



## Texas League Play Policies and Procedures

### 1. SPIRIT OF THE GAME

Unlike many sports, golf is played for the most part without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game.

### 2. 2021 SCHEDULE

- Entries Open, January 5<sup>th</sup>
- Entry Deadline – March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Schedule Deadline – March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Regular Season completed by May 9<sup>th</sup>
- Finals June 3 – June 6 2021 at Horseshoe Bay Resort

**3. ENTRY FEE/FORM:** \$550 per team/ A team participating in Texas League Play must submit an official Entry Form to secure a position in the league. A club must submit Payment and submit an entry form at time of entry.

**4. CLUB ELIGIBILITY:** Open to any current TGA member club in good standing meeting the following criteria:

- a. **TYPE 1:** Owns / operates at least one 18 hole golf course measuring at least 6,500 yards. 9-Hole facilities are not eligible for Texas League Play
- b. **COURSE RATING:** Has a current and valid USGA course rating / slope issued by the TGA within last 10 years.
- c. **HANDICAP SYSTEM:** Utilizes the World Handicap System for issuing / maintaining handicaps for members.
- d. **HANDICAP COMPLIANCE:** Has a designated handicap committee in place as required by the TGA membership agreement and the USGA handicap system manual.

**5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:** Open to male amateur golfers and male golf professionals who meet the following criteria:

- a. **CLUB MEMBERSHIP:** Amateur players must be full dues paying active golf members in good standing with the club and appear on the handicap roster by March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.
- b. **GHIN #:** A player must have an *active* GHIN number with an established Low Handicap Index (LHI)
- c. **SCORE HISTORY:** A player must contain at least 20 scores in their GHIN score history, dating back no later than five years of the Close of Entries Date
- d. **PROFESSIONALS:** A member of the club's professional staff who is a full time employee of the club is encouraged to participate. Should the professional decide to play, he will be required to play in the scratch four-ball match. The golf professional must have an active GHIN number to participate. Touring Professionals belonging to a club, are ineligible to participate. A

professional must be receiving a “paycheck” from the club. Teaching Professionals working at the club may not be eligible if they’re only using the club to teach.

Note: Only one professional is eligible to play per match.

- e. AGE: Players and Professional’s must be at least 18 years of age as of the date of the match in which they wish to participate.
- f. COLLEGE PLAYERS: A player that is listed on a College Golf roster, regardless of division, may not represent a club during the season and playoffs.
- g. MAX HANDICAP ALLOWED: Amateur players must have a valid GHIN low handicap index (LHI) no higher than 18.4 to be eligible to play in a match. A player may play if his LHI is higher than 18.4 but he will not receive additional strokes than the maximum 18.4 afforded.
- h. MULTIPLE CLUBS: Should a player be a member of two clubs that are participating in Texas League Play, he is deemed to have played for a club once he puts a ball into play with the club he is playing with. He is not allowed to play for any other club for that season.
- i. PEER REVIEW: The player and the Handicap Committee have joint responsibility for adhering to the two basic premises: each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable score for peer review.

As a part of peer review, the Handicap Committee must make the scoring record of members accessible to all other members for the certification of scores. This may be accomplished through handicap software provided by the club (i.e., mobile app or online application).

**The Side in Breach of Player Eligibility or Rule #15 (Match Format) will forfeit the match and all three points will be awarded to the opposing team.**

## **6. TEAMS:**

- a. NUMBER OF PLAYERS: A team will be comprised of 8 players for each match.
- b. ROSTER: There is no limit to the size of a team’s roster, provided they meet the player eligibility requirements set forth in Rule #5.
- c. NUMBER OF TEAMS PER CLUB: Each Club is permitted to enter one team per course on the facility. However, players are not permitted to play on both teams.

## **7. CONFERENCES / GROUPS**

- a. NUMBER OF TEAMS: Groups will be comprised of 4 teams all representing different clubs.
- b. SELECTION OF TEAMS: Teams will establish their own group by coordinating with other clubs on their own.

## **8. LEAGUE SCHEDULE:**

Clubs will be allowed to set their own schedule once placed into a conference. The TGA will create a template for the conference to use to as a starting place. Dates may be moved from these dates so long as all teams agree. Teams within the conference should establish a “standard” day of the week for the matches to be played and adhere scheduling matches on that day as much as possible. Any deviation from the established requires both clubs consent and must notify the TGA.

All regular season matches can be started once a schedule has been accepted and approved by the TGA and must be completed by May 9<sup>th</sup>. Any matches not played will be recorded as a 6-6 tie. Clubs should make a reasonable effort to complete their matches within the deadline as no matches will take place after the deadline.

