

# TACOMA WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

## RULES OF COMPETITION (revised 4/09)

### SECTION I – COMPETITION

1. USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all competition except as modified by Local Rules approved by the Board
2. The rule prohibiting re-putting after holing out, adopted for all competition by the Board, shall be made a part of the Local Rules published before each tournament. (Penalty: Stroke Play – two (2) strokes).
3. Under improved lies (winter rules), a player shall be allowed to move her ball by hand six (6) inches, no closer to the hole. Rule 20.1 of the USGA Rules of Golf shall govern wherein the position of the ball shall be marked before it is lifted and if it is not marked, the player shall incur a penalty of one (1) stroke and the ball shall be replaced. If it is not replaced, the player shall incur the general penalty for breach of the Rule, but no additional penalty under Rule 20.1 shall be applied. (Penalty: Stroke Play – two (2) strokes).
4. If, on the date of play, the Course is using “Summer Rules”, then the tournament will be conducted with no “improved lies”. If unusual weather or heavy watering has occurred between meeting day and the day of the tournament that seriously affects course conditions adversely, the Tournament Chairperson, Rules Chairperson, or Assistant Tournament Chairperson and the Host Club Representative may decide to designate Winter Rules. The decision must be declared 30 minutes prior to the first tee-off and posted where all participants have been advised of the change.
5. TWGA members may use personal distance indicators during our tournaments as long as the device conforms to USGA standards and does not slow play.

### SECTION II – HANDICAPS

1. To compete in TWGA tournaments, a member must have a GHIN Handicap no to exceed GHIN Handicap Index of forty (40.0). If a member's Handicap Index goes higher than 40.0 after she has joined, she may compete for the remainder of the season with a Handicap of 40.0.
2. Handicaps for players with twenty or more recorded scores shall be adjusted according to the GHIN Schedule. Handicaps for players with fewer than twenty (20) scores shall be adjusted as of the date of the last recorded scores prior to the TWGA competition.
3. A player must choose the Club from which she will enter at the time she joins and may not transfer thereafter during the season without Board approval.

### SECTION III – STARTING TIMES

1. As a guideline, the Tournament Committee shall schedule two (2) threesomes each fifteen minutes (i.e. 8:00, 8:07, 8:15, 8:22 etc.). Eight (8) minutes shall be allowed for foursomes, if possible.

2. Contestants must report to the Pro Shop at least twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled tee time and ten (10) minutes to their assigned tee.
3. Requests for special starting time shall be honored for medical reasons and such other reasons as the Tournament Chairperson shall deem valid.
4. Players must be disqualified for not being on the tee when play is scheduled to begin. A Member may play the course if she has prepaid; however, she will not be in the competition for the day and would not hand in the tournament card. The tournament chair must be informed of the disqualified player that day of the sweeps.

### SECTION IV – AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION

1. Use of carts will be permitted for sweepstakes tournaments, provided the players reserve carts in advance and the Tournament Committee is notified before making the pairings.
2. If a person is using a cart not previously ordered earlier, fee shall be paid by the player prior to teeing off. If all other carts are full, player may be required to pay full fee for the additional cart.
3. Players must be familiar with the USGA rules governing use of carts.
4. There will be no switching of times after the Tournament Chairperson has set the pairings.

### SECTION V – CADDIES

Only competitors and tournament officials will be allowed on the golf course during competitions.

### SECTION VI – 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 make her ineligible for that round of competition for annual awards.

### SECTION VII – WEARING APPAREL

Short shorts and skirts (less than mid-thigh length), halters and strapless tops are not to be worn.

### SECTION VIII – BEST-BALL SWEEPSTAKES

1. The difference in partner's handicaps shall be limited to ten (10) strokes.
2. USGA Rules for Best-Ball will govern.

### SECTION IX – 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 \$4.50 unless otherwise determined by the Board. Entry fees for Best-Ball Sweeps shall be \$5.50 so that more moneys can be paid to winners unless otherwise determined by the Board.
  - (c) Green fees (and cart fees) shall be paid in advance – at the time of entry.

### SECTION X – DIVISIONS AND AWARDS

1. The making of Divisions and distribution of prizes shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee who shall follow as closely as the entry permits, the following guidelines:

- (a) Divisions. There will be an equal amount of players in each Division as near as handicaps will permit with Differentials used to determine Divisions to help in keeping them close the same size.
- (b) Awards: The prize money will be divided evenly among the divisions. There will be awards for Low Gross, 1<sup>st</sup> Low Net and 2<sup>nd</sup> Low Net, including ties for each division. Payment will be honored at the same rate for all players on a sliding scale, regardless of division lines.

Payment will be divided evenly to each division. Each award will be distributed the same for each division.

