

TACOMA WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

RULES OF COMPETITION (Reviewed 1/2017)

SECTION I – COMPETITION

1. USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all competition except as modified by Local Rules approved by the Committee.
2. The Committee will consist of the Rules Chairperson, Tournament Chairperson and/or Assistant Tournament Chairperson and the Host Club Representative or PGA Professional.
3. Preferred Lies:
When adverse conditions occur, preferred lies will be allowed by the Committee. A player may mark, lift, clean and replace the ball within six (6) inches on the closely mowed areas of the course (fairways only). If the ball, after being placed, moves there is no penalty and must be played as it lies. (Rule 20-3) If the ball is not marked prior to lifting there is a one (1) stroke penalty (Rule 20-1). The decision to play preferred lies will be made at least 30 minutes prior to the first tee time and posted so all participants will be advised of the change.
4. If, on the date of play, the course is playing ball down (Summer Rules) the tournament will be conducted with no preferred lies.
5. TWGA players may use distance measuring devices for distance only as long as the device conforms to USGA standards and does not slow play.
6. Each player must personally turn in a signed and attested score card IMMEDIATELY after play so the Tournament Chairperson can post individual scores.
7. Ties will be broken using USGA Rules of Golf.
8. The competition is closed 48 hours after completion of play.

SECTION II – HANDICAPS

1. A TWGA member must be active in the GHIN system.
2. A course handicap of 40 is the maximum allowed regardless of the player's GHIN handicap index.

SECTION III – STARTING TIMES

1. All players are to report to the tournament table at least thirty (30) minutes prior to their assigned tee time.
2. Players must be at their assigned teeing ground and READY TO PLAY by their assigned tee time. Penalty for breach of Rule 6-3 is two (2) strokes for up to five (5) minutes after their tee time. If they are over five (5) minutes late the player is disqualified.
3. All groups MUST start at their assigned tee time. There will be no switching of starting times to wait for a late player. The late player(s) may catch up with their group later after receiving a two stroke penalty if they arrive and are ready to play within five (5) minutes. If they are later than five (5) minutes they are disqualified.
4. If a player is disqualified she may play but is not in the competition for the day.
5. There will be no switching of tee assignments or tee times after the Tournament Chairperson has set the pairings.

6. Requests for special starting time shall be honored for medical reasons or such other reasons as the Tournament Chairperson shall deem valid.

SECTION IV - PACE OF PLAY

A group is subject to penalty for slow play. There should never be more than one (1) hole open in front of a group. If the group in front of you is not in sight you must speed up your pace of play.

1. All groups must finish on or before the time listed on their score cards and/or within fifteen (15) minutes of the group in front of them.
2. Players must keep groups within one (1) or two (2) strokes of each other.
3. The Marshall will report any infractions to the Rules Chairperson and penalties will be assessed per the Rules of Golf (Rule 6-7).

SECTION V – AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION

1. Use of automotive carts shall be permitted for all play.
2. Players should reserve carts in advance and the Tournament Chairperson and Treasurer should be notified prior to making the pairings.
3. Players must be familiar with the USGA Rules of Golf pertaining to use of motorized transportation (Rule 19-1, decision 33-8/4).

SECTION VI – CADDIES

1. No caddies are allowed.
2. Only competitors and tournament officials will be allowed on the course during the competition.

SECTION VII – COMPLETION OF EACH HOLE

1. It is essential that players hole-out each hole in all competitions unless competition format permits picking up and moving to the next hole.
2. Player's failure to hole-out will disqualify her for that round of competition and that round will not count for annual awards.

SECTION VIII – WEARING APPAREL

Players shall wear appropriate golf attire.

SECTION IX – FOUR BALL (BEST-BALL) SWEEPSTAKES

1. If the difference in partners' handicaps exceeds 10 strokes, the higher handicap player will be scored 10 strokes higher than her partner for the competition.
2. USGA Rules of Golf for Four- Ball competition shall govern play.

SECTION X – DUES AND FEES

1. Dues shall be determined by the Board at the beginning of each golf season. (Funds to be dispersed as needed).
2. Sweepstakes entry fees:
 - (a) Entry fees shall be prepaid.
 - (b) Entry fees for TWGA Sweeps shall be determined by the Board.
 - (c) Green fees and cart fees shall be paid prior to the time of entry.
 - (d) The Tournament Chairperson's greens and cart fees shall be paid by TWGA.

