

Foot Wedge Mafia Golf Club

2024 Club Tournament Rules Sheet

(Updated 2/1/24)

General:

I. The game of golf is one played with honor and integrity.

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:

- Acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.
- Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player.
- Taking good care of the *course* – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing *bunkers*, repairing ball-marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the *course*.

There is no penalty under the Rules for failing to act in this way, **except** that the *Committee* may disqualify a player for acting contrary to the spirit of the game if it finds that the player has committed serious misconduct.

- USGA.org

II. All players competing in the Foot Wedge Mafia Golf Club are expected to exhibit the “honor system” while in tournament play.

III. Should anyone suspect a fellow-member not being forthright with regards to their tournament play or handicap, members have the right to submit a complaint to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will conduct a follow-up to determine the validity of the complaint. Results of the complaint will be based on the follow-up conducted.

Green & Club Tournament Fees:

- I. Each Club Member is required to pay an annual membership fee as well as each course green fee correlating with each club tournament. The annual membership fee may vary annually based on changes or approved changes to tournament payouts.
- II. Annual membership is due prior to the first tournament of the season and accounts for the following costs:
 - a. \$15.00 total per player, per club tournament (not including Playoff Tournaments)
 - i. \$10.00 goes towards that day's tournament purse
 1. 1st place = 60%

2. 2nd place = 30%
3. 3rd place = 10%

- ii. \$5.00 goes toward the Club Championship purse
 1. The Club Championship purse is split between 1st, 2nd and 3rd at 60%, 30%, 10%.
- b. The annual membership fee is collected via venmo.
- c. All tournament payouts will take place the day of the tournament after all players have completed play and club app determines placings via venmo.

Tournament Scoring:

- I. The club now uses a golf app. to track all tournament scoring.
- II. We do require for at least one individual to input each members scoring after each hole via the app.
- III. We also require for at least one other member of the group to track scores via a scorecard for back. Scorecards must be turned in after each round.
- IV. Each member is encouraged to keep their own individual scorecard to help verify scores during the tournament if needed.
- V. If there are issues concerning a particular player's score or scorecard, the Executive Committee will review and determine the outcome.
- VI. The highest score a player make take in tournament competition is 4-over part. For example, if a hole is a par 4, the highest score a player may record on that hole is an 8. This is to help with pace of play.

Handicap Rules:

All members are required to have an official NCGA or USGA handicap established prior to the first tournament of each season. A paid member will not be able to compete in a club tournament until his/her NCGA or USGA handicap is officially established.

For the 2024 season, the voting membership voted to adopt playing with an 80% handicap for all season tournaments. The club app. uses the 80% handicap to score each tournament based on the course slope and rating according to each course played.

Tournament Formats:

- I. All club tournament formats will be communicated prior to the tournament date for all competitors.
- II. Tournament formats will not impede or disrupt the ability for any member to post an official tournament golf score.
- III. Groupings may elect to play various "trash games" during their tournament round as long as it does not impede or disrupt the club tournament formatting for that day or impact the pace of play.

Tee Time:

- I. All members are fully responsible for their given tee time for each tournament. If any player arrives to their tee time after each of the other group members has already hit their 2nd shots, that player may compete in a later tee time if space is available. If no later tee time space is available, that player may be required to concede that event. This will be determined by the club executive committee. If there is a later tee time space available, that player may compete with no penalty.

Tee Box:

- I. Ball must be hit in between or behind the markers (if clearly hit from in front of the markers, player will incur a 1-stroke penalty and play the their tee shot).
- II. Non-hitting players must be respectful of creating noise and/or disruption during the swing of a player. Should clear and evident noise and/or disruption be made by any of the non-hitters, the hitting player may replace the ball where it originally lied and re-hit without penalty.
- III. If a player accidentally hits his ball while on the tee during practice swing or prior to intent to put the ball in play, the player may re-tee the ball without penalty. If there is clear and evident intent to hit the ball the ball is removed from the tee, that will be considered the players hit. Intent to hit the ball will be determined by the other players in the group, unless no one witnessed the occurrence, in which case the player hitting the ball will determine the intent (via honor system).
- IV. If a player hits their tee ball out of bounds (white stake, water, etc.), they have the option to “take the distance” and use a lateral lie placing their ball at the nearest playable lie to the entry of which their ball went out of bounds. An official drop should occur. The player may also choose to re-tee their ball and hit from the tee box again. Either way, both are a 1-stroke penalty.
- V. Players may hit a provisional ball and take either the provisional as your 3rd shot or drop from line of entry into OB
- VI. Rotation of hitters will be at the discretion of the group.

