



NEW FORMAT FOR WSGA MATCH PLAY IN 2020

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. – More matches; more golf. That’s exactly what the WSGA’s Match Play will bring.

During its Winter Board & Tournament Committee Meeting, the Wisconsin State Golf Association Board of Directors voted to adopt a new format that mimics the PGA Tour’s WGC Dell Technologies Match Play. The 64-player field will be divided into 16 groups of four players each. Each group will play a round-robin format with each competitor playing three matches within his group. A player will receive one point for a win, a half point for a tie, and the winner of each group will move on to the Knockout Rounds (Round of 16).

Wisconsin State Golf Association Assistant Director of Rules and Competitions Geoff Pirkl believes this new format will add a high level of prestige and enhance each player’s overall experience.

“In the past, the majority of the competitors would play 36 holes of stroke play (local qualifying & championship qualifying round) and never play a single match. Match play is such a fun style of golf and we want to give that opportunity to our players,” Pirkl said. “We are all excited about it and believe that our players will enjoy the change as well.”

There will be exemptions given to the top 16 eligible players based on how they fared the previous season using the 2019 WSGA Men’s Amateur Rankings. The defending champion will also receive an exemption, if not in the top 16. The remaining 48 players will be determined over five local qualifiers held across the state prior to the championship.

On Friday, June 19th, the WSGA will kick off its own version of a “March Madness” bracket-style competition with a selection show, broadcasted live on social media. The 64-player field will learn their match opponents for round-robin play during the broadcast. Each of the 16 four-man groups will be led by one of the top 16 players, which will be pre-determined by their ranking in the previous year WSGA Men’s Amateur Ranking. The remaining successful qualifiers will be entered into the pool and randomly drawn to unveil the final groups for each of the sixteen groups.

Staff members of the WSGA will host the selection show and will offer insight and analysis on the field as each group is unveiled. Pirkl plans to oversee the bracket selection process by drawing name cards at random to determine player grouping for round-robin matches.

Benjamin Shafer (Brookfield) def. Jakob Schroeckenthaler (Cottage Grove) to win the 2019 WSGA Match Play Championship at West Bend Country Club.

This year, the championship will be held at The Club at Strawberry Creek in Kenosha on June 22-25. Designed by award-winning architect, Rick Jacobson, this 18-hole Championship level, links-style course features rolling hills, a challenging setup and native prairie grasses. In 2012, it hosted the 111th Wisconsin Amateur Championship won by Brady Strangstalien.