



Captain's Manual

ABOUT: Mass Golf Men's Team Matches are a statewide competition among Member Clubs that allows male Mass Golf members to participate in a competitive and social interclub format. Team Matches will consist of four matches over the course of the summer months (June – September), with one match taking place per month. The format is Net Four-Ball Match Play.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Mass Golf Members, male, amateur, aged 21 or older, with an active USGA Handicap Index® that is affiliated with the Member Club and the team they play for in Men's Team Matches.
- Affiliate Clubs may participate after gaining consent from a qualifying Member Club to host their home match.
- Teams representing Member Clubs with a course length of at least 1,500 yards and active Course Rating™ are eligible to participate and host matches. Mass Golf shall endeavor to assign teams with a host course maximum length of 5,000 yards or less to the same region.
- A member may play for only one team each season.
- To be eligible for a match, a player must be active on the team's Member Club GHIN® roster at least 1 week prior to a specific match.

FORMAT:

- Teams of 6 players will compete against 3 other teams in their region over a schedule of 4 matches (see match schedule below).
- Each match consists of 18 holes (see scoring below).
- Each match will consist of 2 players (side) from a team competing against 2 players (side) from another team in Net Four-Ball Match Play.
- Players within a team will be paired by Handicap Index, low to high (1&2, 3&4, 5&6).
- Under Rule 21.2, Maximum Score in Men's Team Matches is set at net double bogey. Players must pick up once they have reached net double bogey for a hole.
- In any match where both sides have scored net double bogey for a hole – the hole is tied, and both teams proceed to next hole.
- Mass Golf will provide guidelines for tee sets to be played, based on available tee sets at each host course.

TEAMS:

- Each team will consist of 6 male amateur Mass Golf members with an active Handicap Index affiliated with and representing a specific Member Club.

- Each team will be represented by a captain, who will be responsible for managing their team and coordinating matches with their host Member Club.
- Captains are required to finalize match rosters 48 hours before each match.
- Teams will be grouped into regions, with each region consisting of 4 teams.
- Each team will host one regional match at the Member Club they are affiliated with.
- The host team is encouraged to arrange for post-round hospitality with their host club.
- Only one team from each club will be accepted prior to the close of entries on a first come, first served basis until we reach the maximum capacity of 80 teams. Clubs that wish to field secondary teams will be waitlisted and will be accepted on a space available basis after the entry deadline based on a random draw. If your club wishes to be put on the waitlist for a secondary team, BOTH teams from your club are required to host a match.

MATCH SCHEDULE:

- Match #1 – Host Club is TEAM A – June
 - Must enter host date in Golf Genius and communicate to captains by **May 1st**.
- Match #2 – Host Club is TEAM B – July
 - Must enter host date in Golf Genius and communicate to captains by **June 1st**
- Match #3 – Host Club is TEAM C – August
 - Must enter host date in Golf Genius and communicate to captains by **July 1st**
- Match #4 – Host Club is TEAM D – September
 - Must communicate to captains by August 1st.
 - **The September host date will be entered in Golf Genius by the Golf Genius team directly. The host Captain for September should not enter the host date in Golf Genius for the September match.** The Mass Golf staff will reach out to September host Captains directly to ask for their September match date.
- Matches 1-3: Each team will play one head-to-head match against each team in their region.
- Match 4: After the conclusion of the first 3 matches, teams will be seeded and play the final head-to-head match based on cumulative points in their region (1st vs 4th, 2nd vs 3rd).
- The match rotation schedule set forth by Mass Golf for a region may be modified by consent of all captains in that region. Captains are required to confirm any modified host month schedules to Mass Golf no later than May 1st.
- Captains are required to secure a date and consecutive block of six tee times to host their match on a day and time agreeable to the host Member Club. Matches may be held on any day of the week and should be scheduled to provide ample time to complete 18 holes before dark.
 - Mass Golf strongly recommends confirming a rain date with your Club as well, in case of the event that a match is cancelled due to inclement weather.

MATCH #4 SEEDING:

- After the conclusion of the first 3 matches, teams within a region will be seeded based on cumulative points for Match #4.

- At the conclusion of the first 3 matches and in the event of any point ties within a region, the ties will attempt to be broken in this order:
 1. Results of the total head-to-head match points between the tied teams.
 2. Results of the win/loss record against all other teams in the region.
 3. If there is tie for 1st place: Results of the total match points each tied team won against the third-place team in the region.
 4. If there is a tie for 2nd or 3rd place: Results of the total match points each tied team won against the first-place team in the region.
 5. Coin flip.

REGIONAL RESULTS:

- At the conclusion of the matches and in the event of any overall point ties within a region, the ties will attempt to be broken in this order:
 1. Results of the total head-to-head match points between the tied teams.
 2. Results of the win/loss record against all other teams in the region.
 3. Results of the total match points each tied team won against the third-place team in the region.
 4. Coin flip.
- The winning team in each region will be invited to compete in the Men's Team Matches Championship in October.

