

# LLESA Golf NG 2026 Summer Match Play

Defending Champion: Peter Lindstrom

Entry fee: \$16 via PayPal (payment link is on the club website: <http://www.llesagolfng.org>)

Tournament Chairmen: Peter Lindstrom ([pl@llnl.gov](mailto:pl@llnl.gov)) & Dave Biggers ([dbiggers@comast.net](mailto:dbiggers@comast.net))

Entry Deadline: **May 22, 2026**

## Format

The tournament format is Match Play for up to 32 players and consists of two *Rounds*. The first is the “Round Robin” round where the field is divided into groups of four players each. Each player in a *Group* plays its other members to determine that Group’s winner. Those winners qualify for the “Bracket” round, a single elimination bracket-style tournament to determine the resulting Match Play Champion. In this format, each player is assured three Round Robin matches so one bad round may not prevent that player from advancing to the quarterfinals.

All matches, regardless of round, are played at full, current handicap under the match play format as outlined in the USGA’s Rules of Golf. Each match is based on 18 holes and may be played over multiple days (e.g., 9 holes each day). *Round Robin* matches may end in a tie, but *Bracket Round* matches that are tied after 18 holes must continue on until a winner is established.

## Number of Contestants

The first 32 LLESA Golf NG Club members who sign up (AND pay) are included in the field. If there are fewer than 32 *Club* signups, then additional LLESA-only members who have signed up will be included to fill out the field. However, if the field is still fewer than 32 players, it will be trimmed to the largest field size divisible by 4. E.g., if there are 30 total entries, then the last two signups (LLESA-only members first) will be excluded to achieve a field size of 28.

## Qualifying for the Bracket Round

All Group winners automatically qualify for the 8-player Bracket field. If there are fewer than 8 Groups, then sufficient *Wildcard* winners will be included using the Points System and Tiebreakers below.

## Point System and Group Winners

In Round Robin play, the first measure for advancing to the Bracket Round is the player’s points earned in Group play, where two points are awarded for a win and one point for a tie. Then, to resolve in-Group points ties or to determine additional wildcards (if needed), each match result also has an associated *differential* that equals the sum of the lead when the match ended and the number of holes remaining at that time. For example, a 3&2 result yields a differential of  $3 + 2 = +5$  for the winner and  $-5$  for the loser; a 2&1 result yields a differential of  $+3$  and  $-3$ , respectively.

If no player in the Group wins all three matches, that Group’s winner is the player with the highest point total, followed by their head-to-head match, if tied, and then the differential, if still tied. The tiebreakers are:

1. Total number of points earned in all matches.
2. Total number of points earned in head-to-head matches among the tied players.
3. Total differential in all matches.
4. Total differential in head-to-head matches among the tied players.
5. Player rating (computed based on the number of holes won and halved in Round Robin matches).

Each tiebreaker is applied only once, after which any remaining ties are broken by the next tiebreaker, and so on.

## Wildcard Tiebreakers and Bracket Seeds

Once group winners have been determined, any remaining wildcards are based on another set of cross-group tiebreakers that result in an ordering of all players. This ordering also determines the seeds and who plays whom in Bracket play. Specifically, the following tiebreakers are used to order and seed the players:

1. Group wins (all group winners are seeded higher than the wildcards).
2. Number of points earned in all matches.
3. Total differential in all matches.
4. Player rating.

## **Group Assignment**

Round Robin Groups will be made up using the PGA Tour's methodology for assigning members to a group. All players are first sorted on their published May 21<sup>st</sup> GHIN handicap index. Then, the field is divided into four equal sized pools (A, B, C and D) based on handicap index. Each Group is then randomly assigned one player from each of the four pools so that every Group will have roughly the same level competition.

## **Playing Windows and Round Deadlines**

Matches will be contested within the following playing windows:

Round Robin play: 5/25 – 7/26 (9 weeks)

Bracket round 1: 7/27 – 8/16 Quarterfinal Matches (3 weeks)

Bracket round 2: 8/17 – 9/6 Semifinal Matches (3 weeks)

Bracket round 3: 9/7 – 9/27 Championship Final Match and Consolation Match (3 weeks)

## **Payment of Green Fees**

All participants are responsible for paying their own greens fees. The \$16 entry fee covers the prize fund and trophy ONLY!

## **Handicap**

Participants must have a GHIN handicap. The index current on the day of play is used to determine each player's playing handicap. If a match is played over multiple days, the playing handicaps in effect at the start of the match are used throughout. Strokes are rolled off the higher handicap player's score, based upon playing handicap differential.

