

# 2008 Illinois Women's Open State Championship Tournament Rules and Conditions

## **NOTE: ALL CONTESTANTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THE CONDITIONS OF THE GOLF TOURNAMENT.**

**EVENT:** 54 holes stroke play. Field will be cut after two rounds to approximately the low 40 percent and ties. (Approximately 39 players plus ties)

**PURSE:** \$12,000, and additional \$1,000 to the low professional from Mistwood Golf Course. Amateurs will receive scrip up to \$750. Any amount over \$750 won by an amateur will be distributed through the remainder of the payout. Payout will extend down from first through 24th place and ties.

**PLAYOFF:** In the event of a tie for the Championship, there will be a four-hole, total-stroke playoff. If the contestants remain tied after four holes, the playoff will revert to sudden-death. Holes used for playoff will be determined by the Tournament Committee once a playoff becomes necessary.

**RULES:** Local rules and definitions as published on the local scorecard or cart-mounted signs are **NOT** to be used. There will be at least two Rules Officials on the course at all times. All on-course Rules Officials are in communication with each other and the tournament manager via radio. Play is governed by the 2008 Rules of Golf of the USGA and, where applicable, by the following local rules and definitions:

**RULE 3-3:** If a competitor is doubtful of her rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole she may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action, the competitor must announce to her marker or a fellow-competitor that she intends to play two balls and which ball she wishes to count if the Rules permit. If she fails to do so, the provisions of Rule 3-3b(ii) apply. The competitor must report the facts of the situation to the Committee before returning her score card. If she fails to do so, she is disqualified.

**SCORECARDS:** Must be checked, signed and turned in immediately following play at the designated area in the clubhouse -- in clement weather, outside on the second-story deck. Do not leave the area until your scorecard has been signed, attested and turned in. Leaving the area is defined as standing up and walking away from the scoring table. **PENALTY: DISQUALIFICATION.**

**HOLE YARDAGES:** The official Illinois Women's Open tournament scorecard might not list hole yardages. Players can expect to play from any of the three forward sets of tee boxes. Tee markers may be moved at the Tournament Committee's discretion between each round due to anticipated conditions. Use your yardage booklet and/or course markings, CDGA plates or approved distance-measuring device to determine yardages to landing areas and greens from tees.

**YARDAGE MARKERS AND USE OF DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES:** The yardage markers on the course indicate yardages laser-measured to the center of the green. However, players may use the cart-mounted GPS system during tournament play. The Illinois Women's Open also allows use of electronic devices that measure distance-only. The use of any devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play, (i.e., wind, temperature, gradient, etc.) regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used, is not permitted. (USGA Rule 14-3). A competitor in breach of this policy shall be immediately **DISQUALIFIED**.

**EMBEDDED BALL RULE:** Applies through the green.

**BALL EMBEDDED IN FACE OF REVETTED BUNKER:** There are several revetted (stacked-sod) walls in bunkers on the course. Relief for a ball embedded in the stacked-sod face of a bunker is the same as any imbedded ball through the green: *A ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground through the green may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.* **NOTE:** Do not drop your ball in the hazard. This relief does not guarantee a player a stance.

**MARKING POSITION OF LIFTED BALL:** On the putting green, the position of a ball shall be marked with a small coin or similar object immediately behind the ball.

**TRANSPORTATION:** A player or caddie using a motorized golf cart may **NOT** drive the cart past her ball for the purpose of scouting ahead until all shots have been played to the green. **PENALTY — TWO (2) STROKES.**

All players must either have a motorized cart or a caddie. No player is allowed to carry or pull her own bag. However, a caddie may use a pull cart.

### **PRACTICE ON THE PUTTING GREEN OF THE HOLE LAST PLAYED IS PROHIBITED.**

**OUT-OF-BOUNDS:** Defined by inside edge, at ground level, of white stakes, property line fences, or white lines connecting to white stakes or property line fences. Also defined by inside edge, at ground level, of automotive road or parking lot curbing.

**DROP AREAS:** Identified by WHITE PAINT on holes 3, 12 and 13. Located on right side of fairway on No. 3 for balls landing on cart path behind green on in cart barn (NOT for balls landing in water hazards); to rear of green on No. 12 for balls landing in fescue hazard between cart path behind green and boundary fence; on fairway side of wetland fronting tee on No. 13 for tee shots not clearing protected wetland. Penalty: one stroke.

**LATERAL WATER HAZARDS:** All water on course is played as a lateral hazard except when the back tee (south of the

bridge over the water) on No. 14 is being used.

