

# The North America - Europe Golf Challenge in Japan



## Mercedes-Benz Cup 2023

**Friday, 6 October 2023**

# Information to Players

Version: Tuesday, 6 October 2023

*Title Sponsor*



*Organizers*



*Venue*



Atsugi Kokusai Country Club

# Instructions & Information

## 1. General information

- **IMPORTANT:** please mark your golf bag clearly with your name, as written in the list of participants.
- The club has a few sets of right-handed rental clubs. If you need to rent, contact the club at 046-241-1311
- Each player should pay the participation fee (22,500 yen) plus any extras to the club after play.
- The Club accepts JCB, VISA, UC, MC, DC, Diners and Amex cards.
- Extras ordered at the party can be paid in the party room if you have already settled your play fee.

## 2. How to get to the course

There are three options to go to the course:

- **Use the bus** that has been arranged for this event. The bus leaves at **6:10 sharp** from Meiji Doori Avenue in Shibuya and departs from the club at 17:30. For map to the location, check our web site.  
The bus is free for the first 50 to register for it. If you need a seat but have not registered yet, email [office@northamericaeuropégolf.com](mailto:office@northamericaeuropégolf.com).
- **Go by train**  
Take Odakyu Line from Shinjuku to Hon-Atsugi station. Travel time is about 45 minutes. From Hon-Atsugi you can take the club bus to the course (departs at 7:10 and 7:50), or use taxi. If you use taxi, please make sure that you ask for Atsugi Kokusai, there are several courses in the area with a name including Atsugi.
- **Go by car**  
If you go by car, take Tomei Expressway to Atsugi I.C., 35 km, from Tokyo I.C. From Atsugi I.C. it is about 8 km to the course. As there is construction work on Tomei, please reserve extra time from central Tokyo.  
If you use car navigation, please input phone number 046-241-1311
- **Arrive no later than 7:45**, be on time and don't let down your foursome and team! Better to come early - we have free use of the driving range. The important player briefing starts at 8:15, all players need to attend.  
**If you arrive after play has commenced (8:30) you will NOT be allowed in the tournament.**

## 3. At the course

- When you arrive at the club, drop your golf bag in front of the club house (unless you have sent by delivery service). Then proceed directly to the Mercedes-Benz Cup registration desks in the lobby, marked with respective team flags.
- All players should be ready for a short **briefing and photo shooting at 8:15** in front of the club house (course side). After this, move immediately to your cart (marked with your group number) for the drive to the tees for the **tee-off at 8:45**.
- The prize ceremony and party is expected to start at 15:30 (or when all players have arrived and had a chance to take a bath). The party takes place in the restaurant on 2F and is expected to end around 17:15.
- Our bus leaves at 17:30, club buses to Atsugi station at 05 and 35 past the hour. The club closes at 19:00.

## 4. Tee-off and play system

- Shotgun start from all holes at 8:45.
- Each foursome has two Team North America and two Team Europe players (with some exceptions)
- For some tees there are 2 foursomes starting from the same tee. Foursomes and carts are named 1-9IN and 1-9OUT. The number indicates on which tee the foursome starts, group A tees off first, then B. The list is tentative and there will probably be changes due to last minute cancellations. Please check your group from the scorecard you receive when you arrive at the course.
- There is no lunch break. You can pick up food and drinks at the rest houses on the course.  
Drinks and snacks are also at starting point at the club house. Note that the full lunch service on the course will start at 10:30. Drinks and some light food are available from the start of play. If you did not have time for breakfast before leaving home, please have it in the restaurant (not included in play fee).

## 5. Play format & scoring

- New Peoria (shin-peria); your handicap on the day will be calculated from 12 hidden holes.
- Men play from **white** tees, ladies from **red**.
- Each player is provided with their own Official Scorecard. Use only this to mark official scores. Players in each foursome should exchange score cards (Team NA members marks for Team EU and vice versa, when possible). After play, the player and marker checks scores and sign the card and leave it to the "Scorers' Desk" when you arrive back at club house.

