

EUROPEAN MEN'S TEAM SHIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

Conditions of Competition

1. GENERAL

1.1 Eligibility of Teams

The Championship is open to European Golf Association (EGA) Member National Golf Authorities whose team has not competed in the current year's European Amateur Team Championship or European Amateur Team Championship, Division 2.

1.2 Eligibility of Players

All players nominated to teams by their national golf authority must be male and:

- a) amateur golfers in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status as approved by R&A Rules Limited;
- b) citizens of the country represented. Players with dual citizenship may only represent one country per year;
- c) playing with a handicap of **18.0** or better.

Penalty for Breach of Condition: Disqualification of player.

1.3 Format

Each team shall comprise four players.

The Championship comprises two stages played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited, the EGA Generic Conditions, EGA Hard Card and the Local Rules as approved by the Championship Committee at the championship.

1.3.1 Stage 1 - Stroke Play

There shall be one round of 18 holes stroke play to decide the draw for the match play, which commences on Day 2.

a) Order of Play

Team Captains will determine the order of play within their teams using an official order of play form. If the order of play form is not submitted to the Committee by 17h00 on the day preceding the Championship, the order of play will be determined alphabetically by surname.

b) Scoring

The lowest three scores from each team's four players will count. The aggregate of the three lowest stroke play scores will constitute each team's score for determining the match play stage seeded draw.

c) Decision of Ties

A tie for any place in the match play order shall be decided using the lowest non-counting score. If a tie still exists, the lowest score shall be used. For further ties, the second lowest score and finally the third lowest score shall be used. Any further tie will be decided based on the final stipulated 9, 6, 3 holes or last hole of the best score from each of the tied teams.

d) Substitutes

If a substitute player is required, the Committee must be notified, at the latest, 30 minutes before the first tee time of Day 1. After this deadline, the team must remain with the same players for the entire Championship. A substitute player is permitted for any reason, but may not participate in the practice rounds until he has been officially substituted for a team member with permission from the Committee. A breach of this Condition may result in the substitute player not being permitted to compete.

e) Absentee Player

In the event that a registered team member cannot participate in the stroke play round, the team's three scores will count. In the case of a decision of ties, the team with the absentee player shall finish last. If more than one player is absent, the team shall automatically assume last place in the match play draw. The remaining players shall be permitted to play their stroke play rounds, which the committee may use to determine match play seeding when more than one team has two or more absentee players.

1.3.2 Stage 2 - Match Play

All teams will play a one foursome and two singles match format. Three match play rounds will be played over two or three days.

The match play draw will be based on flights of eight teams with 1 vs 8; 2 vs 7; 3 vs 6 and 4 vs 5.

Flights will be formed for team numbers not evenly divisible by eight using a standardised EGA format.

A win in either a foursomes or singles match shall return one point, a halved match, half a point (see 1.3.2 (d)) and a loss, zero points to the team's score.

a) Order of Play

On the eve of each match, Team Captains must provide the Committee with the order of play, using the official order of play form, for the foursome and the singles matches:

- I. for match play round 1, no later than 30 minutes after the completion of the stroke play round.
- II. for match play rounds 2 & 3, no later than 30 minutes after the completion of their team's flight in the previous round.

Failure to submit the official order of play form on time will result in the order of play being determined alphabetically by surname.

Once the official deadline to submit the order of play form has expired, changes in the order of play are not permitted.

Penalty for Breach of Condition 1.3.2 (a): Disqualification of all players out of the pre-stated order of play.

b) Halved Match

In the event of a match being all square after 18 holes in any round, players shall continue to play until one wins a hole, when the match will be considered won.

Exception: Condition 1.3.2 (C)

c) Concession of Matches

When a final team match result is already decided, an individual match may be halved if all participants in that match agree.

Note: After 18 holes or any extra hole(s), if the players in an individual match remain all square and the final result of the team match has been decided, the match in question will be halved.

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d) Absentee Players

In the event that one registered team member cannot participate in a stipulated match play round, that player's match shall be forfeited at a position within the order of play according to the following principles.

- I. Foursome matches must not be forfeited and must always be played.
- II. If the "withdrawal" occurs before the official deadline to submit the order of play form has expired, the Team Captain will return the order of play form with the absentee player placed in the position of his or her choice in the singles and that match will be forfeited.
- III. If the "withdrawal" occurs after the official deadline to submit the order of play form has expired:
 - i. if the absentee player is listed to play in the singles: his match shall be forfeited,
 - ii. if the absentee player is listed to play in the foursome, he will be replaced by one of the players listed to play in the singles. The replacement will be determined by lot and his single match shall be forfeited.

If fewer than three players are available to represent a team, that team must forfeit its match.

In the event that opposing teams would each have one or more absentee players, then these players would be deemed to have been paired together and to have halved their match. Should this require the re-pairing of matches, the player(s) in the match(es) impacted higher up the order of play will drop down to play the player(s) in the other impacted match(es). A team match tied result would be decided by stroke play qualification position.

1.4 Practice

A Team Player, Team Captain or Team Advisor will not be allowed to practice on the championship course for a period of fifteen days prior to the first official practice day, unless he is a member of the golf club at which the championship is being played.

Only registered team players will be permitted to practice during the official practice rounds and in official practice areas. See Section 1.3 1 (d) for information on practice for substitutes.

1.5 Advice (Note to Rule 8)

Each team may appoint a "Team Advisor" who may give advice to members of that team from either:

- a) a Team Captain, who must be an amateur golfer in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status as approved by R&A Rules Limited; or
- b) another person who may or may not be a professional golfer.

