



# CGA Ladies' Four-Ball Play Days Rules and Policies



## Eligibility

Entry is open to any amateur female golfer who is a member of a club that is a member of the Carolinas Golf Association and has a current USGA Handicap Index® at a CGA member club. The minimum age for entry is 13 years as of the event date. A player with more than one handicap index must use the lowest current index. Entries are subject to rejection at any time including during the event, by the CGA or by the club hosting the tournament. The reason for rejection may include unbecoming conduct.

## Entry Information

Entries are accepted online only. Entry fee is \$180/team, which includes all golf fees, lunch, and prizes. Ladies' Four-Ball Play Days have two forms of registration: First-Come Registration (FCR) and Lottery Registration (LR). Each are defined below.

Regardless of the type of registration, entries open at 8:00 p.m. on the entry open date. Teams who are a "No Show" (DNS) or "No Card" (NC) are subject to suspension from future ladies' four-ball play days. Tee time and pairings requests are not accepted. Entries will not be accepted before or after the open and close date.

## First-Come Registration (FCR)

For most events, entries are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis (FCR). In FCR, alternates are ranked in the order which entries are received and placed on the waitlist. Entries close when the allotment of accepted and alternate teams is filled or at 11:59 p.m. on the entry close date.

## Lottery Registration (LR)

For select events clearly identified on the online schedule, a lottery will be used to determine entries (LR). LR will open at 8:00 p.m. on the open date and teams will have a 24-hour window to register. If the event is over capacity after the 24-hour window, all entries will be placed into a randomized lottery. The max capacity (usually 52 teams) will receive entry to the event based on lottery order and the remaining teams will be placed on the waitlist based on lottery order.

If the event does NOT meet max capacity in the 24-hour LR window, all registered teams will receive entry into the event. The event will then revert to FCR and teams who register after the window will receive entry based on a first-come, first-served basis. In this scenario, entries will close when the allotment of accepted and alternate teams is filled or at 11:59 p.m. on the adjusted entry close date.

There is no advantage to signing up earlier or later in the 24-hour LR window. All entries, regardless of registration time in the 24-hour LR window, are equal and will be placed in the randomized lottery. Teams will be notified of their status (registered or waitlisted) within 48 hours after the event opens. For example, if the event opens on Tuesday at 8:00 p.m., LR closes at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The CGA will conduct the lottery and notify players of their status by 8:00 p.m. on Thursday.

All events are treated as separate events and no preference is given to any team for back-to-back events. LR does not affect or change any withdrawal or refund procedures (see below).

## Refund Policy

Any withdrawals requested the day prior to the tournament or on the day of the tournament will not receive a refund. Refunds are available, less a \$30 administrative fee, for an entry that is in the tournament field, so long as the withdrawal is requested by 11:59 pm a full day prior to the tournament. An entry on the wait list may withdraw at any time for no administrative fee.



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## Format and Rules

USGA Rules of Golf govern play. Tournament format is 18 holes of four-ball stroke play (two-woman team, better ball of two), with both gross and net scores. Lunch will be provided for all players at the host club immediately after play, unless noted otherwise.

One-Day Tournaments Pace of Play Policy:

*Shotgun Start.* The CGA One-Day Tournament Committee reserves the right to disqualify an individual player, side (four-ball team) and/or the entire group if they return their scorecard to the Official-In-Charge (OIC) more than 25 minutes after the group that starts directly in front of them.

*Tee Times Start.* The CGA One-Day Tournament Committee reserves the right to disqualify an individual player, side (four-ball team) and/or the entire group if they return their scorecard to the Official-In-Charge (OIC) more than 25 minutes after the group that starts directly in front of them AND over the posted pace of play time on the scorecard. The first group of the day will be judged based on the posted pace of play time on the scorecard plus 25 minutes.

Handicaps: A player's Handicap Index is calculated as of the close of entries for a FCR event and on a selected day approximately one week prior to the tournament date for a LR event. According to USGA recommended handicap allowances for four-ball stroke play, **85 percent of a player's course handicap is used to determine net scores.** Playing handicaps are limited to 45 strokes.

