**HCC Men’s League Rules**

**General League Rules:**

* **Dues:** League dues are $50/player/league and $10/sub.
* **Dates:** League Signup, March 28th, Calcutta, April 4th, First week of League, April 18th.
* **League Structure:** There will be 3 leagues – 12PM, 2PM, and 4PM. Each league will consist of an even # of 2 Player teams to avoid ‘Bye’ weeks. Leagues will play for 23 weeks with a handicap tournament played in week 23. 12PM league has priority on tee box from Noon-1:00 for league matches. 2PM has priority from 2:00 to 3:30 for league matches. 4PM has priority from 4:00 to 5:15 for league matches. Players must yield the tee box to respective league players first.
* **League Capacity & League Priority:** 2024 Season Leagues will be capped at 24 teams. Current league players will have priority in their respective league the following year. A signup sheet will be in the pro shop for players to join a waiting list to switch leagues. If there is an opening in a league, then the waiting list priority will be as follows: Current League members and league subs have priority; Current HCC Members not playing in any league or on the sub list second; new members third. Men’s League Director and Committee will fill open slots according to each league’s respective waiting list.
* **Matches:** Team match play scoring using individual handicaps established by league (same since 2016). Blue tees will be used. Players may not use gold tees unless they are 70 or older and have established a handicap for the gold tees. 10 points/9-hole round. (Each individual hole + total)
* **Make-Up Matches:** All matches must be made up within 3 weeks from the original match date.

Exception 1: Week 1 and Week 12 matches get 5 weeks for makeup. Exception 2: All matches must be current by September 2nd. Anything not turned in will be scored 4-4. Both teams must make a reasonable effort to play the match. Un-played matches resulting in a 5-5 split will not be allowed! The make-up deadline may be extended at the discretion of the League Director & Committee if adverse weather or other events do not allow matches to be played. When making up a match, players will use their handicap on the day the match is played, regardless of what is shown on the card. Matches determined by the committee to be taking an unreasonable length of time to be made up will result in a 1pt. penalty split of 4-4 for teams involved.

* **Handicaps:** League players will be assigned 1 handicap based on scores from all league rounds played. New players must submit scores from 3 practice rounds to establish a handicap. Players who have not played the required 3 rounds to establish a handicap will have a temporary handicap entered until a handicap is established. Once handicap has been established, league director will adjust previous rounds to actual handicap and adjust points accordingly. If a player from one league substitutes in another league, that score will be recorded as a non-event score for handicap purposes. Current Handicap is calculated using GHIN rules of the lowest 8 HCC League rounds out of your last 20 played using course slope and rating in the calculation. Equitable scoring rules will apply (0-4 handicaps will not receive higher than a double bogey on any hole, 5-9 handicaps can’t receive higher than a 7, 10-14 can’t receive higher than an 8 and 15-18 can’t receive higher than a 9.) Maximum handicap for league is 25. All make up matches will use current handicap. Write day match was played on scorecard.
* **League Oversight:** The Men’s League Director will be responsible for running league. Duties include but are not limited to: Signing up teams, collection of dues, collection of Calcutta money, entering scores, establishing handicaps, directing the handicap tournament, paying out prize money and answering questions on a daily basis. Men’s league director is also responsible for record keeping of funds with transactions and receipts to be shared with any board member upon request. Annual Calcutta and league sign up to be emailed within 2 weeks after each event. A Men’s League Committee will be established and consist of 9 members + Men’s league director. League Director does not get a vote. League Champions from previous year will fill 6 spots with 3 additional committee members chosen at large. 2024 at large committee members are Eric Westre through 2024, John Morrison through 2025, and John Sleiter through 2026. 2024 Champion committee members are Lloyd Vitzthum, Shawn George, Tim McCarten, Brian Gargano, Curtis Peterson, and Rod Peterson. Men’s league committee will be responsible for resolving disputes regarding matches, rules, handicaps and league priority.
* **2024 Odd Number Team Rules:** 12 PM – Teams will score 6 points when facing “Ghost” team of Woods/Palmer – 2 PM has even # of teams – 4 PM TBD

**Rules of Play:**

USGA Rules of Golf will apply to all rounds with the following HCC Men’s League & Course exceptions:

* **All holes must be played out. No ‘Gimme” putts:**

All players must play their ball from the tee until it is holed. ‘Gimme’ putts will not be allowed. If you pick up your ball on the green for a ‘Gimme” putt, your team will be penalized 1 point. If you allow your opponent to take a ‘Gimmie” putt without question, your team will be penalized 1 point.

