

WOMEN'S PUBLIC LINKS GOLF ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY TOURNAMENT COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY~CONDITIONS~RULES AND LOCAL RULES

ELIGIBILITY: WPLGASC Membership is required for Monthly Association Day events. The WPLGASC Secretary must have received a player's WPLGASC Dues **by the first day of the month of the Association Day. (I.e., if the event is the March Association Day, the dues must be received by the WPLGASC Association Secretary by March 1st).** To participate in the tournament game, the entrant must be an amateur golfer, 18 years of age or older. In addition, the entrant must have a valid USGA Handicap Index of 54.0 or less based on a minimum of 3 scores. **The USGA Handicap Indexes to be used will be determined and obtained by the Monthly Tournament Committee.**

*A member who has No Index (NI) may play but is not eligible to compete in the tournament.

*Persons who are not members of WPLGASC are NOT eligible for play.

*The minimum number of players for an Association Day Tournament is 16.

CHECK IN: All players must report to the WPLGASC tournament table at least 30 minutes prior to starting time. Please follow the instructions and requests of the tournament committee. **Cancellations/No Shows** are liable for all fees.

GOVERNING RULES: All competition shall be played in accordance with The Rules of Golf as currently adopted by the USGA, the **local rules** of the course on which the competition is played, **(ONLY IF those local rules are in accordance with The USGA Rules of Golf)**, and any WPLGASC or Course Covid Rules and Conditions which will only be added only if necessary. In all questions regarding the rules, the decision of the WPLGASC Rules Committee will be final. **The Board of Directors** reserves the right to revise the requirements and eligibility for any WPLGASC Tournament. The Board may refuse the entry of a member at any time with sufficient reason.

CODE OF CONDUCT: Participants shall maintain proper course etiquette and demonstrate the sportsmanlike spirit of the game. Inappropriate behavior or language will be cause for disqualification and may also result in the loss of playing privileges in all WPLGASC events. **Proper golf attire** is required. Players must adhere to course and Association dress codes. Dress Code violations will be addressed by the Monthly Tournament Chair.

ALL WPLGASC Monthly Tournaments are stipulated rounds of 18 holes. There must be a gross score entered for all 18 holes of the tournament for each player listed on the card. Otherwise, disqualification of the player or players may occur (Rule 3.3c). If a player does not complete a hole (picks up) or does not play a hole, the player's score for that hole **must be preceded by an "X"**.

EXCEPTION: UNFINISHED HOLES (X-Outs):

- **ONLY in WPLGASC Monthly Individual Events,** a player may X-Out on a hole, if that hole is **not** part of the tournament game. **When the hole in question is part of the tournament game, incomplete hole or holes (X-out) not played will result in disqualification.**
- **In WPLGASC Monthly Partners' Events,** a player **is allowed** either to pick up (X-out) on a hole or not play a hole without risk of disqualification **only when that player's score is not needed for the score or total score on a hole** and **only** when designated by the Monthly Tournament Chair.

SCORECARDS must be signed and attested by **each player** listed on the card, and returned to the scoring table **IMMEDIATELY** following play. **Failure to complete the scorecard as directed may result in disqualification.**

POST ADJUSTED SCORES at the course played on the day of play. Scores are NOT T-Scores.

UNDUE DELAY/SLOW PLAY: It is each player's responsibility to play efficiently. Players shall play without undue delay. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, a group must keep up with the group **IN FRONT** of them. **Additionally, the players may agree that one of them will play out of turn to save time. Rules (5.6b (2); 6.4b 2)** If you cannot see the group in front of you, **then YOU are out of position and must catch up. Any other participating member on the course, in addition to course personnel,** may warn slow players of their responsibility in this matter. We ask that you treat course personnel with respect. **Each player must be ready to play when it is her turn.** The Committee will consider all complaints re: Slow Play and **will apply penalties, if a complaint is valid.**

TO AVOID PENALTY, KEEP UP WITH THE GROUP IN FRONT!

Players must play without undue delay. A group will be considered out of position if it

- a) reaches the tee of a Par 3 hole and the group in front has cleared the next tee;**
- b) reaches the tee of a Par 4 hole and the putting green is clear;**
- c) reaches the teeing ground of a par 5 hole when the group in front is within 100 yards of the putting green.**

If any of these occur, a group must play efficiently and return to its position on the course.

A group that fails to return to its position will be subject to penalty.

- 1st offense-one (1) stroke;
- 2nd offense-two (2) strokes;
- 3rd offense-disqualification

Pace of Play Penalties may apply to the ENTIRE GROUP.

