



# SCRAMBLE

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rules | policies | eligibility



# SCRAMBLE

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Scramble is designed to be an enjoyable experience by all participants. In an effort to ensure a fun and equitable experience for all, the Scramble will be conducted as strictly as possible under the Golf Canada Rules of Golf and any Local Rules put in place by the PGA of Canada.

## 1.2 SCRAMBLE

The PGA will determine all rules and policies associated with the Scramble and will administer these in conjunction with the Golf Canada Rules of Golf, PGA of Canada Code of Conduct, specific Scramble tournament rules and any Local Rules applicable on the day of the event. All participants of the Scramble abide by the rules and policies established and accept the PGA's jurisdiction over the championship. A list of the rules and regulations of play in the Scramble are posted on the official Scramble website at [www.pgascramble.com](http://www.pgascramble.com) and may be updated from time to time.

1. The Head PGA Professional at the Local Qualifier site must certify each entrant's current Golf Canada Handicap Factor and ensure that team handicaps are within the parameters of the policies outlined within.
2. An amateur player may attempt to advance to the Regional Final by playing at various Local Qualifiers in their local area. Once an amateur has qualified for a Regional Final he/she is no longer eligible to compete at another Local Qualifier. Competing in another Local Qualifier for prizes or Regional Final qualification will result in automatic disqualification for that team, with the original qualifying team also subject to disqualification (at the discretion of the PGA of Canada).
3. Only PGA of Canada Professionals who are in good standing may take a team to the Regional and National Final. The Professional who qualifies at the Regional Final must accompany that team at the National Championship Final. See section 1.8 for further details.
4. The PGA reserves the right to adjust any team's or individual's handicap at Local Qualifiers, Regional Finals and the Scramble National Championship based on their past performance or past scores, or on evidence forthcoming from an examination of handicap records. Those with Bronze memberships through Golf Canada will only be eligible to receive 50% of their average over par number towards the team's overall total at Local Qualifiers. Those who qualify for a Regional Final must have a Gold Golf Canada Membership (or equivalent for those who are



members at Golf Canada member golf clubs).

5. All teams that qualify at a club, whether from one event or multiple events, must play in the same Regional Final. All Regional Final locations are listed with the Local Qualifier schedule.  
Any variation to this rule will be at the discretion of the PGA of Canada. For example, an exception to this may be when a club hosts a large number of Local Qualifiers.
6. A handicap verification process takes place at all Regional Final & Championship Final events. Photo ID may be required to be provided by each team member to verify their Golf Canada Handicap Factor. Failure to provide this will result in a team being disqualified.
7. The PGA reserves the sole and exclusive right to alter dates, venues and rules regarding the management and conduct of the event.
8. Event results are finalized and the competition will be considered closed only when teams tee off in the following stage of the event. Until this point, the PGA reserves the right to alter results of an event should it see fit. At the National Championship Final, the competition will be considered closed when the awards are presented.
9. If during the current or previous Scramble season an amateur player plays in another Scramble event, and in order to play, accepts a handicap adjustment which is lower than his/her established handicap, he/she will be subject to the same handicap adjustment for events in the current year. It is the players' responsibility to inform the coordinator of their Scramble Event of this adjustment.
10. If an amateur player is not in good standing with their club, he/she shall be considered ineligible until the situation has been rectified and their Golf Canada Handicap Factor has been reinstated.
11. An amateur who is found to misrepresent his/her handicap or who violates a Scramble tournament rule may be disqualified from further play.
12. The Scramble rules committee reserves the right to suspend handicap or rules violators from current or future tournament participation. Blatant amateur infractions shall be reported to Golf Canada and the applicable provincial golf association.
13. All participants must be 19 years of age or older at the time of their Local Qualifier.





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## 1.3 PGA PROFESSIONAL ELIGIBILITY

The Scramble Regional and National Finals are eligible to all of PGA of Canada members who are in good standing.

