

## **Golf Rules**

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics golf competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon The Rules of Golf as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews (R&A) and the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA). These rules shall govern all competition except when in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Canada Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Canada Sports Rules shall apply.

### ***SECTION A***

## **Official Events**

- 1) Level 4—Individual Stroke Play Competition [9 hole]
- 2) Level 5—Individual Stroke Play Competition [18 hole]

### ***SECTION A***

## **General Rules and Modifications**

### **1. Level 4 Golf—Individual Stroke Play Competition**

- a) Purpose for this Level of Play
  - 1) This level is designed to meet the needs of those Special Olympics golfers who wish to play individually in a tournament where the stipulated round is nine holes.
  - 2) The player should be capable of playing independently and must be able to walk during the entire nine-hole round.
- b) Form of Play
  - 1) The form of play shall be stroke play competition.

#### **c. Scoring**

- 1) If a 10th stroke is played without holing the shot, the player shall record a score of 10x and proceed to the next hole.
- 2) Scoring (marking of cards)—Athletes should be taught to keep score and, whenever possible in competition, serve as a marker for a fellow competitor. The

Tournament Committee may also appoint a volunteer or caddie to serve as a marker. The competitor will be responsible for verifying his/her own score and signing his/her scorecard.

d. Ties

- 1) First-place ties shall be decided in the following manner:
  - a) Of the players tied for first place, the player with the fewest number of 10x scores shall be declared the winner.
  - b) If a playoff is not feasible, the matching of scorecards is recommended. There are many options for matching cards, which can be found in the USGA and R & A Rules of Golf under Appendix I Part C: Conditions of Competition— How to Decide Ties. Please note that the tie-breaking method must be stated in the Conditions of Competition prior to the start of the tournament.
- 2) All other ties shall remain as ties and all players should be presented with the same award.

e. Stipulated Round

- 1) A stipulated round shall be nine holes.
- 2) At the discretion of the Tournament Committee, a championship may be contested over one, two, three or four rounds.

f. Tournament Venue Selection

- 1) The selection of the golf course shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- 2) The committee should consider the degree of difficulty and its impact on the conduct of the tournament.

g. Golf Course Set Up

- 1) The golf course shall be set up at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. They are encouraged to provide appropriate teeing ground locations on each hole for the Special Olympics players using the following guidelines:
  - a) Avoid any shots that require the golfer to carry a distance of greater than 47 meters (50 yards) over hazards or other obstacles, anywhere on the golf course.
  - b) Create holes that do not exceed following measurements:

- Par 3:140 meters(150 yards)
- Par 4:326 meters (350 yards)
- Par 5:419 meters (475 yards)

- 2) The Tournament Committee should define teeing grounds for female players.

#### h. Registration and Divisioning

- 1) Each player shall register by submitting a verified handicap or the most recent six scores over nine holes.
- 2) The scores must be accompanied by the par for the course for each score.
- 3) All scores must be verified by signature of the golf professional, Club Secretary or golf Association Director.
- 4) If a classification round cannot be played, the Tournament Committee may use these scores to establish divisions for tournament play.
- 5) In cases that allow for classification rounds, the Tournament Committee shall have the discretion of finalizing divisions based on information available to them.

#### i. Equipment

- 1) Each player is responsible for providing his/her own equipment, including:
  - a) A set of clubs (including at least one wood, one iron and one putter);
  - b) A golf bag;
  - c) Golf balls; and
  - d) A pitch mark repairer.

j. The decision to offer the use of power golf carts will be left to the discretion of the specific Tournament Committee. At any international event, athletes will be expected to walk. A case may be considered for using a power cart during World Games competition upon presentation of a medical certificate to the World Games Committee.

## **2. Level 5 Golf—Individual Play**

#### a. Purpose for this Level of Play

- 1) This level is designed to meet the needs of those Special Olympics golfers who wish to play individually in a tournament where the stipulated round is 18 holes.
- 2) This level will challenge the golfer on a golf course with few, if any, modifications.
- 3) The player should be capable of playing independently and must be able to walk during the entire 18-hole round.

#### b. Form of Play

- 1) The form of play shall be stroke play competition.

c. Scoring

- 1) If a 10th stroke is played without holing the shot, the player shall record a score of 10x and proceed to the next hole.
- 2) Scoring (marking of cards)—Athletes should be taught to keep score and, whenever possible in competition, serve as a marker for a fellow competitor. The Tournament Committee may also appoint a volunteer or caddie to serve as a marker. The competitor will be responsible for verifying his/her own score and signing his/her scorecard.

d. Ties

- 1) First-place ties shall be decided in the following manner:
  - a) Of the players tied for first place, the player with the fewest number of 10x scores shall be declared the winner.
  - b) If a playoff is not feasible, the matching of scorecards is recommended. There are many options for matching cards, which can be found in the USGA and R & A Rules of Golf under Appendix I Part C: Conditions of Competition—How to Decide Ties. Please note that the tie-breaking method must be stated in the Conditions of Competition prior to the start of the tournament.
- 2) All other ties shall remain as ties, and all players should be presented with the same award.

e. Stipulated Round

- 1) A stipulated round shall be 18 holes.
- 2) At the discretion of the Tournament Committee, a championship may be contested over one, two, three or four rounds.

f. Tournament Venue Selection

- 1) The selection of the golf course shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- 2) The committee should consider the degree of difficulty and its impact on the conduct of the tournament.

g. Golf Course Set Up

- 1) The golf course shall be set up at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. They are encouraged to provide appropriate teeing ground locations, using

existing tee locations where possible, to challenge the players on the course as it was designed to be played, with some consideration for the following:

- a) Avoid carry of greater than 140 meters (150 yards) over hazards or other obstacles.
- b) Holes can be played from existing tee locations that do not exceed following measurements:

Par 3:165 meters(175 yards)

Par 4:372 meters (400 yards)

Par 5:490 meters (525 yards)

- 2) The Tournament Committee should define teeing grounds for female players.

#### h. Registration and Divisioning

- 1) Each player shall register by submitting a verified handicap or the most recent six scores over 18 holes.
- 2) The scores must be accompanied by the par for the course for each score.
- 3) All scores must be verified by signature of the golf professional, Club Secretary or Golf Association Director.
- 4) If a classification round cannot be played, the Tournament Committee may use these scores to establish divisions for tournament play.
- 5) In cases that allow for classification rounds, the Tournament Committee shall have the discretion for finalizing divisions based on information available to them.

#### i. Equipment

- 1) Each player is responsible for providing his/her own equipment, including:
  - a) A set of clubs (including at least one wood, one iron and one putter);
  - b) A golf bag;
  - c) Golf balls; and
  - d) A pitch mark repairer.

j. The decision to offer the use of power golf carts will be left to the discretion of the specific Tournament Committee. At any international event, athletes will be expected to walk. A case may be considered for using a power cart during World Games competition upon presentation of a medical certificate to the World Games Committee.