

NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK

1. **WELCOME:** Welcome to membership in the Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta! This booklet is intended to answer many of your questions concerning the SGAA. If you have questions on matters not covered in this booklet, please contact a table worker or officer.

We hope that you will have a long and pleasant membership, finding new friends and enjoying many rounds of golf.

2. **SGAA HISTORY:** Eight golfers organized the SGAA in the winter of 1956. Growth was slow with membership increasing to only 86 in the first 10 years, but the membership eventually exceeded 350. The original eight began their play at the Bobby Jones Golf Course and later played other courses including Berkeley Hills C.C. in Norcross, Green Valley in McDonough, West Pines in Douglasville and Monroe C.C.. As membership grew the number of rounds played and courses visited increased. We currently play about 25 different courses.

In the years before computers became common, scoring was done manually. Flight winners were awarded golf balls. This soon got out of hand as it is not unusual to have 250 points won on a given day. Imagine the chore that the awards chairman had giving 250 golf balls to 50 golfers.

The SGAA has earned a very favorable reputation over the years. Our members exemplify good sportsmanship and gentlemanly behavior. We have received many compliments from golf courses on our efficient golf management, our respect for other golfers, and our observation of course etiquette.

3. **ANNUAL DUES & MEMBERSHIP:** Your membership fee is \$25.00 per year and must be paid by January 1st every year. If your awards for the current year exceed \$25, your dues will be deducted from your award payment (see below).

We encourage you to sponsor new members. A new member must be 55 years old or older by January 1st of the year his application is submitted. New Member Applications are available from the table crews. Currently, a new membership will be effective the month following the acceptance of the application. There are two categories of SGAA membership. Currently we have around 225 members, of whom approximately 60 are Emeritus members. Emeritus members are those who are 75 years old or older and have been a member for five years.

4. **REGISTERING FOR A TOURNAMENT** If you are playing with a group, you or another member of your group may preregister for weekly tournaments up to 7 days in advance on the SGAA website, but you are not required to do so.

It is important that you remember your membership index number, your assigned flight and your dogfight points. These are on the handicap sheet that is provided by the registration table at every tournament.

When signing up for a round of golf your \$5 entry fee should be accompanied by a scorecard bearing the date, your full name, your index number and your flight and required dogfight points. Scorecards and entry fees for all members of your group should be submitted together. Please be sure that the scorecard is complete and legible to assure that your results are properly recorded by the table crew.

Your handicap/dogfight points will be frozen until the first of the month following your first three rounds. During this period you will only get credit for plus or minus 3 points. (i.e., complete three rounds in January, handicap/dogfight points will be unfrozen in February).

You must report to the table at least 30 minutes before tee time to be accepted to play. You may wish to play your first two or three rounds with your sponsor; but if your sponsor is not available, you may let the table know that you are a single and they will assist you.

After you complete a round, a member of your group must return your scorecards to the table crew. Tournament results are entered into the automated system. The system creates reports of the scores and other data for the round and adjusts your flight and handicap information.

5. HANDICAPS & POINTS: At the end of each month all handicaps are updated, so your flight and handicap may change. The Handicap Report is posted on our website and copies are available at each tournament.

Your handicap is computed from a formula derived by USGA and followed by SGAA that takes into account your last 10 scores against the 18-hole par for the courses you played. The report has three columns beside each member's name, headed "Member#," "HC" and "PTS". For a player in the A flight, the information in these columns may be as follows: 1351, 15, A21; with 1351 being his SGAA member number; 15, his actual handicap; and A21 his playing flight and the number of "Playing points" he should be making each round. This player's "expected" score on a round of golf is 87 on a par 72 course. That's par plus 15 (his handicap).

What are "Playing points"? These are points based upon your score on each hole; hence "Playing points". For each bogey you gain 1, for a par 2, a birdie 3, an eagle 4, and so on. So based a handicap of 15 the player mentioned above is expected to compile 21 "playing points" each round on a par 72 course.

Now for "Award Points." "Award Points" actually have a monetary value (\$1.00). You can gain "Award Points" for scores of par or lower. A birdie is 1 playing point, and it is also 1 award point; an eagle is 4 playing points, but it is 8 award points. In addition to playing points, 4 award points are given for being closest to the pin on a designated par

3 hole, and 1 award point for being closest to the hole for each of the four flights on the other par 3s.

A formula (algorithm) in the SGAA system combines the number of players in each flight, each player's actual score, compares how each player fared against their expected playing points and determines the player's position in each flight. Award points are then assigned, again according to that formula. Awards within each flight are limited by the number of players in the flight for the tournament.

Two reports posted to the website after every regular in-town tournament; "Scores" and "Results."