Tournament Professionals and Candidates for Membership may be accepted into the Scramble National Final by approval of the PGA of Canada only.

To join a team at the Regional Final or Scramble National Championship, the Club Professional must meet one of the PGA Eligibility above along with one of the following:

- Must be an employee (or contractor) of the Local Qualifier site on the date of the Local Qualifier and Regional Final
- Must be an approved guest of the PGA of Canada.

The PGA of Canada will govern the eligibility of its PGA members.

PGA members are only permitted to play one Regional Final. This means, a host venue that wishes to conduct multiple Local Qualifiers must have enough eligible PGA of Canada members in good standing to accompany each winning team to the Regional Finals.

PGA Members are reminded that while playing in any Scramble event, they are, as in other tournaments, participating under the PGA of Canada Code of Professional Practice. Professionals play off a scratch handicap.

PGA Members accompanying a team to the Regional Final and to the Scramble National Championship are the Team Captain. It is their responsibility to adhere to all competition rules and to mark and sign the team's score card in accordance with the Scramble rules and the Rules of Golf.

## 1.4 HANDICAP REQUIREMENTS - LOCAL QUALIFIERS

An amateur player's approved Golf Canada Handicap Factor must reflect his/her potential playing ability. Any amateur golfer who carries a current Golf Canada Handicap Factor is eligible to participate. All amateur golfers who are members of a Golf Canada member club in good standing should have an acceptable Handicap Factor.

All players must use their CURRENT Golf Canada Handicap Factor on the day of the Local Qualifier.

Note: The PGA of Canada will be accepting Golf Canada Bronze Members with an "av-





verage over par” number. All Bronze Members will be subject to a 50% reduction of their “average over par” number for use as their Handicap Factor.

The maximum Golf Canada Handicap Factor is 36.4 for males and 40.4 for females.

The four team members’ aggregate Golf Canada Handicap Factors must total at least 32.0.

The maximum aggregate Golf Canada Handicap Factor is 112.0.

For Local Qualifying, a team may have a maximum of two competitors with single-digit Golf Canada Handicap Factors (9.9 or less).

Eg.

$8.7 + 11.1 + 1.4 + 10.2$	$= 31.4$	(ineligible, aggregate team handicap is too low)
$13.5 + 12.7 + 8.3 + 2.4$	$= 36.9$	(eligible)
$2.3 + 11.7 + 25.3 + 27.2$	$= 66.5$	(eligible)
$1.3 + 5.7 + 9.9 + 28.7$	$= 45.6$	(ineligible, team consisting of more than two single-digit handicaps)
$9.8 + 28.3 + 33.7 + 40.4$ female	$= 112.2$	(ineligible, aggregate team handicap must not exceed 112.0)

PLEASE NOTE: The provisions of this section are applied as of the entry closing date, which is seven (7) days in advance of the competition. A team will remain eligible, if their Handicap Factors were within the parameters at the entry closing date and subsequently changed due to a team member’s Handicap Factor changing as a result of a round(s) played between that entry closing date and the competition. For example, a round is played by one or more teammates and when the score(s) is entered, there are now three competitors with Handicap Factors of 9.9 or less or the team’s aggregate Handicap Factor is now lower than 32.0 or higher than 112.0, the team would still be eligible. As long as the team meets the eligibility requirements at the entry closing date of their Local Qualifier, that team will remain eligible through the following stages, even if one or more team members Golf Canada Handicap Factor would otherwise make the team ineligible.

To determine the net score on the day of the Local Qualifier, team members’ Golf Canada Handicap Factors are converted to Course Handicaps (based on the Slope Ratings of the tees being played). The aggregate Course Handicap is divided by 10 to determine the team Course Handicap. The resulting figure is then subtracted from the team’s





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score for the 18-hole event. The Golf Genius software calculates all necessary Course Handicap conversions and net scores.