SCORING:

- Each team is awarded points as follows: 1 point for winning a hole, .5 points for a tied hole and 0 points for losing a hole. In addition, each side will be awarded 2 additional points for every match won.
- Players may not arbitrarily split points during a match.
- One member of each foursome is required to use the Golf Genius App to enter hole-by-hole scores for their match.

REGIONS:

- Teams may request to be assigned to a region with other teams (in combination with one, two or three other teams), subject to mutual consent as part of the registration process. Otherwise, teams will be assigned to regions by Mass Golf.
- All teams are encouraged to embrace the spirit of the matches, which is about you and your team competing with teams and friends from other Member Clubs representing the Mass Golf community. Men's Team Matches players should expect to compete with players of all different skill levels and from different types of clubs and courses throughout the state.

HANDICAPS:

- Playing Handicap™ determined by Handicap Index from the USGA® GHIN revision as of 1 week before each match (90% allowance).
- Players will be limited to a Playing Handicap of 36.

TEAM ROSTERS & SUBS:

- The players on a team may change from match to match, as long as each player maintains an active Mass Golf membership with the Member Club they are representing.

PACE OF PLAY:

- To keep up pace of play, in any match where both sides have met or exceeded net double bogey for a hole – the hole is tied, and both sides proceed to next hole. See reference to Rule 21.2 under Format.
- It is expected that the pace of play requirements of the host club will be enforced by the captain of each team.

GOLF GENIUS:

- The Golf Genius App will be used for official scoring of all matches. No paper materials are required to be printed in Golf Genius for Men's Team Matches.
- Captains must use Golf Genius to manage each match day.
- In the event of a substitution less than 1 week prior to a match, Captains are responsible for updating the new player's Handicap Index to the correct revision date in Golf Genius.
- Men's Team Matches must be accessed via a dedicated link to Golf Genius provided by Mass Golf and cannot be accessed through a Club's Golf Genius account.

TEE GUIDELINES:

- Tee guidelines will be communicated by Mass Golf directly to each individual region after regions are assigned. Each course will be provided with a recommended list of Mass Golf-rated tee sets that can be used for Men's Team Matches.
- Captains should discuss the various tee options at their course with the other captains in their region to mutually agree upon tee set(s) they feel will best suit their players.
- Each foursome must play from the same set of tees. An individual player or side cannot play from a different tee set than the rest of their foursome.
- Captains can mutually agree to have **each foursome** play from a different set of tees than other foursomes. One captain from each match must set the course and tee that each foursome will play from in Golf Genius accordingly. Tee sets will impact the Playing Handicaps of each foursome and should be reviewed carefully by the captains prior to the start of their host matches.

FIELDING LESS THAN SIX PLAYERS:

A club is expected to field a full team of six players playing in three sides of two. Below are the procedures to follow if a club cannot field a full team:

- If one player from a side is absent, then their designated partner will play alone as a side against their original opposing side.
- If both players from a single side are absent, the two lowest handicap players remaining will each play individually as two separate sides against their opponent's sides of two, and the third match will be played as a side of two.
- If both players from multiple sides are absent, each remaining player will play individually as separate side(s) against their opponent's lowest-handicap side(s) of two, and any remaining matches will be defaulted, with 10 points being awarded to the other team for each defaulted match.
- If all players from a team are absent, all three matches between them and their opposing team will be defaulted, with 30 points being awarded to the opposing team.
 - If a team fully defaults more than one match day in a season (meaning no players from that team participate on a match day in multiple instances), they may not be permitted to participate in Men's Team Matches in the following season.

If you know in advance that your team will be fielding fewer than 6 players, we encourage you to notify the opposing team and host captain as soon as possible, both in the spirit of the competition and to ensure any necessary updates are made correctly in Golf Genius.

POSITIONING OF PLAYERS:

- Captains are responsible for making sure all players on their team are in correct low-to-high Handicap Index order in the pairings. For any matches where players are in an incorrect order, those matches will be defaulted, and 10 points will be awarded to the opposing team per each defaulted match.

MATCH SUSPENSIONS:

- Play may be suspended for adverse weather by: the golf course superintendent, golf professional or a majority vote of the captains with advisement from the host club staff. Following a suspension, a decision must be made to either resume play after a reasonable amount of time or conclude the match day.
- The match results are valid and scored if each match completes at least 9 holes. If less than 9 holes have been completed by one or more matches, the match day and partial results are cancelled. If 9 or more holes have been completed by all matches, the match results will be scored. In this case, only the least common number of holes among the matches will be scored.
 - Example: if A v B finishes 10 holes and C v D finishes 12 holes, only the scores for 10 holes will be considered for the entire region.

MATCH CANCELLATIONS:

- In the event a team is unable to host a match at their home course as specified by the match rotation schedule, the captain of that team may choose to secure an alternate site to host.

