

The current Rules of Golf as set forth by the USGA® will govern all play.

All participants in United States Golf Challenge (USGC™) events are deemed to be familiar with the Rules of Golf, these Rules and Regulations and any Local Rules that may be issued from time to time.

These Rules and Regulations may be revised electronically from time to time. The most current version can be found on the USGC website at www.usgolfchallenge.com and will supersede any printed version.

Amateurs Only

The United States Golf Challenge is open ONLY to amateur golfers as defined by the United States Golf Association.

Dress Code and Player Conduct

The USGC will strictly enforce a tournament dress code with no exceptions. Collared shirts/mock turtlenecks are required, and no jeans, denims, jogging outfits, or sweat pants are permitted.

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game as defined by Rule 1.2a in the Rules of Golf. Failure to do so may lead to penalties or disqualification as proscribed in Rule 1.2b.

Pace of Play

The USGC takes Pace of Play seriously. Pace of Play at National Qualifiers will be controlled by the policies of the Host Course.

Refund Policy

Every effort will be made to honor refunds, less processing charges for a team that cancels their registration. Once a player count commitment has been given to the golf course, there will be no refunds issued.

RULES OF PLAY NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Qualifying

2-person teams qualify through a National Qualifier to be eligible for the USGC King's Cup National Championship™ and the opportunity to make the King's Cup™ team representing the United States.

Registering

When registering for a National Qualifier, teams must meet the criteria for one of the Divisions and Flights as described below under USGC King's Cup National Championship. Teams may be formed by any combination of male and female participants (two men, one man and one woman, two women). Though not required, players are encouraged to find a partner that falls into the same age division and of similar ability.

Format

The format for play in a National Qualifier is Four-Ball stroke play as defined in Rule 23 per the USGA® Rules of Golf in which two players play as partners, each playing their own ball.

Scoring will be NET. Each team member will receive 85% of the course handicap. The lower NET score of the partners is the score for the hole. If one partner fails to complete the hole, there is no penalty.

Two-day, 36-hole National Qualifiers - Two-person teams compete in Four-Ball stroke play in Net Scoring. The top 30% and ties earn invitations to the **USGC King's Cup National Championship** at the Hermitage Golf Club in Nashville, Tennessee, October 11-13, 2021.

There are two Divisions at 36-Hole National Qualifiers, Open and Senior (55+). Within each Division there are two flights – Championship combined with A and B combined with C. See description of flights parameters below.

The winning team in each flight will receive a **free** entry into the USGC King's Cup National Championship. If a flight has 20 or more teams, an additional free entry will be awarded.

One-day 18-hole National Qualifiers - Two-person teams compete in Four-Ball stroke play in Net Scoring. The top 30% and ties earn invitations to the **USGC King's Cup National Championship** at the Hermitage Golf Club in Nashville, Tennessee, October 11-13, 2021.

There is one flight at 18-Hole National Qualifiers. For every 12 teams, a free entry will be awarded into the USGC King's Cup National Championship.

If a qualified team is unable to participate in the USGC King's Cup National Championship for any reason, the next qualified team at that National Qualifying site may be invited to participate.

The USGC recognizes any official handicap index that is current and verifiable online.

The USGC will verify the individual indexes through the state golf association or other online resources. The USGC will use indexes based on the most recent revision 7 days out from the event.

Policy on handicap changes and cheating

In the relatively short time frame between a National Qualifier and the USGC King's Cup National Championship, it is unlikely that any player's index will change significantly enough to affect the competition. A team's flight will not change from a National Qualifier to the USGC King's Cup National Championship except under extraordinary circumstances.

Any team found to have misrepresented, in the sole opinion of the USGC, either an individual player's index or the Team Index, whether inadvertent or otherwise, will be disqualified from the competition with forfeiture of all prizes and awards.

For exceptional scoring at the USGC King's Cup National Championship, the Committee will review the occurrence. The Committee may determine that a team did indeed have an exceptional round and that no further action is needed. The Committee may determine that a team has exceeded the general ability of their flight and will be moved up to the proper flight with a two-stroke penalty. The team will still be allowed to finish the event in their new flight and eligible to receive all prizes.

Substitution

A qualified team is allowed to substitute one player for the USGC King's Cup National Championship. A team member or the National Qualifying site Host Professional must notify the USGC committee for approval if a substitution is necessary. One member of the original team must continue to participate. Substitute players are required to meet all USGA handicap and USGC guidelines.

A substitute player's handicap index must fall within the parameters of the flight in which the team qualified i.e. a substitute with a 4.0 index is not allowed as a substitute for a team that qualified for any flight other than the Championship flight.

