

Lowcountry Women's Golf Association

STANDING RULES

MEMBERSHIP

Applications for Membership

Applications for renewal and new membership are accepted from November 15 to December 15. If all eligibility requirements are met, the applicant shall be accepted for membership as of December 15th and may enter in tournaments for the following year. Additional Open Enrollment Periods will be established at the discretion of the Board and are available for new Members only. If all eligibility requirements are met, the new Member will be accepted and may enter and play in tournaments upon approval. To be accepted into membership, women who apply must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in the Bylaws of the LWGA and must have a USGA Handicap Index of 21.5 or less at time of application. The Handicap Index requirement is subject to further Board review.

An initiation fee and Membership Dues are set forth by the Board of Governors and shall be paid at the time of application. If accepted, the initiation fee and annual membership dues are not refundable. Should the application be rejected due to ineligibility, the check for the initiation fee and annual membership dues and application will be destroyed.

Course Availability

Clubs to which LWGA Members belong must make their course available for competition annually. Exception: If a club has fewer than five LWGA Members, the course must be available every three years.

Credits and Credit Requirements

Members must earn four (4) credits in tournaments scheduled in the membership year, which is the 12 calendar months of January through December.

Members who join during the Spring enrollment period must earn two (2) credits before December 31.

Members earn two (2) credits for the Annual Stroke Play Tournament, the Annual Match Play Tournament, and the LWGA Getaway. In all other tournaments, players earn one (1) credit. Players who are placed on an alternate list by the Tournament Committee shall receive credit for that tournament provided they are available to play up to 24 hours preceding the tournament. Exception: players on an alternate list for the Getaway shall receive credit for that tournament provided they are available to play up to 72 hours preceding the tournament.

Members who fail to comply with the credit requirements defined above will be denied membership the following year unless they email a Medical Exemption Request to the Membership Chair during the month of November for approval. Hardship cases will be reviewed on an individual basis and may be approved based upon the circumstances described. If not approved, the member may re-apply as a new member after one year, paying the initiation fee as well as the regular dues.

Credits for Cancelled Tournaments: In the event a tournament is cancelled, those who were on the roster, wait-listed Members, and volunteers will receive one credit. If that tournament is rescheduled with priority to those on the original roster, credits will be given only to those Members who didn't receive a credit for the cancelled tournament. If the cancelled tournament is rescheduled at a future date with open registration, it will be considered a new event with credits awarded to all players, wait-listed Members and volunteers as normal. If the cancelled event is a two-credit tournament, a decision on credits will be made by the Tournament Chair and President based on relevant circumstances.

Dues and Renewals of Membership

All memberships, including those who joined during Spring Open Enrollment, must be renewed with payment of dues as set forth by the Board of Governors between November 15 and December 15. LWGA dues are not refundable.

Changes in Member E-Mail, Address, Phone and Club Affiliation

It is the responsibility of the Member to notify the Membership Chair of any changes in e-mail address, address, phone numbers or club affiliations as soon as they occur.

HANDICAPS

No player shall play in LWGA tournaments with a handicap index greater than 21.5, regardless of the actual index.

Partners in handicapped tournaments will be allowed no more than a 10-stroke difference in course handicap. If the difference is greater than 10 strokes, the higher handicap will be adjusted. For example: Player A is a 9; player B is a 20 handicap. Player B's course handicap will be adjusted to a 19 for the tournament.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Each member is expected to conduct herself in a manner that promotes good sportsmanship, fellowship, and respect for individual dignity. Each member is also responsible for the promotion and integrity of the best traditions of the game of golf.

COMPETITIONS

Major Tournaments and Roving Trophies

Major tournaments, for which the champion(s) receive(s) a roving trophy are the Match Play Championship and the Stroke Play Championship.

There is a roving trophy for the Solheim Salute awarded to the Captain of the winning Team for display at her home Club until the following year.

Rules/Procedures

USGA rules shall govern all play, except where special local rules for abnormal conditions are posted by the Tournament Committee. These rules apply to suspension of play, late arrivals, pace of play, etc.

Golf Carts must be used in all LWGA tournaments.

Cell phones may be used as a GPS measuring device, provided they are kept in silent mode. Cell phones may also be used for emergency situations or contacting the tournament committee or pro shop. All other cell phone use is prohibited during a tournament round.

