



# Rules and Conditions 2026

## Marisa Sgaravatti Trophy

### I DEFINITIONS

**ESLGA Committee:** During tournaments the ESLGA Committee shall consist of at least two of their members, the President, the vice president/treasurer or the Secretary-General or their designated deputies, thus representing the Board of ESLGA.

**Championship Committee:** The Championship Committee is an honorary committee, formed by at least three members: the President of ESLGA, the President of the National Senior (Ladies) Golf Association of the organizing country and the President of the Club, where the tournament is being played, or their deputies. The Championship Committee watches over and shall strive for a good atmosphere during the event and ensure that the tournament is being played in the true spirit of the game. This Committee may give advice to anyone at any time.

**Tournament Committee:** The Tournament Committee is formed by the host country in accordance with the ESLGA committee and is responsible for the organization of the tournament. The Committee's responsibilities are defined in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf. The Committee shall consist of at least one official referee and one person nominated by the ESLGA Committee. Also a Tournament Director shall be designated by ESLGA.

### II GENERAL

The Marisa Sgaravatti Trophy is an annual tournament of the European Senior Ladies Golf Association (ESLGA), open to amateur golfers of ESLGA Members.

The tournament will take place in the countries of the ESLGA members, rotation not being obligatory. The ESLGA's General Meeting is entitled to grant the organization of this tournament to a particular Association during one or several years, its choice not being based on who applied first, but on criteria such as accessibility, general quality, economy, climate and other factors. Every year the ESLGA's General Meeting will establish the location and the date of the tournament at least three years ahead. The language in force is English.

### III ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

#### 1. Teams

For the tournament, ESLGA members may enter one team of five to six players with a handicap index of 5.0 to 16.0 (WHS). The benchmark for the handicap limit of 5.0, resp. 16.0 is 6 weeks before the start of the tournament.

#### 2. Entries

Entry forms will be put on ESLGA website at least six months before the competition. Entries must be made by e-mail to the organizing Association at the latest four months before the competition, while players' names, handicaps and rankings must be announced three weeks before the first day of the tournament.



### **3. Eligibility of Players**

All players must be female and:

- a) An amateur golfer in accordance with the rules of amateur status as approved by the R & A Rules Limited.
- b) A member of the Senior Ladies Golf Association of the country, recognized by or associated to the National Federation.
- c) 50 years old or older in the year of the tournament
- d) A citizen of the country she represents or a resident of that country for a minimum of five years. A player with a dual citizenship may only represent one country per year.

New players: the Captain is responsible that the personal data of these players are correct.

Penalty for breach of eligibility term: disqualification of the player.

### **4. Handicap**

WHS handicap: the lowest handicap index is 5.0, the highest handicap index is 16.0. The closing date for exact handicaps is 6 weeks before the start of the tournament. Should there be a handicap change (lower than 5.0 or higher than 16.0) until the submission of entry form 3, the Captain has to bring the handicap history of this player.

Captains are responsible for the accuracy of the handicaps when they send in the entry forms and should be able to prove it if required. Incorrectness will lead to disqualification of the player.

### **5. Fees**

The entry fee shall be determined by the Member Association organizing the competition, in accordance with the ESLGA Committee with one practice round to be granted before the competition. The entry fees and all other fees and prices have to be in EURO currency only (or in currency of the organizing country with the approximate price in EURO).

### **6. Team Captain**

Each team must nominate a Team Captain who must be an amateur golfer in accordance with the rules of amateur status as approved by the R & A Rules Limited. The Team Captain leads the team and makes decisions for it, such as which players on the team will play in which rounds or matches and in what order they will play. The Team Captain may be a player in the competition. If a team has not nominated a Team Captain, the player whose surname comes first alphabetically will automatically be approved the Team Captain.

Non-playing Captains may play in the practice round subject to availability, prior notice and against payment of green fees (see 12. Practice).

## **IV FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION**

### **7. Form of play**

Teams will be composed of a maximum of 6 players and a minimum of 5. Each team may have a captain who may be a player or non-player, but who must be an Amateur as defined in 3 a) above.

The Tournament will consist of two phases:



- 36 holes qualifying, 2 rounds of 18 holes stroke play on consecutive days.
- Match play within flights – two days.

## 8. First phase – stroke play

There shall be two rounds of 18 holes stroke play on days 1 and 2 to decide the draw for the match play, which commences on day 3. The draw for the stroke play will be made in twos and threes from different nations (8 to 10 minutes interval).

Captains may place their players in any order they wish on either day, but must notify the Tournament Committee of this order:

- for the first round:  
30 minutes after the last flight of the practice round has completed their round
- for the second round:  
30 minutes after the last flight of the first round has completed their round

If by the end of the practice round, the captain has not handed in any order, the team will play in alphabetical order.

If by the end of the first round, the captain has not handed in any order 30 minutes after the last flight has completed their round, her team will resume the same position as for the first round.

