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Nebraska Team Interclub Match Play Competition

1. 2011 SCHEDULE

Through September 5
September 18-19

Regular Season Matches
Postseason Championship (The Final Four)

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Participating NGA member clubs may enter male amateur golfers meeting the following criteria:

a. The player must be a member in good standing with the club, have an active GHIN USGA Handicap Index and be listed on the club's most recent revision roster. Any member who has not established an active GHIN USGA Handicap Index is ineligible. **Multi-members may represent only one club during the 2011 season.**

b. An employee of the club who is either a member of the Nebraska PGA or an Apprentice with the Nebraska PGA should participate in each competition. The professional must be assigned to the gross group competing as the number one player on the team. Only one Nebraska PGA professional may participate per match.

3. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Hosts clubs participating in the Interclub Program are required to provide complimentary golf to visiting clubs for all scheduled regular season matches including make-ups of postponed or suspended matches.

(See Section 4 - Club Options, below for reciprocal fees)

4. CLUB OPTIONS

Participating clubs are required to reciprocate the following services for \$30: golf cart, range balls, and food following the round. The fee should be billed to each visiting participant, including professionals, by the host club. In addition, host clubs may charge their own members for services incurred during a home match, as they deem necessary.

5. TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Match Arrangements

The host Team Captain, in coordination with the visiting Team Captain shall:

(1) Arrange for matches to be played by the scheduled date. If the host club is unavailable, arrangements should be made to complete the match on an alternate date prior to the end of the regular season, Monday, September 5.

(2) Arrange **starting times for matches that are at a reasonable hour to accommodate the visiting team's travel.** (Whenever possible, the NGA recommends that the first tee be closed for 20 minutes prior to the start of play.)

(3) Starting times should be set-up to ensure completion of play prior to darkness. The last group should be given approximately 5 hours prior to darkness to complete their match.

(4) Stipulate the round. Normally this will be as defined in the Rules of Golf; however if circumstances dictate, matches may be started on holes other than Hole #1 and "shotgun starts" are permissible.

(5) Time of starting. Players are solely responsible for knowing their starting time and must be present and ready to play at the time laid down by the team captains. The Note under Rule 6-3 in the 2010-2011 USGA Rules of Golf is in effect for all matches. A player that is late, but within the five minutes, shall lose the first hole in his Singles match. Any player who arrives at the tee five minutes after the starting time loses to his opponent in the Singles match. The absent partner may join the Four-Ball match between holes, but not during the play of a hole. The absent partner may give advice prior to joining the match.

(6) Player Lists. **Team Captains shall exchange a list of their players (to include their current GHIN USGA Handicap Index) prior to the start of each match.** An officer, handicap committee member, or PGA professional from each club should sign the submitted list to verify the accuracy of the Handicap Indexes. All players shall then play to an appropriate Course Handicap for the particular match. If a question arises and the current Handicap Index of a player cannot be verified he shall be declared ineligible for that day's competition.

(7) Match Rulings. Team Captains shall resolve any match rulings or claims made under Rule 2-5, The Rules of Golf. If the captains involved cannot agree, they shall follow the procedure set forth in Section 19 (Match Play Claims) and Section 20 (Protests).

(8) Match Results. The host team's representative should record adjusted scores and match results on the Interclub Match Results/Posting Sheet (Appendix) and the visiting team's representative should verify it. Once the Host Captain's form has been signed by both representatives, the results of the Match will be considered official. **THE HOST TEAM CAPTAIN must Fax (402) 505-4695 or e-mail – nga@nebgolf.org the completed form to the NGA, 6618 South 118th Street, Omaha, NE 68137, immediately after the match is concluded.** ANY RESULT NOT RECEIVED AFTER 5 WORKING DAYS MAY RESULT IN A HALVED MATCH 12-12. (If a protest is involved, it must be noted on the form and the procedure described in section 20 followed).

