



# UGA Team Play League Manual Public At-Large & Senior Divisions

The UGA Team Play Leagues are under the direction of the Utah Golf Association. All play shall be governed by the Rules of Golf and the current UGA Hard Card.

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# UGA Team Play League Manual

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### Overall Format

1. **Overview** – UGA Team Play consists of players competing in groups of four with both a four-ball match and two concurrent singles matches being played in each group. Points won by all groups throughout the match are tallied to determine which team wins the match.
2. **Entry Procedure** – Each team regardless of division must fill out the online entry form and submit the entry fee of \$150. Each team must designate a team captain and co-captain who will be responsible for all communications with their team and the UGA. **Entry forms and payment are due April 1.**
3. **Matches** – Each group will play three concurrent matches for 9 total points in a Nassau-style format:
  - a. Player 1 from Team A plays Player 1 from Team B
  - b. Player 2 from Team A plays Player 2 from Team B
  - c. Players 1 and 2 from Team A play Players 1 and 2 from Team B (Four-Ball Match)
    - i. In each match, the front nine is worth 1 point, the back nine is worth 1 point, and the total 18 is worth 1 point. Ties are worth ½ point.
4. **Teams** – Each team will submit a lineup for each of the matches and is expected to compete as scheduled in accordance with the guidelines established in the Team Play Manual.
  - a. There is no permanent roster required for each team and no limit as to the number of players who may be used during the season. All players that may potentially play in a Team Play match should be added to the online roster prior to the first match of the season.
5. **Forfeitures** – Forfeitures shall be scored as “no match.” Any circumstances causing forfeiture shall be subject to review by the UGA.
  - a. Teams that forfeit multiple matches may be suspended the following season.

### Eligibility

1. **Player Eligibility** – The UGA Public At-Large League is open to all active UGA members, including juniors and women. UGA members that are currently on a college golf roster are not eligible.
  - i. The Senior Division is open to all active UGA members age 50 and over.
    1. A player is eligible to compete on a Senior team once they have turned the appropriate age.
  - ii. All team players must hold their UGA membership at the club they are representing. The entire team is subject to disqualification if all players are not current paid members of the UGA with their working club at the club they are representing.
    1. UGA members holding multiple memberships may only participate on one team in any year.
    2. Before a new team joins the league, the Captain is responsible to verify with the club that team play is permitted with their men’s league.
  - iii. A player may not play on more than one UGA Team Play team during any season.



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1. Private At-Large, Private Senior, Private Super-Senior, Public At-Large, and Public Senior are all UGA sanctioned leagues.
2. If a player sells or buys an equity membership at a private club, he may switch teams.
2. **Golf Professional Eligibility** – The head professional, or one of the assistance professionals, must play in the number one position.
  - i. Only professionals that are affiliated with the club may play on that team.
    1. A professional must be employed by the club (green grass facility). Only teaching lessons at a facility is not considered to be employed by the club. Professionals may not be “employed” with the club for the sole purpose of participating in the UGA Team Play League.
    2. Amateur employees of the club may play in any position.
    3. The UGA will follow the [USGA’s rules](#) for determining whether a golfer is a professional or amateur.
  - ii. If there is not a professional playing on the team, an amateur may fill the spot.
  - iii. A team can only have one professional playing per match.
3. **Club Eligibility** – A club may enter more than one team into the league, but the rosters cannot be interchangeable.
  - i. Once a player, including the club professional, plays for one of their club’s teams, he cannot play for any of their club’s other teams.
4. **Penalty For Playing an Ineligible Player**
  - i. It is the responsibility of the captains involved to ensure that lineups are set in accordance with UGA Team Play eligibility criteria. When it is suspected or known that an ineligible player has participated, it is the responsibility of the opposing team to request a ruling.
    1. If a player is determined to be ineligible, the team in violation shall forfeit points won during the match(es) by the side(s) to the opponent(s). There is no time limit on enforcing this penalty.

## Scheduling

1. **Regular Season** – The UGA will divide teams into divisions with all teams playing home-and-away schedules.
  - a. If a team withdraws from the league after the UGA has sent the season schedule to all captains, that team may be suspended from the league the following season.
  - b. The UGA will provide a regular season schedule to all teams. **All regular season matches must be completed by August 15, 2024.**
2. **Schedule Changes** – All regular season matches should be played on the date set by the UGA. However, Team Captains can mutually agree to postpone a match in advance of the start of play or during the match. One captain **cannot** make a unilateral decision to suspend or postpone a match.