Pace of Play Policy is in effect at all tournaments. Keeping up a good pace of play makes the round more enjoyable for all players in the field. Each group should remain on pace and/or in position.

The Tournament Chair and the host club Golf Professional will determine a pace of play suitable for the tournament and will ensure that the time to complete each hole is listed on the scorecard. This is the time your group should have completed the hole and be walking off the green. Your group is considered in position if you are on or ahead of the designated pace listed on your scorecard, or no more than 2 shots behind the group in front of you.

Remedial actions:

If you are behind pace and out of position, the tournament committee/roving monitor will advise that you pick up the pace. If after one or two holes little or no progress has been made toward getting back into position, your group may receive a warning, and the tournament committee/roving monitor may utilize these options:

- Request that the out-of-position group step aside and allow the following group to play through.
- Inform the slow group that they are being put on the clock. The tournament committee or roving monitor will time each player's strokes in the group to identify the source of the slow play. The timing standard in effect will be 30 seconds or less for each player to take her stroke after she has reached her ball, has had a reasonable time to select a club, has had no distractions, and it is her turn to play.

Penalties:

The committee may assess the identified slow player(s) the general penalty (two-stroke penalty in stroke play; loss of hole in match play).

Repeated instances of slow play for any player over multiple rounds, or uncooperative responses, may result in further disciplinary action by the Board.

In stroke play, in case of doubt play two balls. (Rule 20.1c) If you are not sure how to proceed and cannot decide between two courses of action, you can play two balls. Inform your fellow competitors which of the two balls is to count in the event that both options conform to the rules and then play both balls until you have holed out. Note down both scores – you must then clarify the matter with the Committee before signing and handing in your score card. If you fail to do so, you are disqualified.

In match play, in case of doubt, see Rule 20.1b.

Posting scores: Scores for all rounds played in a LWGA tournament will be posted by the Tournament Committee unless otherwise indicated. Scores will be posted as Competition or “C” scores.

Score cards: All gross scores must be complete, hole by hole, regardless of the format and be submitted to the Tournament Committee immediately upon finishing the round.

Ties

Stroke Play: Ties will be decided as necessary, according to the USGA system of the best score on the last nine holes, then the last six holes, the last three holes, and finally the 18th hole. Thereafter, all ties shall be decided by blind draw.

Exception: A tie for the Stroke Play Championship shall be decided by an immediate sudden death playoff, the nature of which shall be determined by the Tournament Committee.

Match Play: If a match is halved after 18 holes, the stipulated round shall be extended to as many holes as required for the match to be won, starting at the first hole unless otherwise posted at the tournament site.

Entries

Entries must be completed on-line with payment by credit card during the dates specified on the LWGA website. Members are responsible for maintaining accurate and current credit card information in their profile.

Players with handicap indexes over 21.5 are not included in the field if the tournament is oversubscribed. Teams with any players that are above a 21.5 index are not included in the field if the tournament is oversubscribed (excluding Pro Appreciation Tournament). Those players/teams will be added to the wait list in order of handicap.

The following Players receive priority entry (does not apply to Pro Appreciation Tournament):

1. Board members regardless of index.
2. Members designated by the Board as meriting admission to any tournament regardless of index.

3. Members who are on the Wait List from previous tournaments (but not including members with indexes over 21.5 or Special Members).

Special Members will be scheduled to play only if the field is not filled.

Pro Appreciation Tournament

Due to the limited field and popularity of the Pro Appreciation Day Tournament, each club may submit a **maximum** of two team entries for Pro Appreciation Day. Priority is granted as follows:

1. All clubs submitting teams will have at least one team selected.
2. Host club is permitted two teams, space permitting.
3. Remaining spots will be made available with priority to the clubs with the largest number of LWGA members in descending order. Ties will be broken by random drawing.

Each club will manage its own process for player selection and individual wait list within their club. The LWGA Club Representative is recommended as the lead person to manage the process.

Members of second teams submitted with on-line registration but not selected will receive one credit; they will not be placed on the carryover LWGA wait list.

Oversubscribed Tournaments and Wait List

If the field is oversubscribed (more correct entries received on time than available tee times), a random drawing of eligible players or teams (those meeting handicap index requirements) is held to determine those who will be put on the tournament wait list, and they will be posted in order of handicap index.

