

**2009 NWAGA
FOUR-BALL STROKE PLAY
TOURNAMENT**



Combined Revised January 21, 2009

NWAGA FOUR-BALL TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

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NWAGA FOUR-BALL STROKE PLAY TOURNAMENT

A. SCHEDULE

1. The NWAGA 54-Hole Four-Ball Stroke Play Tournament should be held in July, whenever possible. The last week is preferred.

B. DUTIES OF THE HOST CLUB

1. The Host Club will select a Tournament Chairwoman who will in turn select a Publicity Chairwoman, and Treasurer, all of whom shall be members of NWAGA.

2. The Host Club will form all committees necessary for the proper conduct of the tournament and will conduct the NWAGA Tournament according to the rules set forth in the NWAGA Tournament Guidelines.

3. The Host Club Tournament Committee should establish a local bank account to handle all tournament receipts and disbursements. The account should be set up with the tournament name and WILL NOT include the name NWAGA.

4. It is normal and customary for the Host Club to waive all green fees for NWAGA tournaments.

5. The Host Club should present the general plan for the tournament, including Host Club Information (Form A), Proposed Budget (Form B), Tee Off Time Information (Form C), to the NWAGA Office by December 1, and presented at the NWAGA Spring Meeting. Information posters will be printed and distributed by NWAGA to all Club Representatives at the NWAGA Spring Meeting. As close to the event the final budget sheet should be forwarded to the NWAGA office.

6. Booklets to participants are not necessary but, if provided, MUST NOT include Rules, prize monies or players handicaps.

C. ENTRIES

1. The Host Club shall accept a minimum of 64 teams and may determine the maximum number of teams.

2. The entry fee should be \$250 per team, which includes 3-day cart rental and a social event.

3. Valid Entries will be those properly completed, including the full entry fee, and received in the office on or before the stipulated entry deadline. All entries and checks

shall be retained by the NWAGA Office. The Entry Deadline will be determined by NWAGA and will be approximately two weeks prior to the tournament.

4. It is the express policy of NWAGA that the tournament shall be self-supporting. If it is necessary to increase the entry fee, the Host Club Tournament Chairwoman shall submit a written request to the NWAGA Tournament Chairwoman prior to January 20. Such request must be submitted to the NWAGA Tournament Committee for final approval.

5. Entries are subject to approval or rejection at any time (either before or during the tournament) by the NWAGA Tournament Committee at its discretion, and with cause. All decisions by the NWAGA Tournament Committee in any matter concerning a tournament shall be final. All complaints must be in writing and submitted to the NWAGA President.

D. TOURNAMENT FIELDS

1. Entries will be accepted in the order they are received up to the entry deadline or maximum tournament capacity. In the event tournament capacity is reached prior to or on the deadline date and time, the final tournament entries received will be accepted by the lowest combined team Handicap Index.

2. Substitution of a partner may be made for any reason, up to five days prior to the tournament. Less than five days prior to the tournament a substitution will be allowed, but the new partner will be assigned the lower of her Handicap or the Handicap of the original player and pairings, if completed will not be changed.

3. Partners may be from different clubs.

4. If the tournament field is filled as of the entry deadline, all late entries received after the entry deadline will be placed on a waiting list in the order of combined team Handicap Index with the lowest combined team Handicap Index being first on the list.

5. Prospective players on the waiting list should be notified of their numerical position. Any participant not wishing to remain on the waiting list should advise NWAGA.

6. If the tournament field is not filled as of the entry deadline, entries will be accepted after the entry deadline, at the discretion of NWAGA.

7. Entries will not be accepted after pairings have been made.

E. DEFENDING CHAMPION, HOST CLUB DESIGNEE

1. The Defending Champion shall mean the net team with identical partners, as declared Champion in the previous year's tournament.

2. Upon receipt of a Valid Entry, the Defending net Champion will be automatically accepted. In addition, the Host Club may designate one entry to be automatically accepted upon receipt of a Valid Entry identifying them as the prior years host club designee. The Host Club may elect to use its designated entry either at the Host Club's tournament or at the same tournament the following year.