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- a. For home matches only, if the date given by the UGA doesn't work for their course to host for any reason, the Team Captain can notify the UGA of an alternate date.
    - i. This should be done before May 1, 2024
      1. Exception: If there is an emergency that arises after this date, the Team Captain must contact the UGA as soon as they become aware of the club's inability to host.
    - ii. It should be another day in that same week.
    - iii. It must be within a two-week period of the original date.
  - b. In the event Team Captains agree to postpone an entire match before it begins, captains must reschedule the match within the next two weeks, and it must be played on the course that was originally intended to be played.
    - i. The UGA must be notified of the schedule change by **email** before the match is scheduled to be played.
  - c. In the event a team cannot field a team, their opposing team has no obligation to reschedule the match. The team that cannot field a team will be issued a *forfeit*.
  - d. Where possible, teams should not play matches on a day that conflicts with any UGA sanctioned events including championships, PPR events, or traveling team opportunities.
3. **Suspensions** – In the event Team Captains mutually agree to suspend play after matches have begun, the provisions of Rule 5.7 under the Rules of Golf apply.
- a. If all matches *have* completed at least nine holes, Team Captains will verify the status of each match through the number of holes completed and those statuses will be considered final.
    - i. Any points scored will not be reflected in either team's season-long average.
  - b. If all matches *have not* completed at least nine holes, the entire match must be replayed. It is *not* required that the same players participate in the make-up match.

### Playing the Match

1. **Team Order** – Teams will consist of eight players; the team captain, or head professional, will decide who is on the team and what order they will play in.
  - a. In the event a team has less than 8 players for a match, the match should still be played. However, they will forfeit the points for the matches that go unplayed.
2. **Match Procedures:**
  - a. The Team Captains must simultaneously exchange lineups prior to the start of the match. Once lineups have been exchanged on-site, they must not be altered.
    - i. The Team Captain shall determine their team lineup. It is not mandatory, but they are encouraged to determine the order of play by skill level.
  - b. Each player is responsible for their own green fees and cart fee.
  - c. The home team will determine the yardage/tee to be played when they host a match.
  - d. Facilities with more than 18 holes:
    - i. Teams may play matches on any slope-rated regulation length course at their club. These clubs may use more than one course at their facility during the



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Team Play season provided they inform opponents which course will be used at least a week in advance of the scheduled match to provide ample opportunity for practice rounds.

- e. The visiting team has the *honour* on the first hole.
- f. Local Rules must conform with the Rules of Golf. Any Local Rules which are to be in effect during Team Play must be published and distributed to all players in advance of the start of the match.
- g. The host club is encouraged to host a brief social after each match. Players should be responsible for the cost of any food or drinks that they consume.
- h. All players should post their scores for handicapping purposes.
- i. The UGA will be the arbitrator of any disagreements about the Rules.

### Playoffs

1. **Determining Playoff Participants & Seeding:**
  - a. Winning percentage will determine the division champions. If multiple teams have the same winning percentage, the tiebreaker will be the team that has played more matches. If there is still a tie, the tiebreaker method will be as follows:
    - i. Head-to-head win-loss record
    - ii. Total points earned in head-to-head matches.
    - iii. Scoring average for the season (excluding forfeits and 9-hole matches)
  - b. **At-Large Division** – The At-Large playoff bracket will consist of eight teams competing in a single elimination playoff. The winner from each division will advance to the playoffs and seeded 1-2 with the remaining playoff spots being selected and seeded 3-8 by the committee based upon the following in the order they appear:
    - i. Winning percentage (minimum of five matches played and recorded)
    - ii. Average points per match (excluding forfeits and 9-hole matches)
    - iii. Lot
  - c. **Senior Division** - The Senior playoff bracket will consist of four teams competing in a single elimination playoff. The winner from each division will advance to the playoffs and seeded 1-2 with the remaining playoff spots being selected and seeded 3-4 by the committee based upon the following in the order they appear:
    - i. Winning percentage (minimum of three matches played and recorded)
    - ii. Average points per match (excluding forfeits and 9-hole matches)
    - iii. Lot
  - d. Teams must play at least half their scheduled matches to be eligible for the playoffs or to be a division champion:
    - i. Exception: If no team meets the minimum match requirement in any given division, the committee will select the division champion.
2. **Playoff Scheduling** – The higher seeded team will have home course advantage until the final match.
  - a. Playoff matches should be played on the date set by the UGA.



