



2020 GAM SCRAMBLE – RULES & CONDITIONS
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DECISIONS ON GAM SCRAMBLE

GAM Scramble Rules

RULES FOR THE GAM SCRAMBLE

1. Rules of Play

a. Scramble Format

On each hole, each member of the team may hit a tee shot. The team then selects one of the tee shots from which to play. The player whose shot is selected **WILL NOT** play the next shot (Step Aside). This procedure is repeated until the ball is holed. Team Members are partners in applying the rules.

PENALTY: If a player plays a ball when not permitted the team will be assessed a two stroke penalty. If this ball is selected for play the team will be disqualified.

b. Two Tee Shots

Each team member's tee shot must be used at least two (2) times per 18-hole round.

PENALTY: Disqualification

c. Selected Shot – other than Putting Green

The selected ball shall be marked. The shot shall be played from the same condition that existed for the selected ball, i.e. fairway, primary rough or secondary rough, water hazard, bunker or fringe of the green, within one club length. Ball may be placed within one club-length of the selected shot but no nearer the hole.

PENALTY: Failure to mark the position of the ball will result in a one-stroke team penalty. Maximum penalty of four strokes per 18 holes.

i. Placing the Ball – Through the Green

The team member may improve his/her lie by placing the ball or by moving it with his / her club. The ball is in play when he/she makes the next stroke at the ball.

ii. Placing the Ball – In a Hazard

Team member may improve his/her lie by placing the ball only (moving the ball with his/her club is not permitted). The ball is in play when he/she makes the next stroke at the ball. When playing from a bunker, the bunker may be raked by any team member prior to a ball being placed.

d. Selected Shot – Putting Green

The selected shot shall be marked. A team member may improve his / her lie by placing the ball only within one putter head length from the mark, no closer to the hole. A ball is in play when he/she makes the next stroke at the ball. **Once a ball is holed, no further strokes count.**

e. Standing on an Extension of Line of Play or Line of Putt

Team members may stand behind a player, on an extension of his / her line of play or line of putt, while the player is making a stroke.

f. Ball Assisting Play

A team shall mark and lift a ball or have a ball lifted if it might assist the play of the team. Once a ball is selected that ball must be marked.

PENALTY: Failure to mark the position of the ball will result in a one-stroke, team penalty.

g. One-Ball Rule

One Ball Rule (Not in Effect). Players may change the make or type of ball at any time between strokes or between holes. Ball must be on the USGA Conforming Ball list.

PENALTY: Disqualification

h. Clubs

All clubs must be conforming to USGA standards.

- i. Sharing of clubs is not permitted

PENALTY: Two strokes, maximum Four per 18 Holes.

i. Teeing Ground – Male and Female Participants

- i. Regional and State Championship: 5 sets of tees. Males, Females, Senior Males (ages 55 - 64 as of the first day of competition), Super Senior Males (65 and older as of the first day of competition) and Senior Females (ages 50 and older as of the first day of competition) will play from a separate designated teeing ground. Yardages will be determined by the GAM Official in charge of the tournament prior to the start of play.

2. **Conditions of Competition**

a. General

The Rules of Golf (including Rule 6-1, which provides that each player is responsible for knowing the conditions under which the competition is played) will govern all competitions, as amended by local rules of play and those regarding the GAM Scramble Format. A local rule of play may not supersede a GAM Scramble Rule. Participants may obtain copies of the GAM Scramble Rules from GAM Headquarters, or at GAM.org. All results are subject to verification regarding handicap indexes, eligibility, and other Rules of Play, even if the violation is not discovered until after the close of competition.

b. The Committee

At the GAM Scramble Regional Qualifier and State Championship, the GAM official in charge (OIC) and any GAM Scramble committee members on site shall be designated “the committee for that competition”. The committee shall identify the conditions under which the competition is to be played, make all rulings regarding play, and make determination of eligibility for advancement to the next level of the competition or awarding of prizes.

c. Committee Decisions

Disputes or doubtful points on rules shall be referred to the competition committee, whose decision shall be final. If the Official in Charge (OIC) and any additional committee members of that competition cannot come to a decision, the matter shall be brought to the GAM Scramble Committee, whose decision will be final.

