

## 2009 EWGA Championship

### Participant Information – Stroke Play

**Schedule:** The EWGA Championship is an amateur competition conducted under the direction of the EWGA Association Headquarters. Competition is in three stages:

1. *Chapter Championship (local qualifying event) – 18 holes of Stroke play to be completed between March and July based on geographic location.*
2. *Semi-Final Championship – 18 holes of stroke play. Check Semi-final Championship Schedule for specific dates.*
3. *EWGA Championship Finals – 36 holes of stroke play at The PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, FL, September 25-26, 2009.*

**Eligibility:** Entries are open to all EWGA Chapter members in good standing who are female amateur golfers, and have a verifiable Handicap Index with the trend or local index not exceeding 40.4 at time of registration into the Chapter Championship. Registrants must be EWGA Chapter members with current membership processed and on record at AHQ prior to registration into the Chapter Championship and have dues paid current at the time of registration into the Championship Series and at any level of advancement in the competition.

**Handicaps:** Players will be required to have an equivalent of two (2) 18-hole scores posted to their handicap record in the current year prior to the handicap cut-off date for their respective Chapter Championships. Players with less than the minimum requirements posted in 2009 **will not be eligible to compete.**

**Amateur Status:** *All players must conform to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status as specified in the USGA Rules of Golf.*

By her application, the player verifies that she has not received remuneration other than as specified as acceptable by the USGA "Rules of Amateur Status". Refer to the USGA Rules of Golf for the Definition of an Amateur Golfer

**EWGA Member-in-Good-Standing:** Dues paid current to enter Championship and to advance.

**Flights:** All competitors meeting eligibility requirements will be placed in one of the following flights based on their verifiable Handicap Index submitted to the Chapter Championship Director. The flights are as follows:

Championship Flight	0.0 - 8.0
First Flight	8.1 - 16.0
Second Flight	16.1 - 24.0
Third Flight	24.1 - 32.0
Fourth Flight	32.1 – 40.4

At any time during the Chapter, Semi-final or Final Championships, the Championship Committee reserves the right to adjust a player's Handicap Index if her performance is not reflective of her handicap, or based on knowledge of the player's failure to post all acceptable scores, or otherwise not observing the spirit of the USGA Handicap System.

Advancing players will be placed in respective flights based on their verified index prior to either the Semi-Final or Championship Finals.

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For purposes of net competition, updated Handicap Indexes will be required at every level of competition. The index must be verifiable and up-to-date by the effective date published by Association Headquarters in order to be eligible for net competition. Competitors at the Semi-Final and Final levels of the Championship will be responsible for ensuring that their verified handicap index is accurate. Disputes to the verified index must be supported by printed verification based on the published handicap verification date.

**Format:** Stroke Play competition will be conducted on both a gross and net score basis. Net winners are determined by subtracting the course handicap from a player's gross score. Course handicaps are calculated using the verified indexes and the slope for the course where the competition is held. A player cannot be both a Gross and Net winner in her flight. If a player qualifies for both Low Gross and Low Net, Low Gross prevails. For all other places in the flight, the higher standing prevails. For example, if a player is third low gross and second low net, the second low net prevails.

**Yardages:** The following are yardage ranges for each flight:

Championship & 1 <sup>st</sup>	5400 – 5700 yds.
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	4800 – 5300 yds.

The Championship Committee will ensure that two sets of tee markers will be set and easily identifiable for those competing in each flight.

**Qualifying Location:** Registrants must compete in the Chapter Championship where they pay Chapter dues. Members of more than one Chapter may compete in more than one event, but can only represent the first Chapter competition in which they win Low Gross or Low Net in their flight. Winners at a Chapter level must compete in the Semi-Final Championship designated for their Chapter. They cannot compete in another Semi-final Championship and be eligible to advance to the Championship Finals.

**Entries: Registration, Fee, and Closing Date:** All players must enter the Championship by using the official Registration Form. The EWGA Championship Entry Fee is payable by each player to the Chapter and forwarded to the Association. The Chapter also collects applicable tournament fees. Entry fees are refundable up to the close of registration by notifying the Chapter Championship Director. After the close of registration, entry fees are non-refundable. Refund policies for tournament fees at the Chapter level are determined by the Chapter and by AHQ for the Semi-final and EWGA Championship Finals level.

**Personal Appearance: Chapter, Semi-Final and the Finals:** Proper golf attire is required. Players must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing. Bermuda shorts or their equivalent and golf type shirts preferably with collars are required. Jeans are not permitted.

**Award & Prizes:** Chapters are responsible for providing awards & prizes at the Chapter Championship. Chapters are encouraged to recognize and award prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place gross and net winners from each flight. Semi-Final and Finals awards & prizes will be provided by the Association and will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Low Gross and Low Net in each of 5 flights.