## 6. Team competition

- The average score of the **top 80 %** in each team will be counted as the team's final score.
- In the event of a tie, the team with the best net player will win. If still a tie, the team with the best second wins, etc.
- The winning team will keep the Mercedes-Benz Cup trophy until the next competition.

## 7. Individual competition

- Best Net - Ladies Best Net will receive an individual trophy.
- Best Gross & Ladies Best Gross - four best players will win a prize.

**Note regarding prizes:** All valuable prizes (over 80,000 yen), will be drawn among all participants to give everyone a chance to win and also to adhere to golf's amateur rules.

Please write your name and locker number clearly if you order something which is not included in the play fee.  
For latest information and results after the tournament, as well as the post-event survey check the web site at:

<https://www.northamericaeuropégolf.com>

# Rules

## 1. The Mercedes-Benz Cup Teams

Members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) and their respective embassies and their guests -

**Team North America (NA),**

and

Members of the European Chambers and other business organizations that are affiliated with the European Business Community (EBC) and their respective embassies and their guests -

**Team Europe (EU).**

## 2. Local Rules

- Out of bounds is marked with white stakes or white line, lateral water hazards with red, and water hazards with yellow. Ground under repair is marked with blue stakes or white lines.
- If you cross a line with yellow-black stakes, please move the ball diagonally back to the course and count one penalty.
- If your ball or your stance is on a part of an adjacent green (including the fringe) you must drop the ball within one club-length on the nearest point outside of the green (not within a hazard) no nearer to the hole. Failure to take a drop result in a 2-stroke penalty.
- If your ball is within two club-lengths of the green and there is a sprinkler-head within two club-lengths on your line to the hole, you are entitled to relief according to rule 24-2 (Interference by an immovable obstruction)
- Only putter may be used on the green. Another club may only be used in the event of damage to your putter.

## 3. Special Rules

- It is very important that everybody keeps good pace to avoid congestion and delays. To facilitate this, **take note of these special rules:**
  1. No more than 3 minutes to look for a lost ball
  2. There are provisional tees (marked with yellow tee markers) on holes no. 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 18 for balls hit OB or in the pond (on no. 10) They must be used when needed. You play 3rd shot on no. 10 and 4th shot on the other.
  3. If a ball has gone OB (out-of bounds) and the player has already advanced from the tee to the location where the ball has gone OB without hitting a provisional ball, do not return to tee, but drop the ball "in bounds" within two club lengths from the OB line and take a two shot penalty (one for distance, one for the OB).
  4. **The maximum score on a hole is double par + 1**, i.e. if you have already hit 9 strokes on a par-4 hole, pick up your ball and ask your marker to put a 9 as your score.
- No replacement ("play-as-it-lies"), except when golf or local rules allow and/or caddie advises.
- A member from the opposite team can concede your put (OK). As a rule do not concede putts over 30 cm.

## 4. Other rules

Unless otherwise stated above, the play will be governed by temporary local rules (caddies advice) and the rules of the Japan Golf Association.

### NOTE 1:

If you are fairly new to golf and do not have much knowledge about golf rules, do not worry. We try to have at least one experienced golfer in each group and also the caddies always give advice on how to proceed. If you are not sure about a rule ask for clarification before taking action, e.g., touching the ball.

### NOTE 2:

The distances marked on the signboard on the tees are from the board to the center of the green. If tee markers are behind or in front of the sign, please adjust actual distance accordingly. This is especially important on par-3 holes.

### NOTICE REGARDING PACE OF PLAY

The most frequent negative comment we have received in the post-event survey is the slow pace of play. It should not take 6 hours to play a round without a lunch break. In addition to the special rules we have created to speed up play (see above Special rules, points 1-4), please take note of the following:

- Always keep pace with the group in front of you, also when you have a break for snacks, food and drinks.
- When it is your turn to hit, be prepared. Bring enough clubs to cover all options so that you don't have to run back to the cart when it is your turn to hit. If you are unsure about distance, ask caddie.
- On the green, read your line before it is your turn to putt and stand behind your ball when your turn comes.
- After all in your group have putt out, leave the green immediately, mark scores in the cart when moving to next tee.

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