

# 2025 LA PARTNERS CUP FORMATS, RULES, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Rules

All competitions (both individual matches and partners matches) shall be Match Play as per USGA rules. Rules shall be amplified by any local rules on the given course scorecard and any rules sheets given out or special announcements that may be made to each team captain prior to the beginning of any round. The one ball rule will not be in effect in this competition. Players may be members of the sponsoring club OR of the women's or seniors club associated with the same course facility. Clubs may not recruit players with no club or course connection for the sole purpose of playing in the Partners Cup. Course locals not in the club or affiliated women's or senior club require prior committee approval.

## Partners Cup Qualifier and Finals Format

The Qualifiers will be contested on one day in October between the teams in the Regions and the Final is contested on one day in November between the four regional winners. Each team designates 6 players for singles and six players (three 2-player teams) for partners' play. The partners matches are worth 4 points each – two points for the front-9 and two points for the back-9 (no overall 18-hole points). The singles matches are worth two points each for the 18-hole match (no 9-hole points). In the event of a tie for the regional or final championship, there will be a playoff commencing on the hole and if necessary, on a series of holes as selected by the Golf Course. Each team shall select a 2-person team to play off. Any 2 players from the roster are eligible. The playoff format will be sudden death aggregate net of the two balls. Strokes will apply based on each player's full course handicap, and the up to three higher indexed players will all stroke off the lowest handicapped player in the playoff foursome.

## Player Eligibility

Male and female players of any age are eligible. All players must have valid USGA based indexes with at least 10 posts over the prior rolling 12 months and must not be newly indexed players as of 90 days or less before the date of the competition. Captains are responsible for verifying all player eligibility requirements. Limited exceptions under very compelling special circumstances may be approved by the event committee but need to be surfaced and submitted as early as possible but no later than one week before the competition date. The penalty for ineligible players: If a player is found to have been ineligible for any reason post-match, the results are subject to re-calculation. In singles, an ineligible player gaining points will forfeit those points to the opponent as long as eligible (if both are found ineligible neither will get any points). Similarly, in the partners portion, a team with an ineligible player will forfeit to the opposing team any points from the back 9 alternate ball format (same points to be vacated if both teams have at least 1 ineligible player). In the front 9 better ball portion, the results will be re-calculated as if the ineligible player(s) had not participated (if one team has 2 ineligible players then it's a loss as long as the other team has at least 1 eligible player – and if all 4 are ineligible than no points are awarded).

## Roster Composition

The spirit of the event is to have a diverse group of players where the spread generally mirrors the handicap mix of the overall club. A good spread of handicaps ensures that the matches will be as fun and realistic as possible and will serve to minimize the strokes given/received in the matches.

## Indexes/Handicaps

Will be based on a uniform date the week of as set by the committee and will be adjusted according to the matrices described above and correspond to specific USGA recommendations for match play events involving both men and women each playing from different colored tees. Depending on the course men may play blue or white tees; women will play red tees. Indexes above 24 must play down to a 24 index (corresponding course hcps).

## Required Player Line-Up Placements For Each Format

Captains are furnished with a simple roster form to fill in all 12 players with name, GHIN # and current index in order from low to high index values. To help ensure the above diversity requirement, **Of the lowest 6 players, at least 2 must be placed into the partners portion and at least 2 into the singles portion. Similarly, of the 6 highest index players on the roster, at least 2 must be placed into the partners portion and 2 into the singles portion.**

## Traditional Singles Format

Players will be sent out and paired in the order of their course Handicaps, from low to high. Match-ups will be such that each team has 2 singles matches against each other team. Strokes will fall traditionally according to the scorecard using full current course handicaps. For example, if a player with a course handicap of 3 is matched against an opponent with a course handicap of 6, then the higher handicapped player shall receive one shot on each of the three hardest holes. Play will be in foursomes, with players #1 and #2 facing each other concurrent with players #3 and #4 competing against each other.

