



Lowveld Golf Association

The Pro Shop “SOCIAL” Lowveld Nett League 2018/2019

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 promotions of competitions and fellow clubs, whilst playing by the Rules as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews (latest edition). If the R & A adjusts rules in the forthcoming season, the changes will imply at the time they come into effect.

1) Composition

- a) The 2018/2019 league will consist of 5 sections of 5 teams each, who will play each other on a home and away basis within the section, using the Betterball Stableford Match Play format. The winner of each section will qualify for the quarter-finals, whilst position 6, 7 and 8 will be filled by the three next best teams, from all the groups, based on log points accumulated.
- b) League captains will be responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by the rules as these forms an integral part of governing this league. Circulation of the rules via e-mail will be regarded as confirmed by Captains as received, read and understood. This will also apply to captains standing in on the day.
- c) As the rules were laid down and discussed in a meeting preceding the league season, it is understood that all rules in this document will apply to all teams accordingly.

2) Date of play

- a) Teams can play before the scheduled date, and one week after the scheduled date.
- b) If matches are not played, the result will be noted as a 0-0 draw.
- c) Fees for the upcoming season will remain at R220 per player.
- 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, the match must be switched to the opposing side's course, and the League Convener must be notified. This only applies

to the first round of matches. If a course is waterlogged on the return fixture, the match must be played on another day.

- b) If both courses are unplayable and the match can't be played before the next round, the result will be a half and both teams will receive 4 points each. This is an exception to rule 2(b).
- c) If a match is rained out and all pairs have completed 9 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) If matches continued further than 9 holes, before rain intervened, the result will be determined based on the state of the match after the last completed hole.
- g) 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 so requested by any of the league captains.
- b) Assisting with determining said player's handicap based on slope rating and tee boxes used for league matches on the day, if so requested by any of the league captains.
- c) Providing Result Sheets for teams, including playoff matches, if so requested by any of the league captains.

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 Amateurs, who are affiliated members of a club, and have an official SAGA handicap. The maximum handicap a player can play off will be 18. All decimals must be rounded off to the nearest whole number on the day of a league match.
- c) No league player may play a match with an open round.
- d) Club Professionals may participate in the league, if they have a handicap that has been assessed.
- e) Professional 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.
- f) Teams will be made up of 8 players, as well as reserves, who will be registered with the League Convener by Friday, 24 August 2018. If a new player is chosen for a team, that player must be registered before he plays his first match.

- g) If a player is registered on the morning of the match, the team will pay a late submission penalty fee of R150 to the Secretary of the Lowveld Golf Union.
- h) A minimum number of 6 players will be required to constitute a team. There will be 4 matches on league days. If only 6 players are available, 2 individuals must play a match on their own. The captain of the team may determine where the 2 individuals play. No agreement may be made between two captains to forfeit a match.
- i) All players (only men allowed) must play off the tees designated for the league team for the day, should they be chosen to represent the team.
- j) A player is only allowed to play for one league team throughout the season, regardless of that player leaving his club.
- k) No player or his/her 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) There will be two sheets for completion this season: a Results sheet and a Team Submission sheet. Each captain must complete the Team Submission sheet and hand it to the opposition captain before the league match starts. This sheet will contain the groupings and their handicaps. The two captains will, after signing each other sheets, be allowed to complete the Results sheet together. Only the Result Sheet will be sent to the Convener
- o) Lowveld Golf Association reserves the right to decide which clubs may participate in the league. This also applies to clubs that were present at the League Meeting, but who was informed of not participating.
- p) Order of play: the visiting team will tee first, followed by the home team. On neutral venues from semi-finals onwards, a coin flip will decide the order of play. During quarter-finals, the top 4 teams will play as the home team.
- q) The following will apply for a play-off match, which will only be applicable from the quarter-finals onwards:
 - 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 follow: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a halve, and 0 points for a loss.
- b) Both teams will receive 1 penalty point from the league Convener if the Result Sheet is not completed according to the example given.
- c) In case of a mismatch where the criteria of the game was not accomplished, or a team defaulting, taking into account all limitations of paragraph 6 a, their opponents will receive an 8 – 0 result, and the defaulting team will receive a R1000 fine. A team is allowed one forfeit for the season only.
- d) There will be no bonus points for the upcoming season.

