



Men's & Ladies 2026 Match Play Events Rules & Info



Match play events are member only competitions that are made up of 2-person teams that compete in a double elimination tournament for the season. Each team is guaranteed to play at least 2 matches.

Matches are determined with a blind draw by the Head Golf Professional and Events Chair. Brackets for the Match Play Events will be posted on the website under the Member Central > Events > Match Play > Key Challenge/Super Senior/Master/President/Gross/Mixed/Individual.

It is up to the Match Play participants to ensure that they are aware of the completion dates of and adhering to them

Match Play Event Categories and Criteria

There are different categories of Match Play events for Members. Members can play in different events if they meet the minimum age before May 1st. For example, a member that is 65+ (Super Senior Age) can play in the Master's Match Play event as they meet the age requirement for that event.

Event Name	Minimum Age by May 1st	Handicap Used for Scoring	Tees	No. of Teams
Key Challenge (Ladies)	19+	Yes	Green	8 or 16 or 32
Super Senior Cup (Men's)	65+	Yes	Gold	8 or 16 or 32
Master Cup (Men's)	55+	Yes	White	8 or 16 or 32
President Cup (Men's)	19+	Yes	Blue	8 or 16 or 32
Gross Cup (Men's)	19+	No	Black	8 or 16 or 32
Mixed Member Match Play (Men's & Ladies)	19+	Yes	Men – Blues Ladies - Green	8 or 16 or 32
Individual Member Match Play (1 Vs. 1)	19+	Yes	Men – Blues Ladies - Green	8 or 16 or 32

Match Completion Deadline

All matches must be completed by the deadline listed on the bracket for the respective Match Play event. Ample time has been allocated for each bracket; thus, No Deadline Extensions will be issued for any reason.

Competitors must actively respond to contact attempts by opponents to arrange a suitable date to complete the match by the specified date. If one of the teammates cannot make any of the agreed upon dates due to scheduling conflicts, then one substitute can be used in accordance with Rule 5. (see below)

If teams are unable to agree on a match by the specific deadline date and time, the match will by default happen on the deadline day at noon. If one team is present on the 1st Tee ready to play at the specified final deadline date and time, they will advance to the next round. If neither team is present on the deadline date, both teams will be disqualified from the competition.

To ensure that players are accountable for their schedules, a penalty will be in place for the 2026 season. If a team is determined to be a “no show” at the specified final deadline date and time, the respective players will be unable to register for SVGCC match play events in 2027

Registration for Events

- Registration opens on March 20th @7:00am and closes on April 20th at 12:00am.
- Entry fee for all events is \$40 per player which will be charged to the player’s Pro Shop account.
- Registration for all Match Play events can be done online or by calling the Golf Shop. Online is found in the Member Central > Calendar > April 20th > Select the appropriate Match Play Event name.