d. Regional Registration Restrictions

Teams are allowed to register for multiple GAM Scramble Regional Qualifiers. If a team qualifies for the State Championship, they will not be eligible for a qualifying spot in any future Regional Qualifier for which they are registered.

e. Advancing to State Championships

Teams qualifying for the State Championship are eligible in both the Net and Gross divisions regardless of how they qualified in the Regional Championship.

f. Scoring

Gross Score is calculated at scratch without handicap. A Net score is calculated by subtracting the GAM Scramble Team Handicap from its Gross score, after the stipulated round has been completed.

g. Playoffs

a) Should a tie occur in the Net or Gross Division, for first place, suggested playoff methods are as follows:

Regional Championships: Shall be resolved in a consistent fashion, if not by Sudden Death playoff then by Matching Scorecards.

- i. **Sudden Death** - Each team will play until a lower score is recorded during the play of a hole. In the Net Division, handicap strokes will be applied to the hole being played in the playoff.
- ii. **Matching of Scorecards** - If a playoff is unlikely to be completed due to outside conditions matching cards is a more acceptable practice. The USGA recommends breaking ties in order of last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes, and finally eighteenth hole. When used to break a tie in the Net Division, the necessary strokes should be applied appropriately (1/2, 1/3, 1/6).

State Championship: Shall be determined by Sudden Death playoff, unless otherwise unreasonable.

- iii. **Sudden Death** - Each team will play until a lower score is recorded during the play of a hole. In the Net Division, handicap strokes will be applied to the hole being played in the playoff.
- iv. **Matching of Scorecards** - If a playoff is unlikely to be completed due to outside conditions matching cards is a more acceptable practice. The USGA recommends breaking ties in order of last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes, and finally eighteenth hole. When used to break a tie in the Net Division, the necessary strokes should be applied appropriately (1/2, 1/3, 1/6).

b) During the course of a playoff, the team must not use an individual's tee shot more than once until a tee shot from all four team members has been selected.

c) Due to extenuating circumstances, a team may begin a playoff with less than four players. They must maintain the same rules (Step-Aside format), but with one less player. Provision (b) above still applies to teams competing in a playoff with less than four players.

h. Tie Breakers

The GAM Scramble Committee must determine and publish prior to the tournament how ties will be decided. (See above: Playoff Suggestions). A team may win a prize in only one division, where they best finish. **(These scenarios are to be considered when a site has at least 2 or more teams advancing.)**

- 1) If a team wins BOTH DIVISIONS outright, it shall be declared the Gross Division Champion.
- 2) If a team wins the Gross Division outright and ties for first in the Net Division, it will be declared the Gross Division Champion, and will not be eligible for the Net Division prizes.
- 3) If a team should win the Net Division outright and tie for first in the Gross Division, it will be declared the Net Division Champion, and they will not be eligible for the Gross Division prizes.
- 4) If a team ties for first in both divisions, it must play-off in the Gross Division.

i. Verification

All Regional and State results are subject to verification regarding handicap index eligibility and other Rules of Play, even if a violation is not discovered until after close of competition.

j. Individual Disqualification May Result in Team Disqualification

The disqualification of an amateur team member may result in the disqualification of his / her affiliated team, should a breach of the Rules be deemed serious by the Committee.

3. Amateur Eligibility

a. General

- 1) Amateur eligibility is conditioned upon compliance with these rules, including those regarding handicap indexes and Rules of Play.
- 2) **It is each team's responsibility to determine the eligibility of each team member.**
- 3) Ineligibility of any team member results in the disqualification of the entire team. There will be no substitutions allowed for ineligible players.

b. Amateur Status

Amateurs must comply with the USGA Rules of Amateur Status.

c. Effective Handicap Index

- 1) **Players will use their current GAM / USGA Handicap Index when forming teams.** Any team with an amateur who does not have a valid GAM / USGA Index will be ineligible to compete. **Team Handicaps must be at least 36.0**
- 2) Regional Qualifiers- Amateurs must use their current GAM / USGA Handicap Index. An index is not valid until it appears on an official handicap index revision.

