

The Club at Apple Mountain

12 Things to know about NCGA 12 Man

1. Details of the NCGA Team Match (a.k.a. "The 12 Man")

- Almost 100 participating golf clubs will play in the NCGA Saturday League
- The Apple Mountain team has finished in the Top 4 the last two years in a row
- It's a combination of both individual & team (better ball) match play
- The competition is high pressure, rules-focused, serious golf
- The courses are played at longer distances than normal NCGA club events
 - Blue/white combo tees at Apple
 - Between 6000-6600 yds. at away courses

2. The USGA Rules of Golf

- All Team Match players must have extensive knowledge of the Rules of Golf and use them in every posted round
- Must understand the intricacies of match play, both individual and team
- Must understand the differences between stroke and match play competitions

3. The Tournament Rules at Apple Mountain

- All players must have extensive hole-by-hole knowledge of the Tournament Rules at Apple Mountain and use them in every posted round, whether playing in Team Match or not
- Must be able to clearly explain the Tournament Rules to competitors

4. The Strategies Behind individual and team play

- Coupled with detailed knowledge of the USGA Rules of Golf and the Apple Mountain Tournament Rules, players must understand the strategies behind individual and better ball match play
- Decisions about putt concessions, order of play, and rules application — for example — can have a marked effect on the results of any match

5. An Accurate USGA index is Critical

- Play by the USGA Rules of Golf and, when at home, the Apple Mountain Tournament Rules
- Only post rounds that are played by the abovementioned rules
- Count all your strokes; no vanity indexes
- Play the ball down, as it lies, unless the rules allow you to do otherwise
- Strive to have an accurate index, one which reasonably represents your ability to compete against others, both at Apple Mountain and elsewhere

6. The value of Playing away courses, especially those in the tournament

- In addition to playing at Apple Mountain, the NCGA Team Match is played at a variety of other courses
- You will become a better golfer if you play away courses, preferably as much as 25-50% of the time
- Your USGA index will be more accurate if you play away courses, particular as it relates to the 12-man
- At every course, play the hardest tees you can, while still enjoying the experience
- Hone your ability to play at courses for the first time or at ones where you have little experience and familiarity

7. The value of playing Apple Mountain

- Play the conditions as you find them; no bumping the ball except as allowed by the rules
- Play from the blue/white combo tees or longer
- Play in Club tournaments, particularly match play events like the Winter League and Match Play Championship
- Play in NCGA events and qualifiers

8. Get the Most out of your Game

- Play regularly, both home and away
- Practice; set aside regular time to work on your weaknesses, not just your strengths
- Take lessons, as needed
- Have the mindset that your game should always be improving

9. Develop a Winning Demeanor

- Be a good teammate and competitor
- Learn to keep track of the status of your individual and team matches, understanding that strokes given or received may be different in each competition
- Assist your playing partner, but only if and as requested
- Be an outstanding representative of the Club at Apple Mountain
- If you even occasionally throw clubs or swear -Team match is not for you

10. Consistency and Stability are Key

- The best Team Match players record regular rounds fairly near their index
- "Blow up" rounds and inconsistent scoring make it difficult to forecast a player's performance
- A calm, easy-going demeanor enables you to navigate the emotional ups and down of a tight, high-pressure match and makes you a better partner
- Performing at the highest level while under pressure is the ultimate achievement

11. Demands on Your Schedule Can Be High

- The Team Match regular season lasts from May to mid-August
- The playoffs go from August to late October
- While there will be a certain amount of flexibility, matches can generally be scheduled on any Thursday, Saturday or sometimes Sunday
- If at all possible, we like to play practice rounds for all away and playoff matches; these generally take place a few days before the match itself and are mandatory in most cases

12. Trust Your Captain & Co-Captains

- The regular season is the time to build a broad selection of players for the playoffs and to assess player performance
- Captains will select a roster of players who will match up well versus an opponent's lineup
- Captains need to be able to match our players to the course and conditions being played
- Keep the captains informed of the status of your game; it's better to sit out when you're not playing well

DECIDE FOR YOURSELF !

- After learning about the NCGA Team Match competition and all of its requirements, decide if you would like to try out to be a new 12-man team member
- Few players look for or desire this level of competition and pressure; due to our past successes, the expectations of the Apple Mountain 12-man team are very high

- **Prospective new players will need to:**
- **Have and maintain a maximum USGA index of 18A**
 - **Play in multiple Team Match "training events" both at Apple Mountain and elsewhere, paired with experienced 12-man players and be assessed for:**
 - **Rules knowledge, particularly relating to Match Play Demeanor as playing partner**
 - **Ability to handle pressure**
 - **Ability to handle tough/foreign playing conditions**
 - **Captain and co-captains will make final decisions on new players that make the "cut" and when/where they might play during the Team Match season**

2024 Team Captains :

Thursday Team Captain - Bill Bates; bill.bates1111@gmail.com; 916-952-2331

Thursday Co-Captain - Steve Dringenberg; asmfgstev@yaho.com; 530-647-1047

Saturday Team Captain - David Brandi; par4brandi@gmail.com; 650-475-5846

Saturday Co-Captain - Doug Ryle; jdryle@yahoo.com; 925-354-0834