



WSWGC STANDING RULES

1. GENERAL:

- a. Standing Rules, Constitution and By-Laws shall be readily available to all members. They shall be posted in the women's locker room and on the WSWGC website.
- b. Membership in the Greater Seattle Women's Public Golf Association (GSWPGA) will be paid by the WSWGC which may include Team membership.
- c. Membership in the Washington State Women's Public Links Association (WSWPLA) will be paid by the WSWGC.
- d. The WSWGC will give no gifts or donations except as required for GSWPGA and WSWPLA.
- e. The Low Net Award shall be awarded at the end of the year to the member with the lowest net score of the year. To be eligible for low net, a member must have a permanent handicap and be entered in the regular weekly competition at West Seattle a minimum of 5 times during the weekly competition season.
- f. Each WSWGC Officer, Committee Chair and Representative shall maintain records of actions/duties performed during their tenure to provide continuity.

2. HANDICAPS:

- a. The WSWGC shall belong to the USGA GHIN system, and the assessment for that system will be included as part of the membership dues.
- b. WSWGC member handicaps are figured by the USGA GHIN System according to their formula and criteria.
- c. WSWGC members must maintain a current USGA GHIN Handicap by posting all scores played with the exception that the Handicap Chair will post all major WSWGC tournament scores.
- d. A prospective member must pay her dues before posting her scores to establish her handicap. Once dues have been paid, prior scores may be used to establish handicap.
- e. As determined by the USGA GHIN system, the Most Improved Golfer Award will be given to the member with the highest Improvement Factor from March 1 to October 31 of the current year.
- f. The maximum handicap allowed in WSWGC competitions is a 40.4 index.

3. COMPETITIONS:

Definitions:

“Weekly competition” – Weekly games scheduled through the season. The weekly competition schedule is generally pre-set, and winners posted monthly in the Women’s locker room and on Sign-up Genius. Based on course conditions, the Start and End date of the weekly competition for each golf season will be determined by the Captain and Weekly Competition Chair.

“Special competition” – Competitions outside of weekly competition that are typically over a defined period of time. An example would be Match Play competitions over several months.

“Tournaments” – Monthly competitions associated as tournaments, such as the annual “Kick-Off” tournament or Club Championship.

General Competition Rules:

Prior to the start of the season, the WSWGC Board will evaluate, revise and publish “Weekly Competition Rules” for the new season. The following general rules apply to all tournaments and weekly competitions:

- a. Members must have a current GHIN handicap.
- b. A player must finish 18 holes to be eligible for competition prize money.
- c. Prize money from all competitions and any other awards will be put into each member’s account at the West Seattle Pro Shop in the form of credit on the Pro Shop “books”.
- d. A member must have her competition sheet attested by a West Seattle Women’s Golf Club member or West Seattle Golf Club member.
- e. To be eligible to enter the Club Championship, a member must have an established USGA handicap, have joined the club prior to July 1 of the current year and have competed in at least five (5) WSWGC competitions which include weekly competition, special competitions and tournaments.
- f. Competition formats and divisions will vary and are set by the Weekly Competition Chair and Tournament Chair.
- g. Annually, the WSWGC Board will determine the competition payout amounts in keeping with budget requirements.

4. USGA RULES:

Rules of Golf as established by the USGA shall govern all play (allowed exceptions to playing by USGA rules are listed below in the #5 Local Rules section).

