

# EUROPEAN SENIOR MEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

## TERMS OF COMPETITION AND LOCAL RULES

### 1. GENERAL

#### 1.1 Eligibility of Teams

Teams are nominated by European Golf Association (EGA) Member National Golf Authorities based on invitations to:

- a) the teams placed 1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> from the 2024 championship;
- b) the registered teams that remained on the reserve list on the first day of the 2024 championship;
- c) the Host Nation's team.

**Note:** the teams placed 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> from the 2024 championship, along with any teams that were not registered for the 2024 championship, will form a reserve list in that order. This list will be used if an invited team is unable to participate.

#### 1.2 Eligibility of Players

All players nominated to teams by their national golf authority must be of the male sex and:

- d) amateur golfers in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status as approved by R&A Rules Limited;
- e) citizens of the country represented (cf. EGA Generic Terms of Competition and Regulations for EGA Nationality Policy);
- f) playing with a WHS Handicap Index (or other equivalent) of 9.0 or better;
- g) 50 years or over on Day 1 of the Championship.

**Penalty for Breach of Eligibility Term:** disqualification of player.

#### 1.3 Format

A maximum of 20 teams shall be eligible to participate and each shall comprise six players.

The Championship comprises two stages played in accordance with the 2023 Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited, the EGA Generic Terms of Competition and Local Rules, the EGA Hard Card and the Local Rules as approved by the Championship Committee at the championship.

##### 1.3.1 Stage 1 - Stroke Play

There shall be two rounds of 18 holes stroke play on Days 1 and 2 to decide the seeded draw for the match play, which commences on Day 3.

##### a) Order of Play

Team captains will determine the order of play within their teams for Days 1 and 2 using the official order of play form. If the order of play form is not submitted to the Committee:

- I. for Day 1, by 17h00 on the day preceding the Championship, the order of play will be determined alphabetically by surname;
- II. for Day 2, by 17h00 on Day 1, the order of play will be the same as for Day 1.

Once the official deadline to submit the order of play form has expired, changes in the order of play are not permitted.

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##### b) Scoring

The lowest five scores from each team's six players will count each day. The aggregate of the five lowest stroke play scores from play on Days 1 and 2 will constitute each team's score.

##### c) Decision of Ties

A tie for any place in the match play order shall be decided using the lowest total of the two non-counting scores, one from each day. If a tie still exists, the sum of the two lowest scores, one from each day, shall be used. For further ties, the sum of the two second lowest scores, the third lowest scores, and, finally, the fourth lowest scores one from each day, shall be used. Any further tie will be decided based on the final 18, 9, 6, 3 holes or last hole of the best score from each of the tied teams.

A team that has returned one or more non valid scores (no show, withdrawal, disqualification) will be ranked last in the tie decision. The team's remaining scores shall be used to determine the match play seeding when more than one team fail to return six valid scores per day.

##### d) Failure to Return Valid Scores

A team that fails to return five valid scores per day for any reason (no show, withdrawal, disqualification) will assume last place in the match play draw. The team's remaining scores shall be used to determine the match play seeding when more than one team fail to return the required number of valid scores.

##### 1.3.2 Stage 2 - Match Play

All teams will play a one foursome and four singles match format.

The stroke play will determine a seeded order for the match play. Teams will be divided into a first flight of eight teams: 1 vs 8; 2 vs 7; 3 vs 6 and 4 vs 5, second flight of eight teams: 9 vs 16; 10 vs 15; 11 vs 14; and 12 vs 13 and a third flight of four teams who will play a round-robin with the team qualifying 17<sup>th</sup> playing the teams qualifying 20<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> on Days 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

If there are fewer or more than 20 teams, the seeded draw will change according to a standardised EGA format.

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A win in either a foursomes or singles match shall return one point, a tied match, half a point (see 1.3.2 (c)) and a loss, zero points to the team's score. The results of the round robin will be determined based on points accumulated, with one point awarded for a win, half a point for a tie, and zero for a loss. In the event of a tie, the final positions will be decided by the number of individual matches won and, if necessary, by the number of holes won.

**Note:** Teams ranked 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>th</sup> shall be on the reserve list for the following year's championship and eligible for the year-after-the following year's championship.

### a) Order of Play

Team Captains must provide the Committee with their team foursomes and singles orders of play using the official order of play form:

- I. for Day 3 matches, no later than 30 minutes after the completion of the second round of stroke play;
- II. for Day 4 and 5 matches, no later than 30 minutes after the completion of their team's flight the previous Day.

Failure to submit the official order of play form on time will result in the order of play being determined alphabetically by surname.

Once the official deadline to submit the order of play form has expired, changes in the order of play are not permitted.

**Exception: substitutes :** Term 1.4 (b).

**Penalty for Breach of Term 1.3.2 (a):** disqualification of all players out of the pre-stated order of play.

### b) Extended Matches

In the event of a match being all square after 18 holes in any round, the match shall be extended one hole at a time until there is a winner.

