SCGA Women's Team Play – Quick Reference Guide (2026 Season)

1. Format & Scoring

- **Format:** Four-ball match play (Gross & Net).

- **Scoring:**

    o Match win = 2 points | Tie = 1 point each.

    o Group standings: Win = 2 group points | Tie = 1 | Loss = 0.

- **Forfeits:** Teams must play as scheduled. Repeated forfeits may lead to ineligibility for next season.

---

2. Schedule

- **Regular Season:** Feb 16 – Apr 19, 2026

- **Playoffs:**

    o Quarterfinals → Matches conclude by May 10

    o Semifinals → Matches conclude by May 17

    o **Championship:** May 26 @ Strawberry Farms GC, Irvine

---

3. Teams & Eligibility

- **Team Size:** Up to 12 players (no permanent roster required).

- **Alternates:** Allowed; follow proper handicap sequence.

- **Club Eligibility:** Must be SCGA-certified for WHS.

- **Player Eligibility:**

    o 21+ years old, amateur, on active GHIN roster.

    o Handicap Index ≤ 30.0 (higher indexes reduced to 30.0).

    o 10 posted rounds required by Dec 31, 2025.

- **Penalty:** Forfeit points if ineligible player used (no time limit on enforcement).

---

4. Matches & Courses

- **Home Team:** Must arrange host facility and communicate details early.

- **Practice Rounds:** One optional round allowed before matches; no same-day practice.

- **Carts/Caddies:** Subject to host club policy (no caddies at Championship).

- **Course Setup:** Use rated tees with similar length/slope; SCGA recommends appropriate yardage for pace of play.

---

5. Handicaps & Score Posting

- **Net Matches:** Play to **90% of Course Handicap**.

- **Low Player:** Plays scratch; others receive strokes based on difference of Playing Handicap (May be different than Course Handicap – See Handicap Analysis in portal if needed).

- **Posting Scores:**
  - Captains post all scores in Team Captain Portal as *Competition* rounds.
  - Players should not post individually.

- **Incorrect Handicap Penalty:** Disqualification if affects strokes given/received.

---

6. Pairings & Substitutions

- **Order:** Players listed by current Handicap Index (low to high).

- **Updates:** Handicaps refresh every Saturday at 2 a.m.

- **Substitutions:**
  - Allowed before matches begin.
  - After play starts, substitute must have equal or higher index (plays down if higher).

- **Penalty for Improper Order:** Forfeit points for matches affected.

---

7. Weather & Postponements

- **Suspensions:**

    - ≥9 holes completed → Results stand.

    - <9 holes → Replay full match.

- **Postponements:** Must be mutually agreed upon and completed by **Apr 13, 2026**. Course can postpone a match at its discretion if it deems conditions to be unplayable.

- **Unplayed Match:** Counts as "no match."

---

8. Rules of Play

- Governed by the **Rules of Golf (2023)** and **SCGA Hard Card**.

- Key Rules: 3.2 (Match Play), 23 (Four-Ball), 24 (Team Competitions).

- **No waiving of Rules** — violation = disqualification.

- **Local Rules:** Must conform to USGA/SCGA standards.

---

9. Advice

- **Advice Giver:** 1 per team (2 allowed in postseason, excluding Championship).

- Can be Captain, player, or non-player.

- Playing Advice Giver may only advise her partner until her match ends.

- Four-ball partners may advise each other at any time.

---

10. Postseason Playoffs

- **Qualification:** Group winners in Gross and Net advance (wild card possible). If one team wins both Gross and Net, they will advance in Gross playoffs and 2nd Net team will advance.

- **Locations:**
    - Sides 1,3,5 @ Club A
    - Sides 2,4,6 @ Club B
- **Eligibility:** Must have played ≥1 regular season match.
- **Tie-breaker Procedure:** Compare total points (Teams 1–2, then 3–4, etc.) until resolved.

---

11. Team Captain Responsibilities

- **Pre-Match:** Coordinate with opponents on:
    - Practice rounds, tee times, carts, dress code, payment, and club policies.
- **Scorecards:** Ensure correct Course Handicaps listed.
- **Conduct:** Players expected to uphold "Spirit of the Game." Misconduct (e.g., language, abuse, manipulation of scores) may result in suspension.
- **Disputes:**
    - Captains serve as the Committee for on-course rulings.
    - Unresolved issues → escalate to SCGA (champs@scga.org).
- **Portal Duties:**
    - Submit lineup prior to match.
    - Enter results same day and "Post to GHIN."
    - **Penalties:** 1st late entry = warning; 2nd = 0 points for match.