

# LLESA Golf NG 2024 Summer Match Play

Defending Champion: Cohl Hatala

Entry fee: \$16 via PayPal (payment link is on the club website: <http://www.llesagolfng.org>)

Tournament Chairmen: Peter Lindstrom ([pl@llnl.gov](mailto:pl@llnl.gov)) & Dave Biggers ([dbiggers@llnl.gov](mailto:dbiggers@llnl.gov))

Entry Deadline: **May 10, 2024**

## Format

The tournament format is Match Play for up to 32 players and consists of two *Rounds*. The first is the “Round Robin” round where the field is divided into groups of four players, each. Each player in a *Group* plays its other members to determine that Group’s winner. Those winners, then, qualify for the “Bracket” round, a single elimination bracket-style tournament to determine the resulting Match Play Champion. In this format, each player is assured three Round Robin matches so one bad round may not prevent him/her from advancing to the Bracket Round.

All matches are at full, current handicap and played under the match play format as outlined in the USGA’s Rules of Golf. Each match is based on 18 holes and may be played over multiple days (e.g., 9 holes each day). *Round Robin* matches may end in a tie, but *Bracket Round* matches that are tied after 18 holes must continue on until a winner is established. Unless otherwise agreed on by both players, they should return to hole #1 and resume the match from there.

## Number of Contestants

The first 32 LLESA Golf NG Club members who sign up (AND pay) are included in the field. If there are fewer than 32 *Club* signups, then additional LLESA-only members who’ve signed up can be included to fill out the field. However, if the field is still less than 32 players, then the field will be trimmed to the highest field size divisible by 4. E.g., if there are 30 total entries, then the last two signups (LLESA-only members first) will be removed to achieve a field size of 28.

## Qualifying for the Bracket round

All Group winners automatically qualify for the 8-player Bracket field. If there are fewer than 8 Group winners, then sufficient *Wildcard* winners will be included using the Points System, below.

## Point System and Tiebreakers

In Round Robin play, the first measure for advancing to the Bracket Round is the player’s points earned in Group play where two points are awarded for a win and one point for a tie. Then, to resolve in-Group points ties or to determine additional Bracket qualifiers if needed, each match result also, has an associated *differential* equaling the sum of the lead plus the number of holes remaining at match-end. For example, a 3&2 outcome would have a differential of 5 for the winner and -5 for the loser, where a 2&1 win would be 3 and -3, respectively.

If no player in the Group wins all three matches, that Group’s winner is the player with the highest point total, followed by their head-to-head match if tied, and then, the differential if still tied. Once Group winners are determined, other qualifiers are chosen using the same basic series of tiebreakers. The tiebreakers are:

1. Total number of points earned in all matches.
2. Total number of points earned in head-to-head matches among the tied players.
3. Total differential in all matches.
4. Total differential in head-to-head matches among the tied players.
5. Player rating.

(A Player rating is based on a formula involving the number of holes won and halved in Round Robin matches.)

## Group Assignment

Round Robin Groups will be made up using the PGA Tour’s methodology for assigning members to a group. All players are first, sorted on the basis of their published May 9<sup>th</sup> GHIN handicap index. Then, the total field is sorted into four equal sized pools (A, B, C and D) based on GHIN index. Each Group is then, assigned one player from each of the pools so that every Group will have roughly the same level competition.

## **Playing Windows and Round Deadlines**

Matches will be contested within the playing windows listed below:

Round Robin play: 5/13 – 7/14 (9 weeks)

Bracket round 1: 7/15 – 8/4 Quarterfinal Matches (3 weeks)

Bracket round 2: 8/5 – 8/25 Semifinal Matches (3 weeks)

Bracket round 3: 8/26 – 9/15 Championship Final Match and Consolation Match (3 weeks)

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## **Payment of Green Fees**

All participants are responsible for paying their own greens fees. The \$16 entry fee covers the prize fund and trophy ONLY!