For example:

Team aggregate Course Handicap of 54 divided by 10 = 5.4

Team gross score = 70

Net score = 64.6 (70 minus 5.4)

Note: It is the Committee's responsibility to do the conversions based on the tees that each individual is competing from (adjustments are made when competitors participate from different tees in a single competition if the Course Ratings are different). See Section 9-3c of the Golf Canada Handicap System Manual). The competitor is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of their Golf Canada Handicap Factor on the day of the competition. The Golf Genius software calculates all necessary Course Handicap conversions and net scores.

The team's aggregate Golf Canada Handicap Factors (sum of all four Factors) established at the Local Qualifier is the base aggregate Handicap Factor for the subsequent events.

Amateur players will not be eligible for a Local Qualifier until their FULL team has submitted the online entry form, their payment has been successfully processed and their Handicap Factor is verified.

Every amateur must submit their 10-digit Golf Canada Membership ID number at the time of entry.

Each team's score card must show the team's aggregate Course Handicap. The score card is to be signed by at least two members of each team. Signing for an incorrect score card or handicap will lead to automatic disqualification from the event.

Handicap examinations are a matter of standard procedure for the Scramble rules committee at all stages of the tournament. At its discretion, the rules committee reserves the right to make handicap adjustments and player and team disqualifications based upon evidence derived through handicap examinations or evidence of past performance.

The Scramble rules committee reserves the right to suspend handicap or rules violators from future tournament participation. Blatant amateur infringements shall be reported to Golf Canada and the applicable provincial golf association.

The Scramble reserves the right to investigate handicaps of all amateur participants. The disqualification of either a PGA of Canada Professional or an amateur team mem-



ber under the provisions of this section shall result in the disqualification of their affiliated team.

#### 1.5 HANDICAP REQUIREMENTS - REGIONAL FINALS / NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Handicap checks will be carried out at all levels of the event.

Current Golf Canada Handicap Factors on the day of each competition are to be used to determine the team member's Course Handicap, based on the Slope Rating of the tees being used. If a player's Golf Canada Handicap Factor changes between Local and Regional Events, they must use the current Golf Canada Handicap Factor to determine their Course Handicap. Their team's aggregate Course Handicap is to be adjusted accordingly.

Should a team have fewer than four amateur players available to play, they may still compete (does not apply to Local Qualifiers). Only the handicaps of those players participating will count towards the team's handicap. The aggregate team handicap is still divided by 10.

Just like in the Local Qualifiers, to determine the net score on the day of the Regional Final and the National Championship, the aggregate team Golf Canada Handicap Factors are adjusted as per the Slope Rating of the tees being played to determine their Course Handicaps. The aggregate Course Handicap is then divided by 10 to determine the team Course Handicap for the competition. The resulting figure is then subtracted from the team's score for the Ambrose 18-hole event. For example:

Team aggregate Course Handicap of 56 is divided by 10 = 5.6

Team scratch score = 70

Net score = 64.4 (70 minus 5.6)

NOTE: Women and senior males are to use the Slope Rating from their respective tees to determine their Course Handicap.

NOTE: If the teams' aggregate Golf Canada Handicap Factors drop below the minimum of 32.0 or increase above 112.0, the revised Golf Canada Handicap Factor will apply at the Regional Finals and National Championship to determine the team's Course Handicap. Should three (3) team members' Golf Canada Handicap Factors drop to better than 9.9 after qualifying at the Local Qualifier and progress to the Regional Final, they will play off the lowest handicap.

The disqualification of either a PGA of Canada Professional or an amateur team member under the provisions of this section shall result in the disqualification of their





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affiliated team.

## 1.6 REGIONAL FINAL ELIGIBILITY

A club may send one qualifying team for each individual Local Qualifier it hosts. A club may not host more local qualifiers than the number of eligible PGA of Canada Professionals employed at the facility. The PGA of Canada may increase the number of qualifying teams from Local Qualifiers.

