

MINNESOTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

Tournament Player's Information

If you plan to participate in a tournament sponsored by the Minnesota Golf Association, it is important that you read the following information. It is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations concerning participation in MGA events.

CONDITIONS OF PLAY: The Minnesota Golf Association reserves the right to decline any entry. Any person whose entry is accepted shall be subject to the rules and conditions of play set forth by the MGA. The MGA reserves the right to shorten any competition due to weather or other conditions warranting such action. Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct, as written in the MGA Conduct Policy stated below, will be cause for removal from a tournament. NOTE: The MGA will not make any provisions for a player asking for special consideration due to other commitments.

MGA CONDUCT POLICY: By submitting an entry, or by participating in any MGA competition, the player understands that his/her participation is at the sole discretion of the MGA. The player's entry may be rejected for any event, at the discretion of the Official in Charge, at any time before the close of the competition (as defined in the USGA Rules of Golf Book-Rule 34-1b). Likewise, the player's entry may be rejected, at the discretion of the Committee for reasons deemed necessary, at any time after the close of the competition. Unbecoming conduct or actions at any MGA event, or state, national, or international event, or conduct or action deemed detrimental to the MGA, the spirit of the game, or to the host facilities are grounds for such rejection. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Cheating
2. Willful destruction of golf course or MGA property
3. Abusive language or conduct towards MGA and/or host facility, staff, volunteers, or other players
4. Abusive or derogatory criticism of the MGA and/or host facility staff, volunteers, or other players
5. Club throwing and/or physical endangerment of others
6. Offensive or excessively loud behavior
7. Alcohol and/or substance impaired behavior
8. Repeated withdrawals or no cards during or after completion of a round
9. Inappropriate golf attire
10. Other conduct deemed to be unbecoming

Should such an incident occur, the Official in Charge shall submit a report to the Tournament and Rules Committee. Future sanctions may range from suspension from future MGA events to not being eligible for MGA team competitions and/or player awards. This may include losing exempt status for future year(s). The decision to reject an entry during an event by the Official in Charge is final. However, any further sanctions imposed by the Tournament and Rules Committee may be appealed to a Tournament Players' Board. The decision of this board may be appealed to the MGA Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final.

TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY: Entries are open to amateur golfers who are currently Associate Members of the MGA at the club from which they are playing, whose club is a current member club of the MGA, and whose USGA Handicap Index for 18 holes does not exceed the limit set forth on the tournament application. All MGA tournaments, *except the Mid-Amateur*, may be entered at any time starting Thursday, April 1, 2010, provided the entry is received on or before the entry closing date and the field is not full. Any application that is received by the MGA prior to April 1 will be returned immediately. The closing dates are located on each individual application. The MGA does not accept entries by telephone, fax or e-mail. Late or incomplete entries are not acceptable and will be returned. Time limit for entries means time of receipt at the MGA (not time of postmark). Entries should be mailed early to allow ample time for delay or error in transmission. Entries with insufficient funds will be considered incomplete and unacceptable and will be withdrawn. The entrant is responsible for any fees incurred by the MGA for NSF checks and must pay such fees before entry in further MGA events is allowed.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS: Online registration is the preferred method of entry and is available for all events (except junior). If you choose to sign up online, you will be able to use the following credit cards: Visa®, MasterCard®, and Discover®.

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION: Information concerning course assignment, pairings, starting times, etc., will be posted as .pdf files on the MGA website approximately 7-14 days prior to the event. Players will receive an e-mail confirming such information has been posted. It is YOUR responsibility to get the information from the MGA website. PLEASE DO NOT CALL MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT!

E-MAIL: All Tournament Players with an active e-mail address on file will receive tournament correspondence via e-mail. You must have *Acrobat Reader* in order to open the attachments. You may download a free version of *Acrobat Reader* by visiting www.adobe.com.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES: Entry fees for all tournaments include GREEN FEES ONLY. Golf carts, when permitted, are at the player's expense.

QUALIFYING: The number of spots available at each qualifying site will be determined based on the number of entries received at the entry closing date for each event listed. The final number of spots will be available on the Notice to Competitors or Local Rules sheet.

HANDICAPS: Unless otherwise stated, the current index as of the Championship date is used to determine the player's course handicap for relevant tournaments. The MGA reserves the right to adjust a player's USGA Handicap Index prior to the start of the competition entered.