SENIOR GOLFERS ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTA Dedicated to Good Golf and Fine Fellowship Tournament Results Report						
<i>Thursday, August 3, 2023</i>				<i>Bear Creek</i>		
Name	Group	Foursome	Score	Hncp DF	Delta DF	Awards
HELM, STEVE	A	18 A	72	27	9	14
NELSON, GARY L	A	15 B	78	24	6	6
HERRIG, LOU	A	1 A	77	26	5	8
NOBLES, MIKE	A	18 B	79	25	4	3
WARD, ALEC	A	16 A	78	26	4	4
CLEGG, TOM	A	14 A	80	25	3	3
GRAYBEAL, DAVE	A	1 B	75	31	2	2
THIGPEN, MIKE	A	14 A	82	24	2	2

The Scores Report excerpt above shows that Steve Helm is in the "A" flight (group) and shot a score of 72. His handicap projected his score as 81 (par 72+9), however he made 9 playing points (81-72) and finally he earned 13 award points, including 1 award for a birdie and a bonus of 2 for his position in the A flight.

The Awards Report excerpt below shows that Steve had the best score in the A flight, and it also shows his birdie, as well as those of other players and the close ups

SENIOR GOLFERS ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTA

Dedicated to Good Golf and Fine Fellowship

03-Aug-23

Bear Creek

PWS

HELM, STEVE	9 JACKSON, WENDELL	10 MUELLER, DAVE	10 DAVID, JD	8
NELSON, GARY L	4 REMICH, BOB	5 GRYDER, TOM	5 GOODMAN, GW	3
HERRIG, LOU	3 FAUCONNET, LARRY	4 SAXON, CARL	5 CROWELL, BARRY	2
NOBLES, MIKE	2 RUSSO, BENNY	3 LEIPOLD, CAL	3 WEST, FRANK	2
WARD, ALEC	2 EVERETT, JESSE L	2 BOYD, CHARLES D		
	POGUE, TED N	2 PANTER, LEE		
	CYRAN, JOHN			1
	HARRIS, DANNY N			1

Designated Hole 16 HERRIG, LOU Total Individual Award Points

Closest Hole		3	7	9
A	HELM, STEVE	THIGPEN, MIKE	CLEGG, TOM	3
B	EVERETT, JESSE L	CYRAN, JOHN	EVERETT, JESSE L	3
C	GRYDER, TOM	MUELLER, DAVE	SAXON, CARL	3
D		CROWELL, BARRY	CROWELL, BARRY	2

Birdies				
<i>(one point each)</i>				
HELM, STEVE (4)	HERRIG, LOU	JACKSON, WENDELL	NELSON, GARY L (2)	8
NOBLES, MIKE	REMICH, BOB (2)	THIGPEN, MIKE	WARD, ALEC (2)	6
CLEGG, TOM (2)	FAUCONNET, LARRY	GRAYBEAL, DAVE (2)	HELM, DON (2)	7

6. **RULES:** SGAA rules of play are the rules of the USGA with certain exceptions prescribed by our Bylaws. One of those exceptions provides that a player may pick up a ball that comes to rest anywhere within the boundaries of the golf course and replace the ball within one club length, no closer to the hole and on the same cut without penalty except on the green. Another provides that when a ball is out of bounds, declared unplayable or lost, the player may place his ball any distance along the flight of the ball where the ball went out may be scheduled. The complete rules are included on the website. Please, familiarize yourself with the rules and comply with them. The rules are enforced by the Rules Committee and the Board.

7. **SCHEDULE OF PLAY:** The SGAA schedule starts in mid January with play scheduled every week until mid December. During this period 100 or more dogfight may be scheduled.

.In addition there will be a number of special play dates, including the Annual Tournament, three or four out-of-town tournaments and possibly a Presidents Member Guest Tournament.

The out-of-town tournaments are three-day events. The format of out-of-own tournaments will vary as determined by the out-of-town Tournament Chairman or by the President for the Member Guest. All tournaments are in the dogfight format.

8. **SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS:** The Annual Tournament is a dogfight event with 9 dates scheduled in September or October. Strokes are limited to double bogie. You must have an SGAA established handicap to be eligible to play in this event and you

must play a minimum of 4 rounds. You may play all 9 rounds; but the best 4 of your rounds played will determine your tournament score. Unlike other tournaments you pay a onetime \$10.00 table fee on your first day of play and only pay green fees thereafter.

9. OTHER EVENTS: There are two banquets a year for members only--the Tee Off Banquet prior to the beginning of the season and the Annual meeting at the end of the season.

The Board of Director meets at least quarterly. You may contact an officer or board member and request that a business item or change be considered by the board. You may also run for for the board or an office by submitting your name the Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

10. OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES: The SGAA is managed by the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and nine Directors plus the immediate Past President. The President, with the concurrence of the Board, appoints committee chairmen including the in-town Tournament Chairman, out-of-town Tournament Chairman, Handicap Chairman, Awards Chairman and a number of others.

Local tournaments and out of town tournaments require a lot of work. The 3 or 4 member table crew arrives 1 hour before tee time and cannot leave until all scores are recorded, usually an hour or more after most players have left. You can help the table by arriving early, maintaining the pace of play, and promptly turning in legible, complete score cards

After you become familiar with SGAA operations please consider helping with one of the many tasks which make SGAA successful.

ENJOY YOUR GOLF WITH SGAA