIVISIONS**

- **Regions:** Regions will be established by the OGA shortly after entries close. Regions will be grouped primarily by location.
- **Divisions:** Each Region will consist of Divisions and will contain teams which will compete against each other during the regular season. Each team will play every team in their Division once, except Division 3. Regions will be grouped by location, similarity or other criteria established by the Steering Committee. Divisions will be determined by previous year end total points results with no regard to subjective criteria. Any new teams will be added to divisions at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

## **SCHEDULE**

The WIP Schedule will be determined and posted on the OGA website and communicated to all Team Captains. See 2017 OGA Women's Interclub Play Season Schedule and Fees document.

## **HANDICAPS, PAIRINGS AND LAST MINUTE CHANGES**

- **Handicap Committee:** The club's Handicap Committee must ensure that all member scores are being posted in compliance with the USGA Handicap System, including peer review. The Handicap Committee should make certain that individuals whose indexes do not properly match their playing potential are dealt with at the club level before the OGA must get involved. All clubs are reminded that it is within the purview of the club's Handicap Committee to modify the index of a player who fails to turn in proper scores or a player whose index is not reflective of her current playing potential.
- **Handicaps:** All players must play to a 95% course handicap of their current handicap index of record. The maximum index allowed is 40.4. A player's handicap index can be found:

- In the Club's GHIN Handicap Program Management software
- Online at [www.ghin.com](http://www.ghin.com) by running a handicap lookup
- **Handicap Reductions:** If a player's handicap is reduced by the OGA Interclub Team Play Steering or Rules Committee, it is the responsibility of the Team Captain to ensure that the correct handicap is used at each match.
- **Handicap Strokes:** In the 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 score card.
  - Handicaps in the four-ball match will still be played off the low player's handicap, even if that player is absent (USGA Decision 30-3a/3). If a partner joins on a later hole she **must** maintain handicap sequence. A side may be represented by one partner for all or any part of a match; all partners need not be present. An absent partner may join a match between holes, but not during play of a hole. (USGA Rule 30-3a).
  - In all matches, the allocation of handicap strokes will be listed on the score card, regardless of start hole.
  - In accordance with USGA Rule 6-2a, before the start of each match it is the responsibility of each individual player to ensure that her 95% correct course handicap is based on her current handicap index is being used for the competition and inform her opponent of the holes at which strokes are given or taken.
  - Penalty for playing to an incorrect handicap: If a player begins a match having declared a handicap (this includes an incorrect handicap listed on the match scorecard issued by the club or Team Captain) higher than that to which she was entitled and it affects the number of strokes given or received, she is disqualified; otherwise, the player must play off the declared handicap.
- **Pairings and Last Minute Changes:**
  - **Pairings:** During all Team matches (including the playoffs), players for each club must be paired in lowest handicap sequence from low to high, including the two-person teams, with the lowest-handicapped player listed first. (Example: the two lowest-handicapped players must be paired together and play as Team #1, the next two as Team #2, etc.)
  - **Last Minute Pairing Changes:** During the regular season and playoffs, players should be placed such that correct course handicap order is maintained. In the event that a last minute change would result in an improper sequence, the out of sequence player must play with a handicap that is in proper sequence. A player with a higher course handicap cannot substitute for a player with a lower handicap and play at her own course handicap. Instead the player must adjust her handicap down to fit the correct sequence. For example, a player with a handicap of 10 cannot be placed between players with handicaps of 6 and 8. The player would be required to play with a handicap of 7. However, if time permits, the pairings should be adjusted.
  - **Failure to Comply with Pairing Procedure:** If players are not paired in lowest handicap sequence according to the procedures outlined above, or, if a player should play with an improper handicap, the team in violation shall forfeit all individual and/or team four-ball match points won during the match by the player(s).

## TYPE OF COMPETITION AND SCORING

**Four-Ball Matches:** A's number one, two-person team plays B's number one, two-person team in an 18-hole, four-ball match with the GROSS winner being awarded ONE point and the NET winner being awarded ONE point for the first nine holes, the second nine holes and overall 18 holes. One-half overall point is awarded to each team when one wins Gross and one wins Net. In the event of a tie match, one-half point is awarded to each team. On regular Match Play days there will be a maximum of 18 points that can be won by a team.

## DETERMINING DIVISION WINNERS

- Division winners will be determined by the team with the highest team points.
- In the event of a tie between two teams with identical team points, the Division winner will be determined as the team with the most match points earned between the two tied teams in their matches against each other during the regular season. If a tie still exists, refer to the last bullet point.
- In the event of a tie between three teams with identical team points, the group winner will be the team with the most match points earned in its combined matches with the other two teams during the regular season. If a tie still exists between two teams, the third team is eliminated and the tie between the two remaining teams shall be decided by the above bullet point, based on match points between those two teams. If three teams remain tied, refer to the second to the last bullet point.
- In the event of a tie between four teams with identical team points, please refer to the second to the last bullet point.
- In the event a tie still exists after following procedures set forth in the above bullet points, the second tiebreaker will be the combined match points earned in all regular season matches played by each of the tied teams, with the team with the most points being declared the winner.
- If two or more teams remain tied after following those procedures set forth, the winner of the group will be determined by a coin flip between the then remaining tied teams.

## WIP CHAMPIONSHIP

- **Format:** Division Champion Teams will compete and play matches against each division winner.
- **Eligibility:** Each Gross, Net and Overall Division Championship Team will advance to the WIP Championship. Eight (8) team members from each team will compete and all eight players must have competed in a minimum of one match.
- **Rosters:** A completed entry form must accompany a Team roster and MUST be submitted before the deadline. An incomplete roster or not submitting an entry form by the deadline will result in forfeiture of the Team's spot at the Championship.