- a) The best four scores out of five will count each day. The total aggregate of eight scores over the two days will constitute the score of the team.
- b) In the event of a tie, the total of the five scores of the last day will count.
- c) If there is a further tie, the total of the five scores of the first day will count. Then the best score of the last day will count. Then the second best score, and so on.

## 9. Second phase – match play

Based on the results of the stroke play, flights will be formed as follows and played by match play.

- a) The four teams with the best results enter flight 1. The other flights will be composed of 4,3 or 2 teams, depending upon the number of teams participating.
- b) Each team will play 5 singles.
- c) Flight of 4
  - first day 2 vs. 3 and 1 vs. 4
  - second day winner vs. winner  
loser vs. loser
- Flight of 3
  - first day 2 vs. 3, 1: day off
  - second day 1 vs. winner, loser: day off
- Flight of 2
  - first day 1 vs. 2
  - second day day off

**NOTE 1:** The winner should hand in the match card indicating the result to referees or officials and to the tournament office.

**NOTE 2:** If, in flights of 4, after 18 played holes, an individual match is tied, the match continues without delay with extended holes till the match is settled. If however either team



has already been declared winner in at least 3 individual matches, tied matches will not extend beyond 18 holes. Such match is declared halved and both teams earn ½ point. Similarly, the same applies to an individual match in play when the match already has been won by one of the teams. Such match is discontinued.

If, in flights of 3, after 18 played holes, an individual match is tied, the match continues without delay with extended holes till the match is settled. If however either team has already been declared winner in at least 3 individual matches, tied matches will not extend beyond 18 holes. Such match is declared halved and both teams earn ½ point. Similarly, the same applies to an individual match in play when the match already has been won by one of the teams. Such match is discontinued.

d) One point for each match that is won and ½ point for a halved match. If a player fails to play one match, the opponent gets that point.

e) Order of play for the match play:

On the eve of each match, each Captain must notify the Tournament Committee in a sealed envelope the names of the players in their team and the order of play. This envelope shall not be opened before the Committee has been able to receive the opponent's sealed envelope:

for the third day match: within 30 minutes of the completion of the second stroke play round  
for the fourth day match: within 30 minutes of the completion of their respective flights

If by the end of the second day, the captain has not handed in any order 30 minutes after the completion of the second stroke play round, the team will play in alphabetical order.

If by the end of the third day, the captain has not handed in any order 30 minutes after the completion of the first match play round, the team will resume the same position as for the first match play round.

## 10. Substitutes

Substitution of any of the six players is allowed for any reason. For the teams with 5 players: if after the start of the Tournament a substitute player is required, only for reasons of illness, injury or exceptional ground acceptable to the Tournament Committee, a substitute is brought in, as long as she conforms with the eligibility condition and she will take the position of the player she substitutes. The player replaced cannot play in the team anymore.

The Tournament Committee must be notified immediately of any change in a team.

### **Qualification phase:**

If a substitute player is brought in, the Tournament Committee must be notified 30 minutes before the teeing off time on the first hole of the player being replaced.

Sanction: disqualification of the player.

### **Match play phase:**

If a substitute is brought in, the Tournament Committee must be notified 30 minutes before the first teeing off time of the team. Only if the substitute is brought in on the day of the match, the substitute will play as the last player, the others moving up in the original draw.

Sanction: loss of the match

## 11. Rules

The rules of golf will be the ones defined by the R & A Rules Limited and the United States Golf Association as well as those established by the local Tournament Committee.

a) A player may only take advice from her caddie or an appointed team Captain. Such a person must be identified to the Tournament Committee prior to the start of the Tournament and must be an Amateur as defined in 3 a) above.



- b) The use of golf carts is not allowed neither for players nor for non-playing Captains/delegates, etc. except as authorized or later approved by the Tournament Committee.
- c) Slow play rules will apply to this Tournament. At the Captains 'meeting prior to the Tournament a standard will be set for the speed at which the game will be played. Sanction following Committee Procedures, Section 5H (Rule 5.6).
- d) Caddie – see Rule 10.3 Caddies – Everyone can have the caddie of her own choice with the exception of professionals (coaches). Fellow team members and team Captains will be allowed.
- e) Team Captains are authorized to give advice. If the Captain is a player, while playing she may not give advice to a teammate other than her partner (Rule 10.2). Similarly, when the Captain is not the caddy of the player, she is not authorized to go on the greens nor to point out the line of putting.
- f) Prohibiting use of material to help read the line of play for stroke from putting green: Model local rule G-12 is in effect. Rule 4.3a is modified in this way: during a round, a player must not use any written, printed, electronic or digital material to help with reading their line of play for any stroke to be made from the putting green.
- g) The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amend the Rules and Conditions should it be necessary.

## **12. Practice**

There are no restrictions for practicing before the competition. In the practice round, only one ball per player is allowed except on Par 3's and with lost/provisional balls. A non-playing Captain or delegate is not entitled to play the practice round, as they don't pay the full fees. If there is a possibility in the time schedule, she can play at the full green fee price, announcing it to the Tournament director at registration.

