

Northern Virginia Golf Association

A-Team Matches

2026 Information Sheet

Teams and Master Schedule: The bracket will be determined shortly after entries close on February 28th 2026. This will also be posted to our website (www.novagolf.org) as well as e-mailed to all the contacts provided on the entry form.

Starting Times and Dates:

Bracket Play Schedule:

Saturday March 14
Sunday March 15
Saturday March 21
Sunday March 22
Saturday March 28
Sunday March 29

Clubs will not play matches on every date. Each club is allowed to block off one these dates only (see entry form). Normally, divisions will be made up of four clubs whereby three of the six dates will be used for matches.

Playoff Schedule:

Quarterfinals Saturday April 18
Semi-finals Sunday April 19
Finals Saturday April 25

Any weather postponements will push this schedule back accordingly.

Matches may begin as early as 11:00 a.m. or as late as 12:00 noon, provided that the visiting team is notified at least 72 hours in advance. Team captains are responsible for coordinating starting times for the matches. The captain of the team unable to start at 11:30 a.m. is responsible for contacting the captain of the opposing team and mutually agreeing to the time change.

Rules: USGA Four Ball Match Play rules apply (Rule 23). Host professionals will provide local rules. Play is recommended to be from the championship tees. One professional (head or staff) from each club will be eligible to play on the A-Team. Any member of the professional staff may participate and must play in the first group, either home or away. A professional does not have to play, but the opponent may still utilize a professional. The host (non-playing) professional will make any necessary rulings and will have the final word. Team captains are responsible for making their professionals aware of this task.

Format: A twelve-member team plays three two-man matches at home and three two-man matches away. Each team competes in a better ball format (four-ball competition) at each club. One point is awarded (each) for winning the front nine, back nine and eighteen holes. One-half point is awarded (each) for a tie. The total number of points

possible from a two-man team is three. The total number of points possible for the entire twelve-man team is 18.

Eight teams will qualify for the playoffs, each division winner plus a wild card selection/s with the highest number of points per match overall. The division winner with the highest number of points per match will be the #1 seed in the playoffs, the division winner with the second highest number of points per match will be the #2 seed in the playoffs, and so on. Any wild-card team selection will be seeded below all division winners in the playoffs, based on the average number of points per match.

The quarterfinal playoff bracket will be as follows:

- #1 vs. #8
- #2 vs. #7
- #3 vs. #6
- #4 vs. #5

Semifinal and final playoff matches will be re-seeded by highest vs lowest teams remaining.

Ties in a division will be settled as follows: (1) head-to-head results (if two teams tie), (2) average points won per match (if more than two teams tie). Ties among non-division winners (for the wild card slots in the playoffs or to determine seeds in the playoffs) will be broken based first on head-to-head results (if applicable) and then on the total points from the last match played by each team.

Please do not forfeit a match. The purpose of these matches is to allow each club to play at least three matches and enjoy the competition. Forfeits also create a drastic imbalance to the point standings that sometimes result in a team advancing to the playoffs that may not have otherwise qualified. This also creates a situation where the committee is forced to make a decision on whether certain match/s (past and future) should be abandoned all together.

Ties: Once it is determined that a playoff is needed, each team captain will identify a playoff team at the designated home club. If desired, a playoff team may consist of two competitors that did not play on the same two-man team during the match. Note that professionals are not allowed to be part of the playoff team. All playoffs will be decided by sudden-death and are to be held at the home course.

Late Arrivals: A player arriving late for the match may join his partner between holes during the round (but not during the play of a hole); therefore, a competitor may play alone during a match until his partner arrives.

Rain/Snow/etc.:

In most cases weather delays are known issues. The commissioner will make announcements if weather looks to affect the entire schedule. This will include any alteration to the master schedule or playoffs.

It is the responsibility of the team captains to find an alternate date if matches are declared rained/snowed out by the superintendent or professional. Play may be contested at one site if the other site is closed.

If play had begun at one or both sites and either or both sites must delay or close with unplayed holes remaining the following will apply:

Bracket Play

1. Any match with all three sides through 14 holes will be declared final using the score through all completed holes.
2. Captains can optionally determine a mutually agreed upon date and time to complete the match from one or both sites, as long as it does not affect the overall bracket play schedule. All original players must return to complete the delayed matches. Please take this into consideration when determining this option.
3. If a match does not complete 14 holes, Captains will determine a mutually agreed upon date and time to restart the match either entirely or from one site. Captains will have the option to reset rosters if an entire match does not complete 14 holes. In this case, any player that participated in a match that was declared final at the other location cannot participate in the rescheduled match.

Playoff Matches

1. Any match with all three sides through 14 holes will be declared final using the score through all completed holes.
2. If all three sides have not completed 14 holes, Captains will mutually agree upon a date and time to restart the match **entirely** at both locations. Captains will have the option to reset rosters if an entire match does not complete 14 holes.

Weekday or evening play is suggested for matches with nine holes or fewer remaining so that we may stay on schedule. If the original home site finishes play, a playoff, if necessary, will be played at the site rescheduled. Please notify the NVGA A-Team Commissioner of any postponement and the rescheduled date. If it is not possible to complete all matches prior to the last scheduled date of the preliminary (bracket play) rounds (March 29th), the A-Team Committee may reschedule postponed matches, in which case the quarter-final, semi-final and final matches may also be delayed until later dates.

If conditions warrant, and the affected team captains agree, all matches may be played at one site. The first three matches shall be the matches originally scheduled for that course. The second three matches shall be the matches originally scheduled for the other site. The professional may play in either of the first groups. If the home team is from the closed site, the playoff team must come from players in the matches originally scheduled for the home course (i.e. the last three groups).

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) At least 22 years old as of March 14, 2026.
- 2) Amateur status with the exception of the one professional (head or staff) spot.
- 3) If in college, the player must have no eligibility remaining in NCAA or NAIA play.
- 4) A regular golfing member in good standing as defined by member club he or she is representing as of March 14, 2026.
- 5) A player may play for only one club for the duration of the 2026 matches.
- 6) If there are any questions regarding an individual's eligibility, please contact the NVGA A-Team Commissioner prior to the individual's participation in a match.

Results: Each winning team captain shall report results of his club's match to the NVGA A-Team Commissioner via email as soon as possible after the conclusion of the match.

Commissioner: Mark Vandegrift

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Email: markv@novagolf.org

Other Notes:

- The host team shall provide refreshments (minimum standards are sandwich platters, chips, and sodas, tea or coffee) to the visiting team. Alcohol is not required or sanctioned by the A-Team Committee.
- No green fees shall be charged to visiting team members. Carts or caddies are up to the individual club (unless it is a course policy that carts or caddies are required, in which case, please communicate this requirement to the opposing team captain prior to the match).
- Each team captain should make his entire team aware of possible fees for carts or caddies, and how their own club's food and beverage costs will be handled.
- And finally, please respect the pace of play guidelines of the host club.