- 3) State Championship- Amateurs must use their current GAM/USGA Handicap Index. This could result in a lower index than what was used at the Regional Qualifier. In that case the new, lower index must be used. If an amateur has more than one approved index established, or has been given / assigned a revised index by their handicap provider or club he/she must use the lowest of the indexes.
- 4) An amateur's approved GAM / USGA Handicap Index must reflect his / her actual playing ability. Every amateur must have a minimum of 5 scores posted during the twelve (12) months prior to the effective revision date in order to participate in a Regional Qualifier.
- 5) A player using an incorrect handicap index could mean disqualification for both the player and the team.

d. Registration

- i. Regional Registration: Amateurs will enter the Regional Qualifier by registering online at GAM.org.
- ii. State Registration: At the completion of a Regional Qualifier, the advancing teams must notify the GAM official on site of their interest to compete at the State Championship. The teams MUST contact the GAM office to complete the application process for the State Championship. The team(s) must provide payment of \$420 to the GAM office prior to the entry deadline.

e. Handicap Index Certification

Handicap Adjustments: The GAM, as a tournament host takes its responsibility to create an equitable playing environment seriously. **The GAM Scramble Committee reserves the right to adjust a competitor or team's handicap before, during, or after a round.** Accordingly, the competitors are advised that the tournament committee will be constantly reviewing and analyzing the field at various stages throughout the championship. Should the committee determine that a participant does not reflect his / her true scoring potential, reductions (or other sanctions) could be implemented. Possible factors influencing the committee's decision include (but are not limited to):

- 1) Failure to post scores
- 2) Exceptional tournament scores (as defined by Appendix E of the USGA Handicapping Manual).
- 3) A gap of posted scores between Championship rounds.

f. Player with Suspended Privileges

If an amateur's playing privileges are suspended by a facility, he / she shall be considered ineligible until the suspension has been lifted, or until he / she has ceased to play at that facility for a period of one year, whichever comes first.

g. Player Suspensions

A player who misrepresents a handicap index or flagrantly breaches a GAM Scramble Condition or Rule of Play will be subject to an immediate suspension of GAM Scramble Privileges for the amount of time to be determined by the GAM Scramble Committee.

4. Forming Teams/Team Eligibility

a. Four Amateurs – Men, Women, Senior Men, Senior Women

Regional and State teams must consist of four (4) eligible amateurs, all of whom are GAM Members. Teams may consist of any make-up of Men, Women, Senior Men (Ages 55 -64 as of the first day of competition), Super Senior Men (Ages 65 and older as of the first day of competition), and Senior Women (Ages 50 and older as of the first day of competition). Teams with fewer than four (4) amateurs are ineligible.

** Due to extenuating circumstances, a team may finish a round with less than four players. They must maintain the same rules (Step-Aside format), but with one less player. If the team fails to meet the minimum number of drives per player (two) during the round, they are **disqualified**.

b. Guidelines for Forming Teams

Teams shall be formed by using the following the USGA Handicap System;

***No more than two team members may have a handicap index lower than 10.0 at the time of the Regional Qualifier. Any team member who's USGA Index is 30.0 (or higher) will be assigned a 30.0 index for purposes of forming a team.**

- 1) Add the four approved USGA handicap indexes to determine the total team handicap index.
- 2) The total team handicap index may be no less than 36.0 at a Regional Qualifier. The total team handicap index will be capped at 80.0.

c. Method for Calculating GAM Scramble Team Handicap

- 1) Each individual player's USGA Handicap Index will be converted to a Course Handicap based on the set of tees they are playing from in the competition.
- 2) Each player will receive 25% of her/his Course Handicap.
- 3) The GAM Scramble Team Handicap will be the sum of all four players minus 10*

*According to Section 3-5 in the USGA Handicap System Manual, an adjustment will be made to the GAM Scramble Team Handicap based on the tees they are competing from. The team's average course rating will be determined and subtracted from the highest rated set of tees in the competition. This differential (rounded to the nearest whole number) will be subtracted from their GAM Scramble Team Handicap to determine the exact handicap to be used in competition.

