



CHICAGO WOMEN'S DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

INSTRUCTIONS GOVERNING TOURNAMENT PLAY 2026

Tournament Policies: The *Rules of Golf* as approved by the **USGA** governs all CWDGA competitions as supplemented by the conditions of the competition established by the CWDGA and set forth in the *Handbook for Members* and on the **cwdga.org** website. Each player is responsible for knowing the rules and conditions of the competition, and it is suggested that you carry a copy of each with you. **This document and all other Tournament Play communication from the CWDGA shall be considered Terms of Competition. Violation of any of the terms may result in disqualification under USGA Rule 1.2a.**

Tournament Eligibility: An "eligible player" must have golf privileges at a CWDGA member club, have amateur status and must maintain a current, valid CDGA handicap at that club. CWDGA will use handicap records provided by the World Handicap System (WHS) for all competitions. The Handicap Index limitations for the four CWDGA tournaments are: 26.0 for the CWDGA Championship, and 33.0 for the Stableford Classic, Better-Ball of Pairs and Senior Better-Ball of Pairs.

A player who is a member of more than one club must select the club that she will represent in all CWDGA competitions. Changes are not permitted during the year unless permission is granted by the CWDGA Board of Directors.

Tournament Entry: Only online entry forms will be accepted by CWDGA for tournaments with entry fees paid by credit card (MasterCard, VISA or Discover) on our website, **www.cwdga.org**. The CWDGA reserves the right to decline any entry.

Player Requests: CWDGA will no longer honor player requests.

Tournament Information: Information concerning confirmed participation, pairings, and starting times will be emailed to contestants approximately 5-7 days prior to the event. If a contestant has not received information within seven days of the event, it is her responsibility to contact the CWDGA Tournament or Championship Chair.

Withdrawal/Refund Policy: Individuals who have submitted an entry for a CWDGA event and wish to withdraw for any reason **MUST** notify the CWDGA Tournament or Championship Chair. Withdrawals may be sent via email or telephone. Withdrawals submitted prior to the refund deadline will receive a full refund minus a \$20 handling fee in the case of Championship and a \$10 fee per player for all other tournaments. **NO REFUND** will be made unless cancellation is received before the date specified for each tournament.

Over-Subscribed Events: The CWDGA Championship is limited to the lowest 72 players. If the tournament is over-subscribed, then the field will be composed of the players with the lowest Handicap Indexes, and the remaining entries will be placed on a Wait List in order of Handicap Index. After the entry deadline, players will be accepted in Handicap Index order to fill any vacancies. Handicap Indexes as of the revision date stated for each tournament will be used.

The Better-Ball of Pairs, Stableford Classic and Senior Better-Ball of Pairs tournaments are limited to 96 players (48 pairs). Players for these three events are selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Online entries are accepted in the order of the transaction time and date.

When the field is full, entries are put on a Wait List in the order of transaction time and date. A full refund will be given to anyone on the Wait List who is not accepted into the event.

Start Time Requests: The CWDGA will not honor start time requests for any CWDGA tournament. The Stableford Classic, Better-Ball of Pairs and Senior Better-Ball of Pairs Tournaments are shotgun starts. The CWDGA Championship is a match play event with the Championship Flight teeing off first, followed by the other flights, on the first two days and last on the third day.

Practice Rounds: One practice round may be available for the CWDGA Championship. Specific information will be included in the official acceptance packet. If a practice round is available, each contestant is responsible for contacting the host site for arrangements. Players may **NOT** bring their own caddie to a host club. Practice rounds are not available for any other tournaments.

Attire: Players and caddies must be properly attired both on the golf course and the premises of the club. Jeans of any color, T-shirts and tank tops are prohibited. Collared shirts are strongly suggested. Shorts and golf skirts must be mid-thigh in length. Any additional dress code restrictions of the host site are in effect. It is always advisable to consult the host club for clarification of its policies. If the Committee determines there has been a violation of this policy, the player will receive a warning. A second violation at any CWDGA event will result in disqualification for the remainder of the current playing season under Rule 1.2b.