**Exception:** Term 1.3.2 (c).

### c) Halved Matches

When a final team match result is already decided, an individual match may be tied if all players in that individual match agree.

**Exception:** if the matches within a flight are to be played as a round robin, players must play until the end of the round which will not be extended into extra holes.

**Note:** after 18 holes or any extra hole(s), if the players in an individual match remain all square and the final result of the team match has been decided, the individual match in question will be tied.

### d) Absentee Players

In the event that one (several) registered team member(s) cannot participate in a match play round and is not substituted as permitted in 1.4 (b), matches shall be forfeited at a position within the order of play according to the following principles.

- I. Foursome matches must not be forfeited and must always be played.
- II. If the "withdrawal" occurs before the official deadline to submit the order of play form has expired, the Team Captain will return the order of play form with the absentee player placed in the position of their choice in the singles and that match will be forfeited.
- III. If the "withdrawal" occurs after the official deadline to submit the order of play form has expired,
  - i. if the absentee player is listed to play in the singles: his match shall be forfeited,
  - ii. if the absentee player is listed to play in the foursome, he will be replaced by one of the players listed to play in the singles. The replacement will be determined by lot and his single match shall be forfeited.

If fewer than four players are available to represent a team, that team must forfeit its match.

In the event that opposing teams would each have one or more absentee players, then these players would be deemed to have been paired together and to have tied their match. Should this require the repairing of matches, the player(s) in the match(es) impacted higher in the order of play will descend to play the player(s) in the other impacted match(es). A team match tied result would be decided by stroke play qualification position.

## 1.4 Substitutions

### a) Prior to the Start of the Championship

If a substitute player is required, the Committee must be notified, at the latest, 30 minutes before the first tee time on Day 1. After this deadline, the team must remain with the same players for the entire championship (exception see 1.4 (b)). A substitute player is permitted for any reason, but may not participate in the practice rounds until he has been officially substituted for a team member with permission from the Committee.

**Exception:** a non-playing captain who is eligible to become a playing captain (Term 1.4 (b)) may play the practice round.

A breach of this Term may result in the substitute player not being permitted to compete.

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### b) **After the Start of the Championship**

If a substitute player is required, only for reasons of illness, injury or exceptional grounds acceptable to the Committee, the Team Captain, as long as he conforms with the eligibility Term (1.2), will be permitted to become a Playing Captain and he will take the position of the player he substitutes. The Committee must be notified of the substitution no later than 30 minutes prior to the team's first tee time. Once such a substitution has been done, the team will remain with the same players until the end of the championship and the substituted player will not be permitted to compete any more. No other substitutions are permitted.

The advice givers must not walk on the putting green at any time.

When the ball of a team player lies on the putting green, the advice givers are prohibited from giving advice for strokes to be made from the putting green.

**Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:** general penalty.

The advice givers must not ride on any form of motorised transportation during play except as authorised or later approved by the Committee.

**Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:** first breach: warning; subsequent breach: loss of advice giver status.

### 1.5 Practice

A team player, team captain or advice giver will not be allowed to practice on the championship course for a period of fifteen days prior to the official practice day, unless they are a member of the golf club at which the championship is being played.

Only registered team players will be permitted to practice during the official practice rounds and in official practice areas.

See Section 1.4 (a) for information on practice for substitutes.

### 1.7 Electric Trolleys

Electric golf trolleys provided by the Organising Committee are only permitted if there is a sufficient number to be equally distributed among the teams.

### 1.8 Disqualification

A penalty of disqualification for a breach of the Rules or the Terms of Competition applies only to the round in which the breach occurred unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

### 1.6 Team Captain and Advice (Rule 24)

#### a) **Team Captain (Rule 24.3)**

Each team must nominate a Team Captain who must be an amateur golfer in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status as approved by R&A Rules Limited.

**Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:** disqualification of Team.

**Procedure if a team has not nominated a Team Captain:** the player whose surname comes first alphabetically will automatically be appointed the team captain.

#### b) **Advice (Rule 24.4)**

**Two advice givers** may be named by each team from whom players in the team may ask and receive advice. The first must be the Team Captain (see 1.6 (a)) and the second may or may not be a professional golfer. The advice givers must be identified to the Committee via the "Registration Form" prior to the start of the Championship and must remain unchanged for the duration of the championship, unless agreed by the Championship Committee under exceptional circumstances.

**Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:** The advice giver in breach of the Local Rule will lose their advice giver status for the remainder of the championship and be subject to sanction from the EGA Disciplinary Committee.

## 2. PRIZES

### 2.1 Exemption

The teams ranked 1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> shall automatically be eligible for the following year's European Senior Men's Team Championship.

### 2.2 Title and Awards

The winning team of the Championship shall be the European Senior Men's Team Champion for a period of one year. The Championship Trophy shall be kept by the European Golf Association. The Organising Committee will return the Trophy to the EGA Office who will be responsible for engraving and maintaining it.

The EGA will present medals to the members of the winning team and to the members of the second and third placed teams.

The EGA will present the host club with a memento. The host country will present all participants with a memento.

EGA Championship Committee  
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