

Saturday Golf League - Four Ball Match Play 2017

Rules Format

1. The 2017 SGL Match Play Tournament is open to any current member with an established SGL Handicap Index.
2. This will be a four ball match play format tournament. The lowest scorer of the team for each hole is used to determine winner of each hole. Four-ball match play is defined as “a match in which two players play their better ball against the better ball of two other players”.
3. This will be a 3 week elimination Match Play Event.
4. Entry fee of \$10. (Entry deadline 10/7/2017 before drawing of 1st round matches)
5. First round matches will be determined by blind draw on 10/7/2017 after league play.
6. Payouts will be determined depending on player turn out. (100% monies returned to players)
7. First week of match play will be at the Ocotillo Golf Club on October 14th.
8. USGA match play rules apply. In addition, the following “desert rule” will be in effect (remember, SGL desert rule refers to “where the ball crosses” into the desert not necessarily the closest patch of grass to ball). If anyone has any questions please be sure to ask ahead of time to insure consistent and fair play.
 - Desert Rule:** For weekly SGL events, if a ball comes to rest in a natural desert area or in an area landscaped to resemble a natural desert, a player may abandon the ball and drop another ball within two (2) club lengths nearest to the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the desert with a one (1) stroke penalty. The following additional rule definitions will also be applied to the Desert Rule:
 - i. The original ball may be played from the desert provided the course allows entry into and allows play from the desert area.
 - ii. The margin of the desert is the line established by the end of the grass and the beginning of the desert area.
 - iii. The original ball does not have to be found in order to apply the “Desert Rule” when there is reasonable certainty that the ball did in fact come to rest in the desert and searching for the ball would likely delay play. (Exception to this rule is rule (iv) below).
 - iv. **If the ball is clearly hit out of bounds or in a desert area where an out of bounds designated area or marker exists,** a provisional ball must be played. There will be no consensus by the group on this ruling. The ball must be found in the desert to apply the desert rule. If the ball is not found in 5 minutes the provisional ball must be played which will apply the stroke and distance penalty prescribed by the USGA rule for a ball hit out of bounds. If a provisional ball was not played, the desert rule will be applied with a two stroke penalty.
 - v. If a player chooses to apply the “Desert Rule”, and the point of entry is in question, the player and playing group must agree to the point of entry by consensus opinion.
 - vi. A provisional ball should be played if the ball does not clearly pass over a desert area. If the playing group cannot reach a consensus opinion about the point of entry into the desert a provisional ball should immediately be played and then if the ball cannot be found then the penalty for a lost ball prescribed by the USGA will apply.
 - vii. Consensus means a majority of the playing group of which the player is a part of.
9. SGL tee box rules shall be applied to determine tee box to be played and handicap. Player’s match play handicaps will be adjusted accordingly by course and tees designated to each of the players. The difference in the match play handicap between the players will be given on the hardest handicap holes on the card of the player with the lowest handicap index (both men and women). You will be given a scorecard prior to each round with each player’s course handicap and the handicaps for each of the holes. The scorecard that you will receive will be the official source for determining individual handicaps for each hole.

10. We will be using the Tournament Handicap calculated by Dave Dean and the SGL handicap committee for each of our tournaments.

11. The team score for each hole is based on the team player with the lowest score, taking into account strokes given to a specific player based on handicap. Scorecards will be provided reflecting strokes given on each hole for each player.

Exception: A player picking up their ball when reaching max score for the hole, the player will not be given any strokes for the hole. This is to prevent a player from winning a hole by picking up their ball.

12. The event will be contested over a 3 week span; The Match Play Tournament will be played in conjunction with the regular SGL Tournaments. The rules for match play will NOT be used in this tournament. You will be paired up with your opponent for your match play event and you will play both events simultaneously (the regular SGL event and Match Play). Normal stroke play rules will be in effect, keeping in mind that you are playing in two events at the same time. You must hole out on each hole. No holes or putts will be conceded. This is a departure from Match Play rules to allow players to participate in both tournaments.

13. You will not have to coordinate a tee time with your opponent, just sign up and play. You will have to keep an eye on the tournament brackets to find out exactly when you are scheduled to play. If you do not play when you are scheduled, you will forfeit that round to your opponent.

14. An exception to rule 12 can be made if all players agree to play prior to their Saturday scheduled play. The players must play the match play at a course all players agree upon. To keep consistency, normal stroke play rules will be in effect as if playing on Saturday in the league. One exception is a hole can be conceded. The scorecard must be submitted to Dan Gallegos to confirm the winner. If players do not play prior to Saturday, then rule 13 is in effect. Also, please coordinate with Dave Dean and Dan Gallegos to get established handicaps for course to be played.

15. All tie breaks at the end of a match will require a putt-off on the 19th hole. All team players will putt to provide a team score for each hole. All putts will be counted toward the team score for the hole. The team with the lowest score for the hole wins the match. The first putt-off will start 5 feet from the hole. The distance will keep incrementing by 3 feet until a winner is determined.

16. Matches should be played with fair play and good faith in mind, following USGA/AGA/SGL Rules at all times.

Schedule:

- Blind draw for round 1 on 10/7/2017 at Antelope Hills Golf Club. (8 team player bracket)
- Round 1 matches will start at Ocotillo GC on 10/14/2017. Refer to the match play bracket for the full schedule.
- The final round will be played at Wickenburg Ranch GC on 10/28/2017.

The match play bracket will be posted on the website after the blind draw on 10/7/2017.

Good luck to all of the match players in the event.

Dan Gallegos
Special Events Coordinator