

2024 Policies & Procedures



Player Responsibilities – Rule 1.3b states, “Players are expected to recognize when they have breached a Rule and to be honest in applying their own penalties.” We strongly recommend all players study the *Rules of Golf*, examine the *WSGA Local Rules and Conditions of Competition for WSGA Tournaments and Championships* (Hard Card), and review this section prior to competing. Any player in a WSGA event may request and receive from the starter a copy of the WSGA Hard Card.

Tournament Committees – The WSGA Tournament Committees set policies and procedures for WSGA events. WSGA members are encouraged to contact the WSGA with comments and concerns about WSGA competitions.

WSGA Policies and Procedures –The policies described in this document apply to all WSGA Championships--both open and women’s events.

CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

Online Registration – To register for all WSGA events, register online at www.wyogolf.org. Entry fees will be charged to credit cards upon acceptance into an event. Players on a wait list for an event will not be charged until they are in the field.

General – Entry is open to any amateur golfer who is a current WSGA member. Entrants must have an active GHIN number through a WSGA member club, verifiable upon entry deadline. All players must conform to the Rules of Amateur Status.

General (Women’s Championships) - Entry is open to any female amateur golfer who is a current WSGA member. Entrants must have an active GHIN number through a WSGA member club, verifiable upon entry deadline. If transgender, comply with the USGA gender policy detailed [HERE](#).

Entries – All players, including exempt players, must apply for entry online at www.wyogolf.org. Player tee time information will be e-mailed prior to the tournament and posted on the WSGA website. All entries are accepted until the tournament closing date deadline. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the WSGA staff. Entries are subject to rejection at any time (including during the tournament) by the WSGA. Reasons for rejection may include a fraudulent entry, fraudulent handicap, unbecoming conduct, or dress code violations.

Over-Subscribed Field – WSGA events are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis using the original registration date unless otherwise indicated on the tournament’s information page. If an event is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be maintained in case of cancellation. Players on a waiting list for an event will not be charged until they are moved from the wait list into the field.

Under-Subscribed Field (Women’s Championships) - To ensure equal flights of eight and to avoid byes in the Match Play, players that have been accepted into the championship may be cut and will receive a full refund.

Students – High school or college golf team members should check with their coaches and/or their leagues governing body (WHSAA, NCAA, etc.) regarding participation and the effect, if any, on their eligibility. Handicaps – Handicap indexes will be verified as of the specified revision prior to the start of the championship to determine eligibility and handicaps to be used in the competition.

Handicaps (Women’s Championships) – The player must have an active USGA Handicap Index no higher than 40.0. Handicap indexes will be verified as of the specified revision prior to the start of the championship to determine eligibility and handicaps to be used in the competition. Provided the field is not full, players with handicap indexes higher than the specified limit may be accepted at the discretion of the WSGA. In this case, the handicap of the player exceeding the limit will be adjusted down to the maximum handicap index of that championship.

WSGA Age Requirements

Senior – A player must be 50 years of age or older as of the first day of a tournament. For those events with a super-senior category, the player must be 65 years of age or older as of the first day of a tournament. In team events, both partners must meet the age requirements to play in the Senior Flight or the team must play in the Open division.

Senior (Women's Championships) – A player must be 50 years of age or older as of the first day of the tournament.

Mid-Amateur – A player must be 25 years of age or older as of the first day of a tournament. A player may qualify prior to their 25th birthday as long as they are of proper age by the start of the tournament.

Refunds and Withdrawals

General – Entry fee will be refunded, less a \$25 service charge regardless of reason if the WSGA is notified of withdrawal before the close of the entry deadline. Players will receive a 50% refund of the entry fee if the WSGA is notified after the deadline but at least two days prior to the first day of the tournament (this gives us time to contact an alternate). There is no refund after the two-day cutoff up to the start of the tournament. After the tournament has started, there is no refund for any reason. For players who qualify for a championship after the exempt player deadline, a full refund will only be given if withdrawn less than 5 days after the qualifier. If withdrawn after that time and more than 48 hours prior the championship, a 50% refund will be issued. No refund will be given for a withdrawal less than 48 hours before the start of the championship. **NOTE:** Players must notify the WSGA, not the host course, to receive a refund. All refunds will be sent to the person named on the entry form. Processing refunds may take up to two weeks. There is no partial refund if a player fails to advance to the next stage of any competition.

