



Conducting a Competition

Before a competition occurs, the following areas should be addressed by the Committee in charge of the Competition.

CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION

Format – there are many established formats (Pinehurst, Four Ball) or the club may have one specifically for a particular event (Stableford one day, Match Play the next day). If you are looking for suggestions please refer to the Tournaments for Your Club handout.

1. Individual or team event
2. Stroke play or match play

Eligibility – will there be a maximum index? Will the player have to have been a member for a period of time or played in a stipulated number of club events? If it is a team event will there be a maximum spread on the partner's Handicap Index.

Schedule of Play - will it be a one day event, one weekend or conducted over several days?

Method of Entering Competition – sign up in the pro shop, online, paper entries?

Starting Times & Pairings – shot gun start or tees times? Post in the golf shop or email pairings prior to the start of play? Allow players to pair themselves? Random pairings? Pair by Handicap Index, course handicap, etc.?

How to Decide Ties – use the USGA method of matching score cards? Playoff?

Prizes – what items and how many to hand out? One winner in each flight? First, second and third in each flight? Remember to be in compliance with Amateur Status for prizes.

Golf Carts – will they be allowed? How many carts per group? Can spectators take carts?

Distance Measuring Devices – will you establish local rule allowing distance measuring devices, measuring distance only?

One Ball Rule in effect?

TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

Starters – if the tournament requires starting times will there be an official to make sure players tee off on time?

Scorecards - will the golf shop or committee prepare scorecards and dot cards appropriately if necessary? How will scorecards be distributed?

Scoring – will the committee handle scoring or will the golf shop staff?

Posting of Scores – will players post their own scores individually or will the committee post all scores for handicap purposes? It is important to let the competitors know ahead of time who is responsible for posting the scores.

Scoreboard – is a scoreboard necessary? If yes, who will run the scoreboard (committee or pro shop personnel)?

PREPARING THE COURSE

Mark the golf course – will you work with the pro shop staff and superintendent to mark the golf course (Ground Under Repair, Ball Drops)?

Local rules – are there any areas where written local rules need to be identified to the players?

Course Set Up – will the committee determine tee markers and hole locations?

On Course Competitions – will you have a Closest to the Hole or Longest Drive competition? Which holes will they take place? Do you need a spotter to verify on each hole? Who will pick up the proximity markers when the round is completed?

Rules officials – will there be an official on the golf course or will players be advised to play a provisional ball and bring their question to the committee at the completion of the round?

Pace of Play – will the committee have a policy in place to penalize slow play?

For additional information on how to conduct a competition, please visit the USGA's website at www.usga.org, under the Rules section and Committee Responsibilities for a Competition.