5. LOCAL RULES:

To assist in maintaining an appropriate pace of play, local rules may be utilized at the player's discretion. The following WSWGC Local Rules may only be utilized at the West Seattle Golf Course when participating in WSWGC events to include weekly competition or tournament play (except for the Club Championship when USGA rules will apply):

- a. **Winter Rules (Preferred Lies):** When declared in effect by the WSWGC Captain or her designee, in consultation with West Seattle Head Pro or his designee, player may mark, lift, clean and replace her ball within 6 inches, no closer to the hole, and within same cut of grass in the General Area. General Area is defined as "the whole area of the course except bunkers and penalty areas on the course".
- b. **Maximum of 10 Strokes:** Members must pick up and record "10x" on their weekly competition sheet or during monthly tournament play once they have reached 10 strokes on any one hole.
- c. **Gully Holes:** If a player hits a shot into the gully (Penalty Area) on holes 3, 7, 12 or 13, in addition to the options for relief under USGA Rule 17.1.d, the player may take a drop under **penalty of one stroke** at the designated dropping zone and is now hitting 3. Dropping zones are:
 - Hole 3 - below the bunker to the left of the green, where the temporary green is usually placed, may not re-tee
 - Hole 7 – on the most forward tee box, may not re-tee
 - Hole 12 – on the most forward tee box, may not re-tee
 - Hole 13 – on the most forward tee box, may not re-tee
- d. **Ball in Extremely Muddy Areas Lost or Plugged:** When "winter rules" are in effect and extremely muddy conditions on the course interferes with pleasant and fair play, the following rule shall be in effect: If it is known or virtually certain that a ball not found is completely covered by mud in an extremely muddy area such that it cannot be seen by the player and her fellow competitors after a thorough search, that area is deemed Ground Under Repair and the player may take free relief pursuant to USGA Rule 16.1. The player, together with her fellow competitors, must first determine where the ball last crossed the outer most limits of the extremely muddy area and the ball is deemed to lie at that spot. The player may then drop a substituted ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief from that spot, no nearer to the hole. **No Penalty stroke** will be awarded.
- e. **Ball Lost in Area Covered by Fallen Leaves:** During the Fall/Winter months when there are areas covered with leaves and a player cannot find a ball that landed in the leaves, she may take relief as follows: If it is known or a preponderance of the players in the group are virtually certain that a ball not found is completely covered by leaves such that it cannot be seen by the player and her fellow competitors after a thorough search, that area is deemed Ground Under Repair and the player may take free relief pursuant to USGA Rule. 16.1. The player, together with her fellow competitors, must first determine where the ball last

crossed the outer most limits of the area and the ball is deemed to lie at that spot. The player may then drop a substituted ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief from that spot, no nearer to the hole. **No Penalty stroke** will be awarded. This Local Rule **shall not be utilized** under the following conditions:

- The ball hit a tree/tree limb and it is not certain where the ball landed.
- The ball landed in any part of the course that is not covered in leaves and the player cannot find the ball.
- The ball landed on a cart path and it is not certain where the ball finally landed.
- Under the conditions above, the player must declare the ball lost and proceed in accordance with the lost ball rule as described below.

f. **Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost or Ball Out of Bounds:** If a player knows or is virtually certain a ball was hit out of bounds or into a general area where it mostly likely will not be found, **a player should hit a provisional ball**. If a provisional ball has inadvertently not been played and a member's ball is then deemed to be **lost** in the general area, or **out of bounds**, instead of following the stroke and distance rule (which requires returning to the previous point of play), for **2 PENALTY STROKES** a player may drop a ball in the fairway, within two club lengths on the closest edge of the fairway, equidistant to where you think the ball to be lost or OB, **no closer to the hole**. This Local Rule **shall not be utilized** under the following conditions:

- The ball is declared **unplayable**.
- The ball is known or virtually certain to be in a **penalty area**.

g. **Immovable Obstructions (IO) Close to Putting Greens:** Relief from interference from an IO may be taken under Rule 16.1. Under this local rule, the player has an **extra option** to take relief when such IO's (i.e., drains, sprinkler heads) are on or close to the **putting green**. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b (drop within 1 club length of nearest point of complete relief) if an immovable obstruction is:

- On the *line of play*, and
- On or within *two club-lengths* of the putting green, and
- Within *two club-lengths* of the ball.

But complete relief must be taken, which includes both physical and line of play interference.

No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.