**Rules of Golf:** The USGA Rules of Golf will govern play. It would be advisable to carry a copy of the USGA Rules of Golf in your golf bag. The Committee in charge of the competition will settle all disputes.

**Close of Competition:** *The Competition shall be deemed to have closed when awards have been presented to the winners or in the absence of an awards presentation, the winners have been officially announced.* Disputes after the close of competition will defer to the EWGA Championship Committee. Decisions of the Committee shall be final.

**Appeal Process:** Appeals on any questions, actions taken, or decisions regarding the EWGA Championship shall be made in writing to the EWGA Championship Committee. Decisions of the Committee are final. There is no further appeal process.

**Golf Balls:** Only brands of golf balls on the most current USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls, available on the USGA website, shall be used. The "One Ball Rule" is not in effect. However, per Rule 15-1, a player must hole out with the ball played from the teeing ground unless a rule permits them to substitute another ball.

**Pace of Play:** Players shall play without undue delay. It is a stated goal of the Association to complete all rounds of the Championship in 4.5 hours or less. Refer to "Pace of Play Policy" for more details.

**Personal Conduct:** By submitting an entry for any EWGA competition, players understand that their participation is at the sole discretion of the EWGA. A contestant may be disqualified from the competition at the discretion of the Committee in charge at any time before or during the competition. Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed to be detrimental to the image of the EWGA are grounds for such disqualifications.

**Caddies and Transportation:** Caddies are only permitted at the EWGA Championship Finals. Guidelines for caddies and a caddie agreement will be provided to those advancing to the Finals.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:** No cell phones, beepers, or pagers will be permitted. The use of Distance Measuring Devices is permitted at any level of the EWGA Championship. Please see the Notice to Players for additional information.

**Spectators:** Spectators, including family and friends, may follow the players provided it is permitted by the golf facility. Spectators must remain on cart paths and/or at least 15 yards from players and are not permitted on fairways or putting greens. Spectators are cautioned not to talk to players as such conversation may be construed as giving advice. Spectators will not be allowed to use carts on the competition course.\*

\*spectators with special needs must contact AHQ for accommodations

**Acceptance of Places; Notice of Withdrawal:** Upon completion of the Chapter Championship qualifying round or Semi-final Championship round, 1<sup>st</sup> place winners must notify the Director in charge of the respective event, if she is unable to compete in the next level of competition by completing the Decline to Advance Form within two (2) days of the event. If you inform the Director in charge of your intention, the opportunity to advance will be offered

to the next eligible competitor. The order of substitutions is based on the final results on the day of the Chapter/Semi-final competition. Scoring is not recalculated if a gross or net winner cannot advance. If the low gross player in any flight withdraws, competitors will advance based on the next low gross score, regardless of how the awards were given. The same applies to low net players.

If a qualifier withdraws, she must promptly notify the Director in charge of the next level of qualifying in order to insure an alternate fair opportunity to play. Failure to comply may result in disqualification from future EWGA Championships.

**Rules Meeting:** A rules meeting for players will be held at each level of the competition. Knowledge of the rules and conditions of play are the responsibility of the player. Attendance to the rules meeting is strongly recommended. At the Championship Finals level, caddies are strongly recommended to attend the rules meeting

**Time of Starting:** The optional condition for time of starting prescribed in Appendix I of the Rules of Golf shall be in effect. This optional condition is as follows: "If a player arrives at her starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after her starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play. Penalty for lateness beyond five minutes is disqualification."

**Ties:** In the case of ties, the decision of the winners will be based on The Rules of Golf, Appendix I.

For Low Gross ties in all flights, a playoff is recommended to determine the competitor who will advance to the next level of play. If a playoff is not possible (The Committee will determine if a playoff is possible and on what hole the playoff will begin), the winner will be determined on the basis of the last nine holes. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, the winner will be determined on the basis of the last six holes, last three holes, and finally the 18<sup>th</sup> hole.

If the tying players started on Hole #10 instead of Hole #1, the comparison of the last nine holes would be for holes 1-9. If the tying players have the same score for 1-9, the winner will be determined on the basis of the last six holes (4-9), last three holes (7-9), and finally the last hole (# 9). If this procedure does not produce a winner, the same process should be repeated for the first nine holes, which would be holes 10-18.

If the method of competition is conducted in a multiple tee start, the "last nine holes, last six holes, etc.," is considered to be holes 10-18, 13-18, etc. If the method of starting is a shotgun, the reference to the last nine holes is holes 10-18 on the scorecard.

There will be no playoff for ties in Low Net. The method used above would apply to ties in Net competition except that, one-half, one third, one sixth, etc., of the player's course handicap should be deducted from the gross scores for the holes being compared. If this procedure does not produce a winner, the same process should be followed using the first nine holes.