Example: If player "A" has a playing handicap (P.H.) of 2 and player "B" has a P.H. of 7, then player "B" will receive a single stroke advantage on the 5 lowest-handicap holes. Women receive strokes according to women's hole handicaps. BlueGolf.com is to be consulted for official course rating and hole handicaps—do not rely on paper scorecards!

## **Arranging Matches**

Players are responsible for arranging a mutually agreed upon day and time to play the match. Matches can be played any time or day during the playing window. Players cannot play multiple opponents (aka. three-ball) concurrently.

## **Course**

All rounds may be played at any course mutually agreed upon by both participants in each match. If participants cannot agree on a course, the round must be played at Poppy Ridge.

## **Tees**

Tee selection will be up to each player. There is no requirement that the players play from the same tees. And it does not make a difference if hole par differs between tees—the low net score wins the hole regardless of hole par.

## **TGL Rules**

Matches may be played in conjunction with the LLESA Twilight Golf League (TGL), but the following stipulations are in place:

- Matches played at Poppy Ridge may be combined with TGL only if played on the 18-hole course or if played on the 9-hole course over two separate days. This is to avoid slowing the league down and to ensure enough daylight to finish the back nine behind league play.
- Players competing in a match play contest during a TGL round may score for the team and/or individual competition of the TGL, but players cannot accept advice from teammates or other players.
- A putt may be conceded for Match Play, but it MUST be holed out to count towards the TGL competition. If that conceded putt is subsequently missed, it is still counted as good for match play purposes.

## **Club Tournament Rules**

Due to pace of play concerns, we will not allow matches to be played concurrently with LLESA Golf NG monthly tournaments.

## **Player Withdrawal**

If a player withdraws prior to or during a match, the match is deemed completed and the opponent is considered the winner of the match. The differential in an incomplete match is computed based on the current "score" and number of holes remaining. Regarding Round Robin specifically, other than in exceptional circumstances (e.g., for an injury), **Players commit to playing all Round Robin matches.** Failure to do so may lead to suspension from future Match Plays.

## **Failure to Complete a Match**

If the match has not been completed by the deadline published in these rules, both players lose that match. This can be appealed to the tournament chairmen, but the tournament chairmen have the final decision.

## **Match Results**

The match is over as soon as one player's lead is greater than the number of remaining holes. The players may continue their 18-hole round once the match is over, but any remaining holes played do not count towards the match score. If a bracket play match is tied after 18 holes, the players should return to hole #1 and resume the match from there, unless they both agree to continue on another hole.

Both players are responsible for submitting the hole-by-hole score to the tournament chairmen. If only one competitor submits the score, the other competitor will be contacted by the chairmen and asked to verify the score. All scores are to be submitted using the Match Play Google Sheet scorecard (link will be provided).

## **Scoring Mistakes**

In case of scoring mistakes (e.g., use of incorrect handicap indexes or course rating, incorrect stroke allocation, prematurely ended matches), the chairmen reserve the right to overrule and correct the score. Any unplayed hole that should have been played is counted as a tie.

## **Round Posting**

Rounds must be posted the day of play to the NCGA/GHIN system, preferably using the hole-by-hole posting option if it is available and posted as an 18-hole 'away' or 'home' round (not separate 9-hole rounds). Failure to do so could result in subtraction of one differential point for each day the round is posted late. Once a match is deemed complete, the players may decide to finish any remaining holes, but stroke play rules are back in effect (for posting purposes) unless the two players agree to maintain match play rules throughout.

## **Contact Information**

Everyone that enters the Match Play tournament agrees to have contact information exchanged among all participants.

## **Prize Fund**

Approximately forty dollars (\$40) will be used from the entry fees for the purchase of a championship trophy. The remainder of the entry fees will be distributed as follows:

Champion: Golf Mart certificate for 50% the remainder of prize fund + Trophy

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Golf Mart certificate for 25% the remainder of prize fund

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Golf Mart certificate for 15% the remainder of prize fund

4<sup>th</sup> place: Golf Mart certificate for 10% the remainder of prize fund

## **Livermorium Cup Points**

All players will receive 200 Lv Cup points for participation. Additional points are awarded on a per-match basis and in accordance with the number of groups,  $G$ , as follows:

- Round-robin tie: 50 points
- Round-robin win: 100 points
- Quarterfinal win: 50  $G$  points
- Semifinal win: 100  $G$  points
- Championship win: 150  $G$  points
- Consolation win (3<sup>rd</sup> place): 50  $G$  points

For example, with  $G = 6$  groups and  $4 G = 24$  players, a quarterfinal win is worth  $50 G = 50 \times 6 = 300$  points.