



WESTERN PROVINCE GOLF

Women's League Rules 2021



Definitions of abbreviations used:

HI - Handicap Index (rounded off to one decimal point) is an indication of the potential of the golfer.

CH - Course Handicap (rounded off to a whole number) is the calculated handicap the golfer will use on the day, based on the tee they select on a specific course, including adjustment to Par.

GSL – Gold & Silver Leagues

BCL – Bronze & Copper Leagues

1. COMPOSITION AND FORMAT OF THE LEAGUES:

1.1 **SCRATCH LEAGUE**

Matches will be played on a Saturday afternoon.

There are no HI limits in this league.

A team shall consist of four (4) players. Singles and Foursomes Match Play played off scratch.

1.2 **GOLD & SILVER LEAGUES**

Matches will be played on a Tuesday afternoon.

The maximum HI is 15.0

A team shall consist of six (6) players. Singles and Foursomes Match Play, to play off a CH.

Singles: Players must determine their CH for the host venue's Red course using their HNA HI.

Foursomes: Players must first determine their CH for the host venue's Red course using their HNA HI. Foursome partners will then play off a CH of half of their combined CH - (rounded off to a whole number & 0.5 + is rounded up)

CONCESSION: Should a club have insufficient players in the **GSL** HI parameters, players of 15,1 to 19.0 HI may play in this league, however, they would be required to use a 15.0 HI.

1.3 **BRONZE & COPPER LEAGUES**

Matches will be played on a Tuesday afternoon.

The minimum HI is 15,1 and the maximum HI is 28.0

A team shall consist of six (6) players. Four-ball & Singles Match Play and, to play off a CH.

Singles: Players must determine their CH for the host venue's Red course using their HNA HI.

Four-Ball Match Play: Players must first determine their CH for the host venue's Red course using their HNA HI. The CH of all four players is then reduced by the CH of the player with the lowest CH, who then plays from scratch. (If one of the players is absent, her CH will still be taken into consideration for determining who plays off scratch.)

CONCESSION: Should a club have insufficient **BCL** players to fill their team, or where a club does not have a **GSL** team, or a player cannot be accommodated in their **GSL** team, then the club may apply, in advance, to WP GOLF for a concession to include one (1) **GSL** player (with a HI of 14,1 to 15.0) in either the Bronze or Copper team using her HI.

2. GENERAL

2.1 The league shall be open to all clubs affiliated to Western Province Golf (WP GOLF).

2.2 All matches will play the Red course at each host venue. All matches are to be played over a round of 18 holes and will not be extended if tied. The Rules of the R & A Limited, these League Rules and the Local Rules of the host club will apply.

2.3 WP Golf shall appoint a Tournament Committee.

2.4 WP Golf will determine in which league a club will be permitted to play. A club may opt not to participate.

2.5 WP Golf reserves the right to allow different clubs to play as a combined team, subject to annual review.

2.6 WP Golf shall arrange the dates, tee off times and venues of play each year.

2.7 The use of golf carts is permitted for all leagues. The onus is on the player to organize the motorized cart timeously with the host club should she require one. If motorized carts are not available or their use prohibited by the host club on the date of the match, players requesting a cart must either elect to walk or concede the match to their opponent.

2.8 There is to be no stopping after nine holes. Grab-and-go applies, and it is the responsibility of each group of players to ensure that they keep up with the players ahead of them.

2.8 The use of golf carts by spectators is not permitted and spectators are to keep off tees, fairways and greens at all times. Failure to adhere to such requests could lead to the spectators being asked to leave the golf course.

2.9 Each club competing in the WP Golf League shall appoint a League Manager and advise WP Golf of their contact details.

2.10 **Local Rules:** In addition to Local Rules posted at the host club:

2.10.1 **EMBEDDED BALL (Rule 16.3)**

In the General Area, free relief is available for a ball that is embedded in its own pitch mark. **Exceptions:** No free relief is available if the ball is embedded in sand in a part of the general area that is **NOT** closely-mown or when neither the reference point nor any part of the course within one club length of the reference point is in the general area. (e.g. when the ball is embedded in the very base of the lip of a bunker or the spot right behind the ball is in the bunker)

2.10.2 CADDIES (Rule 10.3a)

Rule 10.3a is modified in this way: The sharing of a Caddie by team members is not permitted for the Singles matches. Penalty for breach of this local rule: The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which she is helped by such a caddie. If the breach happens or continues between two holes, the player gets the general penalty for the next hole.