F. ELIGIBILITY

1. Players must be a current member of NWAGA, except for Qualified Juniors, and have posted 10-18 hole scores or 20-9 hole scores from the current year, posted prior to the GHIN handicap transmission date set for this championship.

2. Upon receipt of a Valid Entry, any Qualified Junior (defined as a member of NJGA and with a Handicap index of 20.0 or less) may compete in NWAGA events.

2. Each Player must have an active Handicap Index. A Handicap Index must be issued from a "golf club" (as defined in the "USGA Handicap System Manual") which is licensed to use the USGA Handicap System. Nine-Hole handicaps will be doubled for 18-hole tournaments.

4. All entrants must be a member of the Association as of June 15 for tournaments held in July and August.

G. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ENTRY

1. NWAGA will prepare and send or e-mail an acknowledgment of entry to each player as soon as possible after the entry deadline.

2. The acknowledgment of entry will indicate the following:
- a. Player's starting time and first round pairing, if possible
 - b. Dress Code
 - c. Withdrawal policy, if withdrawal is necessary, including the phone number of the NWAGA office
 - d. Participants will also be notified of their position on the Waiting List, if applicable.

H. WITHDRAWALS

1. All withdrawals must be reported immediately to the NWAGA office. They will, in turn, report to the NWAGA Host Club Chairperson.

2. Full refund given before the deadline and no refund is to be given after the deadline with half of the entry fee going to NWAGA and half going to the Host Club. No refunds after the entry deadline. The \$5 Administrative fee is non-refundable at any time and will be retained by NWAGA. The cart fee may be non-refundable at the discretion of NWAGA and the host club.

3. Positions vacated due to a withdrawal will be filled from the waiting list.

I. HANDICAP AND MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATIONS, TOURNAMENT ROSTER

1. As of the stipulated entry deadline, a NWAGA designee shall verify NWAGA membership status for each Player and compile a tournament roster, including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of tournament players and a summary of entry fees paid.

2. As soon as possible after the entry deadline, the NWAGA office shall prepare the first round pairings and shall forward the tournament roster, first round pairings and all entry fees to the Host Club Tournament Chairwoman and the Host Club Pro.

3. As of the specified GHIN Revision Date, NWAGA shall verify the current handicap index of each player. NWAGA shall calculate a Host Club NWAGA Tournament Course Rating based upon tournament tee placements. Handicaps shall be sloped relative to the Host Club NWAGA Tournament Course Rating. This Host Club NWAGA Tournament Course Rating shall be posted on the tournament scoreboard.

4. The GHIN Submission Date to be used for each tournament will be as specified in the Spring issue of *Tee Off Time*.

J. RULES COMMITTEE

1. The Rules Committee shall be appointed by NWAGA Rules Chairwoman or NWAGA Tournament Directors. No tournament player may serve on the Rules Committee. NWAGA Tournament Directors will provide the Rules Committee with a list of phone numbers of qualified rules officials to contact for assistance.

2. Rules, including Local Rules, should be presented to each player prior to the commencement of play.

3. Any disputes shall be referred to the Rules Committee. Decisions of the Rules Committee will be final.

4. All tournament play will be governed by the USGA Rules of Golf, except as modified by Local Rules which will be written and approved by NWAGA. Local Rules will not be in variance with the USGA Rules.

K. NWAGA / HOST CLUB TOURNAMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. NWAGA will be responsible for the following:

- a. Tournament roster
- b. Pairings each day
- c. Scorecards for each round
- d. Scoring
- e. Waiting list, if any
- f. Determine yardage for tournament course
- g. Notice to Players and Local Rules
- h. Prize monies breakdown
- i. Example of desired scoreboard layout
- j. Pictures of winners, flight winners and medalists

2. Host Club Responsibilities

- a. Return Forms A, B, and C to NWAGA office by Dec. 1st
- b. Registration
- c. Scoreboard (see example)
- d. Publicity (See Sec. V)
- e. Provide each player with an evacuation policy
- f. Provide two motorized carts for NWAGA staff and rules officials
- g. Final budget report to NWAGA (Form D)

L. FORMAT, PAIRINGS and TIES

1. The tournament will consist of 54 holes of Gross and Net Four-Ball Stroke Play.

2. Each team will consist of two partners each of whom shall have posted a minimum of 10 18-hole or 20 9-hole scores prior to the published GHIN submission date for this tournament.