EXAMPLE:

Player 1 = 11.0 Handicap Index (71.8/135)

Player 2 = 5.7 Handicap Index (69.4/126)

Player 3 = 22.0 Handicap Index (69.5/126)

Player 4 = 8.9 Handicap Index (71.1/130)

*Course Rating and Slope Rating of Tee Played in parentheses

Step 1: Convert Handicap Indexes into Course Handicaps

- Player 1 = 13 Course Handicap
- Player 2 = 6 Course Handicap
- Player 3 = 25 Course Handicap
- Player 4 = 10 Course Handicap

Step 2: Take 25% of each player's Course Handicap

- Player 1 = 3 Course Handicap (3.25 rounded down to 3)
- Player 2 = 2 Course Handicap (1.5 rounded up to 2)
- Player 3 = 6 Course Handicap (6.25 rounded down to 6)
- Player 4 = 3 Course Handicap (2.5 rounded up to 3)

Step 3: Sum the Course Handicaps and subtract 9

- GAM Scramble Team Handicap = 5

Step 4: USGA Handicap Section 3-5 Adjustment

- Sum of Players Course Rating divided by number of players: $281.8 / 4 = 70.45$
- Subtract this average from the highest Course Rating being played in the competition:
 $71.8 - 70.45 = 1.35$ (rounded down to 1)
- GAM Scramble Team Handicap Adjustment: $5 - 1 = 4$ (New GAM Scramble Team Handicap for competition)

5. Substitutions – Regional and State Championships

a. Team Members Unable to Play

Team members may be substituted if he/she is unable to play at the State Championship. A player may not be substituted during play at any level (Regional or State) of competition. Documentation of the substitution must be submitted to the GAM Scramble Headquarters for review and approval within 48 hours of the scheduled tournament.

b. Handicap Restrictions for a Substitute

- 1) Substitutes must have a current GAM / USGA Handicap Index that is equal to or greater than the original team member's index that was used originally. The committee reserves the right to reconsider a substitute's approval for a lower index than the player they are substituting.
- 2) Regardless of a substitute's approved handicap at the time of substitution, the substitute's index will be revised prior to the State Championship.
- 3) Team Handicaps will not increase as a result of an eligible substitution.

c. Maximum Substitutes

More than one (1) amateur substitution will not be allowed, as the team will no longer have the identity of the team that played at the Regional Qualifier. In sudden medical emergency situations, with a doctor's note provided a second substitution may be made. The allowance of this is at the discretion of the GAM Scramble Committee. If a team is unable to participate within this rule, the next-place team from the Regional Qualifier may advance in their place.

6. Miscellaneous Rules

a. Entry Fee Refund

- i. Regional Championship - Late or incomplete entries are not acceptable. Entry deadline means time received in the GAM office, not time of postmark. Refunds will be issued if the GAM office is notified (248-478-9242, ext. 114) prior to the close of entries prior to the deadline. After deadline, fees will be refunded only in the event of injury or illness (with doctor verification). No refunds will be granted for any reason the day of or after a Regional Qualifier or the State Championship. There will be a \$25 service charge on all refunds. The Regional entry fee of \$300 covers the cost of range balls, cart fee, and lunch on that day. An additional \$420 entry fee per team for the State Championship covers the aforementioned items on these days. Any team whose check is returned due to insufficient funds will have his entry denied and returned.

The committee reserves the right to extend the entry deadline. The Committee may review request of refunds on a case by case basis in unique circumstances and extreme cases.

Refunds will not be provided for teams who are:

1. Disqualified
2. Fail to give proper notice of withdrawal
3. Cannot attend on subsequent day of competition

b. Absent Player

If a team has an absent player during a round the team may begin play without that player. The two-tee shot rule Regional and State Championships is still applicable to all members of the team during the round. Should the absent player arrive during the round the player may join the team with the tee shot rule still applying to the player. An absent player may join the team in between holes but not during the play of a hole. Once one player has teed off, the team is considered to have begun play of the hole.