2.11 Outside caddies may only be used with the consent of the host club.

3 ORDER OF PLAY:

Order of play may only be changed by prior agreement by both captains.

3.1 **Singles:** The order of play is No.6 down (Scratch League - No.4 down)

3.2 **Foursomes:** The order of play is pair No.3 down (Scratch League – pair No.2 down) Selected players may be paired according to compatibility and they are then to play in order of their **Combined HI**.

3.3 **Four-ball:** The order of play is pair No. 3 down. Selected players may be paired according to compatibility and they are then to play in order of their **Combined HI**.

4 SELECTION

4.1 After selection, if a player's HI is cut due to an instant revision, that player may remain in the team as selected using her revised HI.

In the event of a player's HI having increased after selection resulting in:

4.1.1 her HI being greater than the concession allowed in the **GSL** (i.e. 19.0), then the player may remain in the team and using a 15.0 HI

4.1.2 her HI being greater than the maximum HI in the **BCL** (i.e. 28.0), then the player may remain in the team using a 28.0 HI.

It is the player's duty to inform the team captains of this HI revision. Instant revisions may not necessitate changing the composition of the team, but may result in an Order of Play revision within a team.

4.2 Any player having an open round on the day of league will not be eligible to play. League Managers shall be responsible for ensuring their players meet this requirement.

4.3 If a League season has been completed, or if a higher league is not due to play a match in a given month, players who would **normally represent** their club in that league may not play in a lower league for that month/s.

4.4 Except within the constraints of HI limits in the various leagues, WP Golf does not prescribe the selection criteria employed by a club. Only that selected players/pairings must play in strict order of HI. This rule also applies when reserves are moved into a team.

4.5 A Scratch League player may be selected to play in the **GSL**.

4.6 A club may select any **GSL** player to play in their Scratch League. Where a club has Scratch and **GSL** teams, then the selection of Scratch players is exempt from the selection in order of HI.

4.7 For team selection in the **GSL** and **BCL**, players must be selected in order of HI e.g. the lowest HI play in the **GSL**, followed by the **BCL**. The **BCL** must first be filled with **BCL** players before the **GSL** HI concession is applied for.

4.8 Clubs that have teams in both the **GSL** & **BCL** must select their players in HI order (Gold – lowest HI; Silver higher HI) (Bronze – lowest HI & Copper higher HI).

4.9 Clubs that have 2 teams in a league must select players in HI order i.e. Team 1 lowest HI players & Team 2 higher HI players.

NOTE: Should a club require their teams to be of equal strength, they must, in writing, apply to WP golf prior to the start of the season in order to do so, otherwise the HI order will apply to their teams.

5 ELIGIBILITY

5.1 A player must have an official HNA HI. A player is eligible to play for her 'home club' (where she is handicapped).

5.2 A player may only play league for one WP Golf affiliated club during each calendar year. A player who is a member of more than one club may only play league for one of her clubs during a calendar year. If not playing for her home club, she must obtain permission from her Home Club Captain and a copy of this letter must be sent to WP Golf prior to her playing her first match of the season.

5.3 WP Golf retains the right to make an exception to Point 5.2.

5.4 A player whose home club is in another province, may play league for her WP Golf affiliated club, provided that she obtains written permission from her home club captain and she has not played league for any other WP Golf affiliated club during the same calendar year. Once a player obtains such permission she may not represent any other WP Golf club during the same calendar year.

6 TEAM CAPTAINS

Each competing team shall have a captain whose responsibilities include:

6.1 Being present at the match 20 minutes before starting time.

6.2 Ensuring that their players are ready to tee off on time, and in their allocated tee times.

6.3 Preparing the WP Golf Result Sheet indicating players' names, HI, CH, order of play and exchanging the details on the WP Golf Result Sheet with their opposing captains upon arrival at the League venue.

