



Conditions of Competition

2024 Women's Competition

Spirit of the Competition. The KC Cup is designed to foster spirited competition among golfers of all walks of life. The conditions of the competition are written to provide a fair playing field for all clubs, public and private.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these conditions, a team at any time may be disqualified from the competition and prohibited from participation in future competitions at the discretion of the Rules and Competition Committee, for repeated actions that violate the spirit of the game of golf, even if those actions do not of themselves violate any Rules of Golf. Examples of such conduct are repeated violations of the Etiquette section of the Rules of Golf by a player, statements made to an opponent suggesting that the player making the statements is ineligible for the competition, and any other gamesmanship whose purpose is to inflame one's opponent while having no direct bearing on the match being played.

1) Administration of the Competition.

- a) Ultimate responsibility for administration of the Competition rests with the Rules and Competition Committee of Central Links Golf.
- b) The Committee may appoint a Coordinator of the Competition, who shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Competition, and who shall have the authority to resolve disputes regarding the interpretation of these Conditions.
- c) Any Team Captain dissatisfied with a decision of the Coordinator may appeal by submitting a notice to the Executive Director of Central Links Golf. The Executive Director may, in his or her discretion, refer the appeal for resolution by the Committee. In either event, the decision of Central Links Golf whether made by the Executive Director or the Committee, shall be final.
- d) The Central Links Golf President may appoint a KC Cup Advisory Council to provide advice and recommendations to the Rules and Competition Committee for the ongoing improvement of the Competition.

2) **Format.** The Competition shall consist of Rounds in which one club plays against another club. Each Round shall in turn consist of three Matches, each of which is worth one Match Point. The winner of each Round shall be the team that has won the most Match Points.

3) **Eligibility.**

- a) **Teams.**
 - i) Any Kansas City area Central Links Golf member club in good standing with an active and certified handicap committee may enter the competition. In addition, at least one member of the committee must have attended a USGA Handicap Seminar. A club that fails to certify its handicap committee shall not be eligible until its handicap committee has been certified.

- ii) All members of every team must meet the individual eligibility criteria set forth below.
- iii) If an ineligible player participates in a Match, her team shall forfeit that Match. If the Committee determines the player knowingly participated in a Match while ineligible, the Committee may, in its discretion, disqualify the player from the Competition for the remainder of the year, and/or disqualify the player from the Competition for the following year.
- iv) If the Committee determines a club knowingly used an ineligible player, the Committee may, in its discretion, (a) declare the club to have forfeited the Round in which the ineligible player participated, (b) disqualify the club from the Competition for the remainder of the year, and/or (c) suspend the club from participation in the Competition for the following year.

b) Amateurs.

- i) **Age.** All women must be at least 21 years of age and not an active member of a college golf team at the time of a Match.
- ii) **Limit on Number of Clubs Represented.** No player may compete for more than one club during a particular calendar year.
- iii) **Handicap Index.** All players must have an active USGA Handicap index established at the club they represent.
- iv) **Amateur Status.** Payment of the team's entry fee and the cost of uniforms or travel expenses for a player do not violate the USGA Rules of Amateur status
- v) **Score History.** A player must have posted (since March 1, 2024) and have listed on their current revision a minimum number of home course scores for the club they represent pursuant to the following schedule:

Minimum # of Home Scores Posted	Date of Match
0	On or before April 30
1	May 1 to May 31
3	June 1 to June 15
5	June 16 to June 30
6	July 1 to July 15
7	July 16 to August 15
8	On or after August 16

- vi) **Waiver of Score Posting Requirement.** The Committee may, in its discretion, and upon timely request, modify or waive the above schedule for teams whose home courses are closed during part or all of a year.

- c) **Right to Audit.** By participating in the KC Cup, a club grants Central Links Golf the right to enter onto its premises at any time during normal business hours and review any records Central Links Golf deems, within its sole discretion, to be necessary to determine the eligibility of any player or team. If the Central Links Golf Rules & Competition Committee determines any club has refused to make its records available, or has otherwise impeded any requested audit, the Committee may impose whatever disciplinary action it deems appropriate, up to and including a permanent expulsion from eligibility to participate in the Competition.