PENALTY: For joining play during a hole: Two strokes applied on the hole in which the breach occurred.

c. Championship Scheduling

The GAM and the Championship Committee reserve the right to change dates, sites, format, and rules to better the tournament regardless of aspect.

d. Suspensions

The GAM and its Committees reserve the right to suspend teams or players from future competitions for misrepresentation of Handicap information or any violation of tournament or GAM rules deemed serious.

e. Scorecards

Each team is responsible for their scorecard, its completeness, and accuracy. Each card must be returned signed by the marker and by a member of the team. Team members and Markers are only responsible for the hole-by-hole gross score. The committee has responsibility for the total gross score and the applications of any handicap. Any dispute should be resolved prior to turning in the scorecard.

f. Tournament Rainout / Reschedule

Should a round be cancelled due to inclement weather the GAM will attempt to reschedule the event and complete it at a later date if scheduling allows.

g. Caddies

Caddies are not permitted during any stage of the competition.

h. Golf Carts

Players must use carts at all stages of the competition. Only players and scorekeepers will be permitted to ride. No spectators will be allowed the use of carts without submitting a request and approval from the GAM.

i. Teams Miscellaneous - Back to Back Champions

Any team that has won back to back championships, either in gross, net or both, will not be able to compete for one (1) year, proceeding the back to back wins. Two players from the same team may compete together the year after, but must have two new team members for that year. The original team can compete together again in the following year.

Ex) Team A wins in 2016 and 2017, must not compete together in 2018, can compete together again in 2019.

DECISIONS ON GAM SCRAMBLE

Rules of Play

The Rules of Golf do not encompass all situations that may arise in a Scramble format. Where the Rules do apply they will be administered as such. Where they do not apply or do not address potential instances The GAM Scramble Committee will decide upon appropriate action including the following decisions.

A violation of the following rules by a member of the team shall result in the applicable penalty being assessed to the team, unless the ball of the player involved is not used.

Rule11-4b Playing from Outside the Teeing Ground

Rule 11-5 Playing from a Wrong Teeing Ground

If all players on a team play from a wrong teeing ground, and at least one member does not correct the mistake the team will be disqualified.

Rule 12-1 Seeing Ball; Searching for Ball

Rule 12-2 Identifying Ball

Rule13-2 Improving lie, area of intended swing/stance or line of play

If a player improves his/her lie, area of intended swing or stance, or line of play and such improvement would affect the play of the following team members, then the team would be penalized unless it elects to use a ball played prior to the improvement.

Rule 13-3 Building a Stance

Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard

Rule 14 Striking the Ball

Rule 15-3 Wrong Ball

Rule 16-2 Ball Overhanging Hole

Rule 17 Flagstick

Rule 18 Ball at Rest Moved

Rule 19 Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped

Rule 20-7 Playing from a Wrong Place

This rule also covers a ball played from outside the one club length or one putter head length allowances.

Rule 28 Unplayable Ball

If a player's ball is unplayable, the team may select that ball only after the player has dropped ball under penalty of one (1) stroke in accordance with Rule 28.

In Addition to any rules specific to Match Play, the following rules are not applicable to the Scramble Format:

Rule 5-3 Ball Unfit for Play

Rule 10 Order of Play

Rule 21 Cleaning Ball

Rule 25-2 Embedded Ball

In all other cases of a violation of the Rules of Golf, a penalty incurred by any team member shall be applied to the team's score whether that player's ball was used or not.

1 –c/1 Player changes condition from which the ball is to be played.

Q. A player changes the condition he/she is supposed to play from in the act of placing the ball is this permissible?

A. No. The team is penalized two strokes if that player's ball is chosen. If the ball is not chosen then the team is absolved, regardless of whether the change in condition is seen as better or worse.

1 –c/2 Long Putter Used for Measurement

Q. Can a team use a long-putter in measuring the one club length entitlement?

A. Yes. The team may use any conforming club in order to measure.

1 –c/3 Player plays from outside of one club length

Q. What if a player plays from outside the one club length?

A. If any player plays from outside the one club length allowed, and that player's ball is used, the team receives a two stroke penalty.