6.4 Completing, verifying and submitting the WP Golf Result Sheet (in original excel format) to the WP Golf League representative by email.

7 CONCEDED MATCHES

7.1 Scratch League, Gold & Silver Leagues

7.1 When a team lacks its full complement of players on the day of a scheduled match, the remaining players must move up in order of play and the last matches will be conceded. As a courtesy the opposing captains must be informed as soon as it has been established that a full team cannot be fielded.

7.2 Bronze & Copper Leagues: Singles: When a team lacks its full complement of players on the day of a scheduled match, the remaining players must move up in order of play and the last matches will be conceded. **Four-Ball Matchplay:** When a team lacks its full complement of players on the day of a scheduled match, as many players as possible must play. At least two of the three matches must be played i.e. if only 2 players are available; each singly must play against an opposing pairings.

7.3 All Leagues: In the event of a club being unable to field any members of a team, that team will be withdrawn from the league and all points from all matches in which they played will become null and void. Should a team withdraw or be suspended during the course of the season along with a fine of R5000 per team, all their matches in their section will be null and voided.

8 DELAYS AND NON-ARRIVALS

8.1 **Singles/Foursomes** matches: If a player arrives at her starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after her starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play. Otherwise, the penalty for breach of this Rule (5.3a) is disqualification. In the event of a player being disqualified that match is conceded and the rest of the team must play in its original order.

8.2 **Four-Ball** matches: A side may be represented by one partner for all or any part of a match; all partners need not be present. An absent partner may join a match between holes, but not during play of a hole.

8.3 The only acceptable circumstance for a player being late would be if she was present at the scene of an accident and provided medical assistance, or was required to give a statement as a witness and otherwise would not have failed to start on time.

8.4 However, an acceptable late arrival must not interfere with other teams' allocated times and the delayed match must tee-off behind the league field.

8.5 If there is no valid reason for the late arrival of a player, that match is won by the opposition, unless the provisions of Point 8.2 above apply. This must be made known before the players concerned tee off.

9 TIME OF PLAY

9.1 Scratch League: tee times will be determined by the host club.

9.2 Gold, Silver, Bronze & Coppers Leagues: commences at 12.00pm and all league matches are allocated tee times. It is not permissible to delay the tee off times of the next matches by waiting for players to arrive. See Point 8 for Delays/Non-Arrivals.

9.3 The first matches will commence at the times designated in the fixtures thereafter in 8-minute intervals. Matches shall keep up with the match ahead.

10 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

10.1 A match shall be played, unless:

10.1.1 the Greenkeeper or Club Manager (person duly authorised) closes the course before play is due to start.

10.1.2 the WP Golf league representative after consultation, deems the forecasted weather conditions to be dangerous. In such events, the WP League Representative will, if possible, notify the Club League Representatives by 10h00 on the day of play.

10.2 At the official starting time, if the course is open for play, bad weather is not of itself a good reason for not starting or, if play has begun, discontinuing play.

10.3 If the course becomes unplayable or the weather becomes dangerous, players may agree to discontinue play as per Rule 5.7a. However, they must continue play as soon as one player wishes to resume play, as the agreement has then ended. Should a player not wish to resume play as they feel the course is unplayable, they may request a ruling from the Committee, before resuming play, otherwise they are disqualified.

10.4 If play is suspended, or the course is closed by the respective club, and no further play is possible on the day of the league fixture, team captains must provide the WP Golf League Representative with details of the state of the matches. The Committee will rule on the outcome in accordance with Point 10.5 below.

10.5 WP Golf reserves the right to make a decision in equity when it is impossible to complete a match or series of matches in accordance with the Rules of Golf.

11 DISPUTES

11.1 League Managers are to draw the attention of their players to Rule 20.1a and b, which clearly sets out the procedure to be followed if a rules issue arises on the course. If a ruling request is made, once the match has been completed, the players must report the matter to their team captains.

11.2 The League Result Sheet should be clearly marked "Ruling requested" and the matter brought immediately to the attention of the WP Golf League Representative. This shall be followed up by the submission of an email report within 24 hours of the completion of the fixtures, setting out the nature and details of the ruling request. If this procedure is not followed, no ruling will be given and the results of the match will stand.