## **V SPECIAL RULES**

### **13. Smoking and vaping**

No smoking nor vaping on the course.

### **14. Drug abuse**

The guidelines of each member country with regard to drug abuse are applicable to all European Championships and International Matches. The host country should inform the participants about the rules of conduct on the notice board before the Tournament starts.

### **15. Disqualification**

A team disqualified during the qualifying phase automatically assumes last place in the Tournament.

### **16. Failure to start – starting time**

The player must start at the time established by the Tournament Committee.

Rule 5.3a shall apply: If the player arrives at her starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after her starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes penalty at the first hole in stroke play.

Otherwise, the penalty for breach of this Rule is disqualification.



## 17. Play suspended because of bad weather

- a) If one of the first two qualifying rounds is washed out, the one round played alone will count (all five scores counting).
- b) If the first two qualifying rounds are washed out, one qualifying round will be played on the third day and match play on the fourth day as follows:

Flight of 4	3 vs. 4
	1 vs. 2
Flight of 3	1 vs. 2, 3: day off
Flight of 2	1 vs. 2
- c) If three days are washed out, the Tournament will consist of only one stroke play round over 18 holes (5 scores counting).
- d) If the first three days are playable and the last day washed out, it is between the two teams of each match. The team that has achieved the best qualifying score wins.
- e) If the third day is washed out, the matches that should have been played that day, shall be played on the fourth day as follows:

3 vs. 4
1 vs. 2
- f) If four matches are washed out, the only match that has been played counts for the final result.  
If three matches are washed out, and the result of the two matches being played is a tie, the result will be defined by ups.  
If two matches are washed out there is still an odd result which stands.  
If one match is washed out and the result of the four matches being played is a tie, the result will be defined by ups.
- g) The Tournament Committee reserves the right to make a decision in equity when it is impossible to complete a match or series of matches in accordance with the Rules of Golf, following the Guidelines for Team Matches from the R & A Rules Limited.

## 18. Use of walkie talkie, mobile phones and other communication devices

Walkie-talkies are for use by the Tournament Committee officials only. The Team Captains are not allowed to use them.

Use of mobile phones by a player, caddie or team Captain/delegate on the golf course is not recommended, except for GPS reasons and putting in scores for live scoring. However, in case of emergency or danger (for medical reasons etc.) or to call the Tournament office, a mobile phone may in these exceptions be used. In all cases a mobile phone should be switched off in order to avoid distracting the other players.

Using a mobile phone as authorized by the rules but distracting other players:

- a. First offense:  
the player is guilty of a breach of etiquette and should switch off her mobile phone.
- b. Subsequent offense:  
the player is guilty of a serious breach of etiquette and the Committee may impose a penalty of disqualification under rule 1.2b (see also Committee Procedures, Section 5I).

## 19. Use of distance measuring device

Only devices measuring distance are allowed.

## 20. Sponsoring

Limited name and logo recognition is allowed on golf equipment and clothing (max. 10x3cm or 5x5cm). The player's name must not appear in connection with sponsor's name or logo. The



ESLGA-Committee has to be informed beforehand (and by sending photos) and must approve the advertising (General Guidance Notes for Rule 6 on the Rules of Amateur Status).

## **VI TROPHY and PRIZES**

### **21. Prizes**

The Trophy will be presented by the host country to the winning team who holds on to it for the ensuing year. The winning country will be responsible for the cost of engraving, insuring and maintaining the Trophy. The ESLGA will present medals including strings to the members of the winning, the second and the third team. If the host wishes they can organise/give additional prizes.

## **VII RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **22. Dress Code**

Please respect the dress code of the organizing golf club.

### **23. Captains' Meeting**

The Captains' meeting will take place at the end of the practice day of the Marisa Sgaravatti Trophy. The Tournament Director, Head Referee and all Team Captains should attend. Local rules, course conditions and "Pace of Play policy" (Rule 5.6b (3)) will be explained; questions from Captains will be answered. The recording area shall be indicated.

### **24. Etiquette**

As the friendly and sporting character of the tournaments is an important goal of ESLGA, participants should enjoy themselves, while playing and behaving in the true spirit of the game.

The final results should be ready at the Closing/Prize giving ceremony to be presented and distributed to all team Captains.

Members of the Tournament Committee, referees and Captains should speak and understand the English language.

To avoid slow play:

- the course will normally be played from the ladies forward (red) or an adequate mixture of tees, whatever the course length is.
- pin positions to be reasonably placed
- the Tournament Committee should provide forecaddies where necessary
- the Captains should inform their players:
  - to be on the right starting tee 15 minutes before the starting time
  - when searching for balls, to give priority without delay
  - during a round, a player must not use any written, printed, electronic or digital material to help with reading their line of play for any stroke to be made from the putting green