## **Handicap**

Participants must have a GHIN handicap. The index current on the day of play is used to determine each player's playing handicap. If a match is played over multiple days, the playing handicaps in effect at the start of the match are used throughout. Strokes are rolled off the higher handicap player's score, based upon playing handicap differential. Example: If player "A" has a playing handicap (P.H.) of 2 and player "B" has a P.H. of 7, player "B" will receive a single stroke advantage on the 5 lowest-handicap holes as based upon the course scorecard. Women receive strokes according to women's hole handicaps. BlueGolf.com is to be consulted for official course rating and hole handicaps.

## **Arranging Matches**

Players are responsible for arranging a mutually agreed upon day and time to play the match. Matches can be played any time or day during the playing window. Players cannot play multiple opponents (aka. three-ball) concurrently.

## **Course**

All rounds may be played at any course mutually agreed upon by both participants in each match. If participants cannot agree on a course, the round must be played at Las Positas.

## **Tees**

Tee selection will be up to each player. There is no requirement that the players play from the same tees. And it does not make a difference if hole par differs between tees—the low net score wins the hole regardless of hole par.

## **TGL Rules**

Matches may be played in conjunction with the LLESA Twilight Golf League (TGL), but the following stipulations are in place:

- Players competing in a match play contest during a TGL round may score for the team and/or individual competition of the TGL, but players cannot accept conceded putts or take advice from any players.
- All putts MUST be holed out for a player's score to be used in the TGL individual competition.

## **Club Tournament Rules**

Due to pace of play concerns, we will not allow matches to be played concurrently with LLESA Golf NG monthly tournaments.

## **Player Withdrawal**

If a player withdraws prior to or during a match, the match is deemed completed and the opponent is considered the winner of the match. The differential in an incomplete match is computed based on the current "score" and number of remaining holes. Other than in exceptional circumstances (e.g., injury), players commit to playing all round robin matches. Failure to do so will result in a next-year suspension from participating in match play.

## **Failure to Complete a Match**

If the match has not been completed by the deadline published in these rules, both players lose that match. This can be appealed to the tournament chairmen. The tournament chairmen have the final decision.

### **Match Results**

Both players are responsible for submitting match results to the tournament chairmen. If only one competitor submits the match results, the other competitor will be contacted by the chairmen and asked to verify the results. All scores are to be submitted using the Match Play Excel scorecard available on the club website.

### **Scoring Mistakes**

In case of scoring mistakes (e.g., use of incorrect handicap indexes or course rating, incorrect stroke allocation, prematurely ended matches), the chairmen reserve the right to overrule and correct the score. Any unplayed hole that should have been played is counted as a tie.

### **Score Posting**

Scores must be posted the day of play to the NCGA/GHIN system, preferably using the hole-by-hole posting option if it is available and posted as an 18-hole round (not separate 9-hole rounds). Failure to do so could result in subtraction of one differential point for each day the score is late. Once a match is deemed complete, the players may decide to finish any remaining holes, but stroke play rules are back in effect (for posting purposes) unless the two players agree to maintain match play rules throughout.

### **Contact Information**

Everyone that enters the Match Play tournament agrees to have contact information exchanged among all participants.

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### **Prize Fund**

Forty (40) dollars will be used from the entry fees for the purchase of a championship trophy. The remainder of the entry fees will be distributed as follows:

Champion: Golf Mart certificate for 50% the remainder of prize fund + Trophy

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Golf Mart certificate for 25% the remainder of prize fund

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Golf Mart certificate for 15% the remainder of prize fund

4<sup>th</sup> place: Golf Mart certificate for 10% the remainder of prize fund

### **Livermorium Cup Points**

Players will receive Liv Cup points based off the number of points earned in Match Play. Quarterfinal qualifiers all earn six Match Play points regardless of round robin results.

### **Ryder Cup Qualification**

Contingent on club membership and eligibility, the two finalists qualify to represent LLESA Golf NG in Ryder Cup competition against the No-Mads NCGA club October 5-6.