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- i. However, if one or both teams are unable to field a team on this date, or if the home team is unable to host on this date, they are encouraged to work together to find an acceptable alternative with these limitations:
          1. Play the match on an earlier date that is mutually agreed upon by both Captains, or
          2. Play the match at a neutral site that is mutually agreed upon by both Captains.
          3. The UGA must be notified of any change in date and/or site.
        - ii. If the captains can't mutually agree on a change in date/site, the original date will stand as the default match.
        - iii. If the date/site of a match has been changed through mutual agreement and the UGA has been notified, there must be an additional mutual agreement and notification to the UGA of any further changes.
      - b. The final matches will be scheduled and paid for by the UGA at a neutral site. The UGA will also provide a post-match meal for the participating teams.
3. **Playoff Player Eligibility:**
  - a. For a player to be eligible to play for his team in the playoffs, they must meet the following criteria:
    - i. Current member of the UGA
    - ii. Current member of the club's men's/women's association
    - iii. Played in a minimum of one regular season match.
    - iv. Played in a minimum of six men's/women's league events before the conclusion of the regular season.
  - b. The UGA will contact the clubs of each playoff team to verify if their playoff roster meets these requirements.
  - c. If any players do not meet the requirements, they will not be eligible for the playoffs; if it is discovered that a player has played in a playoff match and does not meet the eligibility criteria, the team will be disqualified from the playoffs and the player and team may not be eligible to participate in the following season.
  - d. Captains are responsible for knowing the playoff eligibility of their players.
4. **Playoff Tiebreakers:**
  - a. In case of ties for all playoff matches, the UGA will use the following method to declare a winner:
    - i. All individual matches will be tallied and the team that wins the most individual match points will be declared the winner.
    - ii. If there is still a tie, the back 9 of all individual matches will be tallied and the team that wins the most individual match points will be declared the winner.
    - iii. If there is still a tie, all four-ball matches will be tallied and the team that wins the most four-ball match points will be declared the winner.
    - iv. If there is still a tie, the back 9 of all four-ball matches will be tallied and the team that wins the most four-ball match points will be declared the winner.



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- v. If there is still a tie, the points from the individual matches of players in positions 1-4 will be tallied and the team that wins the most individual match points will be declared the winner.
  - vi. If there is still a tie, a hole-by-hole sudden death playoff will take place immediately. Each team will select one player to represent the team in the playoff. The starting hole will be selected by the UGA or in their absence, golf course staff.
  - vii. If a course is unable to accommodate a hole-by-hole playoff or daylight does not permit a playoff, the match will be decided by lot.
- b. If there is a tie at the conclusion of the league championship match, a hole-by-hole sudden death playoff will take place immediately following play. Each team will select one player to represent the team in the playoff. The starting hole will be determined by UGA or in their absence, golf course staff. If a course is unable to accommodate a hole-by-hole playoff or daylight does not permit a playoff, the tie-breaker method for other playoff matches will apply.

### Team Captain Duties

1. **Arrangements:**
  - a. A Captain's Directory has been provided on the UGA Team Play Website to help with communication.
  - b. In addition to other responsibilities mentioned previously, Team Captains should communicate to confirm with each other well in advance of any match to be played at their club the following:
    - i. How to schedule practice rounds (dates, fees, and times)
    - ii. Tee times for matches
    - iii. Tees/yardages to be played
    - iv. Carts and caddies – whether or not they will be hosted/allowed
    - v. Dress code
    - vi. Club policies
    - vii. Acceptable forms of payment for carts, food, and beverage, etc.
    - viii. Health and safety guidelines
2. **Posting Lineups & Match Results to GolfGenius:**
  - a. Prior to every match, the Team Captain must submit a lineup in GolfGenius.
  - b. However, the roster and order are not finalized until the captains exchange rosters at the match site.
  - c. All match results must be entered by 11:59pm by the *winning Team Captain* on the day after the match is played.
    - i. For example, if a match is played on Thursday afternoon, the results must be posted by 11:59pm on Friday.
    - ii. Lineups posted in GolfGenius must reflect the players who participated in that match.
  - d. Any breach of this rule will result in:



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- i. First infraction: warning
  - ii. Second infraction: team issued 0 points for the match (but does not forfeit)
  - iii. Third infraction: team issued a loss and 0 points for the match
3. **Player & Team Code of Conduct:**
  - a. The Utah Golf Association's conduct policy as found [HERE](#) states that it is in force before, during and after a competition conducted by the Utah Golf Association.
4. **Disputes & Decisions:**
  - a. If a dispute arises before, during, or after a match, the Team Captains of the teams involved are the Committee within the meaning of the Rules of Golf, along with any UGA Staff, if present.
    - i. If those two captains cannot reach an agreement, the dispute at this point can be referred to the UGA in writing.
    - ii. The UGA will conduct a thorough review of the dispute. After the review is completed, the Committee will issue a decision. The decision of the Committee is final and will be communicated to the team captains involved in the dispute.