



Play Better Golf, **NOW!**

SPECIAL REPORT

“How To Win At Captain’s Choice Tournaments!”™

By Bobby Lopez, PGA Professional



If you’re someone who does not know a lot about these types of events, or how to use your team to it’s maximum potential, this report is especially for you.

I never heard of a Captain’s Choice Tournament until I moved to Richmond in 1989. The actual legal name is a “**Scramble**”. The Scramble format is an excellent way for golfers of all skill levels to participate. If you can play mini-golf, you can play Captain’s choice. Just sit in the golf cart with a cold one, and wait for the team to get to the green! Make a long putt for birdie, and you’re a hero!

From a “quality of golf” point of view, Captain’s Choice just doesn’t get it. Any accomplished golfer would rather play stroke play, two man teams, best ball etc. Captain’s Choice is a social event.

You may hear terms like, “*a stacked team*”. (That doesn’t mean ladies are invited to play). You might hear golfers who claim, “*you need one long ball hitter in your group to win.*” Maybe you need four “A” players? One player that can putt?

I’ll answer those statements in a moment but first, let’s look at the real reason why one would participate in such an event in the first place.

From a “networking for business point of view” Captain’s Choice is a potential bonanza! Many business executives participate because their company is a supplier of the company holding the event. The tournament also provides a great way to thank your best clients by paying their entry fee and/or inviting them on your team.

I believe, for a successful tournament, from the financial standpoint, the host of the tournament **MUST** have a core audience that is loyal to their business, as well as, the charity and it’s goals. **Companies love to be associated with “good works” in their community.** What better way to do so and have a great time as well!

You should keep in mind that “*winning the*

tournament” should **NOT** be your objective. However, I will give you some great tips in this report that help improve your chances of winning.

In past years, Captain’s Choice Tournaments would offer great prizes that certainly lured one to bring a strong team. Typical prizes were, new name brand drivers worth \$500 or more, golf bags, entire sets of irons and more.

In today’s economy, this is no longer the case. I see prizes reduced dramatically from what they once were. You shouldn’t be there for the prizes anyway. I also recommend to producers of golf

Great Tips for Captain’s Choice

1. What’s the true purpose for playing in a Captain’s Choice?
2. What should the batting order be?
3. When should I use my Mulligans?
4. What to do when your best player misses the green or fairway?
5. What can you do to help your putting?

For other **FREE** golf tips right on your cell phone just text **41411** and enter **quickfix**

tournaments to invest their money in better food and forget better prizes. **Great food at an outing means everybody gets a prize!** Have entertainment along with the food or cook out. An amateur talent show with company employees is generally a riot and remembered around the water cooler for months to come. Be creative!

Great food, entertainment and good networking surroundings is how I believe the tournament

“How To Win At Captain’s Choice Tournaments!”™

providers win at Captain’s Choice.

I also suggest you pick the best golf course you can find. Don’t necessarily go for price only! You might find it difficult to find players if the golf course is not “up to par”. **I support Pendleton Golf Club just north of King’s Dominion.** Their price is reasonable and the golf course is great. Pendleton has several tee positions which allows you to set up the golf course for any level player. You can reach Jim Mason, PGA Pro and Director of golf at **804-448-4727**

Here’s what you can do to improve your chances of winning.

In a true “Scramble” you should have an A, B, C, and D player. Each division would be determined by handicap. An “A” player for example would have a 0 - 5 handicap. Your “B” player would have a 6 to 10 handicap and so on.

Most Captain’s Choice Tournaments DO NOT follow this format. That’s where the “*stacked team*” comes in. You bring your best four “A” players and annihilate the competition with a 17 or 18 under par round. **This is NOT the way to impress your business associates.** We are competitive as sports lovers, but this is a social networking event, not the Masters!

Let’s say you truly have one reasonably low handicapped golfer and another that is about a 10 or 12, and then an 18 handicap, and of course our last guy stinks!

Off the Tee Box

What most teams will do is have the worse golfer hit first. **I do NOT like that strategy.** Why start every hole off with negativity. The golf swing is a motion with rhythm. I would suggest having my “B” player tee off first, if he/she has a nice swing rhythm. Then I would have my “A” player tee off. The “C” and “D” player will probably be insignificant off the tee anyway but it doesn’t hurt to have them enjoy participating, but they hit last.

If your “A” and “B” player fail you, have the “C” and “D” player use their favorite club off the tee, (*their three wood or a hybrid*) in hopes of having at least one shot in the fairway. The additional loft on hybrids will help insure a straighter golf shot because of the under spin on the ball.

In a proper scramble, each player should tee off a specific number of times by rule. Example, each player must have their tee shot chosen X number of times in a round. This forces your “C” and “D” player to participate off the tee.

