



2020 Heron Lakes Spring Match Play Tournament Rules and Information



FORMAT & DETAILS

This tournament follows a standard Match Play format. All participants have been placed into a single elimination, “flighted” bracket via random draw. Winners will progress through the tournament bracket until a final match is established which will determine the Tournament Champion and Runner-Up, respectively.

SCHEDULING & REPORTING

Players are responsible for scheduling, completing and reporting their matches by the given “play-by dates”. At the start of each Bracket Round, the Tournament Director (TD) will email all players with their match details including their opponent’s contact information. Both players should make their **best effort** to work together and schedule their match on a mutually agreed upon tee time. In cases where one player significantly fails to demonstrate a reasonable level of willingness to agree to a time, at the discretion of the TD, his opponent will be advanced to the next round.

- **Match Confirmation** - Once a tee time has been mutually agreed to, the match is considered *confirmed*.
- **Reschedules** - Each player may only request one *reschedule* with his opponent after a match has been *confirmed*. If a player needs to request a *reschedule*, he must notify his opponent at least 2 days prior to the tee time for the *confirmed* match, or he will incur a penalty of two (2) holes forfeited. Players are not required to grant a *reschedule* if they are not notified at least 2 hours prior to the tee time for the *confirmed* match.
- **No-Shows** - If a player fails to appear within 20 minutes of the tee time for a *confirmed* match, he will be declared a no-show and the match forfeited to his opponent (so long as he is present for the match).
- **Coin Toss** - All matches not completed by the official play-by date will be determined via a coin toss procedure. Each coin toss will mimic one hole of play as part of an 18-hole round. Tosses will continue until one player (represented by “heads” or “tails”) has closed out the match, just like a normal round of golf.

HANDICAPS & SCORING

All players receive 80% of their adjusted course handicap. The higher handicap player in a match receives full stroke difference. Dots will be allocated to official scorecards which should be picked up from the pro shop and used during the round. Scorecards must be signed, attested and returned to the pro shop upon match completion.

- **Active Handicap** - Players will use their most current handicap at the start of each round. Players without an active handicap at the start of the first round must play as a scratch (0) until their handicap is activated.
- **Scoring & Posting** - Please do not simply record “X”s; see Section 2 of the USGA Handicap Manual for information on conceded strokes and unfinished/unplayed holes. Players are responsible for posting their own scores, as required by the USGA. [See USGA Handicap Manual Section 2.1](#)
- **Exceptional Competition Scores** – a competitor’s playing handicap may be adjusted when there is “evidence that the player’s Handicap Index does not reflect their demonstrated ability.” (USGA Handicap Manual Rule 7.2)

MATCH RULES

All matches will consist of 18 holes, or until a winner is decided. Playoffs will be sudden death beginning at the first hole, with full handicap strokes retained (per USGA recommendation). USGA Rules govern all play except as modified below:

- **Native Grass** - will be played as a lateral penalty area; When a player’s shot enters and/or is lost in native grass, they may choose to take relief, under a penalty of one stroke, using any of the options available under Rule 17-1
- **Drop Zones** - on all par-3s, the **Yellow Tee Box** (behind the stones/plates) will serve as official drop zones.
- **Caddies & Spectators** - caddies are permitted in accordance with USGA rules; spectators are allowed to observe the match provided that they are not acting as an additional caddie.
- **Range Finders** - are permitted in accordance with the policies set by the USGA and OGA
- **“Friends”** - Heron Lakes **cannot** guarantee twosomes. To avoid potentially difficult situations being paired with additional public players, it is recommended that tee times are booked for four players, with each competitor bringing a playing partner of their choosing. Playing “partners” may also act as a competitor’s caddie.
- **Course**- Great Blue **default** or Greenback (*by mutual agreement; must inform the Tournament Director*)
- **Tees** - Blue **default** (6200 yards) or White (*by mutual agreement; must inform the Tournament Director*)

WINTER RULES

When in effect, a ball lying through the green and not within one club-length (using the player's shortest club other than a putter) of the base of any tree, shrub or the like, may be lifted, without penalty, and cleaned. The ball must be replaced within one club length (in fairway) or 6" (in rough) of the original spot, no closer to the hole and maintaining the same condition (fairway/rough/bunker etc.). Lift, rake and place is permitted for golf balls resting in bunkers. Players will be notified via email at the start of each round as to whether winter rules are in effect.

BRACKETS & RESULTS

Official brackets are posted at heronlakesgolf.com/MatchPlay and will be updated throughout the event in a timely manner. This page will contain links to all rules, player information and the following schedule of play by dates:

Round of 32 – **4/23** | Round of 16 – **5/7** | Quarterfinals – **5/21** | Semifinals – **6/4** | Final – **6/18**

PRIZES & AWARDS

The top 25% of the field will receive prizes. Each Quarterfinalist (top 8) will receive one free round of golf at Heron Lakes, valid anytime Monday through Friday (a potential \$52 value during peak season). Book money valid towards merchandise, golf lessons, equipment rentals, club repair, driving range fees will also be awarded as follows:

1st Place - **\$400** | 2nd Place - **\$250** | T3rd Place - **\$125** | T3rd Place - **\$125**

The tournament champion will also have their name engraved on our perpetual championship plaque that is displayed in the Heron Lakes clubhouse, as well as an engraved individual award. Those who receive prizes will be contacted via email or phone and prizes can be picked up at the pro shop.

All match-related disputes (rules, scheduling, scoring, reporting etc.), questions and concerns should be directed to the Heron Lakes Tournament Director – BJ Swearer (bjswearer@kempersports.com)