Penalty for Breach of a): Disqualification of Team.

Exception: The appointed person may not walk on a putting green.

A Team Advisor must be identified to the Committee prior to the start of the Championship and the position must not be interchanged.

Note: A Team Captain may be named in addition to a Team Advisor. Only the Team Advisor may offer advice. Please

refer to 1.6 for caddying permissions. Any other person accompanying the team is considered as a spectator and should behave accordingly.

Penalty for Breach of Condition: Match Play - Loss of hole; Stroke Play - Two strokes.

1.6 Caddies / Electric Trolleys

- a) No caddies are permitted except for fellow team players. (European Ladies' Team Shield Championship team players are not "fellow team players" for the Men's Championship).
- b) Electric golf trolleys are only permitted if there is a sufficient number to be equally distributed among the teams.

Penalty for Breach of Condition: Match Play - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - two holes.

Stroke Play - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - four strokes (two strokes at each of the first two holes at which any breach occurred).

Match Play or Stroke Play - If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole and the penalty must be applied accordingly.

For 1.6 (a): A player having a caddie in breach of this Condition must, immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred, ensure that he conforms to this Condition for the remainder of the stipulated round. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.

For 1.6 (b): Any unauthorised use of an electric golf trolley shall be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.

1.7 Disqualification

A penalty of disqualification for a breach of the Rules or the Conditions of Competition applies only to the round in which the breach occurred unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

A disqualified team will assume last place in the Championship.

2. PRIZES

2.1 Title and Awards

The winning team of the Championship shall be the European Men's Team Shield Champion for a period of one year. The Championship Trophy shall be held by the winners' National Golf Authority, who will be responsible for the cost of engraving, insuring and maintaining the Trophy and returning it, before the next Championship, to an address named by the EGA Secretary.

The EGA will present medals to the members of the winning team and to the members of the second and third placed teams. Professional golfers nominated as Team Advisors may receive a medal in the absence of a non-playing amateur Team Captain.

The EGA will present the host club with a memento.

The host country will present all participants with a memento.

GENERIC CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION AND REGULATIONS

Applicable to all EGA Championships

1. GENERAL

1.1 Rules of Golf

All championships shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited, the EGA Hard Card and the specific Conditions of Competition.

1.2 Behaviour

Players, captains and team advisors, should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times. Behaviour of the very highest order is expected by all players, captains or team advisors towards everyone involved in the Championship. Any player, captain or team advisor, breaching the EGA Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action by the Championship Committee.

1.3 Starting Groups

Wherever possible, the preferred format for the qualification rounds for European Team Championships involving sixteen teams and fewer, is two-ball flights.

2. COMMITTEE

2.1 Composition of Authority

The EGA Championship Committee members present are responsible for the sporting aspects of the Championship and reserve the right to amend the Championship Conditions.

The Committee may appoint Referees whose decision on the Rules of Golf will be final.

2.2 Competition Cancelled or Altered

The Committee reserves the right to cancel any stipulated round, suspend or postpone play, cancel the competition or come to an equitable decision to achieve a result.

In EGA Team Championships, a minimum of 18 holes stroke play must be completed by all players in order to attain a Championship result.

3. ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWALS

3.1 Entries

Entries will only be accepted on the EGA official online entry system: www.ega-golf.ch (with the exception of the European Young Masters). Late entries will not be accepted. An entrant's or team's entry will not have been officially received until his or its name has been posted on www.ega-golf.ch.

3.2 Late Withdrawals

Players who withdraw less than three days prior to the start of the Championship, other than for sickness or other special circumstances, may have their future entries rejected.

3.3 Refunds Following Withdrawal

a) Individual Championships: Entry fees will only be refunded in the case of withdrawal being advised before the closing time for entries, except for those entrants who may be assigned to the reserve list and who do not subsequently compete, or those withdrawing for medical reasons (medical certificate required).

b) Team Championships: Entry fees will only be refunded following withdrawal if notice is received no later than 21 days before Day 1 of the Championship, unless there is a valid reason that is acceptable to the EGA.

3.4 Authorisation of Entries

All entries are subject to the approval of the Championship Committee, which reserves the right to disqualify any competitor making a false statement at his entry and to accept or refuse or, having accepted, subsequently reject any entry without giving reason for its decision.

4. REGISTRATION

a) Individual Championships: Competitors are requested to register at the club house immediately on arrival, but not later than 12h00 on the day preceding the championship. A competitor's failure to meet this deadline or to pre-notify the Committee of their pending arrival time may result in the competitor losing his/her starting field place.

b) Team Championships: Team players' names should be submitted to the hosting national golf authority no later than 10 days prior to the first official practice round. Participating teams must register as soon as possible following their arrival at the championship venue. Team captains may register players' names on behalf of their team.

5. PRACTICE ROUNDS

5.1 **One ball** only may be played during practice rounds, with the following exceptions:

- a) If a player misses the green with his shot to the green, he may play one additional shot.
- b) Where the Rules of Golf apply (e.g. provisional ball).
- c) A player may practice putting, chipping or bunker play, provided play is not delayed.

Players should discontinue such practice immediately when the following group is waiting to play.

5.2 Transportation

Players must not ride on any form of transportation during any part of an official practice round unless authorised by the Committee.

Failure to respect these Practice Rounds regulations will result in the discontinuance of the practice round.

6. DISCLAIMER

All players agree that there are certain risks inherent in the game of golf and accept personal and sole responsibility for all such risks.

EGA Championship Committee
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