SECTION XI – DIVISIONS AND AWARDS

1. Divisions:
Distribution of prizes shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Chairperson and the Executive Committee and shall follow as closely as the entries permit using the following guideline: there will be an equal amount of players in each division as near as handicaps will permit with differentials used to determine division cuts.
2. Awards:
 - (a) In competitions other than the championship, there will be awards for Low Gross, First Low Net and Second Low Net in each division.
 - (b) In the championship, there will be awards for Low Gross, Runner-up, and First Low Net, in addition to the the divisions listed above. No single player will get two awards.
 - (c) Ties will be broken using USGA Rules of Golf.
 - (d) Payment will be honored at the same rate for all players on a sliding scale regardless of the division lines.
 - (e) Payment for Low Gross and Low Net will be the same.
 - (f) Payment will be divided evenly to each division. Each award will be distributed the same for each division.
 - (g) The Tournament Chairperson will implement the payout schedule for each season after presenting it to the Executive Committee.

SECTION XII – DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

1. Entries shall not be accepted after the Tournament Chairperson has completed the Draw, except at the discretion of the Tournament Chairperson.
2. Substitutions for entries may be made with permission of the Tournament Chairperson.
3. Exception for Four-Ball only: a blind draw will be permitted to complete a partnership. A player without a partner must hole out every hole.
4. No refunds of tournament fees shall be made within one week prior to competition.

SECTION XIII – RULES GOVERNING ANNUAL AWARDS (EXCLUSIVE OF TWGA CHAMPIONSHIP)

1. TEAM AWARD:
 - (a) A team will be comprised of four players from a single club with the best net scores during a day of play in any competition.
 - (b) The annual team award will be given to the club that has the lowest total three team net scores during the season.
2. JANE BRADLEY TROPHY:
 - (a) The Founder's Award shall be presented to the player with the best (3) out of five (5) net rounds of sweeps competition.
 - (b) In the event of a tie, the Tournament Chairperson shall schedule a play-off round at a course other than the contestants' home courses.
 - (c) The winner receives \$50, a copy of the Jane Bradley history, a memento and the engraved perpetual trophy. The trophy shall be in the possession of the winner for one year.
3. HOLE-IN-ONE AWARD:
An award of \$50.00 value and a trophy will be awarded for each hole-in-one made in any TWGA tournament, to be paid for from general funds.

SECTION XIV – RULES GOVERNING CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

1. In order to compete in the championship, members must have played in at least two tournaments following the previous year's championship.
2. The championship shall be a stroke play tournament consisting of two (2) stipulated rounds of 18 holes each.
3. The tournament will be played on consecutive days with no practice allowed on the tournament course between rounds.
4. In the event of ties for the Champion, Runner-up or Low Net of the Field winner, a sudden-death play-off will determine the winner.
5. 25% of the championship entry fees shall be placed in the general fund. The remaining 75% shall be paid as prize money to flight winners.
6. From the general fund, the Champion will receive \$50.00, Runner-Up \$40.00 and Low Net of the Field \$50 and a memento for each.
7. Prize money shall not be awarded to the Champion, Runner-up or Low Net of the Field winners.

SECTION XV – DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR PLAY OR COURSE CONDITIONS

Should a problem or concern arise regarding play or course conditions, (other than rules) players are to bring such concerns immediately to the TWGA Tournament Committee for resolution. The President shall appoint an Ad Hoc Committee if needed.

SECTION XVI – REVISIONS AND/OR AMENDMENTS

1. The Rules of Competition shall be subject to review at the first Executive Committee meeting of the year.
2. Any revisions and/or amendments shall be made at that time and shall govern for the year.
3. Revisions and/or amendments may also be considered during any other regularly scheduled Board meeting and shall govern for the year.
4. Revisions and/or amendments must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

Revised January 1996, January 2000, reviewed February 2003, revised March 2006, January 2007, April 2009, March 2010, February 2011, March 2012, April 2014, April 2015, April 2016, reviewed January 2017