Example: \$12.00 Low Gross, \$10 1<sup>st</sup> Low Net, \$8.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Low Net.

If there is a tie for Low Gross – Low Gross and 1<sup>st</sup> Low Net (\$22.00) will be divided \$11.00 to each. Then 1<sup>st</sup> Low Net will win \$8.00 (which will actually be 2<sup>nd</sup> Low Net).

- (b) There shall be one (1) award for each Club. In the event of ties, additional scores will decide. If tied scores still exist after comparing additional scores, a play-off shall be played.
- (c) A player may be eligible as of the date joining TWGA and must have played a minimum of two (2) sweeps. The Board may allow an exception due to unusual circumstances.
- (d) At the end of the season, the Representatives shall report the results immediately to the Tournament Chairperson.

#### 4. PUTTING AWARDS

- (a) Putts will be scored for each round of sweepstakes competition to a member of each club on the basis of the best four (4) monthly scores.
- (b) If players who are tied lack additional scores, the Tournament Chairperson will arrange an 18-hole play-off.

#### 5. HOLE-IN-ONE AWARDS:

- (a) An award of \$30.00 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 XI – DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

2. Entries shall not be accepted after the Tournament Committee has completed the Draw.
3. Substitutions for entries may be made with permission of the Tournament Chair.
4. Exception for Best-Ball only. Substitution of a player of “blind draw” will be permitted to complete a partnership (See Rules of Competition, Section 1.1).

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

1. TEAM PLAY:
  - (a) The Team Play Award will be based on each team’s 4 best aggregate medal nets in sweeps competition.
  - (b) The team score will consist of the best four (4) net scores.
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 “play-off round” at a course other than the contestants’ home courses.
  - (c) A personal gift of \$30.00 value and a copy of the Jane Bradley history shall be awarded to the winner of the Jane Bradley Award.
3. CLUB LOW NET AWARDS:
  - (a) TWGA members will compete for an Association Award on their Home Courses on a monthly date to be decided by their Clubs. The best four (4) rounds posted – March through October – will determine the winner.

### SECTION XIII – RULES GOVERNING CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

1. Players must have a USGA Handicap not to exceed a USGA handicap index of 40.0
2. To be eligible to compete in the TWGA Championship play, members must have played in at least two (2) sweeps following the previous year’s Championship or three (3) sweeps the previous year.
3. The Championship shall be a Stroke Play Tournament consisting of two (2) 18-hole rounds.
  - (a) In the event of ties for the Championship, the Runner-Up or Low Net of the Field Winner, a sudden-death play-off will determine the winner(s).
  - (b) The Champion will receive \$50.00, Runner-Up \$40.00 and Low Net of the Field \$30. If the total prize pool of twenty percent (20%) of the prize money exceeds amounts listed, the excess shall be divided appropriately. If the pool falls below the stated minimum, the balance shall be taken from reserves.
  - (c) Championship Tournament is to be played on Monday and Tuesday with no practice rounds allowed on the Host course during the Tournament.

### SECTION XIV – PACE OF PLAY (March 2006)

1. A foursome is subject to penalty for slow play.
2. Slow play is defined as being two (2) holes behind the group in front for an extended time.
3. Penalty would occur after:
  - (a) Notification from Marshal that there is a two-hole gap and a suggestion given to speed up play.
  - (b) A warning is given by Marshal that the gap still exists.

- (c) After following the 2 steps above, the Marshal will enforce the penalty on the 3<sup>rd</sup> time he has observed the groups slow play.
  - (d) The penalty for slow play will be disqualification from competition.
  - (e) After a group has received notice of disqualification from Marshal, they can pick up their balls and proceed to within a stroke of group in front to finish round or leave the course.
4. Marshal can be furnished by golf course or by TWGA but must be present during entire competition.
  5. Marshal will be furnished with written procedures to follow. If team has been disqualified the Marshal would notify scorers table of the team that has been disqualified.
  6. To assist the Marshal a starting line up will be provided with the holes on which teams started. The Marshal should note any empty holes that may have occurred at the beginning so a group will not be penalized for an existing gap.
  7. The Marshal will also be furnished with a list of suggestions the members have been given to speed up play. This will help with step (1).
  8. We appreciate the work of the Marshals in helping TWGA maintain the proper Pace of Play. We strive to keep groups within one (1) or two (2) strokes of each other but we will no longer tolerate a two (2) hole or more gap.

**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 to the TWGA Tournament Committee for resolution.

**SECTION XVI – REVISIONS AND/OR AMENDMENTS**

1. The Rules of Competition shall be subject to review at the first Board 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 regularly scheduled Board Meeting but will not take effect until the following year.
4. Revisions and/or amendments must be approved by two-thirds vote of the Board.

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