

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL!



HOW MANY MEN'S XL golf shirts does a gal need? Most tournaments don't take a fashion-conscious lady into consideration at all—that is, if they even imagine women might play in their fundraiser or corporate golf event. I'm okay with the caps. Those I'll wear even if they do squish my hair and don't really match the outfit. But enormous golf shirts are not what my husband wants me to wear as a nightshirt to bed.

Ladies, you know what I'm saying. Prize table and loot bag woes affect all of us who play in tournaments organized and dominated by men. Sometimes this can work to a woman's advantage. At the Canadian Media Golf Championship presented by Bud Light in association with ClubLink at Wyndance I was the only woman and rather than being handed a man's shirt, I was allowed my choice in the golf shop. This has happened before at the classier events and I applaud it.

My point is that more gender neutral choices are the way to go. Rob Cheevers, ClubLink's Manager, Special Events and Business Development, agrees. "With increased participation by women in all of our events, we feel it is necessary to be considerate to all participants when selecting items for prize tables. Also, on our raffle and auction tables, I try to include more 'women oriented' items such as spa weekends or theatre packages and other items. That's not to say that a lot of 'unisex' prizing doesn't get purchased by women. It is just important to let the women know that we are grateful that they are attending our event."

My friend Judy Munro, a King's Riding Member, organizes a tournament every year for financial executives. For her prize table, she rounds up household items, DVD players, wine glasses, place mats, decanters and other non-golf related things. Her theory is, if men are playing in the tournament, they can placate their spouses for the time away from the family with a lovely gift for house and, if women are playing, so much the better for them, too.

Of course, there's another aspect of tournament play that's even more fraught with possible irritations—spousal play. "How many spousal golf days end up with hurt feelings and ruffled feathers?" asks Rob McDannold, Director of Golf at King Valley. "How to Play With Your Spouse" is a new program at various ClubLink courses. "It's having a spouse who knows not to tell you how to play golf, what club to hit

and where to aim," says McDannold. Spouses should prop each other up with praise and play a respectful game of golf. The lesson should occur on the range, not during what should be a friendly tournament.

My husband doesn't give me any grief on the course. He doesn't play golf. That does, however, leave me with a stack of XL golf shirts to haul to Goodwill at the end of every season.

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