Important Note: no club will qualify a team for a Regional Final unless the Scramble Local Qualifier it is hosting has at least the minimum number of 40 officially entered players (10 teams) who have paid the Local Qualifier Entry Fee (Social Guest Teams not paying an entry fee cannot be counted). Events with less participants may be allowed, but only with the authorization of the PGA of Canada.

Each Regional Final host venue will receive one exemption for a team of four (4) amateurs and one (1) PGA of Canada professional. That team must fulfill the eligibility requirements of a Local Qualifier.

## 1.7 GOLF COURSE ELIGIBILITY

A regulation eighteen-hole or nine-hole golf facility with an official Golf Canada Course and Slope Rating that is serviced by a PGA of Canada member who meets eligibility requirements is eligible to host a Local Qualifier.

## 1.8 RULES OF PLAY

The Golf Canada Rules of Golf will govern all competition, except for those specialized Scramble Rules in place for the Local Qualifiers and Ambrose Scramble Rules in place for the Regional Finals and National Championship. All Local Rules must be approved in writing by the PGA of Canada prior to the competition and may not supersede a Scramble Rule. See Scramble Local Qualifier Rules Sheet at the end of this section.

Substitutions - A team member may be substituted if he/she is unable to play in the next level of competition. Prior to the next stage of competition, the team must submit, in writing, their request for the substitution to the PGA of Canada. The letter must reference whether the substitute will accompany the team to the following stage of the Scramble should they be successful, or whether the original member at the Local Qualifier level will return to the team for the final level of competition. If written notification





is not submitted prior to the next stage it will be the right of the substitute player to proceed to the next stage of Competition.

The current Golf Canada Handicap Factor of a substituting amateur must be equal to, or up to a maximum of two (2.0) strokes higher or lower than the approved Golf Canada Handicap Factor (the handicap that was in effect as of the closing date of the Local Qualifier) of the original team member.

For example, if the original team member had a Golf Canada Handicap Factor of 12.3 for the Local Qualifier and the substitute's Golf Canada Handicap Factor is 15.3, then the substitute player will use a Golf Canada Handicap Factor of 12.3 at the Regional Final to determine their Course Handicap.

If the original player had a Golf Canada Handicap Factor of 12.1, and the substitute is 11.2, then the substitute will use a Golf Canada Handicap Factor of 11.2 to determine their Course Handicap for the Regional Final.

Only two (2) substitutions will be allowed for the duration of the tournament (Note: these two substitutions cannot occur at the same stage of the tournament e.g. the substitution of a Local Qualifier player for a Regional Final and a further substitution following a Regional Final for the team's qualification for the Scramble Championship Final is acceptable - the substitution of two Local Qualifier players for a Regional Final is not permitted). More than two substitutions over the duration of the tournament will not be allowed, as the team will no longer have the identity of the team that played at the Local Qualifier. If a team is unable to participate within this rule the next placed team from the previous level will advance in their place. The lowest aggregate team Golf Canada Handicap Factor from the local or regional level will always apply when substitutes are involved.

Females can be substituted by a male (and vice versa) providing that all Golf Canada Handicap Factor requirements are met.

At its discretion, the PGA of Canada reserves the right to disallow a substitution of a team member when it is apparent that the substitution is being made to improve the team's chances of winning and/or not to replace a team member who is unable to play in the next level of competition.

A PGA of Canada Professional may be substituted by another PGA of Canada member in good standing from the same facility or by a PGA of Canada approved Professional.

Senior Male Amateur Participants - Senior male amateur are to play from a shorter set





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of tees. It is recommended that the yardages for senior males be set at 5% less than that of the male competitors. Eligibility for this provision requires the competitor to be 55 years of age or older as of the date of the Local Qualifier.

Female Participants - Female amateurs and female PGA of Canada Professionals are to play from a shorter set of tees. It is recommended that the yardages for females be set at 10% less than that of the male competitors.