*It is up to all league members to police themselves and play within the rules. This is a fun league. I would hope we can all play by the rules without any problems.*

* **‘Roll them Anywhere’** rules will apply. This is defined as follows: Players may roll their ball up to 6 inches to improve their lie with the following exception:

1. Balls in marked hazards or sand bunkers must be played down.

2. Balls on the green.

3. If moving the ball to improve your lie also improves your **LINE, STANCE, or**

 **SWING**the ball must be played down. Example-if your ball comes to rest at

the base of a tree and rolling it improves your shot or under a tree where

 branches affect a player’s swing.

 **Penalty incurred for breaking this rule is a 1 stroke penalty.**

* **Ball Out of Bounds & Lost Ball:** OB is marked by white stakes on holes #1, #2 and #5, Gravel along highway on #3 and #7 and into parking area behind #1 tee, by green and over road behind green on #9.

1.If your ball is lost or out of bounds, you must play another ball from the spot

 where the last shot was played, under penalty of one stroke, i.e., stroke and

 distance.

2. Out of bounds off #1 tee box - Any tee shot hit right of white stakes or red stakes

 off the tee box is out of bounds.

3. You are allowed 5 minutes to search for a ball. If it is not found within 5

 minutes, it is lost.

4. North of holes 3 and 7. The White line going down Hwy 3 closest to the course is OB. Gravel/Weeds are in play. If choosing unplayable lie, play by USGA rules for unplayable lie.

* **Immovable Obstruction &Abnormal Ground Condition:**

1. An immovable obstruction is an artificial object on the course that cannot be

 moved (e.g., a building) or cannot readily be moved (e.g., a firmly embedded

 direction post). Objects defining out of bounds are not treated as obstructions.

2. Abnormal ground condition is casual water, ground under repair or a hole, cast

 or runaway made by a burrowing animal, reptile or a bird.

This rule will apply to cart paths, telephone poles, landscaping around tee boxes and the gazebo on #4. Relief without penalty is available from immovable obstructions and abnormal ground conditions when conditions physically interfere with the lie of the ball, your stance or your swing. You may lift the ball and drop it from knee height within ***one club-length*** of the nearest point of relief, but not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.

* **Ball Unplayable:** If your ball is in a water hazard and you do not wish to play it as it lies, you must proceed under the water hazard rule-the unplayable ball rule does not apply. Elsewhere on the course, if you believe your ball is unplayable, you may, under penalty of one stroke:

**1.** Play a ball from where your last shot was played, or

2. Drop a ball any distance behind the point where the ball lay keeping a straight line between the hole, the point where the ball lay and the spot on which the ball is dropped, or

3. Drop a ball within two club-lengths of where the ball lies not nearer the hole. If your ball is in a bunker, you must proceed as above, except that if you are dropping back on a line or within two club-lengths, you must drop a ball in the bunker.

* **Lateral Water Hazard:** the riverbank on #1 past the OB stakes east of cart sheds is marked with Red stakes and is considered a lateral water hazard. If your ball is in a lateral water hazard you may:

1. Play a ball from where your last shot was played, or

2. Play the ball as it lies from the lateral water hazard without penalty, or

3. **Under penalty of one stroke,** you may drop a ball within two club-lengths of, and not nearer the hole than, the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard.

 ***Dropping ball back in Line of Flight does not apply in this instance. Line of Flight is***

 ***defined as line of flight between point of entry to hazard and the hole. It is***

 ***impossible to follow Line of Flight in this circumstance because it puts the area of***

 ***relief in the river or in Sheldon Park!***

* **Telephone poles and wires on holes #1, #3, #6 and #7:** If a player’s ball hits the pole or wires on #1, #3, #6, #7 or #9 **on the fly** they may choose to play the shot or replay the shot without penalty. If a replay is chosen the player must use the replayed shot.