Host Professional

National Qualifiers will be conducted under the direction of the Host Professional at each facility. The Host Professional or their designate will be responsible for all interpretations and rulings on the conduct of the event and such rulings shall be final.

Scoring

Each qualifying team shall be issued an official scorecard for the event and shall return same to Scorer upon completion of their round. Each player must enter an actual or estimated score on each hole as per USGA guidelines. A fellow competitor team and/or the Golf Professional Staff at the qualifying facility must attest all scores.

Once the team has turned in its scorecard and left any boundary defining the scoring area, the scorecard is considered official

Any team that is tardy to the designated scoring area by more than 10 minutes after completion of the round may be disqualified.

Tees

Qualifying golf courses for the United States Golf Challenge will naturally vary in difficulty and length. The Host Professional will make the final decisions regarding golf course set-up at each qualifying facility. It is anticipated that Open Division contestants will play a golf course of approximately 6,400-6,500 yards and Senior Division contestants will play from approximately 6,000-6,200 yards, but these lengths are guidelines only and will vary from site to site.

Seniors playing in the Open Division will play the Open tees.

Women will play from tees that are as close as practicable to the tees from which their handicap index was established.

Please check with your qualifying site for additional information regarding course set-up and length.

Inclement Weather

In the event that a National Qualifier suffers from such inclement weather, or conditions that would reasonably prohibit the completion of at least 9 holes of play, the qualifying teams will be drawn by lot.

Disqualification

Participants found violating USGA® rules, tournament rules, falsifying or neglecting handicaps, or otherwise engaging in conduct inconsistent with the tournament standards or spirit of fair play may be disqualified without claim or recourse of any type.

USGC KING'S CUP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2021 USGC King's Cup National Championship™ will be played Oct. 11-13 at The Hermitage Golf Club near Nashville, TN.

The format will mirror the three forms of play at the King's Cup; four-ball, alternate shot and individual stroke play over 54 holes.

GROSS scoring will determine the winning team in each of the two Divisions and four flights. The eight winning teams will make up the 2022 Team USA King's Cup team.

Divisions

There are two divisions - Open Division and Senior Division. The Open Division must have at least one player age 54 or younger. The Senior Division is for Players 55 years of age and above prior to their National Qualifier. A Player that is 55+ is allowed to compete in the Open division, but a player that is under 55 is not allowed to compete in the Senior Division. Teams must play in the Division in which they qualified.

Flights

Each Division has four flights. Championship, A-Flight, B-Flight and C-Flight

- Championship 4.9 or less
- A Flight 5.0-9.9
- B Flight 10.0-14.9
- C Flight 15.0 and above

Team Index

A Team Index is determined by totaling the handicap index of player A and player B together and dividing it in half. Example - Player A is a 10 handicap index and player B is a 15 handicap index totaling 25. Divide the total of 25 in half and the Team Handicap Index is 12.5. That team would be in the "B" Flight.

No team can have a handicap index differential of more than 8 strokes between teammates. Example - a player that is a 10 handicap index cannot play with a player that is a 24 handicap index, unless that player drops his index down from a 24 to 18. Their Team Index would be $10+18=28/2 = 14$.

The USGC King's Cup National Championship will be conducted by the USGC staff.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

Play ball as it lies

Unless modified in writing by specific Local Rules, there will be no preferred or improved lies in any part of the competition.

Limitation on Balls

The ball each player plays must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the United States Golf Association. Penalty for breach of condition: Disqualification. The responsibility of playing the proper ball rests with the player. Each player must put an identification mark on his ball and alert his fellow competitors of such. The one ball rule is NOT in effect.

Grooves

The Condition of Competition concerning grooves for elite players is NOT in effect for the United States Golf Challenge.

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Range Finders

Range finders conforming to the USGA® Rule 4-3 are allowed. Any device that measures gradient or wind speed etc. may be used only if these features are turned off.

Electronic Devices

CELL PHONES - A mobile phone may be used to call for rulings to the Tournament Director or Pro Shop. Any other use of a cell phone during the stipulated round will result in a penalty: First Offense - 1 stroke, Second Offense – 2 strokes, Third Offense – Disqualification

Use is defined as the phone vibrating or ringing audibly, the player making an outgoing call other than as allowed above, or connection to the Internet.

A cell phone may be used as a range finder as long as the restrictions above are adhered to.

I-PODS/MP3s, RADIOS, BOOM BOXES, HEADPHONES etc. Such devices will only be permitted on the driving range and putting green before and after tournament rounds. Such devices are not allowed during competition.

DISCLAIMER

The United States Golf Challenge reserves the right to refuse entry to any player for any reason. Participants in the United States Golf Challenge are responsible for any damage or injury they cause to the golf course and/or property of the golf course or any person(s) on the golf course property. All decisions of the United States Golf Challenge are final.