

MILWAUKEE COUNTY PUBLIC LINKS ASSOCIATION

FIRST TEAM RULES

Approved by Board of Directors, May, 3 2005

The purpose of the First Team Matches is to promote competition among low Handicap players and to determine the MCPLA "First Team Champions" annually.

I. TEAM STRUCTURE AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Each Team shall consist of twelve (12) players, one of whom shall be designated the Team Captain. The First Team Captains and the First Team Director as chairman, shall constitute the Rules Committee.
 - 1. A First Team player must be an active member in good standing of the club he is representing.
 - 2. A player belonging to more than one club may represent only one club, in Team Matches and other MCPLA events, per season.
- B. Clubs unable to field a full twelve (12) man team, may participate by fielding a joint team, comprised of players from two clubs. Each club must execute a written agreement specifying the inter-club arrangement as follows:
 - 1. The number of players each club will provide each Match.
 - 2. Confirm each club's responsibility for "No Shows".
 - 3. Designate a single Team Captain for the season.

II. FIRST TEAM DIRECTOR

- A. Responsible for conducting five (5) First Team Matches each year.
- B. Confirm each scheduled Match, one month prior to playing date, with the Club Professional or Clubhouse Manager to ensure the course is aware of the event.
- C. Receive Team Rosters from all Team Captains, fifteen (15) minutes before the first tee time, and coordinate starting with the Club Professional/Club Manager and or Host Club Starter, at nine (9) minute intervals.
- D. After each Match, issue a First Team "Standings Report", showing results of the latest Match and the current status of all Teams, distributing one (1) copy to each Team Captain and one (1) copy to the MCPLA president.

III. TEAM CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Each Team Captain shall arrange his players by Handicap Index, lowest Handicap Index player tees off first, etc. No exceptions will be allowed.
- B. Each Team Captain shall submit his Team Roster to the First Team Director at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the Match. No changes will be allowed after that time, except in the case of a "No Show", an alternate may be substituted for such "No Show", if one is available.
- C. Serve as a member of the First Team Rules Committee.
- D. It is the duty of each Team Captain to advise his Team Members of the playing rules. He shall supply a copy of these rules to each Player.

IV. HOST TEAM CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Host Team Captain is responsible to contact his Club Professional or Clubhouse Manager and Course Superintendent, one month prior to the Match, and review the following:
 - 1. Confirm the course has reservations for the requisite number of players. (currently 72), on the scheduled date and starting time.
 - 2. Ensure that the course will provide a minimum of one (1) open Tee Time before the First Team Match starts.
 - 3. Request that greens, tees and fairways are cut to proper height. Course to be played at Championship yardage with a fair set-up, six holes easy, six holes moderate and six holes difficult. **No gimmicks!**
- B. The Host Team Captain is responsible to again review the arrangements made under this Section, ten (10) days before the Match and again the Thursday before the Match, to ensure the course will be properly conditioned.
- C. The Host Team Captain is responsible for providing the manpower to conduct the Match.
 - 1. A Starter is required at the Tee and the Professional may fulfil this requirement. He shall verify that all players have purchased golf permits and are complying with the Dress Code, (Section VI-E.)
 - 2. One member is needed to take scores. He shall verify and record all scores and point totals, (48 per group), and ensure all players have signed the scorecard.
 - 3. The Starter will punch each group's time card after the last player has teed off. He will hand the card to the group, remind them of the Pace Time and move the clock to position near the 18th Green after the final group has left the first tee.

V. PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITY AND SCORING

- A. Each player of a group, will play a match against the other players in his group. Points are awarded as follows: 2 points for the most holes won on the front nine; 2 points for the most holes won on the back nine; 2 points for the most holes won in the 18 hole match; 2 points for 18 hole low medal score. Ties count for one point for each player. Each group plays for a total of 48 points, unless there are only two players in the group, then 40 points total.
- B. Each player shall keep the hole scores of all players in the group and his own status in each of his matches. Players are responsible for individual hole scores only which will be recorded on the master score sheet. The computer will compute the points for each player. One card, showing all hole scores, shall be signed by all players and returned to the Score Table within ten (10) minutes of the completion of the round. Penalty for breach - **disqualification.**
- C. The team that accumulates the most points over the season will be the "*FIRST TEAM CHAMPION*". The club will have possession of the MCPLA traveling trophy for the following season. It is the team/club's responsibility to return the trophy at or before the MCPLA September regular Board meeting.
- D. A tie for the Championship will be broken by an 18 hole Team play-off at a neutral course. Total points per group will be 32. The First Team Director will make arrangements for the play-off.

VI. RULES

- A. Competitions are conducted under the United States Golf Association "Rules of Golf" for **Stroke Play.**
- B. All players shall conduct themselves in a gentlemanly manner at all times.
- C. Rule 6-3a provides: "The player shall start at the time laid down by the Committee." The penalty for breach of 6-3a is disqualification. However, it is a condition of the First Team competition that, if the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole instead of disqualification. (See Note under Rule 6-3.)
- D. Team Captains will select only those players who are capable and willing to play at a pace to complete the round in accordance with the Course "USGA-WSGA Pace Rating." Rule 6-7 states, "the player shall play without undue delay." The MCPLA "**Pace of Play**" Policy will be observed. The first group to start will be considered **out of position** if, at any time during the round, the group is behind the prescribed schedule. Any following group will be considered **out of position** if it, (A) is taking more than the allotted time to play, and (B) *if you are not ready to play your approach shot when the flag ahead of you is placed in the hole.* It is the responsibility of the players to note whether their group is out of position. Players will **NOT** be informed the group is being timed. Summary of Penalties:
First Offense: Two occasions exceeding 40 seconds to play a stroke - **one stroke penalty.**
Second Offense: One more occasion (total three) exceeding 40 seconds to play stroke -**two stroke penalty.**
Subsequent Offense: One more occasion (total four) exceeding 40 seconds to play stroke - **disqualification.**
Players must proceed briskly to their ball and play ready golf.
- E. Shirts must have traditional collars, mock turtlenecks are permitted; only golf slacks or knee length walking shorts are allowed, **no denim.** Pagers, cell phones and metal or traditionally-designed spikes are prohibited, penalty for breach is **disqualification.**

VII. DISQUALIFICATION PENALTIES

- A. When a player, who has started play, is disqualified under Section I (Eligibility); Section V-B (Failure to sign scorecard); Section VI-D (Pace); Section VI-E (Dress Code); he shall lose all points and the other players shall recalculate their matches. Additionally, the player's team shall be assessed a 8 point penalty from the total team score, if the disqualification is for Pace of Play. Any other disqualification under the "Rules of Golf" shall be loss of points only.

VIII. PROTESTS

- A. Any protest regarding scoring, eligibility, or Rules must be submitted in writing, by the Team Captain or his designee, to the First Team Director prior to leaving the golf course.
- B. The First Team Committee will make the final determination of all protests, consistent with the "Rules of Golf".

IX. PRIZES

- A. One dozen golf balls will be awarded for the low score and the second lowest score at each Match.

X. EVENTS

- A. A Skin Game will not be sponsored or run by the MCPLA First Team Director. If any participant wishes to assume the responsibility of running a Skin Game, he may do so, provided it is on an optional basis only and 100% of the fees is returned to the participants.