Team Events – In team competitions, if a player needs a substitute for their original partner after the field has closed, they must arrange to get the substitute. Any substitute must meet all eligibility requirements of the specified competition. The WSGA must be notified of any substitutions prior to the start of the tournament. **For Net events**, if a replacement is needed after the flights have been finalized, the replacement partner must have a comparable handicap index or play down to the original partner's index to maintain the same flight and or seed position.

RULES OF GOLF AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY

General – *The Rules of Golf* govern play. The *Local Rules and Conditions of Competitions for Wyoming State Golf Association Tournaments and Championships* (WSGA Hard Card) and any site-specific *Notice to Players* will supplement *The Rules of Golf*. Host course local rules are not applicable, unless they are on the *Notice to Players*. The Committee, whose decision is final, shall settle questions. Selected policies from the WSGA Hard Card are listed below.

Pace of Play – The WSGA may utilize pace of play policy in all stroke play rounds of USGA events or WSGA championships as authorized by Rule 5.6 Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play (also Committee Procedures, Section 5G). When group penalties are in effect for a qualifying or championship round, each player will receive a course specific time sheet explaining the event's policy times and parameters.

Distance Measuring Devices – For all WSGA events, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if, during a round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect their play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3, for which the penalty is two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play for the first offense. For any subsequent offense, the penalty is disqualification.

Approved Medical Devices – Players wishing to use equipment for medical reasons under Rule 4.3b must do so in writing to the WSGA prior to the event. On site requests will be evaluated on a time available basis.

Prohibiting Use of Audio and Video Devices – During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device (Model Local Rule G-8). Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 4.3.

Cell Phones – A player may only use devices that do not make an audible noise. Annoying cell phone use during a stipulated round is considered unbecoming conduct and the Committee may disqualify a player under Rule 1.2 for a serious breach of etiquette and/or reject a player's entry in future events. Spectators who misuse cell phones will be asked to leave the course.

Automotive Transportation – Permitted in all WSGA events, unless otherwise stated on the tournament's information page. It is prohibited for players in all USGA Qualifiers except for the U.S. Senior Amateur and U.S. Senior Women's Amateur qualifiers. Any variation to this policy will be on the event's *Notice to Players* and on the tournament information page. When prohibited, the optional condition prescribed in Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect. Please note the definition of caddie and equipment when using carts. If a course hosting agreement requires paying cart fees, players may still walk and/or use a caddie but they will not be refunded a cart fee. All drivers must have a valid driver's license. All players, both walkers and riders, are required to maintain the pace set for the competition. Spectators are not authorized to ride in a player's cart. Only two carts will be allowed per group. Players have priority for carts over caddies.

Ties – Ties for first place or qualifying positions are broken by sudden death playoff as determined by the WSGA or by matching scorecards as recommended in The Committee Procedures under Rule 5A(6) of The Rules of Golf. In the absence of an announced policy for an event requiring tie breaking, matching scorecards will be used (this includes all WSGA championships with qualifiers). If all options in Committee Procedure 5A(6) are used and a tie still exists, the tie will be decided by lot. If the competition has a multiple tee or shotgun start, the last nine holes, last six holes, etc., are considered to be holes 10-18, 13-18, 16-18, 18.

Score Posting – For handicap purposes, the WSGA will post all applicable individual stroke play scores to the GHIN Handicap service. Scores from match play or four-ball events will not be posted by the WSGA. The player may post their own score at the end of a four-ball or match play round. The Tournament Director will always provide the applicable slope/rating for posting purposes at the end of each four-ball or match play round.

Failure to Complete – In stroke play, failure by a player to return their scorecard to the scoreboard official, or withdrawal during play without notifying an official and surrendering their scorecard to that official, is considered a serious breach of etiquette and unbecoming conduct. This can result in the player being suspended from future WSGA events. This also applies in match play if both players leave the course without notifying the scoreboard official of the match result.

No Shows – Players failing to appear for their assigned tee time without notifying the WSGA or host club before or on the day of a tournament may be denied entry from play in all WSGA tournaments for up to one year.