FOOTWEAR POLICY: The MGA will honor the footwear policy of all host clubs. The policy will be detailed in the Notice to Competitors sent to each player prior to an MGA event.

SCORE POSTING: According to handicap procedure guidelines, tournament scores recorded in *any* individual MGA stroke play competition and the Net Team Championship will be posted for handicapping purposes. Players *should not* post these scores individually.

WITHDRAWALS/NO SHOWS: Players who have applied to participate in an MGA event and wish to withdraw for any reason MUST notify the MGA Tournament office (952/345-3975 or by e-mail to tournaa@mngolf.org) prior to the event. If withdrawing on the day of the event, you must call the course you are assigned to play. Players who fail to follow this procedure will be listed as a NO SHOW. Repeated no shows by a player may result in the player's entry for future events being rejected.

15-STROKE RULE: The MGA expects all contestants in championship play to exhibit playing skills that are comparable with their peers. Thus, if a player repeatedly returns scores that are not within 15 strokes of the course rating, the MGA may reject the player's entry into future events. (Note: This is applicable to the following events: Qualifying for the Amateur, Players', Mid-Players', and Senior Players' Championships as well as the Senior and Mid-Amateur Championships proper.) The player will be notified in writing of his status and expected to prove his playing ability is consistent with the requirements of the MGA by submitting supporting evidence.

A player who withdraws during a round MUST return his official score card to the Official in Charge with an explanation; otherwise, the player will be listed as a NO CARD. Repeated NO CARDS may result in rejection of future applications.

REFUNDS: Entry fees will be refunded regardless of the reason, less a \$25 per player administrative fee, for any withdrawal up to the day before the event. A withdrawal after such time, or a no show, will not be eligible for any refund. The participant must submit a written request within 30 days of the event to obtain a refund.

PHOTOGRAPHIC/VIDEO: By submitting any application, the player agrees to allow the MGA to use the player's photographic/video image for any MGA media related use(s).

MGA DRESS CODE: For all MGA competitions, players and caddies must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing. All males are required to wear shirts with collars and sleeves, and either golf slacks or Bermuda shorts that measure no higher than two inches above their knees. Examples of attire NOT ACCEPTABLE include the following: short shorts, athletic shorts, tennis shorts, cut-offs, jeans, jean shorts, tank tops and t-shirts. The Official in Charge shall decide whether this requirement has been met and will withdraw the entry of a player who does not comply.

CELL PHONES/PAGERS: The use of audible telecommunications equipment is prohibited.

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES: The use of these devices is permitted in all MGA championships and qualifiers per the Local Rule found in Appendix I, Section B, #9.

SPECTATOR CARTS: When golf carts are permitted in an MGA/USGA event, their use is limited to transporting players and their clubs. SPECTATORS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING GOLF CARTS. Walking spectators always are welcome at MGA Championships.

WEATHER DELAYS: The MGA will make every effort to complete an event in its entirety. However, the MGA reserves the right to shorten an event as necessary if weather-related circumstances require such action.

In the case of a qualifying event, the MGA will make every effort to complete the event on the day scheduled. If the event is not able to be completed on the day scheduled, the event will be concluded on the following day or on the earliest agreeable day, pending the agreement with the host facility. In the unlikely event that the qualifying cannot be completed, the MGA reserves the right to shorten the event to nine holes. If the course is unplayable on a particular day, the MGA reserves the right to reschedule the event on a mutually agreeable day with the facility. If one is not available, the MGA will attempt to relocate to another facility. If this is the case, players will be given the option to withdraw and receive a full refund.

MGA NET TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP/KNUTH POINTS: All players' course handicaps for the Net Team Championship will be reviewed and may be reduced based upon past performances in the Championship by using a modified "Knuth Points" system.

Each player on a team finishing in the top 5 places will be assigned points based on their finish (see **Table A**). A player accumulating more than the allowable points for any time period listed in **Table B** below will have his/her tournament handicap reduced by the number of strokes according to **Table C** below. If a player exceeds the allowable points in two or more of the four time periods in **Table B**, he/she will receive the greater (greatest) of the reductions.

Table A: Maximum Points Allowed

1st 5 points per player
2nd 4 points per player
3rd 3 points per player
4th 2 points per player
5th 1 point per player

**Table B
Point Allocations**

7 points in 2 years
8 points in 3 years
9 points in 4 years
10 points in 5 years

**Table C
Reductions**

1 stroke = 1-2 points over maximum
1 stroke for every *additional* point over maximum