

**CENTRAL NEBRASKA SENIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION
GENERAL TOURNAMENT POLICIES and RULES:**

DESIGNATED DIRECTOR:

A CNSGA Designated Director will be assigned to each event. DD's will make initial contact about 3 weeks ahead of tournaments. Hopefully, this will result in improved communication and more uniformity in our tournaments. Host Clubs should feel free to contact your DD, or Executive Director with any questions.

CANCELLATIONS:

Full refunds of entry fees are required for cancellations 14 days or more prior to the tournament. At the club's option they may charge a \$10 fee for cancellations received 7-13 days prior; or may charge \$25 for cancellations received 6 days or less prior to the tournament. Clubs may set a cutoff date for entries and are not required to take late entries.

ENTRY FORMS:

Completed Entry Forms and payment are required from **EVERY** player. Players are NOT considered entered until BOTH are received by the Host Club. If a club is gracious enough to accept a phone entry, then players need to complete the entry form before playing. Teams / individuals may be placed on stand-by status until entry form and payment is received from all team members. If an event fills, those on stand-by will be excluded. Host Clubs need to retain all entry forms for 30 days following the event in case of questions.

MEMBERSHIP:

Tournaments are for PAID MEMBERS ONLY, participants MUST join CNSGA prior to playing. Clubs may use standby non-member players to fill teams, BUT they are not eligible to receive tournament winnings.

PLEASE HAVE STAND-BY PLAYERS AVAILABLE.

If possible, Host Clubs should have 1-2 stand-by players available. In the event you are missing a player, consult with the CNSGA Designated Director present to adjust teams or handicaps.

TOURNAMENT FORMATS:

Most CNSGA tournaments are 2, 3 or 4-man scrambles or Best-Ball events. Formats are agreed upon at the time tourney agreements are negotiated. Host Clubs have flexibility in setting other formats, but they must be approved by the CNSGA Executive Director, or the Designated Director for that event.

MULLIGANS:

Since they slow play, Mulligans are NOT permitted under normal policies. Requests to sell Mulligans may be considered to fund specific programs BUT must be approved by the Executive Director prior to the event.

FLIGHTING:

Clubs have flexibility in setting teams and flights. You may flight by handicap; "weighted" handicap; scores on random or selected holes; front 9 or back 9; or any other method you choose. You may also simply list all gross team scores, then countdown to divide into flights. Just be fair **AND tell the players how you determined the teams / flights.**

TEAM MAKE-UP: HOST CLUB PAIRED EVENTS – MIXERS -- (NOT pick your partner)

Our PREFERRED method is to: FIRST divide the field into multiple flights by individual handicaps, THEN make up teams within the flights keeping total team handicaps as equal as possible. Consider having a Super Senior flight (over age 75) if you have enough players. You may use other options for team make-up, but again BE FAIR and TELL THE PLAYERS your method.

HANDICAPING: This will apply mostly to U-PICK Your Team events, but clubs may use with MIXERS if they choose. Host Clubs may choose to pay Gross places ONLY. **HOWEVER -- IF** you give handicap strokes to individuals or teams, then you **MUST pay both Gross and Net places.**

SCRAMBLES: WEIGHTED HANDICAP system: calculate team handicaps by giving 50% of the low handicap and 25% of the higher handicap as an adjusted team handicap (i.e. a 4 handicapper with a 24 handicap partner would get 2 + 6, or a total team handicap of 8 from their gross score) -- on 3 & 4 man scrambles give 50%, 25%, 10% & 10% -- round to a single stroke to keep it simple. THEN divide the field into flights by total TEAM handicap.

BEST BALL: Give each individual player 100% of their individual handicap on a hole-by-hole basis. MAXIMUM handicap of 2 strokes per hole. **In a SHAMBLE give a maximum of one stroke on par 3's as players may use their partners tee shot, maximum of 2 strokes on par 4's & 5's.** NOTE: CNSGA reserves the right to adjust individual player's handicaps at

any event. If you question a player's handicap, contact a CNSGA Director immediately, we will work with you to solve the question.

TEES: NEW in 2023 and to continue in 2024.

Players 64 & younger should play the regular men's tees; those between 65 & 74 play the senior tees; and over 75 play the forward tees; **regardless of handicap, flight, or gender**. Not all courses have senior tees, and tee assignments will be on a course-by-course basis. As a guide, try to have each tee box give approximately a 10-25-50 yd advantage on par 3's and 25-50- 75 yd on par 4's & 5's – you know your course, use good judgement, but the **advantage needs to be legitimate**). Super Senior flights should be limited to players aged 75 and older. EXCEPTION: The Memorial Tournament will have tee boxes assigned by age & flight as in the past.

To conserve carts, 3-man scrambles may play as 6-somes. Maximum of 4 players per tee box on all other formats, use A & B teams on a tee box when needed to accommodate a large field.

SCORE CARDS:

Make individual score cards for EACH team. It is much easier to adjust in case of no-shows or late entries. Teams should EXCHANGE SCORE CARDS and have someone from EACH team sign when finished. Players are responsible for submitting a complete & correct score card, once submitted it cannot be changed.