All wait-listed entries, whether due to the random drawing, a handicap index above 21.5 or an incorrect entry, will receive one credit for the tournament they entered but were not called to play at least twenty-four hours before the tournament.

Eligible players who are on the wait list will be selected to play in the next tournament they enter and then are removed from the wait list. However, if the eligible player does not submit an entry for one of the next four (4) tournaments following placement on the wait list, they will be removed from the wait list.

Alternates Asked to Play in Tournaments

Alternates for each tournament will be chosen in the following order:

1. If a tournament is flighted and there is a cancellation, an alternate player will be selected from the tournament waitlist based upon a similar index.
2. Players with a handicap index less than 21.5 or teams with all players less than 21.5.
3. Players with a handicap index that exceeds 21.5 or teams with a player with handicap exceeding 21.5.

Exception: In Make-Your-Own Twosome or Foursome events, the group may substitute or replace a player without drawing from the alternate list, provided the alternate player has a similar index and is approved by the Tournament Chair.

If an alternate is called to play at least twenty-four hours before the tournament, she must play in order to receive a tournament credit. If a player is not called to play, that player will still receive credit for the tournament, and she will be put on the wait list.

Pairings/Tee Times

Pairings and tee times will be available on the LWGA website www.lwgahhi.com about a week before the tournament.

Competitions will be flighted according to handicap, except when the format precludes flighting.

Players must be at the tee 10 minutes before their tee time and ready to play at their designated time.

Penalty for Late Arrival

Individual Stroke Play: General Penalty or Disqualification. Reference USGA Rule 5.3a.

Match Play: General Penalty (loss of first hole) or Disqualification. Reference USGA Rule 5.3a.

Note: In four-ball competition, the side may be represented by one partner during all or any part of a round. It is not necessary for both partners to be present. Reference USGA Rule 23.4.

Cancellations

Cancellations up to three days prior to the tournament will be accepted and the entry fee refunded.

A **late cancellation** is defined as a cancellation less than three days before the tournament. In this case, the entry fee will not be refunded unless an alternate is available to play.

Failure to show at a tournament without notice to the Tournament Chair – no refund of entry.

Tournament cancelled as a result of the course being declared closed will result in the refund of entry fees **minus the Administration fee of \$3**. Should a tournament be cancelled by the Tournament Committee (as opposed to the course being closed), and the club requires payment of cart fees, there will be no refund of entry fees and the prize money will be distributed by lottery.

Penalties

Second late cancellation, failure to show, or withdrawal from a one-day or multiple-day tournament without cause occurring within six months: Member is ineligible to play in the next three months' tournaments.

Continued abuse of the late cancellation, failure to show, or withdrawal rules may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

Tournament Weather Policy

Cancellation: The Tournament Chair in consultation with the golf professional and LWGA President make the determination to cancel a tournament in advance due to weather conditions and will notify all players in as timely a fashion as possible.

Suspension: In the event a tournament is in progress and weather conditions deteriorate, players are advised to heed whatever warning system is in effect at that golf course and, in the event of a siren, **must** discontinue play (after marking their ball) and proceed to shelter, either on the golf course or at the clubhouse. If a course does not have a warning system, the decision to stop play and/or complete the tournament thereafter will be made by the Tournament Chair.

However, players may make their own decision to discontinue play if they feel they are in **danger** and must report to the Tournament Chair or Golf Club Staff as soon as possible. Players who choose to discontinue play in unpleasant weather conditions that are not dangerous, will be disqualified. See USGA Rule 5.7a. The weather policy for each tournament will be described in that day's Rule Sheet.

Awards

Prizes and/or certificates shall be awarded for all competitions according to the number of competitors in the field. 25% to 33% of the field will receive an award.

The type of award will be at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

A Member may receive only one award in a tournament with the exception of proximity or another designated special event for that tournament.

The number of gross and net tournaments is determined by the Tournament Committee. In tournaments in which BOTH Gross and Net prizes are awarded, prizes will be distributed equally to First Gross and First Net winners in each flight. Priority goes to Gross.

Gratuities

The fee for each tournament includes a tip for the bag staff as determined by the Board of Governors. Additional tipping is at the player's discretion and is not discouraged.

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