

# BCGA - Tournament Policies

If you plan to participate in a Championship event conducted by the Berks County Golf Association, it is important that you read the following information. It is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations concerning participation in Berks County Golf Association events. Tournament policies of the Berks County Golf Association are summarized herein to answer questions that may arise.

## **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to any organized golf club and golf course located within Berks County. Individuals wishing to join must pay dues for the current year.

## **AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

The use of motorized golf carts is mandatory during all Championships except the Junior Championships. Only participants and their caddies may ride in golf carts. **Spectator carts are at the discretion of the host course.** Walking spectators are always welcomed at Berks County Golf Association Championships. However, you should contact the host course regarding their policy.

## **CLOSE OF COMPETITION**

The competition is deemed to be closed when the player(s) has been presented as the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, all scores have been posted on the Official Scoreboard and approved by the Tournament Rules Committee.

## **COMMENTS - COMPLAINTS - CONCERNS**

Anyone with a comment, complaint, or concern of any kind must be made in writing and submitted to the [info@bcga.com](mailto:info@bcga.com) email address.

## **CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

A player's entry may be withdrawn from the competition at any time (including during the competition) at the discretion of the Berks County Golf Association Tournament Committee and/or Host Club designee for false statement of handicap index, unbecoming conduct, including profanity, club throwing, damaging of golf course property and refusal to comply with dress code. A violation will be considered a serious breach and result in disqualification under Rule 33-7.

## **DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES**

For play in all BCGA events/tournaments, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4-3.

## **DRESS CODE**

Players and caddies of players are required to observe good taste and dress appropriately for the golf course. Items of clothing such as cargo pants and shorts (baggy clothing with large pockets in the knee area), blue jeans, short-shorts (bottom of shorts may be no higher than two inches from the top of the knee), tank tops, etc., are considered inappropriate. Hats must be worn in their "traditional" style (brims to the front). Anyone dressed inappropriately will not be allowed to participate in an Association event. Once play has begun, a verbal warning will be given to the player. If not immediately corrected, the violation will be considered a serious breach and result in disqualification under Rule 33-7.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be a participant in the Berks County Golf Association events, you must be a current dues paying member, in good standing.

## **ENTRY PROCEDURE**

All entries must be done on the BCGA website. The appropriate entry fee shall accompany every entry. All entries must be received on or before the entry closing date. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted. Entries by telephone, fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

## **FAILURE TO RETURN A SCORECARD/NO SHOWS/SUSPENSION PROCEDURE**

When a player fails to return a scorecard, withdraws during play without notifying an official and personally surrendering his scorecard to that official or fails to appear for their assigned time without notifying a Berks County Golf Association Tournament Official and/or the host club, a letter will be sent to the player stating that he has been suspended from all Berks County Golf Association events for a period of one year including the following year's events for which the infraction occurred. The player will be permitted to compete in any event for which his entry has already been accepted. Suspension will then begin with the next scheduled event. The player will be given two weeks to respond to the suspension letter in writing.

## **FOOT WEAR**

Footwear with traditionally-designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic etc.) or spikes, regardless of design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited during the stipulated round. Penalty for breach of this condition: DISQUALIFICATION.

## **GOLF BALLS**

Only brands of golf balls on the most current USGA List of Conforming Balls may be used. Penalty for use of brand not on the approved List: DISQUALIFICATION. The so-called "One-Ball Rule," the optional condition prescribed in appendix I of the Rules of Golf is NOT in effect for any event.

## **GOLF CLUBS**

Golf clubs on the latest USGA Non-Conforming Clubs list will be prohibited. The penalty for use of a non-conforming golf club, or for having one in your golf bag, is DISQUALIFICATION.

## **OVER SUBSCRIPTION OF CHAMPIONSHIPS/QUALIFIERS**

Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis for all events. Entries received after the field is complete will be placed on a waiting list in the order they were received.

## **PACE OF PLAY**

The Berks County Golf Association conducts competitions for the enjoyment of all participants. When play slows to an uncomfortable pace, the enjoyment is lessened for all players. Please refer to the Association's "Pace of Play" policy.

## **PAIRINGS/TIME OF STARTING/OFFICIAL TIME**

The BCGA, following as closely as practical the preferences indicated on the entry forms, will determine pairings and tee times. Contestants will be notified of starting times by email. For Partner events, the individual submitting the entry will be responsible for notifying the Partner of the starting time. Players may also check the Association web site for times. Starting times will be posted on the Association web site prior to the event. The "Official Time" will be maintained at the starting tee(s) and scoring areas only. Starters will not page players in advance of their starting time. Players should report to the tee one starting interval prior to their tee time. The optional note as prescribed in Rule 6-3a of the Rules of Golf IS in effect. All players must be present and ready to play at the time laid down by the Committee

## **PLAYOFF/TIEBREAK PROCEDURE**

Except for the Amateur Championship, in the event of a tie for the Championship there will be a sudden-death playoff immediately following the conclusion of play. In the event of a tie for the Amateur at the conclusion of the final round, a three-hole play-off, followed by 'Sudden Death' will be used to determine a Champion. In determining the final qualifying positions for the Match Play Championship field, all ties will be broken by a sudden-death playoff immediately following the conclusion of play. (Alternates will be decided in the same manner).

## **REMINDER TO PLAYERS**

When a club in the Berks County Golf Association agrees to host one of the Association tournaments, it may be well to remember that the club has gone out of its way to extend its courtesy to you. Hosting a tournament is an inconvenience to the club members, and some expenses are incurred in staffing the club facilities so that you can enjoy the day.

As a contestant, you should remember that you are a guest of the club, and in this latter role you should accept certain responsibilities. Among these are:

- Review your starting time information about the host club.
- Use the club locker for changing clothes and shoes. It is appropriate to offer a reasonable tip to the attendant in recognition of his services.
- Support the Pro Shop at the club for any necessary services. The Professional and his staff are on duty to offer any convenience you may require.
- Players are prohibited from bringing alcoholic beverages on host club property.

The Berks County Golf Association appreciates the cooperation it receives from the many fine clubs that make up its membership. We are fortunate in having the opportunity to conduct our tournaments on quality courses that are beautiful, enjoyable and challenging. These opportunities will continue only if the contestants recognize their individual responsibilities as a guest in supporting the club and its facilities.

## **RULES OF PLAY**

Play is governed by the Rules of the United States Golf Association and, where applicable, by local Notice to Competitors, Conditions and Definitions, subject to change for particular tournaments by the BCGA Tournament Committee. Please refer to the BCGA Rules of Play sheet, located on the Association web site and at each tournament. All questions shall be directed to the BCGA Tournament Committee, whose decision is final.

## **WEATHER PRECAUTION**

Every effort will be made to complete play of Championship/Qualifying rounds. If play cannot be completed, an alternate plan will be announced and posted on the scoreboard. The Tournament Committee may institute a change in the cut and format in order to play the last stipulated round. Championship/Qualifying rounds will NOT be canceled or postponed unless the Golf Course Superintendent or an authorized Official of the Host Club deems the course unplayable for the period in which the Championship/Qualifying round is scheduled. The BCGA Executive Committee has the ONLY authority to cancel an event.

## **WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

Players who have entered a Berks County Golf Association event and find it necessary to withdraw, 8 days or more prior to the event, for any reason, will receive a refund of 95% of their tournament registration fee. A withdrawal 7 days or less prior to the event, for any reason, will result in a refund of 50% of your tournament registration fee. If a player is withdrawing on the day of an event, please call the Host Club's Pro Shop at the number provided on your starting time information.

*Note: All player withdrawals must be done through the BCGA Golf Portal.*