Sand Trap:

- I. All balls in the sand trap must be played as it lies unless lift, clean and place (winter rules) are in play.
- II. When a player’s ball lies in the sand trap, grounding the club in the sand for any reason will incur a 1-stroke penalty.
- III. Players may remove loose impediments within the sand trap without penalty (e.g., leaves, sticks, etc.) as long as the placement of the ball is not altered (exception is during COVID play where lift, clean and place is acceptable).
- IV. During Winter Rules, a player is not permitted to use the “lift, clean and place” 1 club length rule to remove his ball from the designated sand trap. The player may use the 1 club length rule to place the ball anywhere within the sand trap, no closer to the hole.

Out of Bounds:

- I. Any time a player hits a ball out of bounds (indicated by white stake or water/ravine), the player may take a lateral lie. This allows the player to utilize a 2 club relief from penalty or out of bounds area and place the ball at the nearest playable lie to the entry of which their ball went out of bounds. This will incur a 1-stroke penalty.

Hazards/Relief: (modifications made)

- I. Hazards are indicated by red stakes and include various areas on the course where the ball may be replaced (with a 1-stroke penalty) or played out of (with no penalty). This is the players choice. If replaced out of the hazard, the player may take a drop in the nearest playable area of the hazard and no closer to the hole.
- II. Hazards also include water and mud areas on the course of play in which players may receive “relief” with no stroke penalty. Players are allowed a two club-length relief from the hazard, no closer to the hole.
- III. If playing “winter rules,” players may take relief from the water or mud area on the course of play with no stroke penalty. Relief includes a two club-length relief from the edge of the hazard area, no closer to the hole. This does not include removal from a sand trap unless the sand trap is unplayable due to water or mud, in which the two club-length relief is allowed, no closer to the hole.
- IV. Players are allowed to ground their club within a hazard area (no penalty)

Ball Movement:

- I. There is no penalty assessed when a ball moves due to natural occurrences (e.g., wind, uneven lie).
- II. If the player makes an action that influences the ball to move (removing impediment, practice swing, etc.), the player will incur a 1-stroke penalty.

Loose Impediments:

- I. A player may remove loose impediments from around the ball as long as the player does not touch the ball or cause the ball to move.
- II. If the ball moves while a player is removing a loose impediment.
- III. A player may not remove an item that is on or attached to the ball unless the “lift, clean and place” rule is in effect.

Obstructions: (modifications made)

- I. A player may take a 2 club-length relief with no penalty when their ball is in play but touching or near an unnatural, “man-made” object (e.g., stake, pipes, fence, etc.) no closer to the hole.
- II. If a ball is resting on a root or other natural or unnatural object that may damage a club with a reasonable swing by the player, there may be a 2 club-length relief no closer to the hole and with no penalty.
- III. Burrowing Animal Rule – if your stance while addressing the ball is impeded by an identified hole of a burrowing animal, player may apply the 2 club length rule, no closer to the hole.