Not many of the typical charity event Captain’s

Choice use this format. I believe it restricts participation due to the difficulty of finding all four levels of players for one team. Again, winning and competition is not the real purpose of the day.

One last tip on your tee shots. ***Get a lady in your group that can knock the snot out of it.*** That’s a BIG advantage! At most Captain’s choice tournaments, they let the ladies hit from the red tees. The advantage of the red tees is so tempting that I’ve thought of wearing a skirt myself.....naaaaaa.

Approach To The Green

Just like off the tee, let your “B” player play first, then the “A” and so on. If there is one thing that would drive me crazy at Captain’s Choice Tournaments, it’s the weaker players hitting first, only to gag it all over the place, and then.....yes then....they all look at you and say, ***“alright Lopez we’re counting on you...you’re the ringer!”***

OK, I’ve played golf for a living, I can take it. In fact, I have to admit, I enjoy the pressure. But, you are deliberately putting undue pressure on your “A” player by having him hit last. Just like a place kicker in football, you make that player feel like they lost the game for you if he/she doesn’t pull through. This is of course not the case, but the disappointment of letting your pals down when they’re counting on you is depressing. It might effect the rest of your “A” player’s performance by over pressing and trying too hard. It takes the fun out of the day!

If your “B” and “A” player does not get a shot on the green, ask your “C” and “D” player to use their favorite golf club and swing easy. Most golfers over swing under pressure. Even if they are using too much club, let them do it and swing easy. You might get lucky, and they will learn not to over swing on the golf course.

Approach Shots From 50 to 70 Yards Out

Now here’s a great tip, but please make sure you hustle when performing this tip so you don’t slow down play. Again, this ain’t the Masters!

One big mistake many teams make is to knock the daylights out of a drive on a short hole and leave yourself only 25 or 30 yards from the green. Not good! I’d rather be 70 yards away.

If you do leave yourself 30 yards from the green here’s what I recommend. The “A” player quickly runs to the green and stands behind the flag. Choose a spot for the ball to land and ask your “C”

“How To Win At Captain’s Choice Tournaments!”™

player to try and land the ball on your spot. Of course check what loft your “C” player is using and take that into consideration.

Then from behind the hole, watch how the ball reacts when it lands on the green. In fact, this is a great time to have your players all hit with your brand golf ball!

Head back to the playing position and inform your “B” player about what you witnessed and have him hit. Watch his ball bounce and roll from the ball position advantage. Now the “A” player hits his shot. Leave the “D” player last. If you’re counting on him/her you’re toast anyway!

Chipping and Recovery Shots

Hopefully you will NOT have any chip shots or recovery shots like bunkers, lob shots etc. If you do, you’re in trouble. Usually, any bogey’s will be seriously detrimental to your chances of winning the tournament. Not impossible, but bogey’s MUST be avoided.

With both chips and recovery shots, I like to change the batting order. Now you should have your “D” player hit first, and watch the roll of the ball for speed very carefully. Look for the right spot to land the ball on the green. Have your “C” player try and hit the spot chosen and watch the roll carefully. Then between your “B” and “A” player they can fight for who goes next and last.

When I refer to finding the right spot to land the ball on the putting green, I always attempt to get the ball on the green and rolling like a putt. If you can advise your “D” player to hit the chip shot as if it were a long putt, but with additional loft, you might get a suitable reading from that first shot, to make a better decision as to the best landing area. **The less loft you use to chip with the better.** Most “D” players tend to chip with a pitching wedge. When appropriate, *(you’re close to the green and have plenty of green to roll the ball on until it reaches the hole)* have them drop down to an 8 or 6 iron.

On the Putting Green

Putting is far more important than the perceived long drive. On tour, you’ll find that the statistics for putts made outside of six feet are not that good. We’re talking touring pros here.

The long drive is not the issue. It’s getting the ball close to the hole on the second shot. Give me four good iron players and we’ll shoot 18 under!

This is somewhat similar to chipping but with a couple of very important details. Yes, have your “D” player putt first and watch the line. However,

I would first make sure, *(on the practice putting green before starting play)* that my “D” player does NOT have a crazy putting stroke. Look for a putting stroke that is outside in and cutting the ball. This will effect the line substantially and give a false reading for the rest of the golfers putting after him/her.

If your “D” player does have a putting stroke other than straight back and through, test out your “C” player and so on.

Your “A” and “B” player should take turns at being last. It’s not easy to handle the pressure of being last all day. Break it up a bit, unless someone has a hot hand at a specific putting position.

Other Bonus Tips That Will Help!

Long Drives: Don’t start jumping out of your shoes, trying to hit long drives, thinking that’s what wins a Captain’s Choice. I can assure you that having four decent shots at the green, from the best angle in the fairway is the key. Swinging hard and hitting the ball in the woods could be fatal to your final score. True, having a shorter shot into the green will be helpful, especially for your “C” and “D” player, however, most Captain’s Choice tournaments are played from the white tees, *(regular men’s tees)*. The host pro will set the golf course up “*easy to play*” and short, in order to get done at a reasonable hour.