**SPECIAL NOTE** — Fences indicating out-of-bounds are NOT obstructions and players are not entitled to relief.

**SLOW PLAY DEFINED:** 1.) All groups will be expected to play at a pace equivalent to 15 minutes per hole. This translates to an 18-hole pace for 4 hours and 30 minutes.

A group may be placed “On the Clock” and, in addition to the provisions of No. 2 below, will be expected to regain their position relative to the Pace of Play Clock or be subject to subsequent warning and/or penalty.

2.) Any group found to be the equivalent of two full shots and a putting green behind, relative to the group in front of them, shall be approached by a tournament official and informed that their group is out of position, and that the group in now “On the Clock.” Competitors are to consider this the first official violation for each individual in the group. Subsequent to this first official warning, all of the players in the group will be timed. If on any shot, from the time it is clearly her turn to play, a player takes more than 40 seconds to play her shot, she will be notified by a rules official and assessed a second violation. If the same competitor again takes more than the allotted 40 seconds, she will be issued a two-stroke penalty. If the competitor again violates the slow play policy, she shall receive an additional two-stroke penalty. If the same competitor violates the slow play policy for a third time, she shall be disqualified from the event. Groups will be timed until they get back into position.

3.) At the Committee’s discretion, at any time during the competition players may be instructed to “continuous putt.” This means the player whose ball is on the putting surface farthest from the hole putts first and continues to putt until the ball is holed out. Players may be instructed to continuous putt either before the round or during the round, if slow play becomes a problem.

**ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS:** 1.) Relief is given to any ball coming to rest in french (above ground) drains, whether or not containing visible gravel. 2.) Worn areas adjacent to cart path are considered an extension of the cart path. 3.) A ball coming to rest on raised, mulched base (with chipped bark) around trees — played as it lies, no relief. A ball coming to rest in the soil well of a newly-planted tree, whether staked or not, shall be treated as ground under repair. A ball coming to rest in decorative flower beds — player shall take relief. 4.) Relief is given to any ball coming to rest on bare ground anywhere on the golf course except in hazards. Dead turf is NOT considered ground under repair. 5.) Relief is given to any ball coming to rest inside sand-filled areas on putting greens. Relief is also given to any ball with a sand-filled area in the intended line of putt. Place ball at nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole. If at any time a player’s ball is in a “questionable” area, the other players in the group should be consulted. If a consensus cannot be reached (all three players in agreement), contact a Rules official for a ruling.

**FESCUE AND NATIVE GRASS AREAS:** All high fescue/native grass areas outside the bluegrass rough will be treated as LATERAL hazards, whether marked with red stakes/paint or not. If a ball comes to rest in a “questionable” area, and a consensus cannot be reached among the other players in the group (as in the above), contact a Rules official for a ruling.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** On holes 13, 14, 15 and 16 (but not necessarily exclusive to those holes): There are strips of unmowed grass/scrub/tall fescue between the cart path and a closely-proximate golf course boundary fence, which is out-of-bounds. The strip is to be considered a lateral hazard. Even though the path is considered an immovable obstruction, no “cart path” relief is due a player when her ball is resting inside the margins of the hazard (Rule 24-2b). A player may either elect to play her ball from the hazard or exercise the other options available for a ball coming to rest inside the margins of a lateral hazard. Since a ball that cannot be found and identified in these narrow hazards may have come to rest out of bounds (unless there is reasonable evidence, Rule 26-1), it shall be treated as a lost ball under Rule 27-1.

**CART PATH ON 13 and 14:** On these two holes, the path shall be considered an integral part of the golf course and a player is not entitled to relief.

**ROCKS IN BUNKERS:** Stones are, by definition, loose impediments and, when a player’s ball is in a hazard, a stone lying in or touching the hazard may not be touched or moved. (Rule 13-4). However, stones in bunkers may represent a danger to players (a player or spectator could be injured by a stone struck by the player’s club in an attempt to play the ball) and they may interfere with the proper playing of the game. Therefore, permission to lift a stone in a bunker is granted under the following local rule: “Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).

**THE ONE-BALL RULE IS IN EFFECT:** Only brands of golf balls on the latest USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls may be used. Players must use the same manufacturer and model of golf ball for their entire round. Penalty: **DISQUALIFICATION**.

**LATE START RULE:** Contestants failing to appear on their assigned tee at the designated starting time when their name is announced by the official starter will be assessed a penalty of TWO (2) STROKES. Contestants failing to appear on the assigned tee and put a ball in play within five (5) minutes of their designated tee time will be disqualified. (USGA decision 6-3A/2 shall apply)

**SUSPENSION OF PLAY:** One long horn tone — Stop play, mark your ball and seek shelter IMMEDIATELY! Players with carts are asked to assist walkers in getting to shelter if possible.