4) Entries.

- a. The entry fee is \$250.00 per team and must be paid to Central Links Golf with the official entry form.

Entries will be accepted beginning at 9 a.m. on January 15, 2024. The deadline for entries is March 1, 2024 at 3 p.m. Entries must physically be received in the Central Links Golf office to be considered filed. Any entries hand-delivered to the Central Links Golf office must be physically handed to a member of the Central Links Golf staff, i.e., entries may not be left at the Central Links Golf exterior door outside of normal business hours.

5) Field Composition and Size.

- a. The number of divisions will be based on the number of Clubs entered.

6) Team Captain.

- a. **Designation.** Each team shall designate a Team Captain. The Team Captain shall be identified on the club's entry form; any change of the Team Captain must be communicated to Central Links Golf in writing (email).
- b. The Team Captain may designate one or more team members to fulfill her responsibilities when the Team Captain is not available.
- c. **Duties.** The Team Captain shall have the following responsibilities:
- i. Attendance at the mandatory pre-season Team Captain's meeting; March 14, 2024
 - ii. Communication with the Coordinator and opposing Team Captains regarding Round scheduling and other matters;
 - iii. Submission of the team's lineup to the opposing Team Captain before each Round;
 - iv. Representation of the club in all disputes or claims;
 - v. Certification of the eligibility of each member of her team;
 - vi. Verification of the score report and reporting the results of each Round;
 - vii. Submit a list of team members with email addresses to Central Links Golf upon request.
- d. The Team Captain or her designee may not give advice to members of her team, except when the Team Captain is playing in a Match with a partner (Rule 10.2a.)

7) Grouping of Teams.

- a. The grouping of teams registering individually shall be by blind draw, with no adjustments, and shall be conducted at the Team Captain's meeting March 14, 2024.

8) Team Composition.

- a. Clubs may use as many eligible players during the course of the year as they deem appropriate.
- b. Teams shall designate 6 players for each Round, who shall play the following Matches:
 - i. One Handicap Four-Ball match played with a maximum of 4 strokes given per player.
 - ii. One Handicap Four-Ball match, 18.1 maximum Handicap Index per player.
 - iii. One Handicap Four-Ball match, 26.0 maximum Handicap Index per player.

Note: Players with indexes exceeding the match maximum may still play in that match, but the index will be reduced to meet the match maximum.

9) Scheduling.

- a. **Number of Rounds.** Each team shall play each team in their division on a home and away basis. Central Links Golf shall announce the schedule, and the deadline for each Round to be played, at the mandatory pre-season Captain's Meeting.
- b. **Impact of Course Closure.** If a team will be unable to play one or more of its home Rounds as scheduled due to anticipated renovations that will result in the closure of its course, its Team Captain shall notify Central Links Golf as soon as possible so the schedules may be revised.
- c. **Scheduling of Rounds.** Although Team Captains are encouraged to schedule individual Rounds as early in the season as possible, the following procedures must be followed in the absence of a prior agreement. Failure to comply with any deadline specified in the Scheduling Chart attached to these conditions may result in the defaulting team forfeiting the Round in question. If the below procedures are used, captains must communicate by email so that there is a time-stamped record of the communications.
 - i. **Offering Date.** The captain of the home team shall select three potential dates for a Round and advise the captain of the visiting team of those dates by the Offering Date set forth in the Scheduling Chart attached to these Conditions.
 - ii. **Selection Date.** The captain of the visiting team shall choose one of the three potential dates and advise the home team captain of the date chosen by the Selection Date set forth in the Scheduling Chart.
 - iii. **Rain Date.** On or before the Selection Date, the captains should also establish a Rain Date upon which the Round shall be played and/or completed in the event inclement weather causes the postponement or suspension of a Round. In the event inclement weather prevents the playing of a Round on the selected Rain Date, each captain must provide within two business days of the rain date to the Coordinator five potential Make-Up dates for the Match to be played. The potential Make-Up dates must be within two weeks of the Rain Date. The Coordinator shall then establish the Make-Up Date. If inclement weather prevents play on the Make-Up Date, the process shall be repeated until the Round is played.