The “A” Player’s Responsibility: As the “A” player, it is your responsibility to make sure your team is swinging in rhythm. **DON’T TRY AND FIX ANY SWINGS ON THE GOLF COURSE, ESPECIALLY YOURS!** As tempting as it may seem, don’t get bogged down trying to help your “D” player improve, UNLESS it’s a very simple easy fix that shows dramatic improvements immediately.

I usually focus my efforts on having the team relax and gain a rhythm. **Tempo Tempo TEMPO!** A Captain’s Choice Tournament may not be a big deal to an “A” golfer, but it’s a very BIG DEAL to a “D” player. They are generally nervous and concerned about being embarrassed. Get them to relax, be positive and don’t let them get the rest of the team down.

In fact, if the “D” player is absolutely terrible off the tee, I might ask them to help us out on putting and not have them hit, especially if they’re SLOW! Usually letting them hit last alleviates their poisoning of the tempo for the rest of the team.

As the “A” player, avoid trying to feel like you need to carry the team. The weaker players need your confidence. Smile, be positive!

“How To Win At Captain’s Choice Tournaments!”™

As the “A” player, have your team putt with the same ball you’re using, unless the one ball rule is in effect. Give them all one of your golf balls to putt with, so you get an accurate reading on the putt. Golf balls today are so jockeyed up in numerous different facets so you want to see your ball roll on the green. Most “C” and “D” players are playing with hard golf balls that will come off the face of the putter at a different speed.

I find alignment as a key issue: Without a doubt, I find that alignment is horrible among the “C” and “D” level golfer. The “B” golfer might even need some help on this. The important thing is, you can control your set up or address, your alignment and pre-shot routine. Once you start the golf club back you almost hang on for dear life. Yet most golfers do not work on the basic and very important pre-shot routine skills.

Don’t be afraid to throw a golf club on the ground “quickly” to demonstrate the line. There is nothing more discouraging then to hit a ball perfectly only to find it’s off target because of poor preparation.

When To Use Your Mulligans!

Oh those nasty mulligans. I hate’em! In most cases it’s an effort on the part of the charity to raise more money but they’re bad for golf. Plus they slow down the event.

Here’s when I use them. **If it looks like the team could make a bogey.....any missed putts within six feet.....all drives were off the fairway.....everyone missed the green.**

No reason to save them. **I use them up early.** Mulligans left over are of no use.

I hope these tips will help you enjoy your tournament event experience and please remember, you’re there to support the charity. Don’t get negative if you played your worse golf and ruin the outing for you and your team members.

If you’re not happy with your performance on the golf course give us a call!

We use nothing but the best V1 video capture software to slow your swing down to a crawl and pinpoint exactly what is causing your inconsistency.

Our regular price is \$79 but you have a discount coupon on this report of \$40 OFF or \$39.

We also have a One Day Golf School. We cover everything in one day. Chipping, putting, bunker shots, video your swing on the range, lunch and then nine holes of on course instruction.

I included a \$40 off coupon for our one day school as well. Give us a call or visit our web site at www.quickfixgolf.com. ***Make your tournament experience one to remember!***

One Day Golf School

\$50 Off

Regular price \$199
with coupon only \$139

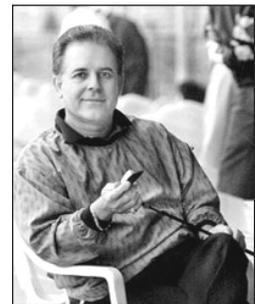
\$40 Off

Regular price \$79
with coupon only \$39

Private Lesson Video Analysis

Bobby Lopez is a PGA professional with 38 years of experience in the golf business.

- Host of the Bobby Lopez Golf Hour on ESPN Sports Radio
- Host of Blab TV Richmond television Show “Golf Your Way”
- Toured for the USO as a trick shot show in support of our troops overseas
- PGA professional of choice in local interviews with Big Al Coleman on 950 AM ESPN radio and with WRVA Jimmy Barrett
- Master of Ceremonies and Entertainment for General Richard Myers Chief of Staff Pentagon as well as annual USO event coupled with NFL Howie Long
- Head Professional at various well known Country Clubs such as Crooked Creek C.C. in Miami, owned by Ted Hendricks of the NFL Oakland Raiders
- Director of Golf at Nueva Andalucia C.C. in Marbella Spain site of the World Cup
- Instructor of choice by the president of V1 Video capture software in training other teaching professionals
- Owner of Bobby Lopez Golf Academy for over 19 years



804-378-7456

www.quickfixgolf.com