USE OF EQUIPMENT including DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES: Rule 4.3 now allows the use of equipment, such as a distance measuring device or compass, to get information on distance or direction. *For information on the use of other devices or aids, see Rule 4.*

CELL PHONES, TEXTING, EMAIL, PAGERS, ETC.: ANY electronic device taken onto the course must not distract other players or interfere with pace of play. These devices are restricted to **emergency use only** and must be set to an **inaudible** setting. The use of such items may be interpreted as a serious breach of etiquette that may result in disqualification of the side involved.

Players who have the **USGA Rules of Golf app** on a phone may use the phone to access the rules only if use of such item does not distract other players and interfere with the pace of play.

EQUIPMENT: A player's **CLUBS** must conform to USGA Rule 4 and the provisions, specifications and interpretations set forth in USGA Rules.

The **BALL** the player plays must be named on the current list of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA.

CADDIES AND GALLERIES are not permitted.

CONCEDED PUTTS are not allowed.

The use of BALL DROPS/DROPPING ZONES/DROP AREAS are NOT allowed.

STROKE PLAY/DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE: In stroke play only, a player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty. The player must decide to play two balls before making a stroke and should choose which ball will count if the Rules allow. She must announce her choice to another player before making a stroke. If the player does not choose in time, the ball played first is treated as the ball chosen. The player must report the facts to the committee before returning the scorecard. **See Rule 20.1c (3)**

GENERAL AREA is the area of the course that covers all of the course ***EXCEPT FOR*** 1) the teeing area the player must play from in starting the hole she is playing, 2) all penalty areas, 3) all bunkers, and 4) the putting green of the hole the player is playing.

EMBEDDED BALL: Relief is allowed under Rule 16.3b only when a player's ball is embedded in the **general area**.

LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS are any unattached natural object such as ***stones, loose grass, leaves, branches, and sticks; dead animals and animal waste; clumps of loose soil including aeration plugs; worms, insects and similar animals and the mounds or webs or ant hills.*** Without penalty, a player may remove a loose impediment anywhere on or off the course and may do so in any way. There is a penalty of one stroke if the ball moves when a loose impediment is removed. Further information Rule 15.1

A MOVABLE OBSTRUCTION is an obstruction that can be moved with reasonable effort and without damaging the obstruction or the course. A player may remove a movable obstruction anywhere on or off the course and may do so in any way. If a player's ball moves while she is removing the movable obstruction, there is no penalty, and the ball must be replaced on its original spot. (Rule 15)

ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS ARE ANY OF THESE FOUR CONDITIONS.

- Animal Hole
- Ground Under Repair
- Temporary Water
- Immovable Obstructions

See Rule 16.1 for procedures under this rule.

LOCAL RULE: TEMPORARY FENCES ON GOLF COURSES USED FOR PROTECTION OF COURSE CONDITIONS: During this WPLGASC Competition, fences or other items that are temporarily installed on golf courses to protect any part of the course from damage from Coots (*mud hens*) or any other animal, reptile or bird are **deemed to be IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS**. Relief from these temporary fences is allowed under Rule 16.1 only when both the abnormal course condition is on the course (not out of bounds) and, the ball is anywhere on the course except in a penalty area (where the player's only relief is under Rule 17). For the purposes of this local rule, under Rule 16.1a (2) 17.1b...If a ball is **in a penalty area** which is a **water hazard** (including a **lateral water hazard**), the player may not take relief from interference by an immovable obstruction. The player must play the ball as it lies in the penalty area or take penalty relief under Rule 17.1.

LOCAL RULE: Immovable Obstructions close to the Putting Green (e.g. Sprinkler Heads) In WPLGASC Monthly Tournaments...If a ball lies *in the general area or on the putting green* and an immovable obstruction close to the putting green is on the player's line of play and is within two club-lengths of the putting green, and within two club lengths of the ball, the player is given the extra relief under Rule 16.1. The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that is not nearer the hole, avoids intervention and is not in a hazard or on a putting green. If a player's ball lies **ON** the putting green and an immovable obstruction within 2 club-lengths of the putting green intervenes on his line of putt, the player may take relief as follows: The ball must be lifted and placed at the nearest point to where the ball lay that is not nearer the hole, avoids intervention and is not in a hazard. The ball may be cleaned when lifted. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if interference by anything other than the immovable obstruction makes the stroke clearly impracticable. **Penalty for breach of local rule: Stroke play-Two strokes Rule 16.** There is no relief under this local rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

TEMPORARY GREENS: Players must *putt out* on temporary greens until the hole is completed.

PREFERRED LIES ("Winter Rules") may only be enacted by the WPLGASC Tournament Chair, her Committee, and the WPLGASC Rules Chair. **There are NO "Winter Rules" in any WPLGASC Monthly Tournaments unless enacted as stated above, regardless of any local rule of any Hostess Club.**