

SMGA Tournament Guidelines:

1. Schedule

Tournaments are held at the Stonebridge Ranch Hills Course, weather permitting, every Wednesday throughout the year except during the two weeks around Christmas and New Years. Tournament play starts at 8:30 am during the summer months (generally mid-May to October) and 9:00 am the remainder of the year. The SMGA tournament schedule and formats will be posted on the SMGA website (www.smgahills.com).

2. Eligibility

Only SMGA members that have paid their dues and have an established USGA handicap are eligible to compete in tournaments. Participation in the annual SMGA Championship Tournament requires that a member participated in at least five weekly and / or interclub tournaments. Consult with the SMGA Tournament Director if you have any questions.

3. Sign-up

- Players should sign-up for tournament play in the green SMGA binder located in the Hills Course Pro Shop by 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to the Wednesday's tournament.
- If you are unable to sign-up in the Pro Shop, you may call or e-mail the SMGA Tournament Director to sign-up. The cut off time is 4:30 pm on Tuesday prior to the Wednesday's tournament.
- Every effort should be made to sign-up in SMGA binder located in the Pro Shop.
- The list of players that have signed up for a Wednesday tournament will be posted Monday evening on the SMGA website under the "Are you signed up?" link.

4. Tournament Fee

Each member's account will be charged a tournament fee of \$5.00 for participation.

5. Cancellation

- If you need to cancel, please follow the same procedures as above.
- However, if you fail to cancel and do not show up for play on Wednesday, your account will be charged the standard tournament fee if your absence affects team play formats. The fee will not be charged if the tournament format is based on individual play.

6. Check In

- On tournament day, every player is required to check in with the Hills Pro Shop staff at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- Failure to check in could result in your spot being filled by an alternate player in team play format. Once an alternate player has been assigned, you will not be able to compete in the tournament.

7. Pace of Play

- Pace of play is important to everyone's enjoyment of the game. The expected pace of play for team formats is 4 hours or less. The expected pace of play for individual play format is 4 ½ hours or less.
- Every effort should be made to adhere to this pace of play. Keep up with the group in front of you.

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8. **Some Key SMGA Local Rules** (See the SMGA By-Laws, Appendix C on the SMGA website (www.smgahills.com) for the official list)
- Putts 18 inches or less are defined as “gimmie’s” for Wednesday tournaments only. Gimmie putts must be measured to be 18 inches or less to any part of the ball. It is recommended that you place a mark on your putter at 18 inches for measuring.
 - A drop area has been established on Hole 24 as an additional relief option for a ball hit into the lateral water hazard. The drop area is located on the fairway side of the lateral hazard at the Gold tee box. If your tee shot on Hole 24 ends up in the hazard, you may, under penalty of one stroke, drop a ball in the drop area, and play on.
 - We also have the normal local rules to permit distance measuring devices, remove stones from bunkers, relief from fire ant mounds, exposed bunker liners, maintenance fans, etc.
 - Preferred Lies when played is defined as a ball lying on a fairway or rough (but not in a marked hazard or sand trap) that may be lifted and cleaned, without penalty, and placed within one club grip-length of where it originally lay, not nearer the hole, and so as to preserve the same turf conditions (ball in fairway, stays in fairway; ball in rough, stays in rough).

9. **Gold Tee Program (Optional for eligible players)**

All members generally play from the White Tee box during tournament play. Members that are age 72+ with a handicap index of 18 or greater for the current month are eligible to play from the Gold Tee box. Participation is optional and eligibility can vary from month to month depending on the individual player. The course handicap of those players playing from the Gold Tees is adjusted based on course rating & slope. In addition, the handicap for the remainder of the field playing from the White Tees is also adjusted in accordance with USGA recommendations for mix tee play. The handicap adjustments will even out any difference that might exist between the Gold and White tees.

Each eligible member will be contacted prior to the first tournament of the month for their decision to participate or not. A player must declare that he will be playing from the gold tees prior to the first tournament of the month and must play from the gold tees during SMGA Wednesday tournament for the entire month

10. **Closest to the Pin (CTP) (Optional)**

Closest to the pin competition will be played on every par 3 hole at each SMGA tournament. Participation is optional. Sign up for the CTP will be in the Men’s Grille Room starting approximately one hour prior to the tournament start time. The CTP entry fee is \$2.

11. **Hole-in-One Club (Optional)**

A Hole-in-One Club is available to the SMGA membership. Members are encouraged to join the Hole-in-One Club. Dues are \$5. Any Hole-in-One Club member making a hole-in-one during a weekly SMGA tournament, SMGA interclub tournament at home or away, SMGA Match Play Tournament or SMGA Championship Tournament will be awarded all dues collected. Should multiple hole-in-ones occur on the same day, the award will be shared equally by the players scoring a hole-in-one.

Reviewed and approved by the 2009 / 2010 SMGA Executive Committee