

MINNESOTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

Tournament Player's Information

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 breach of the Code of 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. In addition to incurring penalties under Rule 1.2 of the Rules of Golf (including disqualification) for a breach of the MGA Code of Conduct Policy, 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. 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.

Serious misconduct 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 and/or additional sanctions.

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. Failure to follow a request of the Committee pertaining to the use of a telecommunications device or the like
11. Other conduct treated as serious misconduct

Should an incident occur, the Official-in-Charge will submit a report to the Rules and Competitions Committee. If the Committee deems further action may be necessary, a Sub-Committee will be convened for the purpose of reviewing the incident and interviewing all involved individuals. The Sub-Committee will be made up of the MGA President, MGA Rules and Competitions Committee Chair, MGA Executive Director, MGA Director of Rules and Competitions (unless involved in the incident) and three (3) at-large members who are the peers of the player under review. The Sub-Committee will render a ruling that may include sanctions ranging from probation to suspension from future MGA events, to not being eligible for MGA team competitions and/or player awards. This also may include losing exempt status for future year(s).

If sanctions are imposed, the player has the right to appeal the decision to the MGA Executive Committee, whose decision is 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 may be entered at any time starting Monday, March 2, 2020, 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 March 2 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 submitted by mail 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. If you choose to sign up online, you will be able to use the following credit cards: Visa®, MasterCard®, Discover® and American Express®.

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION: Information concerning course assignment, pairings, starting times, etc., should be posted on the MGA website at least five (5) days prior to the event. An e-mail and text message confirming such information has been posted will be sent to all registered players with an email and/or cell phone on file. It is YOUR responsibility to get the information from the MGA website. PLEASE DO NOT CALL MORE THAN FIVE 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 will be directed to the appropriate website in order to view pertinent information.

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 and/or Local Rules sheet.

HANDICAP INDEX: 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.

WITHDRAWALS/NO SHOWS: Players who have applied to participate in an MGA event and wish to withdraw for any reason **MUST** do so 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. You may withdraw online, by calling the MGA Tournament Department – 952/345-3975 – or by email to tournaments@mngolf.org.

REFUNDS: Entry fees will be refunded regardless of the reason, less a \$25 per entry administrative fee, for any withdrawal up to and including 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 or email within 30 days of the event to obtain a refund.

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. However, scores from match play or any Four-Ball event **will not** be posted by the MGA and players are responsible for posting those scores.

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.

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 telecommunications equipment is prohibited during play. The MGA will honor the policies of the host club with regard to use of these devices. Players will be asked to stop if observed to be using it. Failure to follow the Committee's request may result in a penalty under the MGA Code of Conduct Policy.

SPECTATOR CARTS: When golf carts are permitted in an MGA/USGA event, their use is limited to transporting players and their clubs. Walking spectators always are welcome at MGA Championships. Spectators are prohibited from using golf carts unless they have been issued a Handicap Parking permit by the local authority.

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 or make a cut to the field as necessary to complete the event if weather-related circumstances require such action. In the event this occurs, no refunds will be issued.

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 eighteen holes 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 additional 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.

Players on teams 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 course 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 Place: 5 points per player
2nd Place: 4 points per player
3rd Place: 3 points per player
4th Place: 2 points per player
5th Place: 1 point per player

**Table B
Point Allocations**

7 points in 2 most previous events
8 points in 3 most previous events
9 points in 4 most previous events
10 points in 5 most previous events

**Table C
Reductions**

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