Green:

- I. The Foot Wedge Mafia Golf Club requires that all putts outside of 12 inches must be putted during club tournament events. Each member should have tape placed on their putter at the 12 inch mark in order to verify the distance from the hole.
- II. The group may determine the pace of play of that respective group which may allow for players inside of others to putt first. All players should agree with this.
- III. All players should be mindful and respectful to other players ball lines and as it is reasonable, not step or disrupt their putting line in any way. Intent to disrupt a players putting line may result in penalty by executive committee after review.
- IV. Players must use ball marker as often as-is reasonable to do-so when ball is resting on the green.
- V. A player may ask another player to move their ball (left or right) if the non-hitting player's ball is perceived to be in the line or disruptive to their putt. Upon moving a ball on the green, it must be marked with a ball-marker first and the ball-marker moved. This is to prevent a player purposely or accidentally using the ball to mark the moving location and then putting a ball marker down to receive a distance from the home advantage.
- VI. If a player's ball that is resting on the green is hit by another players ball, the resting ball should be replaced in the location nearest as is estimated to where the ball was resting. The other players ball will be played where it comes to rest.
- VII. If a player was able to mark his/her ball but chose not to and their ball is struck by another ball, this player will incur a 1-stroke penalty and place the ball where it was originally resting. (Mark your balls on the green!).
- VIII. Any plugged ball on a green may be lifted, cleaned and replaced. If the plugged area cannot be fully repaired, the player may place their ball in a location nearest to the plugged area, no closer to the hole.

Lost Ball:

- I. Upon a lost ball, players will have no more than 3 minutes to locate their ball. The time should be kept by the other group members. If the ball is not located within the 3 minute time frame, the player will drop a ball in the estimated nearest location of its loss. This will incur a 1-stroke penalty.

Winter Rule:

- I. This rule pertains only to a tournament where "lift, clean and place" is in effect. The Executive Committee will notify all players regarding Winter Rules are in effect prior to the tournament.
- II. If a player determines to utilize the "lift, clean and place" option during a tournament, the player must first mark their original ball location with a tee or other marker (prior to lifting the ball). The player may then clean the ball and place it no

- more than 1 club length away from its original location (unless the play area is deemed unplayable in which the relief rule is in effect), but no closer to the hole.
- III. When in effect, The Winter Rule of “lift, clean and place” applies to anywhere on the course of play (fairway, rough, sand, etc.). However, a player may not remove their ball from the sand trap using the “lift, clean and place” rule. The player may move his ball using 1 club length anywhere within the sand trap, no closer to the hole.

Tie-Breakers:

- I. In the event of a tie amongst any two or more players during a club tournament, the following rules shall be applied.
- a. The player with the lowest (net) score on the back-nine of the course in which the tournament is played shall take the higher placement.
 - b. If still tied based on back-nine net score the tie shall be broken based on the lowest (net) score on lowest-ranked handicap hole on back nine.
 - c. If still tied after (b), it shall remain a tie and all players in the tie will receive the same placement and points associated.

Violation of Conduct:

- I. Cheating Infraction - Should a player be accused of cheating in any way, it is the rule that 2 or more competitors “must” have witnessed the infraction with certainty for the accused player to receive a penalty (penalty determined by committee based on infraction). If less than 2 competitors witness the infraction with certainty, the rule is that the accused competitor has the call to whether the infraction did occur.
- II. Penalties for Infractions – The club committee is the determining group on all penalty infractions. Infraction penalties will be based on the infraction:
- a. First Infraction Offense – 2 stroke Penalty on the hole being played
 - b. Second Infraction Offense (Same Tournament) – Disqualification from that Tournament
 - c. Second Infraction Offense (Different Tournament) – 2 Stroke Penalty on the hole being played
 - d. Any Additional Infractions (Same or Different Tournament) – Automatic disqualification from the current Tournament and placed on probation to be dropped from club should another infraction occur.
 - e. Any Additional Infractions during the club season, player is dropped from the club for the remainder of that season. Player may re-apply to play in following seasons.

Other Miscellaneous Rules:

- I. No Caddie’s are allowed in any club tournaments except for the Club Championship
- II. Caddies must not disrupt play of other competitors in any way or be subject to penalty or disqualification of player

- III. Loud/Disruptive Noise or Distraction during a competitor's swing may result in a mulligan with no penalty. The disruption should be significant, committed by another competitor (not other) and be agreed upon by 2 or more competitors in the group.
- IV. No equipment or aides are permitted during tournament play