



Lowveld Golf Association  
Elevating golf in the Lowveld



### Lowveld Golf Association

### The Pro Shop Lowveld Nett League 2023/2024

#### Format and rules

The league for the forthcoming season will be played in a competitive, but social nature by all teams and players involved. Our main focus remains the promotion of competitive golf between fellow clubs in the LGA, whilst playing by the Rules as approved by the latest edition of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. If the R & A adjusts rules in the forthcoming season, the changes will imply from the time they come into effect.

#### **1) Composition**

- a) The 2023/2024 league will consist of pools of 4 teams per pool, limited to 20 teams, who will play each other home and away, using the Better Ball Match Play format (also known as Traditional Better Ball Matchplay). The winner of each pool will qualify for the playoffs, as well as the overall best placed runner up in the pools.
- b) League captains will be responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by the rules, as these rules form an integral part of governing this league. Circulation of the rules via e-mail will be regarded as confirmed by Club Captains and Club Managers as received, read and understood. This will also apply to league captains.

## **2) Date of play**

- a) Teams can play before the scheduled date, and one week after the scheduled date, unless special circumstance arise and the LGA makes a joint decision for the round. The final round of matches during the pool stages does not have a week extension.
- b) If matches are not played as determined by the schedule and not played based on a reason given by the LGA, or no date was agreed to play on, the result will be noted as a 0-0 draw.
- c) Playing fees for the upcoming season will be R270 per player (including a meal), as voted for by the clubs.
- d) Captains must familiarise themselves with the Wet Weather Rules, should a match be affected by inclement weather.

### Wet Weather rules

- a) If a match can't be played due to a waterlogged course in the first round, the match may be switched to the opposing side's course, and the League Convener must be notified. If the teams reach an agreement to play the match on a neutral venue, the league convener must be notified as well. A neutral venue will count as a home match for the team scheduled to host the match on the day.
- b) If both courses are unplayable and the match can't be played before the next round, and a neutral venue was not agreed upon by the two teams, the result will be a half and both teams will receive 4 points each.
- c) If a match is rained out and all pairs have completed 9 or more holes, the result will stand based on the state of each match where it is at that moment on the course.
- d) If a match is rained out before pairs have completed 9 holes, the match will be halved.
- e) Should 2 or more pairs complete 9 holes before a match is rained out, the match will be awarded as per the state of the pairs that have completed 9 or more holes. The other matches that did not reach 9 holes will be halved.
- f) In any other conditions not noted above, the League Convener must be notified of the reason for the match not continuing. The League Convener will then, in conjunction with the Lowveld Executive Committee, decide further action, against which no appeal may be lodged.

## **3) Host Club responsibilities**

Clubs hosting league matches are entrusted to assist with the following:

- a) Checking of visiting players' handicap, if requested by any of the league captains.
- b) Opening a round for players playing in the league.
- c) Assisting with determining said player's handicap based on slope rating and tee boxes used for league matches on the day, if requested by any of the league captains.
- d) Providing Result Sheets for teams, including playoff matches, if requested by any of the league captains. This includes neutral venues being used for the playoffs.