6. NGA TEAM MATCH RULES

a. Team Composition

Each team consists of 8 players. No permanent roster is required for each team and there is no limit on the number of players that may be used during the regular season. New players may be added at any time during the regular season only if they meet eligibility requirements. An employee of the club who is either a member of the Nebraska PGA or an apprentice with the Nebraska PGA should participate in each competition. **All players used during postseason play must have participated in at least one COMPLETE regular season match.**

b. Rules of Play

USGA Rules of Four-Ball Match Play (Rule 30, the Rules of Golf, 2010-11), and this document shall govern all matches, and shall not be waived for any reason. **IF ANY POINT IN DISPUTE IS NOT COVERED BY THE RULES, THE DECISION SHALL BE**

MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EQUITY. (Rule 1-4, THE RULES OF GOLF, 2010-11)

c. Concession of Next Stroke, Hole or Match

NOTE: A concession of the next stroke, hole or match, by any player is binding in both the Singles and Four-Ball match. BEFORE MAKING ANY CONCESSION, the player should consider the implication of the concession on his Singles match AND the Four-Ball match.

A player may elect to not finish a hole. If a player so elects, this has no effect on the Four-Ball match. His partner may continue to represent the side in the Four-Ball match. However, it is important that the player who wishes to not finish a hole simply state that he is “disqualifying himself”, rather than conceding the hole, since a “concession” of the hole is binding in the Four-Ball match.

A concession may not be declined or withdrawn.

d. Conforming Balls

Only golf balls on the most current USGA list of conforming golf balls may be used. The penalty for use of a non-conforming ball is disqualification.

e. Distance Measuring Devices

A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, whether any such additional functions are actually used.

7. COURSE HANDICAPS AND PAIRINGS

a. Handicaps

With the exception of the first group competing at gross (see note below), all players must compete using their Course Handicap (CH) as determined by their active GHIN USGA Handicap Index at the time in which the match is scheduled.

Note: The #1 (Nebraska PGA Professional or Club Member) and #2 (Club Member) players will compete in a gross competition in the first pairing.

(1) If a question arises and the current Handicap Index of a player cannot be verified he shall be declared ineligible for that day’s competition. Players with a Handicap Index higher than 18.4 may play in any match but must play to a maximum of 18.4. PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN A MAKE-UP MATCH SHALL USE THE ACTIVE GHIN USGA HANDICAP INDEX APPLICABLE TO THE MAKE-UP DATE.

b. Handicap Strokes

(1) In individual handicapped competitions allow the higher-handicapped player the full difference between the Course Handicaps of the two players; the lower-handicapped player shall then play from scratch.

(2) In each of the handicapped Four-Ball matches, 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 between their Course Handicap and that of the lowest-handicapped player.

(3) In handicapped matches, the allocations of handicap strokes will be as listed on the scorecard.

(4) In accordance with Rule 6-2 of the Rules of Golf, before the start of each handicapped match it is the responsibility of each individual player to ensure that his correct handicap is being used for the competition and to know the holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received.

c. Pairings

(1) The first group will compete in a gross competition. An employee of the club who is either a member of the Nebraska PGA or an apprentice with the Nebraska PGA should participate as the #1 player. The #2 player must be a member of the club. If an eligible professional is not able to participate a member of the club may be substituted as the #1 player.

(2) During the regular season, players competing in the handicapped matches for each club must be paired in GHIN USGA Handicap Index sequence from low to high, including the two-man teams, with the lowest-handicapped player listed first. (Example: the two lowest-handicapped players must be paired together and play as Team #2, the next two as Team #3, etc.)

(3) In the event that a last minute substitution would result in an improper sequence in the handicapped matches, the substituted player must play with a Course Handicap that is in proper sequence. (Example: A substitute with a Course Handicap of 10 cannot be placed between players with Course Handicaps of 6 and 8. The substitute would be required to play with a Course Handicap of 7 in this instance.) However, if time permits, the pairings should be adjusted.

(4) If players are not paired in Handicap Index sequence according to the procedures outlined above, or, if a player should play with an improper Course Handicap, the team in violation shall forfeit all individual and/or team four-ball match points won during the match by the player(s).

8. ORDER OF PLAY

It is recommended that the two-man teams tee off in numerical order (#1 teams first, #2 teams second, etc.) at each match. BOTH CAPTAINS MUST MUTUALLY AGREE TO ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS RECOMMENDATION.