Series of horn tones — Play is being suspended. Players may cease play after marking their ball OR complete the current hole if already in progress — at their option.

Short horn tone following suspension — Play will be resumed.

**NOTE:** In the event of visible lightning, players will stop play and seek shelter immediately. **DO NOT** wait for horns if you fear for your personal safety.

**NON-METAL SPIKE POLICY:** Competitors may not wear metal spikes during the play of a stipulated round. If a competitor or her caddie is found to be wearing metal spikes during play, the competitor shall be disqualified.

**DRESS CODE:** All tournament participants are expected to dress professionally at all times. This applies any time you are on tournament property or are attending tournament functions. No jeans, cut-offs, running shorts, or short-shorts are permitted. This applies to both players AND caddies.

**PLAYER/CADDIE CONDUCT:** No alcoholic beverages or headphones are permitted on the grounds during tournament play. This applies to both players and caddies. Caddies must be at least 16 years of age. Displays of temper, foul language, or any other unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated. A player will be expected to conduct herself in a professional manner during the tournament. As a player, you are an entertainer and people come to see you perform. Please regard the spectators at the event, and let them know that you appreciate their presence. No pagers or cellular phones allowed anywhere on the course (players and caddies) — **PENALTY: DISQUALIFICATION.**

**CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE:** The Tournament Committee has the latitude to disqualify a golfer because of a serious breach of etiquette.

**SCORING STANDARDS** (Final round only): There will be scoring standards and standard bearers walking with the leading groups during the final round on Saturday. If there is a scoring standard in their group, all players (or their caddies) are requested to make sure the scores on the standard are accurate at all times. However, the **ONLY** score that should be considered official for each player is the score she signs for when she turns her scorecard in following the round.

**NINE HOLE SCORES:** Each player may be approached by a volunteer near the clubhouse after all players in the group have completed play on the ninth and 18th holes. Please give your nine-hole score to the volunteer if requested so we can keep the media informed of current scoring. Try to limit breaks between nines to a minimum to keep play moving.

**STARTING TIMES:** For the final round, the leaders will go off last. Starting times for the following day's play will be available online at [www.chicagolandgolf.com](http://www.chicagolandgolf.com) by calling **Mistwood Golf Course at (815) 254-3333** approximately two hours after the completion of play. The Committee reserves the right to alter the format due to inclement weather or predicted inclement weather.

**OFFICIAL ROUND:** An official round consists of 18 holes. However, if there is a weather-related stoppage or delay and all players are unable to finish 18 holes, the Committee may exercise the option to shorten an official round to nine holes (assuming all players have completed at least nine holes). If more than half the field has completed 18 holes, all players will be allowed to complete 18 holes in that round. Restarts will be scheduled after consulting with the Mistwood GC staff.

**GALLERIES:** Of course, we welcome galleries at the Illinois Women's Open. However, we expect them to follow the same rules of general conduct as the players and their caddies. Spectators should stay on the cart paths while players are making full shots, but can approach the green when all players are on the green. If requested by a player **AT ANY TIME**, members of the gallery **MUST** reposition themselves or their carts. Members of the gallery may purchase carts (two-person limit per cart). Spectator carts must have all four wheels on the cart path at all times and should position themselves as not to interfere with players or play. Any member of the gallery asked to reposition themselves by a player **MUST** do so immediately. **MEMBERS OF THE GALLERY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE STILL OR VIDEO CAMERAS.** Members of the gallery MAY NOT carry cellular phones or beepers that make audible noise when receiving a call or page. Spectators may not make or receive cellular phone calls anywhere on the golf course during play. Violators will be subject to removal from the golf course. Please relay this information to anyone who comes out to follow your play, for the benefit of all competitors.

By their presence, players, volunteers and spectators agree that they are aware of and assume all risks of bodily injury or property damage, including specifically (but not exclusively) the risks of being injured by thrown or struck golf balls, clubs or other equipment, actions by other spectators, players, caddies or others in attendance. By their presence, players, volunteers and spectators agree that the Illinois Women's Open, Chicagoland Golf Publishing Co. Mistwood Golf Club, the Chicago Friends of Golf, Inc., Northern Illinois Men's Amateur Golf Association, the Weekly Challenge Golf Tour or any other sponsors, all principals of the aforementioned and the individual golfers are not liable for any injuries or property damage resulting from such causes or any other negligence.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ABOVE  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS,  
IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET THEM ANSWERED  
BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE  
BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS.  
HAVE A GREAT CHAMPIONSHIP!**

**Starting times & results on-line:  
[www.chicagolandgolf.com](http://www.chicagolandgolf.com)**

**Mistwood Golf Club phone: 815.254.3333**