#### 4) Details and Conditions of Play

- a) League matches are to comply with the rules as issued by the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.
- b) The league is open to all male Amateurs, who are affiliated members of a club, and have an official SAGA handicap that is affiliated to the club he represents, and who is in good standing with his club. The maximum handicap a player can play off will be 21, with a 90% allowance of that handicap used for league matches. If a player, **or his club**, is not in good standing with the Lowveld Golf Association, the player/club may not take part in the league with immediate effect until said issue has been resolved. Issues between the club and the LGA must be communicated clearly.
- c) No league player may play a match with an open round.
- d) If the match reaches a result before the 18<sup>th</sup> hole and the player is playing Better Ball Match play only, the player **must register** nett par scores for the remaining holes after the result, and record this accordingly on the HNA system as well.
- e) A player must have at least a 70% registered round history on the Handicap system in order to play a league match.
- f) Club and Teaching Professionals may participate in the league, if they have a handicap that has been assessed in accordance with the HNA Handicap System.
- g) Professional Tour players may participate in the league, and will play off a handicap of +4. These players may play for a team on condition that no other registered player of said team is available for selection, and that forward tees are not used on league days. Professional players may not play in play-off matches.
- h) Teams will be made up of 8 players, as well as reserves, who will be registered with the League Convener by Friday, 29 September 2023. If a new player is chosen for a team, that player must be registered before he plays his first match.
- i) A minimum number of 4 players will be required to constitute a team. There will be 4 matches on league days. If only 4 players are available, the individual must play his match on his own. No agreement may be made between two captains to forfeit a match.
- j) A player is only allowed to play for one league team throughout the season, regardless of that player leaving his club. A player must be affiliated to his new club before being allowed to play for the team.
- k) No player or his caddie may caddie for another team member during the same match.
- l) Players may use motorized golf carts. Private motorized golf carts may be used at all golf courses, except for Sabi River Sun.
- m) Distance measuring devices may be used during the playing of league matches.
- n) In order to avoid conflict between Matchplay and players participating in Strokeplay competitions on the same day, all players have to putt out, unless captains agreed prior to the playing of the match that they are playing league only, in which case putts may be conceded under Matchplay rules.
- o) The Results sheet must be sent to the Convener by no later than the Tuesday after the match, before or at 12:00. Failure to submit the result sheet on or before the given date will result in a penalty point for both sides. Any form of media may be used to send the result.

- p) Lowveld Golf Association reserves the right to decide which clubs may participate in the league, as well as how many teams the club may enter. This also applies to clubs that were present at the League Meeting, but who were informed of not participating.
- q) Order of play: the visiting team will tee first, followed by the home team. On neutral venues from playoff matches onwards, a coin flip will decide the order of play.
- r) The following will apply to sudden death for a play-off match:
  - i) Team captains will each nominate a pair, who played together during earlier matches, who will play each other on a hole for hole basis, starting on the hole where the game started, until a result is obtained.
  - ii) Nominations may be done once the drawn game has been completed.

## **5) Scoring**

- a) Match points will be awarded as follows: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a halve, and 0 points for a loss. Teams are also instructed to rate the overall experience out of 10 against their opponents for the Spirit Cup, as requested by the League Convener.
- b) Both teams are liable for 1 penalty point from the league Convener if the Result Sheet is not completed according to the example given, or if the Result Sheet is submitted late.
- c) In case of a mismatch where the criterium of the game was not accomplished, or a team forfeiting, taking into account all limitations of rule 6(a), their opponents will receive an 8 – 0 result, and the defaulting team will be liable to suspension from the league for one year. The team forfeiting the match will also be liable for disciplinary action, as determined by the Lowveld Golf Association Executive Committee, following an investigation by the League Convener.
- d) Bonus points will be awarded for an 8-0 victory, as well as an away victory. If a game is drawn in the pool stage, it will stand as a draw.
- e) Teams must also award a Spirit Cup point out of 10 for their opponents based on the overall experience of playing the match on the day, as well as for how the team was received, and how the general camaraderie was experienced on the day. At the end of the season, the Spirit Cup winners will be awarded as per the team with the highest point average. If teams are tied on averages, the countout will be based on the smallest differential between the highest and lowest point awarded. The League Convener also adds an administrative point based on the team's performance in completing the result sheet, and sending players late for registration. Penalty points will not be considered based on administrative errors.

## **6) Disciplinary action**

- a) Only matches, where players played of an incorrect handicap, and/or where players played with an open round, and/or with a player which is not correctly registered for the specific team, and/or where a player is not in good standing at his club, will be forfeited to the opposing captain, should any of the above incidents occur.
- b) Each player must make sure his handicap is correct on the day the league game takes place, in conjunction with their league captain.