9. FORMATS AND SCORING

a. The four two-man teams of each club compete against each other in three simultaneous matches as shown below. The total possible points for each team is 6; for each club - 24. The first of the four groups is a gross match where all four players involved play at scratch. The remaining three groups will compete using their Course Handicaps.

(1) Gross Pairing

Match #1 (2 points). An employee of the club who is either a member of the Nebraska PGA or an apprentice with the Nebraska PGA plays his corresponding opponent in an 18-hole individual match.

Match #2 (2 points). A club member plays his corresponding opponent in an 18-hole individual match.

Match #3 (2 points). Each two-man team plays their corresponding opponents in an 18-hole Four-Ball match.

(2) Handicapped Pairings

Match #1 (2 points). The lowest handicapped player on each of the two-man teams plays his corresponding opponent in an 18-hole individual match.

Match #2 (2 points). The second lowest handicapped player on each of the two-man teams plays his corresponding opponent in an 18-hole individual match.

Match #3 (2 points). Each two-man team plays their corresponding opponents in an 18-hole Four-Ball match.

Ties. A tie in any of these matches results in 1 point awarded to each team.

10. POSTING OF INDIVIDUAL SCORES

The game of golf is based on the premise that a golfer will play as well as he can. Under the USGA Handicap System a player is required to record a hole score for a hole not finished, not played, or not played under the Rules of Golf, and to adjust any hole score when it is higher than the maximum number allowed under Equitable Stroke Control.

Each Team Captain is responsible for insuring that the ADJUSTED score for each of his players is entered on the Team Match Results/Posting Sheet following completion of play.

NOTE: HOST CAPTAINS MUST FAX OR E-MAIL ADJUSTED SCORES ALONG WITH THE MATCH RESULTS TO THE NEBRASKA GOLF ASSOCIATION FOR POSTING AS TOURNAMENT SCORES.

a. Incomplete Holes

If a player starts but does not complete a hole, he shall, for handicap purposes, record the score he most likely would have made if the hole had been completed, but such a score shall not exceed the limit in the **Equitable Stroke Control** (Adjustment) formula.

b. Incomplete Rounds

In the event that individual and Four-Ball matches have been "closed out" before 18 holes have been played, the stipulated round is deemed completed and players should leave the course. FOR HANDICAP PURPOSES, THE PLAYERS SHOULD RECORD "**PAR PLUS**" (PAR PLUS ANY HANDICAP STROKES THE PLAYER IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ON A PARTICULAR HOLE) FOR THE HOLES NOT PLAYED.

When the players elect to "play in": In accordance with the USGA Handicap System the following policy is in effect for holes played after the match has been completed: When the players elect to "play in", they shall record their actual score per hole BUT NOT TO EXCEED THEIR EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL LIMIT.

11. LOCAL RULES AND "PREFERRED LIES"

a. Local Rules

Any local rules that are to be in effect during Team Match play, must appear printed on the club scorecard, or be published and distributed to all players in advance of the start of

the match.

b. “Preferred Lies”

In the event that a course has adopted a local rule for “preferred lies”, it is recommended that this local rule be suspended during any Team Match competition at that course. If it becomes absolutely necessary to use “preferred lies”, the procedure for it shall be mutually agreed upon by both Team Captains in advance of the start of the match (Reference: “Preferred Lies” and “Winter Rules”, Appendix I, The Rules of Golf).

12. COURSE SET-UP

The back tees should be used for the gross match. The set of tees most commonly used by the **MEN’S CLUB** should be used for the handicapped matches. At most participating clubs this will be the middle set of markers. However, if Team Captains MUTUALLY AGREE, PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MATCH, a different set of markers may be used. Tee markers should be placed so that the course plays to its rated length. All markers DO NOT have to be placed at the permanent markers to achieve this length; however, unless course conditions dictate, variation from the permanent markers should not exceed 10 yards.

13. TRANSPORTATION AND CADDIES

Automotive transportation will be permitted subject to the host club’s rules and regulations governing the use of golf cars. In the event that caddies are available at the host club, an equal number of caddies should be available for each team.