Further Playing Handicap reductions are applied based upon the *CGA Four-Ball Handicap Reduction Policy* (see below).

The number of flights in each tournament is based on the number of entries. Teams are flighted based on the low Handicap Index of the two teammates. If there is a tie in low player Handicap Index in a split between the two flights, the tie will be settled on Combined Handicap Indexes of the two teammates.

Yardage will usually be between 4800-5300 yards, based on course restrictions.

Partner substitutions may be made online prior to the close of entries, but any partner substitutions after the close of entries must be made by calling the CGA office. Any on-site partner substitutions may result in the new partner playing at scratch. Caddies are not allowed (unless otherwise stated on player information sheet). Spectator carts are not allowed. Practice rounds are available at host club's discretion. The CGA monitors handicap score posting and reserves the right to adjust course handicaps and/or withhold prizes for competitors whose handicaps are considered unrealistic or who have participated in a disproportionate share of CGA prize distributions. CGA will automatically post tournament scores for participants as competition scores.

## CGA Four-Ball Handicap Reduction Policy

Individuals or teams who record a Lowest Net Score (LNS) in two or more tournaments within the 12-month period prior to the tournament will be subject to reduced playing handicaps. The reduction may be withheld for an individual if that player's ratio of LNS to the number of four-ball competitions is less than 1 in 5. The Lowest Net Score (LNS) is defined as being a member of a team with one of the lowest four overall net team scores (includes ties) in any CGA Ladies' Four-Ball Play Day with a full field or as being a member of a team with the lowest net team score (includes ties) in a division at a CGA four-ball one-day tournament with net scoring. In Ladies' Four-Ball Play Days, the top four LNS are determined from the overall tournament field, not per flight. The number of total overall LNS reductions in a Ladies' Four-Ball Play Day will be equal to the number of flights in the tournament (for example, a tournament with 3 flights will have 3 LNS determined and a full tournament of 52 teams with 4 flights will have 4 LNS determined).

Competitors who qualify for this reduction will be subject to the following playing handicap reduction for any CGA Four-Ball tournament or Ladies' Four-Ball Play Day: 2 LNS = 10% reduction of Playing Handicap; 3 LNS = 20% reduction of Playing Handicap; 4 LNS = 30% reduction of Playing Handicap with a minimum of 1 stroke; 5 LNS = 40% reduction of Playing Handicap with a minimum of 1 stroke, and so forth.



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## Prizes and Merchandise

Merchandise is awarded to first place gross and net scores in all flights. Additional prizes will be awarded based on the number of entries. Merchandise certificates are redeemable only at the host club's golf shop. The CGA is not responsible for any unclaimed or unredeemed merchandise certificates after a tournament play date. The CGA will not replace any lost or unclaimed merchandise certificates/gift cards after a tournament is played.

## The Ladies' Race to the Carolinas Cup

The Ladies' Race to the Carolinas Cup is a season-long points competition in which players accumulate points based on team finish in Ladies' Four-Ball Play Days. Every team at every play day earns points in the Race to the Carolinas Cup based on their gross or net finish in their respective flight. Team points are split between players and apply to each player's individual standing in the Race to the Carolinas Cup. Players may play with any partner in any of the play days to earn points toward her individual standing. At the end of the Race to the Carolinas Cup regular season, the player with the most points is named the **Race to the Carolinas Cup champion**.

## Carolinan Cup Tournament

The Race to the Carolinas Cup culminates in the **Carolinan Cup Tournament**. The top 104 ranked teams that register for the tournament will participate in the Carolinas Cup Tournament (held over two days, 52 teams at each site). Team ranking is determined by combined individual ranking. For example, if Player A is ranked 65<sup>th</sup> and Player B is ranked 12<sup>th</sup>, their combined standing is 38.5, which would guarantee that team a spot in the tournament. Teams of all rankings are encouraged to register.

Teams will register for the Carolinas Cup Tournament in a 24-hour registration window. At the end of the registration window, combined standings will be determined and the top 104 ranked teams that registered will gain entry to the Carolinas Cup Tournament. If registration is not full, the tournament will re-open for additional entries.

## Questions?

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