3. As of the specified GHIN Revision Date, NWAGA shall verify the current handicap index of each player. NWAGA shall calculate a Host Club NWAGA Tournament Course Rating based upon tournament tee placements. This Host Club NWAGA Tournament Course Rating shall be posted on the tournament scoreboard. Handicaps shall be sloped relative to the Host Club NWAGA Tournament Course Rating and each team member allowed 95% of her sloped Handicap (rounded to the nearest number), with handicap strokes allocated as they fall on the scorecard. The maximum

individual sloped handicap will be 36. Nine-Hole handicaps will be doubled for 18-hole tournaments.

4. For the first round of competition, teams will be paired based upon the total sloped Handicap of each team. Whenever possible, teams from the same club should not be paired together.

5. For the second round of competition, teams will be paired, using a 1,2 sequence, as determined by the team's cumulative net best ball score.

6. For the final round of competition, teams will be paired by the teams cumulative net best ball score.

7. Requests for specific pairings or tee times will **not** be taken.

8. The first and second rounds of competition may be tee times or a shotgun start.

9. The final round of competition will be a shotgun start, with the leading teams starting on the first tee.

10. Host Club shall provide a scoreboard for posting daily total scores. Hole-by-hole scores do not need to be posted.

10. There will be one flight made up of the full field.

11. The Champion Team shall be the team with the low net cumulative score and will be awarded pewter cups. The low gross team will be recognized and receive a \$50 per person Prize (gift certificates preferable) in addition to the prize money they would receive from wherever they would place in the (net) competition.

12. When it is necessary to conduct a play-off, a referee must accompany the players. The referee may be any member of the Rules Committee or a member of the NWAGA Tournament Committee or their designee.

13. In the event of a tie for the NET Champion Team, the winners will be determined by a sudden death play off with handicap strokes taken as they were assigned for the competition.

14. In the event of a tie for the GROSS Team and for all other flight winners or positions within a flight, the combined prize monies will be divided, pro rata.

M. PRIZES

1. All prizes should be gift certificates or gifts. **NO CASH** should ever be awarded for any contest or event as this violates the USGA Rules of Amateur Status.

2. Prizes should be awarded to one-third of the field.

3. A list of prizes (gift certificate amounts) to be awarded should be posted prior to the commencement of play.

4. NWAGA furnishes pewter cups for both members of the net Champion Team.

5. A minimum of 50% of the entry fee (less cart fees) should be awarded as prizes.

6. With speed of play a priority, the Host Club may hold special events (flag prizes, putting contests, etc.) but for budget purposes, special event prize monies will **not** come from the specified minimum percentage of total entry fees designated for prizes.

N. NWAGA TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

1. The NWAGA Tournament Committee will be comprised of the NWAGA President, Vice President, and the NWAGA Tournament Directors.

2. A NWAGA Tournament Director, or her designee should preview the tournament course and determine the conditions of play. Points that will be considered include ground under repair, hole locations, course yardage, and Local Rules. The tournament course and conditions of play may differ among the tournament flights.

3. The NWAGA Tournament Directors must approve all tournament plans, including budgets and the prize expenditures.

4. NWAGA will post adjusted tournament scores.

O. PROBLEMS DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY

1. Other than decisions made by the Rules Committee, any problems encountered by the Host Club during tournament play should be referred to all NWAGA Tournament Directors present or their designee. Their decision will be final.

2. All suggestions or complaints must be in writing, signed, and sent to the NWAGA President in order to be considered.

3. The use of cellular phones during play is prohibited.

P. CARTS

1. A portion of each player's entry fee will pay for a cart seat. At the player's discretion this seat may be used by the player, or remain unoccupied.