Caddies – Players may bring their own caddie. WSGA dress code, liability and conduct requirements apply to caddies. Caddies are not necessarily extended all the courtesies of the host golf club. Players are responsible for the conduct of their caddies. Caddies found to be disruptive to other players may be asked to leave the golf course. Caddies are allowed in the U.S. Junior Amateur and U.S. Girls' Junior Amateur Qualifiers with exceptions – parents, stepparents and guardians are not allowed to caddie (see entry forms).

Dress Code – Proper golf attire is required of players and caddies on the golf course, in the clubhouse and on the grounds. Should a host course have a stricter dress code, its policy will take precedence. Slacks, skirts, skorts and shorts are acceptable, they must be no more than 5" above the knee. Golf shirts should have a collar, and mock turtlenecks are acceptable. Women's fashion shirts without a collar must have sleeves. Jeans, sweatpants, denim shorts, short shorts, cut-offs, gym shorts, T-shirts, halter tops and tank tops are prohibited. All clothing must be in good repair. Footwear must be worn at all times, all WSGA events have a spikeless shoe policy (see WSGA hard card). Logos worn must not be detrimental to the integrity and image of the game of golf and/or public confidence in the WSGA. Violation may result in the player being expelled from the tournament.

Conduct – The WSGA may reject an entry application, revoke an accepted application, expel from the tournament and/or suspend a player from future tournaments under Rule 1.2 if the player engages in conduct detrimental to the integrity and image of the game of golf and/or public confidence in the WSGA. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, damage to the golf course or the player’s equipment, verbal or physical abuse of spectators, officials, volunteers, staff, fellow competitors, opponents, or host course personnel, blatant or excessive profanity, disorderly behavior, failure to abide by club rules, or any other unbecom-ing conduct.

Spectators – Spectators are welcome at all WSGA and USGA events as long as they maintain proper golf demeanor while watching the event. This ensures all players have the opportunity to perform at their very best. Spectators should remain on cart paths or in the rough, and at least 20 yards away from players during the play of a hole. There may be no communication between spectators or players that could be deemed advice of any nature (Rule 10.2) during the round. Spectators are not permitted to ride in a player’s cart, as this privilege is reserved for caddies only. For medical reasons, the Tournament Director may authorize a spectator to ride in his/her own cart during WSGA events. If a spectator needs a cart for a WSGA event, please contact the WSGA offices directly. Players have priority for carts over spectators. If a spectator is riding in a player’s cart, the player will be warned and asked to follow the WSGA policy. If the player refuses, his or her entry will be withdrawn.

Weather - The Committee, at their discretion, may cancel, delay or suspend play due to weather or golf course playing conditions. If a round is to be cancelled, emails will be sent out to all players as soon as possible after the decision is made.

MISCELLANEOUS

Practice Rounds –Before an event, each host site will establish pricing, times, and any restrictions for players to play a practice round on a space-available basis. Please check the applicable tournament information page or with the host club for information.

Prizes – An amateur golfer plays primarily for the love of the game, and as a non-remunerative or non-profit making sport. Symbolic prizes such as medals, plaques or trophies are generally awarded to champions. Prize money, if given, is in the form of gift certificates redeemable in the host club golf shop. In general, if an individual is eligible to win two prizes, they will be awarded only one prize, the one with the greatest value. Normally, merchandise prizes will be split among those tied, except in those cases where a playoff is used to determine a winner. Additionally, prizes are awarded to the top gross and net finishers within each flight at WSGA Championships where the format allows. The Committee will use its discretion in determining if Championship Flight will pay Gross prizes only, or if Net prizes will be incorporated when the size and composition of the flight (i.e., handicap spread) warrants it. The WSGA typically pays prize money to approximately 40% of the players in each flight in each event at the discretion of The Committee. The overall champion of each event is generally paid a slightly larger amount than the other flight winners; however, all other places are typically paid the same amount in all flights. The amount paid to each winner will be posted at the start of the championship.

Photographic/Video – By submitting an application, the player agrees to allow the WSGA to use the player’s photographic/video image for any WSGA media related use.

Liability – By submitting an entry form and subsequently playing in a WSGA event, players agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the WSGA and its respective affiliates, directors, officers, employees, agents, and assigns from and against any and all claims, damages, liabilities and losses, including without limitation reasonable attorney’s fees and costs and expenses of litigation, arising out of any act of God, negligent act or omission of the indemnifying party in connection with this competition. Contingent upon successful entry into this tournament the participant agrees to all conditions, policies, procedures and terms set forth in this booklet.