

**Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals Couples Championship**  
**September 4-6, 2026**

*Public registration will open on March 13, 2026. You will go to the link below to register.*

**[www.rtjgolf.com](http://www.rtjgolf.com)**

***Find the Couples Championship on the website and register***

**Entry Fee:** TBD  
*Entry Fee includes: Two (2) Night Accommodations, Two (2) Tournament Rounds, One (1) Practice Round, Breakfast buffet Each Tournament Day, Lunch Each Tournament Day, Pairings Party (Friday Night), Tournament Dinner (Saturday evening) and Prizes & Gifts*

**Teams:** Participating team must consist of two players.

**Flights:** The event will be pre-flighted based on combined team handicap index. Tournament scoring will be on a net basis for each flight.

**Field:** Tournament field is limited to the first 56 couples to return a ***completed*** registration form and pay online. All entry forms must be submitted by email to [mowens@rtjgolf.com](mailto:mowens@rtjgolf.com). The tournament field will be filled by the order in which they are received, based on time stamp of the email. The waiting list will be chronologically filled by the same format as the tournament field.

**Format:** Schoolmaster – Scramble Day 1      Fighting Joe – Shamble Day 2

**Handicap:** Participants must have a valid World Golf handicap. (**minimum of 6 scores as mentioned in the handicap letter**)

**Extended Stay:** Additional accommodations are available prior to and/or after the event at a discounted rate.

**Cancellation:** Participants registered, but unable to attend will be eligible for a refund of tournament entry fee up to **30 days** prior to event.

**Tournament Contact:** Melissa Owens, Administrator/Events  
Direct 256.446.4481 or 256.446.5111 | Fax 256.648.4827 | [mowens@rtjgolf.com](mailto:mowens@rtjgolf.com)

This letter is regarding the scoring metrics and procedures that The Couples Championship will be contested. If you have played in previous years, you will see that most of our rules and scoring have not changed. Below is a summary of those rules, how your team score will be calculated, and some other notes.

The Shoals Professional Staff have used many procedures to make sure that the scoring is equitable for all players, and we will continue to use these methods moving forward. To recall these procedures, we have required 2 tee shots per player per 9 holes to be used. This ensures that each of the players on your team account for 4 drives per round. Please note that senior age for men and women is 65 years old.

On Saturday's Scramble format, the team handicap will be calculated by taking 70% of the low handicap player and 30% of the high, and adding them together, then dividing that sum by 2. On Sunday's Texas Shamble, the team handicap will be calculated by taking the handicap of both team members and taking 70% of the sum.

In 2019, we instituted a Senior Women's tee box. Some of these tees were on the front of the ladies' tee box, and some of them were tees cut at the beginning of the fairway. We thought this to be equitable, since the men have a designated Senior Men's tee box, the women should have this designation also. We will again put into place this set of tees.

Lastly, we are requiring that participants post a minimum of 6 scores from January 1, 2026 to August 15, 2026. This will ensure that handicap indexes are indicative of the play of the participant for that span of time.

Hopefully, with these procedures and scoring techniques, not only will we have a great time of competition and comradery, but it will be equitable for all participants. If there are any questions or concerns with the rules, scoring or set up of the tournament, I will be more than happy to answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Jakob Kleine  
Head Golf Professional  
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail @ The Shoals  
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