Q. PRACTICE ROUNDS

1. A practice round should be arranged in advance. Green fees, cart fees and tee time schedules for a practice round will be determined by the Host Club.

2. Information regarding tournament tee placements and Tournament Course Rating, if available, shall be provided to players playing a practice round.

R. WEATHER DELAYS

1. Every reasonable effort must be made to complete each round and the tournament.

2. Any decision to shorten or delay the tournament will be made with the NWAGA Tournament Directors and all NWAGA Board members present.

S. SPECTATOR POLICY

1. NWAGA encourages spectators to attend tournaments. A player may receive advice only from her caddie or partner. Conversation between players and spectators is discouraged.

2. The Host Club, at their discretion, may charge for the use of golf carts by spectators. The Host Club should advise those spectators using golf carts to be aware of their position on the golf course and not interfere, in any way, with tournament players.

T. DRESS CODE

All players must conform to NWAGA dress code which is:

1. Shirts must have a collar or sleeves
2. No short-shorts or blue denim
3. Must wear soft spikes

U. FINANCES

1. The Host Club shall make every effort to have the tournament self-supporting.
2. All expenses should be budgeted and paid from tournament receipts. These items may include, but are not limited to, prizes, meals, printing, and decorations.
3. Gratuities to the Host Club personnel are strongly encouraged and should not exceed \$200. Suggested recipients could be pro shop staff; bag boys; superintendent; grounds, dining-room, kitchen staff, etc. Budgeted gratuities should not exceed \$200.00 but may be supplemented with on-site collections.
4. NWAGA will donate \$500 which will be received at the Spring Meeting as a gift to the Host Club for tournament support and in addition to entry fees. Every effort must be made to insure that budgeted income and expenses equal. Should income exceed expenses by more than \$500.00, the \$500.00 advance must be refunded to NWAGA with the final budget and report.
5. The Host Club Chairwoman **must** submit a detailed report to the NWAGA office as soon as possible following completion of the tournament. This report shall include an account of all receipts, disbursements, and pictures. NWAGA will be responsible for pictures of all winners.
6. The NWAGA Treasurer or her designee will deliver one check to the Host Club for entry fees no later than the first day of the tournament.

V. PUBLICITY

1. The Host Club Publicity Chairwoman should contact media prior to the event to notify them of the event and determine their preferred method of receiving scores
2. The Host Club Publicity Chairwoman should coordinate all efforts regarding tournament publicity including but not limited to reporting daily scores to local media and the following:

Key Newspapers

Lincoln Journal Star

926 P Street, Lincoln, 68508
Phone: (402) 473-7431
(800) 742-7315
Fax: (402) 473-7291
Golf Writer: Ken Hambleton
E-Mail: sports@journalstar.com

Omaha World-Herald

14th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, 68102
Phone: (402) 444-1000
(800) 284-6397
Fax: (402) 344-3343
Golf Writer: Stu Pospisil
E-Mail: Stu.Pospisil@owh.com

Beatrice Sun

200 North 7th Street, Beatrice, 68310
Phone: (402) 223-5233
Fax: (402) 228-3571
Sports Editor: Jane White
E-Mail:

Columbus Telegram

P.O. Box 648, Columbus, 68602
Phone: (402) 564-2741
Fax: (402) 563-7500
Sports Editor: Don Strecker
E-Mail:

Fremont Tribune

P.O. Box 9, Fremont, 68026
Phone: (402) 721-5000
Fax: (402) 721-8047
Sports Editor: Brent Wasenius

Grand Island Independent

422 West 1st, PO Box 1208, Grand Island, 68801
Phone: (308) 382-1000
Fax: (308) 382-8129
Sports Editor: Terry Douglass
E-Mail: sportsdesk@theindependent.com

Hastings Tribune

908 West 2nd Street
Phone: (402) 462-2131
Fax: (402) 462-2184

Sports Editor: Kyle Svec
E-Mail:

Kearney Hub

13 East 22nd Street, Kearney, NE 68847
Phone: (308) 237-2152
Fax: (308) 233-9745
Sports Editor: Buck Mahoney
E-Mail:

Norfolk Daily News

525 Norfolk Ave., Norfolk, 68701
Phone: (402) 371-1020
Fax: (402) 371-5802
Sports Editor: Jay Prauner
E-Mail: sports@norfolkdailynews.com

North Platte Telegraph

621 N. Chestnut Street, North Platte, 69101
Phone: (308) 532-6000
Fax: (308) 532-9268
Sports Editor: Antone Oseka
E-Mail:

Scottsbluff Star-Herald

Box 1709, Scottsbluff, 69162
Phone: (308) 632-9000
Fax: (308) 632-9003
Sports Editor: Jeff Fielder
E-Mail:

Wayne Herald

114 Main St., Wayne, NE 68787
Phone: (402) 375-2600
Fax: (402) 375-1888
Sports Editor: David Carstens

York News Times

P.O. Box 279, York, 68467
Phone: (402) 362-4478
Fax: (402) 362-6748
Sports Editor: Mike Karnes

Wire Service

Associated Press

909 No. 6th, Suite 104, Omaha, 68114
Phone: (402) 391-0031
(800) 642-9920
Fax: (402) 391-1412
Sports: Doug Alden

Television

Lincoln

KOLN-TV (Channel 10-11)

40th & W streets, Lincoln, 68503

Phone: (402) 467-9270

Fax: (402) 467-9208

Sports Director: Andrew Felios

E-Mail:

KLKN-TV (Channel 8)

3240 So. 10th Street, Lincoln, 68502

Phone: (402) 434-8000

Fax: (402) 436-2236

Sports Director: Matt Kelly

E-Mail:

Omaha

KMTV (Channel 3)

10714 Mockingbird, Omaha, 68127

Phone: (402) 592-4330

Fax: (402) 592-4714

Sports Director: Travis Justice

E-Mail:

WOWT-TV (Channel 6)

3501 Farnam Street, Omaha 68131

Phone: (402) 233-7940

Fax: (402) 346-6740

Sports Director: Dave Webber

E-Mail:

KETV (Channel 7)

27th & Douglas, Omaha, 68131

Phone: (402) 978-8958

Fax: (402) 978-8931

Sports Director: Jon Schuetz

E-Mail:

KPTM-TV (Channel 9/42)

4625 Farnam, Omaha, 68132

Phone: (402) 554-4286

Fax: (402) 554-4292

Sports Director: Pete Thompson

E-Mail:

Hastings

KHAS-TV

PO Box 578, Hastings 68901

Phone: (402) 463-1321

Fax: (402) 463-6551

Sports Director: Ed Littler

E-Mail:

Kearney

NTV

PO Box 220, Kearney, 68848

Phone: (308) 743-2494

Fax: (308) 743-2644

Sports Director:

E-Mail:

National Publications

Golfweek

E-mail: results@golfweek.com

3. The Host Club Publicity Chairwoman's duties may also include inviting media to social events (media are guests of NWAGA), reporting scores and interesting highlights, and arranging interviews.

W. POSTING SCORES TO GHIN

Under the USGA Handicap System, a player is required to record a hole score for a hole she has not finished and to adjust any hole score when it is higher than the maximum number she is allowed to post.

If a player starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, she shall record for handicap purposes the score *she most likely would have made*. The most likely score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in her best judgment, the number of strokes that the player would need to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. This most likely score should be preceded by an "X". If a scorecard has blanks for holes that were picked up and the player cannot provide information on most likely score, the Committee should post par plus handicap strokes.

X. SOCIAL EVENTS

1. A social event for the purpose of acknowledging the Champion Teams and awarding all prizes should be held following the completion of play.

2. Other social events may be held at the discretion of the Host Club.

3. With the approval of the NWAGA Tournament Chairwoman, the Host Club may collect a separate fee for social events. At the time of registration, attendance at social events may be confirmed.

4. Formal entertainment is not required. NWAGA players enjoy the opportunity to interact and socialize with other players throughout the state. Please be sensitive to this fact and keep formal entertainment to a minimum.