- Matches may be cancelled only by the host Club staff due to adverse weather conditions. The host captain is responsible for rescheduling any cancelled matches within the time frame assigned to that match (before the end of the designated month).
- A host team that is unable to conduct its host match for non-weather related reasons within the assigned time frame will default the match, with 30 points awarded to the other three teams in the region.
- Teams unable to host their scheduled match may not be permitted to participate in Men's Team Matches in the future.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

- If a team, player, or club violates any local, state, USGA®, Mass Golf or Men's Team Matches policies, procedures, expectations, or guidelines they may not be permitted to participate in Men's Team Matches in the future.

CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Communicate Member Club responsibilities to their host Club and establish approval and agreement on these responsibilities before registering a team.
- Secure host match date/tee times and post-match hospitality (encouraged but not required) with their Member Club.
- Coordinates the confirmation of a host match date, tee times and tee sets with the other captains in their region.
- Captains are required to confirm any modified host month schedules to Mass Golf no later than May 1st.
- Communicate all host Club match information to their team and other captains in the region, including cart fees, cart policies, hospitality offerings and fees.
- Communicate league policies and procedures to their team players and ensure adherence.
- Communicate and coordinate Men's Team Matches policies to and with their host Club.
- Responsible for collection and payment to the host Club captain of all fees for their team for each match.
- Coordinate with Mass Golf regarding any questions around Men's Team Matches policies, procedures, and use of Golf Genius.
- **All communication regarding a team or its players must flow from the team captain to fellow captains, Member Clubs and Mass Golf. Team players should communicate directly with their captain and not the host Club or Mass Golf regarding any Men's Team Matches issues.**
- Questions or issues pertaining to *The Rules of Golf* may be handled by the host Member Club (if they wish to) or Mass Golf.
- Attend one of the virtual pre-season meetings.

Golf Genius Responsibilities:

- Submit registration and fee.
- Submit the team pairings at least 48 hours in advance for each match.

- If there is a change to your team’s pairings less than 48 hours prior to the match, you must inform the other captains in the region as soon as possible.
- If a team captain fails to set their pairings for a match day prior to the 48-hour deadline, they will receive a warning from Mass Golf if it is the first time they failed to do so that season. If they fail to set their pairings for a second match day in the same season, those matches will be defaulted, with 30 points being awarded to the opposing team.
- Enter host match dates according to match schedule deadlines (listed above).
- Manage team roster substitutions for each match in Golf Genius and communicate changes with regional captains.
 - If there is a change to your team’s pairings less than 48 hours prior to the match, you must inform the other captains in the region as soon as possible.
- Use the tee guidelines established by Mass Golf to set which tees will be used for all matches.
 - If there is a change to the tee sets being played less than 48 hours prior to the match, you must inform the other captains in the region as soon as possible.
- Access the GGIDs for each foursome in that month’s matches and have them on hand for the match day.
- Ensure hole-by-hole scores are entered for each match in the Golf Genius App.

MEMBER CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Host one match for each team that is representing the Club, in accordance with the match rotation schedule assigned by Mass Golf for each team. We ask that Member Clubs provide each captain with at least 3 date and time options to assist the captains in identifying a match date that is mutually agreeable to all the captains in the region.
- For each match, provide and schedule 6 consecutive tee times (foursomes) for the match day and time agreed upon with the team captain.
- Communicate all applicable club information, policies, and expectations to their respective captain, including cart fees, cart and or caddy policies, hospitality offerings, other applicable fees, etc.

CHAMPIONSHIP:

- The Men’s Team Matches Championship will take place on Tuesday, October 13th at Marlborough Country Club. It will be a shotgun start.
- The winning team from each region after all 4 regular season matches will be invited to compete in the Championship (see REGIONAL RESULTS section).
- **To participate in the Championship, a player must have played in at least one match for their team during the regular season.**
- There will be a separate registration fee of \$600 per team to participate in the Championship.
- The format will be as follows:
 - Net Four-Ball Stroke Play with 6 players per team.
 - There is no head-to-head match play aspect to the Championship.

- The combined net score to par of the three sides on a team will count as the final team score.
- The first-place net team will be considered the 2026 Men's Team Matches Champions.
- Pro shop credit will be awarded to the top finishing teams.
- Food and a cash bar will be available post-round.

FREQUENTLY ASKED RULES QUESTIONS:

Below are some USGA® *Rules of Golf* pertaining specifically to Net Four-Ball Match Play. It is important for Men's Team Matches participants to be aware of these rules if ruling situations arise:

- [Rule 3.2b](#) – Match Play – Concessions
- [Rule 3.2d](#) – Responsibilities of Player and Opponent in Match Play
- [Rule 20.1b](#) – Rules Issues in Match Play
- [Rule 23.4](#) – One or Both Partners May Represent the Side
- [Rule 23.6](#) – Side's Order of Play
- After scores for all 18 holes have been entered and saved in Golf Genius, players have 15 minutes to request a ruling, otherwise the results of the match are final.