- e) Result sheets must be completed in full by the home team, and handed in no later than by Tuesday after completion of a match, at 12:00. It must also be submitted via the WhatsApp facility available.

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/her 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 an 48 hour period, or has not notified the opposing captain, his captain 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 standing, the tie will be decided in the following order:

- a) Most wins.
- b) Most away wins.
- c) Fewest losses (excluding draws).
- d) Most away points
- e) Performance against team ranked top in the group (total points accumulated). If still tied, then second-best team, and so on.

8) Withdrawing in the league

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

- a) A compulsory fine of R2500 will be payable to the Lowveld Golf Association by the relative CLUB and will not be subject to appeal.
- b) The results of all games played by the withdrawing team will be declared NULL and Void and opposition teams will receive all points from fixtures scheduled against the offending team.
- c) All future fixtures to be played by the withdrawing team will be cancelled.

9) Disqualifications

Should a team be disqualified from the league during the current season;

- a) A compulsory fine of R2500 will be payable to the Lowveld Golf Association by the relative CLUB and will not be subject to appeal.
- b) The results of all games played by the withdrawing team will be declared NULL and Void and opposition teams will receive all points from fixtures scheduled against the offending team.
- c) Future games to be played by the disqualified team will be cancelled.

10) Quarter Final

- a) All knock-out matches from hereon in will be played of the format of Better Ball Match Play, which means the lowest handicap goes to scratch and the rest of the players get strokes based on the difference between the lowest handicap and the players involved in the four ball.
- b) The eight teams that advance to the Quarter Finals will play on Neutral Venues as will be confirmed by the league convenor. The top 4 teams according to log positions will play the matches as the home team.
- c) 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.
- d) The ranking will be determined on an average games, points earned system for the first 5 teams. Positions 6, 7 and 8 will be determined in order of most to least log points accumulated.
- e) Matches will be seeded and played as follows:

Match	Team	Versus	Team	Venue
A	1	V	8	Neutral course
B	2	V	7	Neutral course
C	3	V	6	Neutral course
D	4	V	5	Neutral course

- f) If a game is drawn, the winner will be determined by means of a sudden-death play-off as follows:
 - i) Teams 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.

11) Semi Finals

Match	Team	Versus	Team	Venue
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E	Winner A	V	Winner D	Neutral course
F	Winner B	V	Winner C	Neutral course

- a) If a game is drawn, the winner will be determined by means of a sudden-death play-off as follows:
- i) Teams 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.

12) Final

- a) The Final will be played of the format of Better Ball Match Play, which means the lowest handicap goes to scratch and the rest of the players get strokes based on the difference between the lowest handicap and the players involved in the four ball.
- b) The final will take place between the winners of matches E and F on a Lowveld Course which will be on 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.

13) General Information

- a) An entry fee of R400 per team is payable to the Lowveld Golf Association. Contact Mr Sakkie de Lange for further details.
- b) Closing date for team entries is 12h00 on Wednesday, 29 August 2018.

14) Results and Disciplinary Actions

- a) Team captains shall attempt to resolve any disputes on the day of the game. In the case that the disputes cannot be resolved, the Team Captains will refer the matter to the Lowveld Disciplinary Committee, whose decision will be final.
- b) Any disputes or disciplinary actions will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee who consist of the following:
 - 1) Stephan Potgieter
 - 2) Sakkie De Lange
 - 3) Adriaan Rabe
 - 4) Elected League Convenor

By order of the Lowveld Golf Association Organising Committee

07 August 2018