### **Special Partners Format**

Unlike SCGA Team Play, captains DO NOT have to place players in a strict order and do have flexibility for strategy and partnering friends together but must just observe the maximum 5 shot differential between partners (higher partner may play down to achieve the 5 differential) as well as the above minimum use in both formats taking from both their top and bottom 6 roster players.

***The front nine format will be Four-Ball Match Play, often referred to as Partner's Better Ball.*** Strokes shall be determined by the one lowest handicapped player in the foursome. For example, let's assume we have Player A with a handicap of 3, Player B with a 5, Player C with a 6 and Player D with a 9. Player A with the lowest handicap shall never receive strokes. Then, player B shall receive 2 strokes (one on each of the two lowest handicapped holes on the front-9, player C with 3 strokes similarly, and then player D with 6 strokes similarly. The front-9 is played at 50% of handicaps as a distinct nine-hole competition and using the front-9's unique slope and rating.

***The back nine format will be Modified Alternate Shot, still under match play.*** Each team shall select one player to tee off on the odd holes and then the other to tee off on the even holes, but otherwise the back-9 is played purely as alternate ball. Each team may select that either player's golf ball can be used to tee-off on any hole. From that point until the green is reached, only that one specified ball must be played. However, once on the green and marked, only then may players select to putt with either ball they choose. Strokes will apply based on the difference between the aggregate team handicaps and per USGA recommendation each player receives 40% of his or her individual handicap in this calculation (or 20% for a nine-hole match). For example, if team A has a team back-9 handicap of 4 and team B has a team handicap of 7, then team B shall receive one stroke on each of the three lowest handicapped holes on the back-9. Strokes apply to the team and not individually on the back-9 competition and the specific back-9 slope and rating are used.

### **Event Posting**

All players are responsible for posting their own scores according to all the normal guidelines under the World Handicap System. Holes not played if matches end early and players go in are to be left blank via hole by hole posting requirement. The committee will NOT be doing any posting!!! In the partners format, only the front-9 scores are to be posted. **FAILURE TO POST WITHIN 24 HOURS WILL CAUSE ANY POINTS EARNED BY THAT PLAYER EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR AS PART OF A 2-PLAYER TEAM TO BE FORFEITED AND REVERSED!!**

**PLEASE NOTE THE GROUPING MATRICES ARE ON SEPARATE SHEETS BELOW**

#### 4-TEAM GROUPING AND POINTS MATRIX

	<u>Partners Matches</u>	<u># of Points per Match</u>
Group 1	Team 1 vs Team 2	4
Group 2	Team 3 vs Team 4	4
Group 3	Team 1 vs Team 3	4
Group 4	Team 2 vs Team 4	4
Group 5	Team 1 vs Team 4	4
Group 6	Team 2 vs Team 3	4

	<u>Singles Matches</u>	<u># of points/matches</u>
Group 7	Team 1 vs Team 2	2
	Team 3 vs Team 4	2
Group 8	Team 2 vs Team 3	2
	Team 4 vs Team 1	2
Group 9	Team 3 vs Team 1	2
	Team 2 vs Team 4	2
Group 10	Team 1 vs Team 2	2
	Team 3 vs Team 4	2
Group 11	Team 2 vs Team 3	2
	Team 4 vs Team 1	2
Group 12	Team 3 vs Team 1	2
	Team 2 vs Team 4	2

### **3-TEAM GROUPING AND POINTS MATRIX**

	<u>Partners Matches</u>	<u># of points/matches</u>
Group 1	Team 1 vs Team 2	4
Group 2	Team 3 vs Team 1	4
Group 3	Team 2 vs Team 3	4
	<u>Singles Matches</u>	<u># of points/matches</u>
Group 4	Team 1 vs Team 2	2
	Team 3 vs Team 1	2
Group 5	Team 2 vs Team 3	2
	Team 1 vs Team 2	2
Group 6	Team 3 vs Team 1	2
	Team 2 vs Team 3	2
Group 7	Team 1 vs Team 2	2
	Team 3 vs Team 1	2
Group 8	Team 2 vs Team 3	2