- 11.3 In the event of the above procedure having been followed and no resolution obtained, the results of the match will be determined by WP Golf using the League Results Sheet and any other information gathered by the Tournament Committee.

12 RESULTS

- 12.1 After the completion of each match it is the responsibility of each Team Captain to send or email the verified Results Sheets to their League Manager.
Scratch League: The Club's League Manager shall submit, by email, all the Club's Result Sheets to the WP Golf League Representative by 12h00 of the Monday following the league match.
Should a team not submit results by 17h00 of the Monday following the league match; a one-point penalty will be deducted from the total points of that team.
- 12.2 Gold, Silver, Bronze & Copper Leagues: The Club's League Manager shall submit, by email, all the Club's Result Sheets to the WP Golf League Representative by 12h00 of the Wednesday following the league match.
Should a team not submit results by 17h00 of the Wednesday following the league match; a one-point penalty will be deducted from the total points of that team.
- 12.3 Unless there are any outstanding ruling requests, which have been referred to WP Golf in accordance with Rule 11 above, the results of all league matches are final when published on the WP Golf web site. Results of all league matches will be published by 12h00 noon on the Friday following the Tuesday & Saturday league match. The results will also be emailed to the Club's League Manager.

13 LEAGUE LOG & TIES: SCRATCH, GOLD & SILVER & COPPER LEAGUES

- 13.1 The winner shall be the club that scores the highest number of points. In the event of a tie, the winner shall be the club with the highest aggregate of individual matches, i.e. the higher positive difference between games won and games lost (differential). Should there still be a tie; the winner shall be the club with the most matches won. Should there still be a tie, the winner shall be the club with the most matches won between the two clubs concerned, and if there is no winner the trophy will be shared.
- 13.2 Should league not be completed by the stipulated/allocated dates, the winners will be determined by the results of the completed singles matches played.

14 FINAL PLAY-OFF: BRONZE LEAGUES

- 14.1 **Bronze Leagues:** At the conclusion of the sectional matches, the top team in each Section will compete in a Final Playoff to determine the winner of the Bronze League.
In the event of teams ending the season on the same number of points, the advancing team will be determined by: a) the higher positive difference of the winning margin of all games won and games lost (differential), b) the most matches won. Should there still be a tie, c) the club with the most matches won between the two clubs concerned (if applicable). Lastly if teams can still not be separated, d) the team ranked (seeded) higher at the beginning of the season.
- 14.2 The teams will be ranked (seeded) 1 - 4. In order of a) highest number of points, b) the higher positive difference of the winning margin of all games won and games lost (differential), c) the most matches won. Should there still be a tie, d) the club with the most matches won between the two clubs concerned (if applicable). Lastly, if teams can still not be separated, f) the team ranked (seeded) higher at the beginning of the season.
- 14.3 Teams who qualify for the Final Playoff must comprise a minimum of four (4) players who have played a minimum of six (6) fixtures for the Team during the year. Players who would regularly represent, and have played more than twice for their club in a higher league, may not compete in the Play-off. Breach of this league rule will result in disqualification of the Team. Clubs are required to submit their teams for the Play-off Final.
- 14.4 The format of Playoff shall be Singles Match Play.
- 14.5 In the event of a tie after the completion of the Final match the winner will be determined as follows:
14.5.1 the higher aggregate winning margin of all matches played that day, if still tied,
14.5.2 the trophy will be shared.
- 14.6 The winner of the Bronze League will be the winner of the Final Playoff matches (as per 14.5 above).

15 BREACHES

- 15.1 The Tournament Committee shall address and come to a decision on any breach of these Rules.
- 15.2 The Tournament Committee may defer its decision on any breach of these Rules to WP Golf, whose decision shall be final.

16 In exceptional circumstances, WP Golf reserves the right to amend, alter, delete or add to the above Rules at any time.

Note: League players should be sensitive to other matches once their match is finished and only continue playing if they do not cause the matches behind to be delayed.

WP Golf League Representative:**Deborah Martin**Email: deborah@wpgolf.co.za

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