The Committee: The Committee is the CWDGA and is represented at all competitions by the uniformed CWDGA officials present at the competition. Host club officers and personnel are not members of the Committee.



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Caddies/Carts: If a host club has caddies and caddies are available, a contestant must use a caddie or a cart with a caddie. Contestants may not provide their own caddies. Reserved caddies must be used.

Prompt Pace of Play: Pursuant to USGA Rule 5.6b, the CWDGA has established the following pace of play guidelines. A group of four players is expected to take no more than 15 minutes per hole – **4 hours and 30 minutes per round** to play. Any group that fails to hold its position on the course will be alerted and requested to play at a faster pace. After being warned, the group will be monitored. The time each player takes to play each stroke will be recorded. Any player in a group out of position that takes more than 40 seconds to play a stroke will be assessed a one stroke penalty. The second occurrence will result in the general penalty, and the third breach will result in disqualification as provided in Rule 5.6a.

Local Rules Governing Day of Play:

***USGA Model Local Rule I-2, prohibition of practice on or near previous putting green and on or near any practice green between the play of two holes, is in effect for all CWDGA tournaments. The penalty for breach of the Local Rule is the General Penalty, applied to the next hole. In addition, all practice ranges and putting greens will close 30 minutes prior to start of the tournament. The penalty under Model Local Rule I-2 is a warning for the first breach followed by the General Penalty for a second breach and disqualification for the third breach. A breach is considered one stroke.**

***USGA Model Local Rule L-1, modification of penalty under rule 3.3b(2), will be in effect for all CWDGA tournaments.**

***USGA Model Local Rule E-13 which allows players to remove an animal (other than an animal that is also a loose impediment such as a worm or insect) that is touching or near their ball without penalty will be in effect at all CWDGA tournaments. The player may move the animal in any way. If the player's ball moves while removing the animal, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced on its original spot.**

Communication and Distance Measuring Devices: In addition to distance measuring devices that conform to USGA specifications, players may use cell phones and smart watches as distance measuring devices and may use all functions of golf apps in accordance with Rule 4.3(3). Cell phones may be used to access the USGA Rules of Golf and CWDGA Tournament Rules. In addition, players may use a cell phone to request a

ruling. A telephone number will be included on the Notice to Competitors. Players and their caddies are prohibited from making and receiving telephone calls, texting, checking email, and listening to audio. If CWDGA determines this policy has been violated, the player will receive a warning. A second violation at any CWDGA event will result in disqualification under a code of conduct violation (Rule 1.2b). A third violation will result in disqualification from all CWDGA events for the remainder of the current playing season.

Etiquette: Players are expected to conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, always demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship. This includes being considerate of other players, caring for the course and treating all opponents, staff and CWDGA members with respect. The Committee has the power to revoke the playing privileges of any player for etiquette violations.

Scores: All scorecards must show an eighteen-hole score and a score for each hole for each player. The Better-Ball of Pairs, Senior Better-Ball of Pairs, and Stableford Classic tournaments are stroke play competitions. Strokes must not be conceded. To have a valid score for the hole, the partner whose score is to count must hole out in the Better-Ball and Senior Better-Ball of Pairs tournaments. To earn points in the Stableford Classic, a player must hole out. CWDGA will not be posting tournament scores. The individual tournament player is expected to post her own score after tournament play for handicap purposes.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded to the winners of all flights in all the CWDGA tournaments. If a winner is unable to stay for the awarding of prizes, she may ask someone to accept it for her, providing the designated person signs for the prize. Alternatively, the winner may arrange to pick up the prize with the CWDGA Tournament or Championship Chair. For Championship, in the event of a tie and a playoff is not feasible, matching scorecards will be used to determine the winner. Scorecard playoffs will be used for the other tournaments. (*Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*, effective January 2023, p. 403.)

Policy on Spectators at CWDGA Events: It is the policy of CWDGA that all spectators at CWDGA sponsored events must remain at a respectful distance from players and should avoid unnecessary personal contact with them. CWDGA policy prohibits cellphone use. Spectators are invited to walk the course or to rent a golf cart from the pro shop (subject to availability) at the host club's prevailing rate.