Scoring – Each Local Qualifier and Regional Championship will consist of two (2) 9-hole stipulated rounds. A team's score is calculated after eighteen (18) holes has been completed. In the case of inclement weather, if all competitors complete the same nine (9) holes, and further play is no longer possible, the competition will be shortened to nine (9) holes. In the case of a shotgun start, all competitors must complete at least nine (9) of the same holes to be considered an eligible competition. If not, that round must be cancelled and preferably rescheduled for a later date.

Tie Breakers - The method for determining tie-breakers is as follows:

- At all Local Qualifiers, any team that is tied for a qualifying spot will advance to the next stage.
- In the case of a tie at any Regional Final or the Scramble Championship Final a (net) hole-by-hole playoff would be used to determine the winner.

The sequence of holes to be played will be identified on the Notice to Competitors prior to the start of the competition.

If no result has been achieved and play must be suspended due to darkness, the winning team will be decided by using the matching score card system applicable to Regional Final events (prescribed above) and applied to the final round of the Scramble Championship Final. If a tie still exists the count back will be applied to the first round to determine the winner. If a winner is still not determined, those teams still tied will be considered co-champions.

Conditions of Competition - If a team is disqualified for a rules violation, no entry fees will be refunded.

If a team cannot participate in the next level of play, their entry fee will be refunded providing the PGA of Canada is given 7 days' notice prior to the event.

If under extreme circumstances, a PGA Professional is unable to participate at the Regional Final, he/she may be replaced by a PGA Professional from the same facility, or





if that is not possible, by any PGA Professional in good standing within that Zone with the permission of the PGA of Canada.

A team is not eligible to compete for prizes or Regional Final qualification at a Local Qualifier with only 3 players as the team has not met the requirements to enter the Scramble.

A team may play with one team member missing at the Regional Final and/or the Scramble Championship Final. The three tee shot rule will be limited to the remaining team members and the team's aggregate Course Handicap will also remain divisible by 10. If a team member should join during the play, the three tee shot rule would apply to the holes remaining. An absent competitor may join the team between holes, but not during play of the hole. Should a team play the entire round with less than four amateur team members, normal handicapping rules will apply in regards to the Regional and/or Championship Final. No allowance or concession is provided in this regard.

The PGA of Canada reserves the right to suspend from current or future participation, any PGA of Canada Professional who misrepresents the handicap of any of his/her club's members or who knowingly violates a tournament rule.

A PGA of Canada Professional who misrepresents a handicap or who knowingly violates a tournament rule may be reported to his/her respective PGA Zone Office and to PGA of Canada National Office where he/she may be held in violation of the PGA of Canada Code of Professional Conduct.





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## SCRAMBLE LOCAL QUALIFIER RULES SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO EACH SCORE CARD

The Golf Canada Rules of Golf will govern all competition, except for those specialized Scramble Rules in place for the Local Qualifiers and Ambrose Scramble Rules in place for the Regional Finals and Scramble Championship. All Local Rules must be approved in writing by the PGA of Canada prior to the competition and may not supersede a Scramble Rule.

Local Qualifier Format - All Local Qualifiers will be played under standard Scramble Rules. With the exception of the elimination rules, all rules below apply at Local Qualifiers.

Scramble Format – Regional and National events will be operated under the Ambrose Scramble Format. All team members may play from the teeing ground of each hole. The team then chooses the shot that gives them the best chance for the next shot. The golfer whose shot is selected is then eliminated from participating in the next shot. A player is only eliminated for the one shot following his/her selected shot (does not include tee shots or putts).

This process continues with one person being eliminated for each shot until the ball is on the putting green, where all players will have an opportunity to make a putt from each location until the ball is holed.

All five players then play from the next teeing ground and the elimination process begins again. The eliminated player cannot take a practice stroke or practice putt during the time they are eliminated. Should a player make a stroke during the time they are eliminated a two (2) stroke penalty will apply.

Three Tee Shots – A minimum of three (3) tee shots per team member must be used per eighteen (18) hole stipulated round. A marker must record whose tee shot was used on each hole. If this is not clearly marked on the score card, the team shall be disqualified.

