

**SAGINAW DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION
71st ANNUAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT
THE SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB – JUNE 20-22, 2025**

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. USGA Rules will prevail. Local rules are as follows:
 - a. If there is a question, play a second ball, keep pace and get a ruling following the round.
 - i. Please remember that you only have 3 minutes to look for a golf ball.
 - b. The Open Division will play the BLACK Tees, the Legends Division will play the WHITE Tees which will be placed at the Black/White Combo Tee location.
 - i. Out-of-bounds is defined by white stakes. Other O.B. is defined by: fence on Hole 4, inside of road curb on Holes 5 and 6, inside edge of sidewalk on Holes 7 and 10.
 - ii. You may not play across the road on holes 7 and 10.
 - iii. The driving range is O.B. and is marked by white stakes. If your ball is in-bounds, you may take swing relief from any fencing or screening on Holes 1 & 2, line-of-sight relief, no nearer the hole and no penalty.
 - iv. You may take swing relief from the protective fence on Hole 18 tee, line-of-sight relief, no nearer the hole and no penalty.
 - v. All flower beds – take relief to nearest point, no nearer the hole and no penalty.
 - vi. Maintenance buildings on Hole 10, 11 and 18 are O.B. as defined by white stakes.
 - vii. All lightning wires connected to trees are an integral part of the golf course and you do not get relief.
 - viii. There is a newly sodded area behind #9 green where a cart path used to be. This is considered ground under repair and competitors must take free relief from this area
2. A competitor must not practice or play on the competition course either before or between rounds. (Rule 7-1.b)
3. Time of Starting reminder: A player must start at the time established by the committee. (Rule 6-3) If a player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five (5) minutes after his starting time, in the absence of special circumstances, the penalty for failure to start on time is 2 strokes at the first hole. After 5 minutes the player is disqualified.
4. Cell phones may be used as a GPS rangefinder and to enter scores. The phone function shall not be used on the course except for dire emergencies. All cell phones MUST be in silent or vibrate mode at all times.
5. In case of inclement weather, if the entire field is unable to complete 9 holes, the entire round will be cancelled. If the entire field completes at least 9 holes, but less than 18, the 9 hole scores will be used.

Unless the tournament is cancelled in its entirety, entry fees will not be refunded if weather cancels full or partial round(s).

6. **Pace of Play**

General

This policy is based on the USGA Amateur Championship Pace of Play Guidelines.

The intent of this policy is to improve the quality of our tournament by making players accountable for their own pace of play, not for the committee to assess penalty strokes.

Timing, Checkpoints and Position

The SDGA's Pace of Play Policy is based on the following timing per hole including walking/travel.

Par 5: 17 minutes

Par 4: 15 minutes

Par 3: 13 minutes

The allowable times at the completion of each hole are listed on the official scorecard. There will be four (4) checkpoints at holes 4, 9, 13 and 18. Each group is responsible for monitoring their own pace. All players in a group that have missed a checkpoint are liable to penalty.

A group's completion time at each checkpoint is measured when the flagstick is replaced in the hole once all players in the group have holed out.

A group is out of position when:

- a) They are over the maximum allowable time for that checkpoint

AND

- b) They finish the checkpoint hole more than 15 minutes behind the group in front of them.

Penalties

The following penalties will be enforced as checkpoints are missed:

1st Missed Checkpoint:	Warning
2nd Consecutive Missed Checkpoint:	Liable to a 1-stroke penalty
3rd Consecutive Missed Checkpoint:	Liable to a 2-stroke penalty
4th Consecutive Missed Checkpoint:	Liable to Disqualification

Notification and Appeals

Any group that misses a checkpoint will be notified by a SDGA Official. Generally, all players in the group will be liable for penalty but the SDGA Committee may specify which player or players are liable for penalty.

Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered by the SDGA Committee following the round in the scoring area only and must take place prior to turning in their scorecard. Appeals may result in one or more players not receiving a penalty.

- 7. All participants in both the Open and Legends Divisions may use riding carts with the following stipulations:
 - a. The SDGA Cart-Sharing Rules apply to all cart usage.
 - b. All carts will be purchased directly through the host course on a daily basis. The host course determines the cost of the cart and charges per rider.
 - c. If two (2) players in a group elect to use a riding cart, the players must share the cart. If all three (3) players in the group are riding, the host course will determine the single rider.
 - d. The cart is intended for the player OR the caddy but not both.
 - e. Spectators are not permitted in carts.
- 8. On any day of competition, a player, having finished their round or any part of it, may not return to the course to caddy for another competitor. Penalty: 2 strokes for each hole at which the breach occurred, 4 strokes maximum per round.
- 9. Competitors are responsible for all SDGA Rules and Procedures (updated 6.19.24) that can be reviewed at: <https://saginawdistrictgolf.com/rules>.

Prizes

1. The Joe Hart Memorial Trophy will be presented to the Open Champion. The Fred Martin, Jr. Trophy sponsored by will be presented to the Senior Champion. The Ron Stelter Trophy will be presented to the Legends Champion. The Mark Spiekerman Trophy will be presented to the 21-Club Champion.
2. Players qualifying for merchandise awards will have an account set up in the host course pro shop. The Senior Champion will receive a merchandise award in addition to their Open Division prize. In no case will the total won by one person be over the maximum allowed to preserve amateur status from the USGA.
3. The SDGA Committee will notify players after the conclusion of the tournament when shop-credit prizes are available to be redeemed at the host course pro shop and the date when they expire.