- c) If a player wrongfully enters his score on the system, and the opposing captain/ league convener is notified about this within 24 hours of the completed round, the player will be given an opportunity to correct the score within 48 hours. If this is not done the player will serve an immediate 1 (one) match suspension.
- d) If any player enters a wrong score and has not rectified this within a 48 hour period, or has not notified his captain, his club, or the league convener of the error, the player will serve an immediate 1 (one) match suspension.
- e) Captains and stand-in captains will be held equally responsible should the above-mentioned incidents occur.

**7) Log ties**

If two or more teams are tied on points in the final standings, the winner will be decided in the following order:

- a) Most wins.
- b) Most away wins.
- c) Fewest losses (excluding draws).
- d) Most away points, including Bonus Points.
- e) Performances against opposing teams ranked from the top in the pool (total points accumulated). If still tied, then second-best team, and so on.

**8) Withdrawing in the league/Disqualification from the league**

Should a team withdraw or be disqualified from the league, the following will apply.

- a) The team will be liable for disciplinary action as determined by the Lowveld Golf Association Executive Committee.
- b) Fixtures not completed by the team will be awarded as an 8-0 win to the opposing team, without bonus points. Games that were played before the team withdrew/ were disqualified, will remain as played.
- c) All future fixtures to be played by the withdrawing/ disqualified team will be cancelled.

**9) Playoffs**

- a) The 6 teams that advance to the playoffs will play on Neutral Venues as organised by the captains of the respective teams. The two best overall teams will advance to the semi-finals, whilst the teams placed 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> will play against each other in a knockout round.
- b) Playoff matches will be held on a course used during the round-robin stage of the league. A neutral venue will be determined by the following factors, which are all considered equal factors:
  - 1: Availability of the course.
  - 2: Playability of the course.
  - 3: Average travelling distance for both teams.
- c) Knockout Matches will be seeded and played as follows:

	Team	Versus	Team	Venue
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Knockout A	3	V	6	Neutral course
Knockout B	4	V	5	Neutral course
Semi – final 1	1	V	KO Lowest ranked team	Neutral course
Semi – final 2	2	V	KO highest ranked team	Neutral course

#### **10) Final**

- a) The final will take place between the winners of Semi-finals 1 and 2 on a Lowveld Course which will be at a neutral venue to be determined by the League Convener and the Lowveld Executive Committee. The final will be played on a course that formed part of the league. If the two teams playing in the final have a joint preference for a course, the LGA can be informed of this, but the final decision will remain with the LGA

#### **11) Team fee Information**

An entry fee of R450 per team is payable to the Lowveld Golf Association. Contact Mr Sakkie de Lange for further details.

#### **12) Disciplinary Actions**

All disciplinary issues must be referred to the League Convener, who will then hand over the disciplinary issue regarding the player or team to his home club for disciplinary procedures, unless the LGA determines that the Association should be the body to take action, as per the Mpumalanga Code of Conduct. Should the League Convener not be available, any member of the Lowveld Executive can be contacted in order to raise the concern.

By order of the Lowveld Golf Association Executive Committee

11 August 2023

### How to enter a score for match play

Derrick and John plays against Edward and Samuel. The players have the following handicaps:

- Derrick has a course handicap of 18, and plays off a 90% handicap of 16.
- John has a course handicap of 2, and remains a 2 at 90%.
- Edward has a course handicap of 7, and plays off a 90% handicap of 6.
- Samuel has a course handicap of +1, and remains a +1

Samuel and Edward wins their Better Ball Matchplay match against Derrick and John 4/3. The last 3 holes of the course where they played are as follows:

16: Par 5, stroke 18

17: Par 4: stroke 2

18: Par 4: stroke 10

The players **must** enter the following scores for the final 3 holes and submit it accordingly.

- Derrick enters 5 – 5 – 5 on the last 3 holes.
- John enters 5 – 5 – 4 on the last 3 holes.
- Edward enters 5 – 5 – 4 on the last 3 holes.
- Samuel enters 4 – 4 – 4 on the last 3 holes. The local committee has indicated on the scorecard that the stroke 18 is the first plus-stroke hole on the course.

This rule does not apply if a player/team is playing in a competition. However, shots cannot be conceded then, and the player(s) must play each hole out then.