In order to fit all matches within the deadline, more than one match may be played during a given week and so long as both teams agree. Matches can begin before the Regular Season Start date so long as each club has paid their entry fee and their scheduled has been agreed upon.

## 9. TEAM CAPTAIN DUTIES

The Team Captains are instrumental in the success of the league. Captains are generally responsible for fielding a team each week and for submitting line ups and posting results. In addition, the team captain should use discretion when choosing players and select those which represent the club in a positive manner.

- a. **MATCH SCHEDULING:** The team captains are responsible for setting the regular season schedule by coordinating with the other team captains within the group then submitting the final schedule to the TGA office for posting on the league play website. The deadline for submitting the group schedule is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- b. **MATCH ARRANGEMENTS:** Team captains must communicate with the other team captains within the group prior to the start of the season to establish the following:
  - If any guest fees will be charged and payment collection method at your club
  - Tee times for matches played at each club (A standard time for all matches is preferred)
  - Acceptable pace of play for each club
  - Caddies (If caddies are required what the fees are and gratuity policy)
  - Tipping policy for outside service staff
  - Acceptable forms of payment (cash, credit card, reciprocal charge) for carts, food and beverage, golf balls, etc.
  - Cell phone policy at your club
- c. **GOLF GENIUS: TEAM MATCHES:** The team captains will be invited to the Team Matches portal by a TGA Representative. A How-To will be provided to each captain to operate the Portal. Captains will need to post their match results IMMEDIATELY after the completion of the club's match. All match results that show on the portal will be FINAL once the next match is played.

## 10. HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. **TEE TIMES:** Host club is responsible for making sure the matches begin at the established time and determining the order of play. The club should communicate the playing order to their opponent ahead of the scheduled match if different than going low to high as listed.
- b. **PAPERWORK:** The Host Club should make the following paperwork to every player on the day of competition: Scorecards with Handicap Strokes, Pairings Sheet, Pace of Play Guidelines and Local Rule Sheet
- c. **SCOREBOARD:** The Host Club must utilize a form of scoreboard or scoring area to identify when matches are considered official. Once matches are considered official, there is to be no adjustment to the outcome of the match, unless there is a breach of player eligibility.
- d. **FOOD AND BEVERAGE:** If your conference has agreed upon providing any F&B post match, these arrangements should be made ahead of time and communicated to all players, so guest know where to go after the round and feel welcome.

## 11. RAIN OUTS

If a match is cancelled due to inclement weather, (either before it has begun or before all matches have completed 9 holes) it is to be re-scheduled. If a make-up date is not available on the schedule, the host club captain is responsible for re-scheduling the match. A re-scheduled match can take place on any day of the week.

As a general rule, if a match is cancelled due to weather, it should be made up as soon as practicable. It is the responsibility of the host team captain to find dates that work with the opposing team captain. Once a date is agreed by both captains, that date is considered to be final. A makeup match may be played on any day of the week. Teams must be willing to sacrifice certain days/times to complete the matches by the deadline.

If a reasonable effort was made by both clubs to find a reschedule date but due to conflicts and allowable time, a match can not be made up before the Regular Season deadline, the match will be scored as a 6-6 tie.

If a club has not closed to their members, the match must be played. A match can only be cancelled if both captains agree or the club is closed. Cart Part Only is not an acceptable reason to cancel a match.

If a match is suspended during play due to deteriorating course conditions or a dangerous situation (lightning), and every match has completed at least 9 holes, the match is considered official, and the team who has earned the most points from all completed matches will be the winner. Decisions to resume or cancel play should be made on site by a committee of three. The two team captains and the host club professional who is on site at the time.

## **12. GUEST / COURSE FEE**

Each club should agree to the same conference-wide standard guest fee amount. Billing / collecting this guest fee amount from the visiting team is the responsibility of the Host club.

## **13. GENERAL RULES OF PLAY**

The USGA & R&A Rules of Golf and the Host Club's Local Rules will govern play.

## **14. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Within 24 hours of the match, substitutions must be communicated directly with the opposing club's captain or golf professional AND submitted in the League Play Module. A substitute must be placed into the correct position within the lineup.

In Accordance with the USGA & R&A's Rules of Golf; Rule 23.4, a side may be represented by one partner for all or any part of match. A partner may join a match between holes but not during play of a hole.

## **15. MATCH FORMAT**

Each player will compete in a four-ball match. The professional will always be designated in the #1 spot and play in the scratch match. Players are listed from lowest handicap index to highest. If two or more players are listed as the same Course Handicap, they may be placed in an order that the captain seems fit.