14. ADVICE

In the event a Four-Ball match is closed out, the players who were partners no longer remain as such and may no longer give advice to each other except as it pertains to the Rules of Golf or matters of public information. Any advice given at the point (e.g., line of play or club selection) would be in violation of Rule 8 and subject the player(s) to penalty. (EXCEPTION: If a player has finished both the Four-Ball match and his individual match he may now serve as his former partner’s caddie and be allowed to give advice. A player who chooses to serve as a caddie in such a circumstance, MAY NOT continue to play.)

NOTE: Any non-playing team captain may give advice to members of the team. The individual acting as the non-playing team captain must be identified to the opposing team captain. Any breach of the rules by the non-playing team captain will result in the applicable penalty applied to the player whose ball is involved.

15. FEWER THAN 8 PLAYERS

When a team has fewer than 8 players for a match, it may:

Use a substitute in accordance with the proper handicap sequence (Reference Rule 7c(2)); or

Play with fewer players by playing a one-man team against the opponent’s two-man team. The one-man team may be placed in any position in the line-up, as long as he is in proper Handicap Index sequence, and may play only one opponent individually in

addition to the Four-Ball match.

16. POSTPONEMENTS/SUSPENSION OF PLAY

a. All Team Matches are to be played as scheduled unless postponed/suspended by course management or mutual agreement of the Team Captains involved.

Postponement. Postponement is defined as the failure to commence play as scheduled or to continue play as scheduled due to unplayable conditions.

Suspension. Suspension is defined as the temporary halting of play due to unplayable conditions.

Procedures under postponement/suspension

(1) If the match is postponed by either course management or mutual agreement of the Team Captains and fewer than 9 holes have been played in any of the matches, the entire match must be rescheduled. (It is not necessary that the same players participate in the make-up match).

(2) If the match is postponed and all players have completed 9 holes, the match stands as completed at the time play is halted, and Team Captains will verify the results of each match through the number of holes completed and record and attest the results prior to leaving the course.

(3) When play is suspended, if the players are between the play of two holes, they should not resume play until ordered to do so. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they have the option of marking the position of their ball or completing play of the hole, unless the suspension is due to a dangerous situation (i.e. lightning) then play must be halted immediately. They may not, after being notified of the suspension, commence play of another hole.

(4) If play is resumed after suspension but with certain conditions imposed (e.g. no golf carts, preferred lies, etc.) play will continue from the point at which it was suspended and the conditions imposed shall remain in effect for the remainder of the stipulated round.

(5) If suspended play cannot be resumed, or if Team Captains mutually agree not to resume play, the match is considered to be postponed and shall be treated as prescribed herein.

(6) All postponements, for whatever reason, must be rescheduled on the course for which originally scheduled, at the earliest available date mutually agreeable to both Team Captains.

(7) The NGA office must be notified of all make-up dates for postponed matches and all such matches must be completed prior to September 5. Any match not completed by that date, will be treated as "No Match" for both teams in determining final group standings.

17. WITHDRAWAL

The withdrawal of a team at any time after the schedule has been announced will result in ineligibility for Team Match play until the second year following the year of withdrawal.

Any previous matches played by a team that withdraws will be considered as "No Match" in determining the final group standings.

18. FORFEITURES

Forfeiture shall be scored as a "No Match". All other matches played by the forfeiting team, either prior to or after the forfeited match, shall also be scored in the same manner in order to equalize the advantage of the forfeiture among the other teams within the group. Any circumstances causing forfeiture shall be subject to review by the NGA's Team Interclub Committee.

NOTE: INABILITY TO FIELD A FULL TEAM OF 8 PLAYERS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE REASON FOR FORFEITURE AND THE FORFEITING TEAM IS SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION FROM FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE TEAM MATCH PROGRAM.

19. MATCH PLAY CLAIMS

Team Captains should insure that all of their players are familiar with the procedure for making a claim under Rule 2-5, The Rules of Golf.

a. Player's Responsibility

(1) If a doubt or dispute arises between the players, and they cannot reach agreement, they MUST continue play without delay. Any claim, if it is to be considered at a later time, MUST be made before ANY player in the match plays from the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before ALL players in the match leave the putting green.

