

## **Houston Senior Travelers League (HSTL)**

### **Rules for the Match Play Championship**

(Revised April 22, 2025)

**Overview:** The Match Play special event will be completed over a 6-week time-frame, plus rainouts, and will over-lap with regular weekly play. See the Tournament Schedule for Match Play dates.

**Cost:** There is no additional cost to participate.

**Scheduling:** The event starts as shown on the schedule and runs for six successive Thursday tournaments. Except for the first round, if a player does not play a scheduled round, and his opponent does, the playing golfer will advance and the non-playing golfer will be deemed to have lost. If **neither** golfer plays on the scheduled date, both golfers will be eliminated and any prize will be divided equally. In case of cancellation due to weather, matches will be contested on the next regularly scheduled play date, and the remaining schedule adjusted accordingly.

**Qualification:** The top 64 point leaders after the most-recent tournament that took place at least nine days before the start of Match Play who have completed a minimum of 10 weekly events will qualify and be seeded. Tiebreaker selection for the 64<sup>th</sup> spot will be: 1<sup>st</sup> – the most tournaments played season-to-date, 2<sup>nd</sup> – net score in the last tournament that each played simultaneously, 3<sup>rd</sup> – if needed the regular tiebreak procedures from the last tournament that each played simultaneously.

**Disqualification and Potential Match Play Alternate Qualifiers:** If one or more players qualify for Match Play but do not play the first round, they will be deemed to have forfeited their qualifying status for Match Play and will receive no Match Play winnings. If one or more qualifying Match Play players are not entered as of the Last Call for the first-round match, their places in the first round will be taken by the next-highest-available point leader with a minimum of 10 rounds (“Alternate Qualifiers”). In the event the first round of Match Play is cancelled for any reason, the process for determining Alternate Qualifiers, if any, will start over as if it had never happened the first time.

**Entry:** All players must request entry via standard email signup. Each day will be limited to 120 players. Players who qualify for Match Play have priority entry until the Second Call for the tournament date. At that time, other members who have

requested entry will be entered based upon their email entry time (first come, first served).

**Seeding:** The match-play-bracket document demonstrates placement and pairings. Eight finalists result from weeks 1 – 3. The eight will be reseeded into the last winner's bracket for the final 3 weeks of competitions based on Travelers Point standings as of the beginning of Match Play.

**Format:** This will be a net score, match play, single elimination event.

Competitors will be paired together. The higher handicapped player will receive a stroke per hardest-rated hole for the number of strokes their handicap is greater than the lower handicapped player. For example, player "A" has a 10 handicap and player "B" has a 15 handicap. Player "B" will receive 1 stroke on each of the 5 hardest holes.

The golfer who wins the most holes will be the match winner. In case of a tie, there will be a scorecard playoff following the HSTL standard tiebreaker procedure.

**Scoring:** There is no double-par maximum number of strokes in match play, Players play the ball until it is in the hole (or the hole is conceded). For stroke play, the double-par maximum is still in effect. For example: On a par 3 where neither Player A nor Player B has a handicap stroke, A makes a ten footer for a 6. B has a nine footer for a 6, but misses. Player B would record a 7 on the match-play scorecard but a 6 but on their stroke-play scorecard.

**Payouts – Money and Points:**

<u>Position</u>	<u>33-64</u>	<u>17-32</u>	<u>9-16</u>	<u>5-8</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup></u>
Points	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	<b>20</b>
Money	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$150	\$250	<b>\$400</b>
Total \$	\$960	\$640	\$400	\$300	\$100	\$150	\$250	\$400 = \$3200

**Rules / Tiebreaker:** All HSTL rules will apply during Match Play competition including **"Ready Golf"**. Many of the format, stroke vs. match, rule differences are in applying penalties. In most cases both unique penalties can be assessed yet play continued. Where this is not possible, play 2 balls from the infraction and consult the TC after the round. The HSTL standard scorecard tiebreaker procedure will be applied to determine winners of any tie.