

**SAGINAW DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION  
70th ANNUAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT  
THE FORTRESS – JUNE 21-23, 2024**

**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 Black Tees, the Legends Division will play Maroon Tees.
  - c. **Penalty Areas:**
    - i. Identified by red or yellow stakes and defined by red or yellow freshly painted lines on the ground.
    - ii. All long grasses or fescue shall be played as a red penalty area. You may choose to play your ball from within these areas as it lies or may take relief (WITH PENALTY) under the red penalty area rules.
  - d. **Out of Bounds:**
    - i. The practice putting green behind Hole #9 and all of the clubhouse area are out of bounds.
    - ii. The inside edge of the roads bordering the course and the left side of Hole #18 are out of bounds. There are white out of bounds stakes along the entire left side of this hole.
  - e. **Ground Under Repair:**
    - i. Defined by freshly painted white lines.
  - f. **Drop Areas:**
    - i. There is a drop area (WITH PENALTY) on the forward tee box for use on Hole #15.
    - ii. Ignore any other drop zones on the course or on the course scorecard.
  - g. **No Play Zone:**
    - i. If it is known or virtually certain that the player's ball lies in the large area of flowers / plantings / rocks to the right of the putting greens on Holes #6 and #8, the player must take **MANDATORY** free relief from this area. This area is an abnormal course condition.
      1. The player's only option for this free relief is to use the ball drop that is located to the right of the green on the hole he is playing (Rule 16.1).
        - a. Note 1: No one is allowed to enter this no play zone for any reason. The general penalty of two strokes applies for breaching this condition (Rule 16.1).
        - b. Note 2: *Only if it is known or virtually certain* that the ball lies in the no play zone, the ball does not need to be found. Free relief is still available (see rule 16.1e).
  - h. **Obstructions:**
    - i. Cart paths, dirt extensions of cart paths, construction zones, granite markers, and utility boxes are included as immovable obstructions.

2. A competitor must not practice or play on the competition course either before or between rounds. (Rule 7-1.b)

3. **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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

*The golf-cart GPS systems may be used by all participants. Participants who are walking may utilize a competitor's golf-cart GPS system when necessary so long as it does not cause undue delay.*

6. 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.
7. 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).

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.