Selected Shot - The position of the selected ball must be marked. Team members may then place their ball within one club length of the marker, no nearer the hole, and play from this position. If the selected shot is through the green (anywhere on the course, except any hazard, teeing ground or putting green of the hole being played) the ball must be placed within one (1) club length of the selected shot, no nearer the hole, and must remain through the green. If the selected ball is in a hazard, the next shot must





be played from the hazard, or from outside the hazard in accordance with the applicable Rule under penalty of one-stroke (unless additional penalties apply). A ball that is not on the putting green of the hole being played, may not be placed on the putting green, even if it is within one club length of the marked ball. Once the selected shot is on the putting green all players may putt. The position of the selected putt is marked. Team members may then place their ball within one putter head length of the marked position, no nearer the hole, and putt from this position.

In a bunker, the sand may be raked prior to any ball being placed.

Advice - In accordance with Rule 8-1, players are not permitted to seek advice from anyone who is not part of their team, and must prevent anyone else from providing advice to any team member.

Indicating Line of Play – Except on a putting green, a player may not intentionally indicate the line of play to a teammate while a stroke is being played. See Rule 17-1 for an exception to this Rule. Penalty for a breach of this Rule is two (2) strokes.

NOTE: At the Local Qualifier level only, if the first putt is missed by each player on the team, the next putt is conceded, for a maximum of two-putts per hole.

Standing on an Extension of Line of Play - Team members may stand behind one another while making any stroke.

Score Card - The score card must show the team's aggregate Course Handicap (provided by the host club). The score card is to be signed by at least two members of the group. It is the team's responsibility to ensure the accuracy of each individual hole score, the selected player's tee shot on each hole and handicaps on the score card. Signing for an incorrect score or handicap will lead to automatic disqualification from the event under Rule 6.

Handicap - It is a requirement that all participants use their current Golf Canada Handicap Factor to determine their Course Handicap based on the tees being played at each stage. The aggregate Course Handicap of the team is divided by 10 to determine the team Course Handicap for their net score.





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## SCRAMBLE REGIONAL FINAL AND SCRAMBLE CHAMPIONSHIP AMBROSE SCRAMBLE FORMAT INSTRUCTION SHEET - TO BE ATTACHED TO EACH SCORE CARD ALONG WITH SCRAMBLE RULES

The event will be played as five (5) person teams under the Ambrose Scramble (elimination) scramble format.

- All team members may play from the teeing ground of each hole
- Team chooses the shot they are going to use
- The golfer whose shot is selected is eliminated from participating in the next shot
- A player is only eliminated for the one shot following his/her selected shot
- This process continues up until the ball is on the green with one person being eliminated for each shot (i.e. only three players play each shot except for the tee shot)
- Once the ball is on the green, all four players attempt to hole each selected putt
- All four players tee off the next hole and the elimination process begins again
- The eliminated player cannot take a practice shot or putt during the time they are eliminated - penalty two (2) strokes
- Each team member's tee shot must be used at least three (3) times per eighteen (18) holes
- A putt is any stroke made from the putting green. All four players can putt only if the ball is on the green. If the team chooses to putt from off the green only three (3) players can play that shot.

### For Example

- John, Phil, Mike, Natalie & Katherine tee off the first hole, John's drive is selected as the best shot
- John is eliminated for the next shot and only Phil, Mike, Natalie & Katherine take the second shot
- Phil's second shot is selected as the best shot out of Phil's, Mike, Natalie's & Katherine's second shot
- Phil is eliminated for the next shot and only John, Mike, Natalie & Katherine take the third shot
- Natalie's third shot is selected as the best shot out of John, Mike, Natalie's & Katherine's and it lands on the green
- John, Phil, Mike, Natalie & Katherine can then all attempt the first putt
- John, Phil, Mike, Natalie & Katherine all tee off the second hole & the elimination process starts again



