

# RCGC Individual Match Play 2026 – Rules Sheet

## FORMAT

1. The Individual Match Play event is an ongoing single elimination tournament in which two people play match play (Best Ball Net, aka Two Ball Match Play), during each round. The winning player advances to the next round.
2. Each player plays their own ball from tee to green. The player with the lowest net score on a given hole wins that hole. The match is won by the individual that is leading by several holes greater than the number of holes remaining to be played. (e.g., 4 up with 3 holes to play – known as winning 4 &3).
3. You must declare what tees you will be for the tournament. You will not be able to change tees throughout this event. Please let us know that you are playing a match when booking your tee time so we can create a dotted scorecard for the match. Scorecards must be turned into the golf shop upon completion. The tournament committee will be responsible for posting your scores.

Depending on how high your “index” is, your handicap index could calculate a higher/lower “course handicap” for different tees. (Ex. John Smith is a 12.9 index which means he is a CH 16 from the Blue Tees and a CH 17 from the Gold Tees. We will be using 90% of the course handicap for your selected tee for this tournament.

4. The stipulated round is 18 holes; however, if both parties agree in advance, the stipulated round may be adjusted to 9-holes. This does not apply to the Championship match, which must be 18 holes.
5. If the match is even after the last hole, the match continues to the front 9 until a winner is decided. Handicap strokes remain the same for playoff holes. In the event of darkness approaching for a tied match, Individuals may agree to a closest-to-the-hole chip-off or coin flip to decide the outcome. Please notify the golf shop staff if a playoff is needed on the championship course.

## HANDICAPS

1. You must be able to produce a verifiable handicap upon request from your playing opponents. If you are unable to produce a verifiable handicap, your opponents have the right to require you to play as a “0”.
2. Identify your USGA (GHIN) handicap index. Max handicap index for an individual is for this competition.

3. Work with the Golf Shop to find your course handicap according to the tees being played for a match. Current course handicaps from each tee will be posted in the Golf Shop for your reference.  
You must play from the same set of tees throughout the match and event.
4. For this event we will use 90% of the “course handicap” for your selected tee.
5. Handicap strokes are allocated as net strokes from the lowest handicap player in the match per USGA guidelines 9-4a (iii) (i.e., lowest handicap plays with no strokes).
6. Ask the Pro Shop to prepare a card with dots on the appropriate holes for the match. Please let the Golf Shop know whether this is a Single or Two-Man Best Ball Match (Four Ball) when making your tee time so they can prepare the card in advance.

### **BRACKETS AND SEEDING:**

1. This is a single elimination event.
2. This event will be flighted based on handicap
3. We will be seeding all players randomly in their respective flights using a random number generator.
4. After completing your match, please turn your signed scorecard into the golf shop.
5. The winners of each round shall advance to the next round. The bracket can be accessed at any time on the Rush Creek website.

### **SCHEDULE & MATCH STIPULATIONS**

1. It is the responsibility of the players to arrange their own matches, including the scheduling of tee times. In the event of one player being absent at the starting time, arrives at starting point, ready to play, no more than five minutes late: The player gets the general penalty applied to his or her first hole. See rule 5.3a <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules/rules-2019/players-edition/rule-5.html>
2. Please schedule your next match as soon as both winning individuals are known. Do not wait for the email from the Tournament Committee at the conclusion of the round – you can schedule a match as soon as possible. **It is your responsibility to touch base with your opponents.**
3. If the opponents can't agree on a date within the allotted time, please contact the Tournament Committee. If a match schedule cannot be mutually agreed upon by the participants, assuming both teams made a good effort to find a mutually agreeable time, the match will be decided via a coin toss. The main goal is to complete the final match prior to September 15th.

## DEADLINES TO COMPLETE EACH ROUND

**Round 1-** June 2 – July 5

**Round 2** – July 6 – August 2

**Round 3** – August 3 – August 23

**Round 4 Sem Finals** – August 24 – September 14

**Round 5 Finals** – September 14 – September 27

**SCORE CARDS:** Please fill in your score card completely!

- Record each player's gross score on every hole (best guess if picked up or conceded).
- Circle the winning score for each hole.
- Clearly mark on the front of the card the match play score (for example "Kaprizov/Zuccarello defeat Landeskog/MacKinnon, 2 & 1").
- Sign, attest, and date your card.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have questions regarding your match, please contact:

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