

Wednesday, 5th May, 2010 (updated: 3rd Dec, 2010; 8th March, 2011, 19th April 2016, 17th January 2017)

FAQs:

European Mid-Amateur & Seniors' Championships - Ballot Method

1. Why can the number of entries be so high?

The handicap limits and/or the choice of a popular venue can be the reason. The reason for a higher handicap limit is to ensure that all EGA member nations have a chance of entering players.

2. How does the Starting List and Reserve List work?

The EGA sets a quota for each nation based on a standard formula (see Section 7) and then sends each national golf authority a list of its entrants for Starting and Reserve List allocation. The EGA makes the selection themselves, by handicap, unless a national golf authority elects to do it based on a national competition, ranking system or another method acceptable to the EGA.

3. Why do you not put entrants' handicaps on the lists?

If we did this, queries asking why an entrant is on the starting list with a higher handicap than an entrant on the reserve list would be provoked. The general concept is that the EGA runs this tournament for all of its member nations and this is why some championships offer a set number of exemptions per country – to make the event truly European and International. One consequence is that an entrant on the starting list from a certain country may have a higher handicap than another entrant from another country on the reserve list. This is compensated by the fact that those nations with higher handicapped players will always have fewer players included on the starting list than those with lower handicapped players. The EGA considers this is the best method of having the maximum number of nations involved while allowing each country the opportunity to field its best players.

4. Why is the Reserve List ordered by country?

If this method of listing were not in place, the starting list would bias certain nations and the starting list balance of national participation and elite player status (based on handicap), as calculated by a standard formula, would become distorted. Furthermore, because each nation is responsible for selecting players for their respective quota, they may (be tempted to) put some of their lower handicapped players on the reserve list as a potential means of increasing their quota if the list were ordered solely by handicap.

In a case where the Reserve List has relatively few players with a relatively even spread of nationalities, the EGA may elect to simply order by handicap as such a list may not alter the balance of participating nations.

5. Why has country x been given so many places in the Starting List...so many places could not possibly result in them having a lower handicap cut-off than my nation?

Entries are ordered objectively by handicap, so it would mean that they would have a lower handicap cut-off.

6. Why is the ballot done in secrecy? This is an individual event; why are the EGA member nations asked to order the starting list?

There is no "secrecy", but the starting list is compiled at the discretion of the EGA member national golf authorities rather than being based on each individual independent of nation. Under its constitution, the EGA is obliged to interact with its member national golf authorities, not individual players, although any apparent malpractice would be questioned by the EGA as we are ultimately responsible for the championship.

Some national federations offer the attendance at the championship as a reward for performance in a national championship while others use it to place importance on their national order of merit. The national golf authorities are much better placed to seed their players than the EGA, especially in an instance when handicaps are seen as unreliable. Moreover, if it is the authority that is funding some of its players to compete, they must have the right to choose.

The EGA will conduct the ballot by handicap for a nation's players if that nation does not wish to use their own method.

The EGA's European Championships are unquestionably individual title events, but the EGA runs them, first and foremost, for its member national golf authorities.

7. How are the Starting and Reserve Lists compiled using the national quota?

The EGA calculates each nation's quota of players for the starting list in exactly the same way using a standard formula: no. of players with =< the 144 (90 for senior men; 54 for senior ladies) cut-off handicap x a coefficient based on each country's voting rights (membership fee) + exemptions.

In calculating the maximum coefficient (i.e., that for countries with six votes) the general formula is applied to all entries until 144 (90/54 for seniors) or slightly fewer places are returned. The coefficients for the nations with one to five votes are then calculated as a ratio of the maximum coefficient. Once the formula is applied, the non-European entrants who have lower handicaps than those lowest handicapped players who miss the ballot are offered the remaining places.

Example:

Data Applied (Mid-Amateurs)

Hcp Cut-off of 144 players = 2.3;

Coefficient ratios =

Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3	Vote 4	Vote 5	Vote 6
0.04	0.08	0.30	0.38	0.46	0.55

(note that the coefficients for each EGA membership class become higher as the number of entries lowers; 0.55 was a relatively low coefficient calculated for 309 entries for 144 places in 2010)

Country X's EGA voting level = 6

Country X's No of exemptions for current year = 2

Formula Applied

Country X has 14 players entered, 9 with handicaps lower than 2.3;

Country X's quota = 9 X 0.55 + 2

= 7 players (formula results are rounded to the nearest whole number).

The applied formula provides an equitable, objective method of returning each nation's quota, is independent of the number of players entered and is based only on the players' standard as indicated by handicap.

8. Why are entry fees not refunded until after the tournament?

The EGA can make best use of its resources, time and limited budget by returning all of the necessary refunds at once. It saves us having to receive and respond to individual emails and also prevents mistakes potentially made by refunding players haphazardly.