AGE:

Players age for all purposes is as of player's birthday in the current calendar year.

WINTER RULES:

All our events are "Winter Rules" or preferred lies on the entire course. Player's may improve lies within one club length (no closer to the hole) even in hazards. However, the improvement MUST be in the same cut of grass. Balls in tall rough may NOT be moved to first cut rough, balls in the fringe may NOT be moved to the fairway, etc. Balls played from a hazard may be placed BUT lies may not be improved to be outside of the hazard. **NOTE:** Players are expected to use discretion and fair play in taking the one club length allowance. For example, a ball found in water should NOT be moved to a dry location, even though it is still within the hazard and within one club length of the original spot. Similar consideration should be given if a ball is within (or behind) the branches of a tree, bush, or other natural obstacle. **Players may improve the lie, but NOT the line of a shot**. Once on the green, putts must be played within 6" of the original spot, not nearer the hole.

OUT of BOUNDS – LOST BALL:

To save time play Lost Ball / Out of Bounds the same as a ball unplayable in a hazard. Drop under same rules as ball in hazard with a one stroke penalty. Do not return to the tee box or place of previous shot. Penalty is one stroke, not stroke distance.

SLOW PLAY:

Slow play is an increasing problem. Include this in your announcements. Keep up with the group in front. If you fall behind, pick up the pace. PLAY READY GOLF, hit when the way is clear. If your shot does not directly affect the other team, you may hit at the same time or alternate shots.

GIMMIE PUTTS: Revised in 2018 and continues in 2024.

All putts for birdie or better must be holed out. Players should use good judgment in giving other putts. This is to apply to all tournaments INCLUDING Memorial Tournament.

UNCLAIMED PAYOUTS:

Host Clubs are responsible for mailing payouts to players when the entire field does not finish at the same time. Example: when scheduled tee times are used instead of shotgun starts.

GPS – LASER:

CNSGA will allow any measuring device approved by the USGA to be used at our tournaments.

FLAG PRIZES:

CNSGA encourages (but does not require) awarding flag prizes to give more players a chance at winning something. Flag prizes DO count toward the 30% required minimum payback. Try to avoid multiple flag prize winners - one per player is preferred. Try to give all players a chance to win: long drive for different age groups; more long putt or closest chip from off the green prizes, and few close in two or close in three prizes, etc.

GENERAL RULES:

- **INSIST** on a completed Entry Form from every player. This is needed if a question on handicap and for contact information.
- Hold all entry forms for at least 30 days following your tournament in case of a question.
- Tournament agreements require a **MINIMUM of 30%** of the entry fee be paid back
- CNSGA wants to pay as many players as possible, rather than have any single player receive a large payback
- Pay no more than **1-1½ times the entry fee** for 1st place (i.e., \$50 entry should pay \$50-\$75 maximum for 1st place). NOTE: Due to increases in entry fees, payouts have also increased. Try to keep 1st place at \$60-75 maximum. Pay more places.
- **ALL HANDICAPPED events require paying BOTH Gross and NET places** -- see Handicapping above
- Try to make paybacks easily divisible between players, try to have small bills in the envelope to make division easier
- If using merchandise certificates have them preprinted to save time (these seniors seem to be in a hurry)
- To speed play, conceding or tapping-in putts will not negate remaining partners a chance to make the original putt

Suggestions / Observations:

- Have morning coffee & rolls, and a choice of noon sandwiches available. These can be at an additional charge, but clubs with complementary coffee & rolls have better attendance.
- The meal a high priority for many of our players. Tournaments with poor meals suffer in attendance. Cost is a concern but **provide the best meal you can afford.**
- IF there is any possibility of running out of food, **YOU need to SERVE** it to control the portion sizes
- Free Range balls are a nice PERK and get positive player comments.
- Use drawing tickets as a tool so players check-in as they arrive, that way you know if anyone is missing,
- Have a greeter with a master list to get players to the right cart & post a master list by the entry door
- **Have players names on the carts, and carts lined up by hole assignment**
- Have players names (& handicaps if applicable) on each team score card – one card for EACH team.
- Remind players to exchange score cards and check their cards
- **(Required)** Post flights & scores after the event so players can see where they finished/placed
- **(Required)** Provide CNSGA with scores and placings -- New in 2022
- Have enough help to tend bar, serve food, and calculate / post scores
- **Have 1-2 local standby players available** with varying handicaps, as there are often last-minute cancellations or no-shows
- Clubs may use non-CNSGA members as fill-ins (age 50+), BUT they can NOT receive any tournament payouts (encourage them to join CNSGA)
- Be sure to have a couple of extra carts available, in case of a break down
- If enough players, consider having a “Super Senior” flight for players over 75
- Round payouts to be easily divided (example do not give \$50 to be divided 3 ways, pay \$48 or \$51 instead)
- Use small bills to aid in division among the winning team OR have merchandise certificates pre-printed
- Tournaments that consistently “fill” are the ones that provide the best meals and service

THANK YOU for agreeing to host a CNSGA event. **Contact me** with any questions or suggestions. We want to get as many people to your tournament as possible, as your success is our success.

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