1 –c/4 Immovable obstruction or abnormal ground condition cause interference

Q. A team consisting of both right and left handed players seeks its nearest point of relief how is this determined?

A. The nearest point of relief is the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies, no nearer the hole, and if the ball were so positioned, no interference would exist for a stroke by all the players on the team that they would have made from the original position if the condition did not exist, i.e. complete relief must be taken for both right- and left-handed players.

1 –c/5 Relief from an Immovable Obstruction/Abnormal Ground condition

Q. The selected ball lies through the green in an area of tall grass near a cart path causing interference of stance or lie. Must the condition be maintained when seeking relief?

A. No. The team may play the ball as it lies in the tall grass within one club length or seek relief. If in taking relief the ball comes to rest in a new condition, other balls in the group must be placed within the club length of the ball in the new condition. Once a player plays from the selected shot relief from the obstruction is no longer available.

1 –c/6 Ball at rest touching two conditions

Q. Where is the ball deemed to lie if it touches two conditions?

A. A ball is on the putting green when any part of it touches the putting green. A ball is in a hazard or bunker when any part of it touches the hazard. If a ball touches two conditions (rough and fairway) the team may have the option of choosing which condition to play from but all members must play from the same condition.

1 –c/7 Player lifts ball without marking, ball subsequently selected for play

Q. A player lifts his ball in play without marking its position, assuming the team will/had selected another shot. The team subsequently selects to play the unmarked ball's position and plays from there. Should the team be penalized under rule 18-2 or 20-1?

A. Yes. Since the player did not select the shot for play or mark the ball's position, prior to lifting, the team is penalized one stroke under 18-2a. When determining which shot to select a player should not lift without marking its position if that ball may be considered.

1 –c/8 Player alters ground

Q. In playing a stroke from the selected shot a player alters the ground by taking a divot. May a team member yet to play, place their ball in or around the altered area?

A. Yes. The remaining players may play from the altered area without penalty.

1 –c/9 Player misses ball and makes a second stroke

Q. A player makes a stroke at the ball and misses it completely. The player then makes a second stroke at the ball is there a penalty?

A. When the player made the second stroke at the ball the player in effect selected their ball as the team's choice. The remaining team then plays from this position with a two stroke penalty for failure to step aside.

1 –c/10 Team selects a wrong ball to play from

Q. The team selects a ball this is not one of their shots and all players play from there. Must the team correct their mistake for playing a wrong ball?

A. Yes. The team will incur a two stroke penalty. The shot selected must be one of the team's previous strokes. Failure to correct under the Rules of Golf would lead to disqualification.

1 –c/11 Player wants to replace ball before address

Q. Having placed the ball within one club length, the ball moves. May the player replace the ball to the original position or to a new position?

A. Yes. The player may replace the ball prior to the stroke as the ball is not in play until struck.

1 –c/12 Ball moves after address

Q. After having addressed the ball in the fairway the ball moves. May the player replace or play it from its new position?

A. Yes. The ball is not considered in play until it is struck. Therefore the player may play the ball from the new position as long as it remains in the same condition and no closer to the hole.

1 –cii/1 Ball in Bunker

Q. If the selected ball lies in a bunker can the team members rake the bunker between strokes?

A. If the selected ball lies in a bunker after each player has hit the area from which the next stroke will be played may be raked by any member of the team.

1 –d/1 Ball Overhangs a Hole

Q. A player's ball overhangs the edge of the hole. The player walks up to the hole. The player then waits the allowed 10 seconds under 16-2 after which the ball falls into the hole. Is the player/team deemed to have holed out?

A. Yes. However, in equity, any team member yet to play from the previous position may do so, and count the stroke if holed. Otherwise the player's ball counts and includes the penalty stroke under 16-2.

1 –f/1 Ball Assisting Play

Q. Player A plays a ball from an area near the green which comes to rest in a position that may assist fellow team members. May, A, leave the ball there while the rest of the team members play their shots?

A. Player A may leave the ball there. However, if another ball strikes A's ball that had been left in place and it assists the team; they incur a two stroke penalty. Player A receives no penalty and the ball must be replaced if it is to be used. If a ball played from an area near the green is deflected into the hole by another ball in position to assist the team, the ball holed shall count as the team's score plus a two stroke penalty.