- iv. **Notification Date.** The home team captain shall notify the Coordinator of the date selected for the Round, and the Rain Date, by the Notification Date set forth in the Scheduling Chart.

10) Administration of Rounds. Team captains are expected to administer Rounds and make good faith efforts to resolve any rules disputes without involving the Coordinator or the Committee. However, if a dispute cannot be resolved, the team captains should contact Central Links Golf, so long as doing so does not unduly delay a Match or Round.

11) Match Procedures.

- a. **Rules.** All play shall be according to the USGA Rules of Golf and the Local Rules of the host club (where not in conflict with USGA rules).
- b. **Form of Play.** All Matches shall be contested at match play, over a round of 18 holes.
- c. **Handicaps.** The following procedures shall be used in Handicap Matches.
 - i. Players are responsible for knowing their correct USGA Handicap Index as of the day before the Round, unless captains agree to a different revision date. (See Rule 3.2c)
 - ii. Each player in a Handicap Match shall receive 100% of her Course Handicap. (The Course Handicap is determined from the host course's Handicap Chart.)
 - iii. The player with the lowest handicap shall play at scratch, and the other three players shall play at the difference between their handicaps and the player with the lowest handicap. For example, if player A is a +2 and players B, C, and D are a 3 (a difference of 5 to player A), player A is to be adjusted to a 0 (scratch) and players B, C, and D are to be adjusted to a 5 to maintain the difference between their handicaps.
 - iv. Players entitled to handicap strokes shall take them in the order designated on the scorecard and are responsible for knowing which holes the strokes shall be given.

12) Lineups/Match Procedures. Team captains shall exchange lineup cards at least one hour prior to the first starting time (including Rounds that begin or are to be completed on a Rain Date or Make-Up Date). Once lineups have been exchanged, no changes shall be allowed unless due to illness, injury or other extenuating circumstances that prevent a player from participating in the Match for which she was scheduled. In such an event, the player whose circumstances necessitated the change shall not be permitted to participate in the Round.

- a. **Inclement Weather/Suspension of Play.** The following procedures shall be followed in the event a Round, once begun, is delayed due to inclement weather or other reasons that justify a suspension in play:
 - i. No Match may be postponed until there has been a waiting period of a minimum of one hour from the time play was suspended. If conditions improve such that play may be resumed within that one-hour period, the Match shall be resumed (Rule 5.7c). The captains may, by agreement, extend the waiting period.
 - ii. Any suspended Match, shall be resumed from the point at which play was suspended (Rule 5.7c).

- iii. If a Match is postponed, it shall resume at a time and date each side agrees upon. If a mutually agreed upon date cannot be determined, then the Match must be resumed on the pre-determined Rain Date. If a side is unable to play on the Rain Date, then it shall forfeit the Match. If necessary, individual Matches may be resumed at different times, so long as all Matches are completed by the applicable deadline. If it is not feasible for players to start from the point where play was suspended (because, for instance, the course must start players from the 1st or 10th tees), they may play informally until they reach the point where the Match is to resume.
- iv. In the event any Round is postponed, the Coordinator shall be notified by the close of the next business day and advised of the Round's status at the time play was postponed.
- b. **Starting Times.** The home team shall set aside three starting times. Matches may be played in any order upon agreement of opposing captains. If no agreement is reached, the order of the Matches shall be as follows:
 - i. Four-ball – low handicap match
 - ii. Four-Ball - mid handicap match
 - iii. Four-Ball - high handicap match
- c. **Tees.** Rounds should be played from the tees which a club's 18 Hole Women play their competitions from on a regular basis.
- d. **Scoring.** The winner of each Match scores one Match Point for her team. If, at the end of 18 holes, a Match is tied, each team shall receive one-half Match Point. There will be no playoff for Rounds which end in a tie during the regular season.
- e. **Forfeits.**
 - i. Any team that wins a Round by forfeit shall be deemed to have won three Match Points in the Round.
 - ii. A team that forfeits a Round may be subject to suspension from the Competition for one year, at the discretion of the Committee.