Match Play Rules

1. Minimum age for the Match Play event that you are entering must be realized **before** May 1st of the calendar year.
2. Members cannot have the same team partner in different Match Play events.
3. There is no limit to the number of teams to register if the bracket is full (e.g. 8 teams, 16 teams, 32 teams). If there are more teams registered than spots available in the bracket, there will be preliminary matches played to eliminate the necessary number of teams to have a full bracket. Any team that is eliminated in the preliminary matches will not be charged any fee for the event. Any team eliminated in Preliminary Matches or Play Ins are guaranteed a spot the following year in that event **if the team members are the same**.
4. Winner of the first Match will advance to the A Side of the bracket and the other team will be placed on the B Side of the bracket.
5. Substitutions are allowed and encouraged to ensure that matches are played by the deadline. The substitute player cannot be a player that is still on the board up until that leg of the bracket deadline is completed. If a player was eliminated in the same round, they cannot be a substitute for a match until the start of the next round.
6. Match play rules of the RCGA should be adhered to; keeping in mind that pace of play must be maintained.
 - *Honors of the First Tee Box: Determined by flipping a coin and calling the correct result or tossing a golf tee to determine the team to play first off the tee box.*
 - *Honors on the Tee Box: If your Team wins the hole then you tee off first on the next hole.*
 - *Honors after the Tee shot: The player furthest from the hole plays first or has the option of having their partner play first and then they play their shot.*
7. Match Play competitions will not be allowed on Men’s Night or Ladies Day to ensure that the pace of play is maintained for these events.
8. All matches must be completed by the date posted on the bracket for the separate events. Completion dates will be on the Monday for the week.
9. Match Play events are for Members. Teams shall be comprised of two members. The exception for this will be if a member is unable to find another member as a partner, and the Pro Shop is unable to find a member to participate after the closing date. Staff participant will be determined by the Events Committee Chair and the Head Professional.
10. All shots shall be played as the ball lies or in accordance with the RCGA rules. Preferred lies for the matches only come into effect if specified by the Pro Shop.
11. It is up to the team to determine how they will determine the match if it is tied at the end of the 18 holes **prior to** the start of the match. Extra holes (sudden death), new match at future date or chip off are the options for this situation. If extra holes are to be played the team that teed off on the last hole (18th hole) will tee off first on hole No. 1 of the extra holes.
12. In the event of a ruling dispute a player shall play two balls and record both results on their card. At the end of the match, if necessary, the Head Professional shall review the information with all players and determine the ruling.
13. Winners of the A-Side in each Match Play event will automatically receive a spot in the following year match play event. The team & event registered **must** be the same as the previous year.

Reporting of Match Results

It is the responsibility of the winning team to report the results of the match play to the email matchplay@svgcc.ca upon completion. When reporting the results of the match include the **Match Play Event Name** in the email subject line and the winning person’s first and last names in the body of the email.

Format/Scoring

The format for all matches is a gross (Gross Cup only) or net Four-Ball. Four-Ball is a form of play involving partners where:

- Two partners compete together as a team, with each player playing their own ball; and,
- Team score for a hole is the lower score of the two partners on that hole.

The lowest score for Gross Cup, or net score for all other Match Play events, of the two teams wins the hole. If the score is tied the hole is a draw and not counted. A team wins a match when they lead the opposing team by more holes than remain to be played, the opposing team concedes the match, or the opposing team is disqualified.

Inclement Weather

If there is a chance of inclement weather affecting the playability of the match the teams shall determine before the start of the match what conditions and after how many holes a match will be suspended. It shall also be determined if the match will be continued later or entirely replayed.

Player Handicap Calculations

- The handicap for each match is based on the Golf Canada index on the day of the competition.
- As recommended by Golf Canada, all players will locate their “Course Handicap” for the respective tees being played and reduce by 10%. Then players will round up/down to the nearest whole number. This rounded number will then become the “Playing Handicap” of the match.
- The Golf Canada 90% auto calculation is not to be used for this competition as it only rounds up.
- Player with the lowest handicap plays to a zero and the other players adjust their strokes (add or subtract) using Player A’s “Playing Handicap.”

Calculation Example:

Player	“Course Handicap”	Reduced Handicap (90%)	“Playing Handicap”	Strokes
A	+2	+1.8	+2	0
B	5	4.5	5	7
C	16	14.4	14	16
D	22	19.8	20	22

- Player A does not receive any strokes, Player B gets a stroke on the 7 hardest holes, Player C gets a stroke on the 16 hardest holes and Player D a stroke on all 18 holes and an additional stroke on the 4 hardest holes.

Payouts (Pro Shop Credit for Merchandise Only)

Payouts for the Match Play competitions will be as follows for a 16-team bracket:

Place	Percentage of Prize Pool	Amount per Team
A Side Winners	39%	\$500
A Side Runner Up	27%	\$345
B Side Winners	26.2%	\$335
B Side Runner Up	7.8%	\$100

If the bracket is larger or smaller the payout will be adjusted so that the B Side Runner Up receives the prescribed payout of 7.8% or their original entry fee at the minimum for an 8-team bracket.