

**NKWGA BEST BALL GUIDELINES**  
**ADOPTED FEBRUARY, 1994**

(REVISED SEP '97, FEB '98, OCT '00, OCT '03, OCT '05, OCT '06, OCT '07, OCT '08, APR '14,  
MAY '16, FEB '19)

1. The Best Ball Tournament is the finale to the Team Play season. In the spring of 1991 a motion passed naming this event “Team Play Finale with Best Ball Format.”
2. Each year the Best Ball is scheduled in late August or early September at the club listed in the NKWGA Event Schedule. This schedule is based on alphabetical order.
3. A Host Club Chair is to be appointed from the club hosting the event.
4. The Vice President of NKWGA should serve as Co-chair.
5. The entry fee should be determined yearly by the Host Club Chair. The cost of prizes and any favors provided to the entrants (usually some small favor in the \$2-3 range) should be covered by tournament proceeds. The Association should cover any deficits.
6. Entry forms should be distributed to Member Clubs four weeks prior to the event.
7. To be eligible to play in this event an entrant must be a resident of Northern Kentucky (Boone, Campbell, Grant, Kenton or Pendleton counties), or be affiliated with a Member Club. (Affiliated is defined as being a dues-paying member or an active league participant.) Entrants must have a current USGA handicap for 18 holes. The maximum handicap index to be used in all NKWGA events is 40.4. A player with a higher index may play but she must reduce her index to 40.4. A handicap for 9 holes may not be doubled and become an 18-hole handicap. The term “current” indicates that a player is currently enrolled in a handicapping system, which regularly re-computes the individual’s handicap, regardless of the frequency or infrequency of her play. The Host Club Chair will verify handicaps.
8. Entrants must apply as a two-person team, with handicaps within five strokes of each other. Flights should be made according to handicap—three flights (A, B, and C) depending on the size of the field and the distribution of handicaps of the entrants. Teams should be placed in flights based on the lower of the two handicaps. Should players wish to team up, despite a handicap difference of greater than five, the higher handicap player must play to a handicap within five of her partner.
9. Receipt of cash or check guarantees registration until the field is full. Checks should be made payable to the Host Club Chair. Cut-off date for entries should generally be one week before the tournament date.
10. U.S.G.A. rules govern play, with the following exception. As of October 2006, a local rule regarding "preferred lies" is in effect as follows: "When a player's ball lies in the fairway of the hole she is playing, the player may take free relief. She must

mark the position of the ball before lifting it. She must then place the ball on a spot within six inches of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay." The penalty for breach of a local rule is the General Penalty: Loss of hole in match play and a two-stroke penalty in stroke play.

11. Prizes should be awarded for first low gross team, and first, second and third low net teams in each flight. (In some years, depending on the size of the field, a greater or lesser number of prizes may be required.) Ties should be broken by a score card playoff. The winner is determined on the basis of the best score for the last nine holes (10-18). If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, determine the winner on the basis of the last six holes (13-18), last three holes (16-18) and finally the last hole. Obviously use the gross best ball to determine the gross winners and use the net best ball to determine the net winners. First low gross takes precedence over first low net. There should be no individual awards given at this team event (e.g. long drive, closest to pin, etc.)
12. Whenever the Best Ball is played at a nine-hole course, where the field must be limited, those who actually played during the Team Play season, either as a regular or as a sub, should be given priority in applying. This advantage will usually be in the form of an early date until which only team players may apply. After that date, if the field is not full, other eligible players may apply.
13. The rules sheet for the tournament should mention the following local rule put in place in April, 2003. The rule reads as follows: "During the course of play, cell phones, beepers and the like are to be turned off, must not ring, and conversations must not occur, except for emergency calls out or for a ruling clarification." The penalty for not complying with a local rule is the General Penalty: Loss of hole in match play and a two-stroke penalty in stroke play. Members of any foursome or match are responsible for enforcing this rule as they would any other in *The Rules of Golf*.
14. In the event of severely inclement weather, after a reasonable wait, the Host Club pro and the Committee may make a decision to temporarily suspend play or cancel play, depending on available weather information. If play is cancelled names will be drawn for prizes.