Reporting. Each Team Captain must e-sign and report the Round's results and individual player scores (for handicap purposes) to Central Links Golf within two days after the completion of the Round. The report shall be submitted via email to nelson@clgolf.org using only the official KC Cup reporting form provided to all captains at the Mandatory meeting. Failure to report within the specified time may result in a loss of the Round's points, and a deduction of a win from the team's overall record.

- 13) Regular Season Standings.** The winner of a Round shall receive three Division Points. If a Round ends in a tie, each team shall receive one and a half Division Points. Teams shall be ranked within divisions in the order of their Division Points.

14) Playoffs.

- a. **Qualification.** All division winners and five qualified wildcard teams will comprise the eight (8) teams for the playoffs.

- b. A player who meets all eligibility requirements may participate in the playoffs, even if they did not participate in a regular season match.
- c. **Breaking Ties for Division Champions.** If two teams in a division end the regular season with the same number of Division Points, the tie shall be broken based on the following criteria, in order of their application:
 - i. Head-to-head Division Points earned;
 - ii. Head-to-head Match Points earned;
 - iii. Most overall Match Points earned;
 - iv. Most points earned in the Hdcp Four-ball Low matches;
 - v. Most points earned in the Hdcp Four-Ball Mid matches;
 - vi. Most points earned in the Hdcp Four-Ball High matches;
 - vii. Lot.
- d. **Breaking Ties for Wildcard Positions.** If two or more teams are tied for a wildcard position at the end of the regular season, the tie shall be broken based on the following criteria, in order of their application:
 - i. Head-to-head Match Points earned;
 - ii. Most overall Match Points earned;
 - iii. Most points earned in the Hdcp Four-ball Low matches;
 - iv. Most points earned in the Hdcp Four-Ball Mid matches;
 - v. Most points earned in the Hdcp Four-Ball High matches;
 - vi. Lot.
- e. **Ties in Playoff Rounds.** If teams are tied at the conclusion of a Playoff Round, there shall be a playoff using the following procedure:
 - i. All three Matches are involved in a distinct hole-by-hole playoff.
 - ii. Each match shall be worth one point, and the team winning two points shall win the Round.
 - iii. All matches should begin on the first hole, and handicap strokes given as they fall on the scorecard.
 - iv. If the first tee is not available, the host professional staff shall determine the beginning hole of the playoff, based on course availability. This starting hole shall not be decided based on a favorable allocation of handicap strokes for any player or side.
- f. **The Quarterfinals and Semi-finals** will be played as a home and home match. The worse seeded team will host the first match, and the better seeded team will host the second match. Cumulative points between the matches will determine the winning team. Players need not be the same for each leg of any playoff round.

g. The Championship Match shall be played at a neutral site to be determined by Central Links Golf.

15) Practice Rounds. Practice Rounds are not included during the regular season. However, clubs may at their discretion provide opponents the opportunity to play their course prior to a Match during the regular season. Unless offered by the host club, it should be assumed opportunities to play the course prior to a Match are not available. In the event a Playoff Round will be played on a Club's home course that Club is strongly encouraged to provide a practice round to its opponents. If course access is offered by a club the following guidelines should be followed:

Only the Golf Professional or Captain should make the arrangements.

Host club's normal guest/green fees should apply, unless adjusted by the hosting facility.

16) Cart and Guest/Green Fees/Caddies. Players may walk, utilize a caddie or use carts during a Match. The home team shall provide carts at no charge to the visiting team. No greens fees or guest fees may be charged by the home team's club.

17) Score Posting. In accordance with the USGA Rules of Handicapping, all players are required to post an 18-hole score. If you played 10-17 holes, please post using this option that is now available in 2024.

18) Dress Code. Players shall adhere to the dress code of the home team's club. The home team is responsible for notifying the visiting team of the applicable dress code.