## **15. TEES**

Matches 1-2 (Players 1A through 2B) will play from the tees which is closest to the target yardage of **6,800 yards**

Matches 3-4 (Players 3A through 4B) will play from the tees closest to the target yardage of **6,500 yards**

In the scratch match, if all four players agree, they may play a yardage greater than 6,800 yards while the rest of the matches play from the required yardages

## **16. SCORING**

One (1) point is awarded for a win on the front 9, one (1) for the back 9, and one (1) for the overall match for a total of three (3) points in each match. A tie is worth a ½ point to each side. There are a total of 12 points available for the overall match. The team to earn 6 ½ or more points is the winner.

The TGA will send the official score sheets to use for the display and of the match results on site. The home team captain is responsible for submitting the match results via the League Play module located on [www.txga.org](http://www.txga.org) League Play web page

Once the results of the match have been posted on the Official Scoreboard or been accepted by a person(s) in the scoring area they are deemed to have been officially announced. All rules disputes must be solved before the results are officially announced. Once a match has been officially announced, there are to be no changes to the outcome of the match, unless there is a breach of player eligibility.

## **17. GROUP WINNERS / TIES**

A club wins their conference or group when they have best overall record in their conference. Points will only matter in regards to playoff seeding and tiebreaking.

If two teams tie for the best record, the tie will be broken by the following order:

1. Head-to-head record
2. Points gained against team they are tied with.
3. Points gained in away matches

If there are three or more teams tied for the best record, the team with most overall points wins the conference. (In the event that two clubs have identical points, those two clubs will use the above mentioned tie-breaking method.)

In the event of a tie after all the above conditions are met, and the opportunity to accumulate points is not equal due to a 18 hole match being condensed to only 9 holes, then the tie should be decided via a playoff if practicable. The playoff would be run similar to that of the League Play Playoffs, i.e. sudden death match played at scratch. The host site of the Playoff will be chosen by lot.

## **18. PLAYOFFS**

Should Texas League Play have 16 conferences or less, all conference winners will be invited to the playoffs. Should we have more than 16 conferences participate, we will use the following steps below to determine which teams will go to the playoffs.

At the completion of registration, the Texas Golf Association will divide the state into Four Regions, West Texas, DFW, Houston and Hill Country (Austin & San Antonio). Each region is guaranteed to have the top four point earners advance to the State Playoffs.

In the event that one of the Four Regions does not have four conference winners, the next conference winner with the highest point total across all four regions will earn an invitation into the playoffs. If the point totals are tied with another Conference Winner across the state, the Playoff Seeding Tiebreaking will determine whom will receive the invitation.

In the event of a rain causing the match to stop once all matches have completed 9 holes and less than the normal amount of points have been earned, the remaining points available will be split evenly among the two clubs.

There will not be a loser bracket set up however, additional playing opportunities at a discounted rate will be made available to teams once eliminated.

Playoff seeds will be determined by the total number of points accumulated. In the event in which the total points are tied, the follow criteria will be used to break the tie:

1. Overall Record
2. Last Three Matches (by date) total points
3. Last Two Matches (by date) total points
4. Last Match Played (by date) total points

A team may use different players for the different playoff matches, provided they have played in at least one regular season conference match.

- League Play Championships to be played June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> at Horseshoe Bay Resort
  - Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Round Matches & Practice Rounds
  - Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> - Quarterfinals
  - Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> - Semi-finals
  - Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> - Finals

## **19. RULES QUESTIONS OR INFRACTIONS**

The TGA Championship department will have the final say in any rules questions should they arise. Questions regarding the rules or match outcome must be called into the TGA prior to the finalizing of any match results. Any rules violations or claims made after the results have been signed off on by both captains.

Any issues regarding player eligibility shall be dealt with in case-by-case basis.

## **20. TGA LEAGUE PLAY WEBSITE**

The league standings of the League will be posted on the TGA League Play Home page for review. [www.txga.org](http://www.txga.org)

## **21. WITHDRAWS**

If a team withdraws anytime after the conference schedule has been set, they will be subject to a one year suspension from TGA League Play and will forfeit their entry fee for that season.

## **22. FORFEITS**

A forfeit shall be scored as a loss to the forfeiting team and a win to the opponent. Forfeits are detrimental to the overall success of the league and are contrary to the spirit of the game. The inability to field a full team of 8 players and, or the lack of interest once a team has been eliminated from advancing to the playoffs are not acceptable reasons to forfeit a match. If a team is granted a forfeited victory, the victorious team will be given a 6.5 to 5.5 victory. Any circumstances causing a forfeit shall be subject to review by the TGA Championship committee for possible suspensions from future participation.