(2) The player making the claim MUST inform his team representative of the circumstances as soon as possible or immediately upon conclusion of his match.

b. Team Representative's Responsibility

(1) The representative receiving the claim shall immediately inform the opposing representative and attempt to reach agreement on the claim.

(2) If the player making the claim did not do so within the time limit provided herein (Rule 2-5) the claim shall be considered INVALID unless it is based on facts previously unknown to the player making the claim AND the player making the claim had been given wrong information (see Rules 6-2a and Rule 9, The Rules of Golf) by his opponent.

(3) If the Team representatives determine that a valid claim has been made, they shall resolve the claim under the Rules of Golf and adjust the results of the match accordingly.

20. PROTESTS

The NGA will rule on all protests and its decision shall be final. No protest will be considered by the NGA unless it pertains to the Rules of Golf and the following procedures have been followed.

a. Team Captain's Responsibility

(1) If the Team representatives have not been able to reach agreement on a question of rules, either representative may register a protest AND note it on the Interclub Match Results/Posting Sheet PRIOR TO SIGNING THE FORM. Once the form is signed the results are considered official and no later protest shall be considered by the NGA except as provided herein.

(2) Within 24 hours following the match, the protesting Team Representative must notify the NGA by phone (402) 505-4653 or facsimile machine (402) 505-4695 that a protest has been filed.

(3) Within 72 hours following the match BOTH representatives must submit written support of their respective claims to the NGA. (The statement may be submitted by facsimile machine – (402) 505-4695).

b. NGA Actions

The NGA will rule on all protests received and its decision shall be final.

(1) No protests shall be considered unless it fulfills all of the conditions and requirements set forth above. However, if the NGA is satisfied that the team against which the protest was registered knew they gave the protesting team wrong information a later claim will be allowed.

(2) The NGA will not consider any protest that does not pertain to the Rules of Golf.

21. DETERMINATION OF GROUP WINNERS

Group winners will be determined at the end of the regular season by awarding 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.

In the event of a points tie between two teams that played against each other during the regular season, the Group Winner will be determined by the cumulative number of points earned by the two tied teams in their match against **each other**.

In the event that a tie still exists or the teams did not play each other OR IF MORE THAN TWO TEAMS HAVE IDENTICAL POINTS RECORDS - the team with highest cumulative number of points earned in ALL regular season matches will be declared the Group Winner. Further ties will be determined by lot.

22. THE FINAL FOUR – INTERCLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The NGA will conduct the Final Four Championship Matches at Wild Horse Golf Club Monday, September 19. The four group winners will meet to compete in semi-final and championship matches. Practice rounds will take place Sunday afternoon, September 18 along with other social activities.

Group winners will be seeded for “The Final Four” based on the amount of points earned at the end of the regular season by awarding 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. In the event of a points tie between two teams, the seeds will be determined by the cumulative number of points earned in all regular season matches. Further ties will be determined by lot.

Final Four matches will be conducted according to all regular Team Match rules with the following deviations:

Only players who have played in at least one regular season match are eligible.

a. Ties. In the event of a tie in a Final Four match, there shall be a sudden death play-off between only one group from each club determined by blind draw. The NGA is responsible for coordinating the sudden death play-off.

(1) The sudden death will start on the same hole as the original match unless otherwise stated by the NGA.

(2) The sudden death play-off will involve the same format of play as used during the regular match (i.e. two individual matches and one Four-Ball match in each foursome).

(3) Two points shall be awarded for each hole won in the individual matches, and two points for each hole won in the Four-Ball match. If a hole is halved, 1 point shall be awarded to each team. Total possible points for one two-man team on a sudden death playoff hole is six (6).

(4) The team accumulating the most points on the first play-off hole will be declared the winner of the match. If a tie still exists, the play-off will continue to the next hole and any subsequent holes until the tie is broken.

(5) The order of play and handicap stroke allocation for the sudden death play-off shall be the same as used for the regular match.

b. Postponement/Suspension of Play:

(1) Definitions. See paragraph 14.