



The West Seattle Women's Golf Club 2026 season is right around the corner so it's time for the first Newsletter!

Margaret Smith here, WSWG Captain for 2026. **Welcome** to all our new and returning members – over 113 members strong!

Leadership Team for 2026: Margaret Smith – Captain; Sheri Redford – Treasurer; Becky Pierce – Secretary; Wendy Gapp – Assistant Captain, Website, Tournament Committee and Weekly Competition Committee (WCC); Sachie Nitta – Tournament Chair and Weekly Competition Committee (WCC); Diane Lasko – Handicap; Roma Rowland – WaGolf Rep; Tina Winn – Social; Lindy Gaylord – GSWPGA Rep; Jane Sogge – Sign Up; Nicole Stone – GSWPGA Team Captain; Roberta Post – New Members; Ruthie Winter – Sunshine;

Weekly Competition opens the first week of March on Tuesday March 3rd and the following Saturday March 7th. We play the same competition twice every week on a Tuesday and the following Saturday. The season continues through the end of October. It's a friendly and fun competition and the game of the week varies. The schedule is posted in the locker room and on our website – [Tuesday/Saturday League Play – West Seattle Women's Golf Club](#). Every week it will be written on the white board in the locker room too. Remember – to be eligible to win book money you must post your score on the day of play.

Tournaments are scheduled for once a month on a Tuesday. The following Saturday will also be a Tournament Day, but not necessarily the same format and it will have a separate entry fee. You can play in both Tournaments that week and win prizes in both. In August we have our two-day Club Championship – this year on Monday and Tuesday, August 3rd and 4th. This will not conflict with any WaGolf or GSWPGA tournaments. The schedule is posted in the locker room and on our website.

Rules of Golf, Pace of Play and Posting your Score – Throughout our club's long history we always play weekly and tournament competitions under the USGA Rules of Golf. We also require members to maintain a brisk pace of play and post your score on the day we play. What does this mean?

- We expect everyone to do their very best to play by the **Rules** (no mulligans or do overs, play your ball as it lies and don't touch it or improve your lie, know how to take free relief for things like cart path interference and penalty relief for a red penalty area, lost ball and out of bounds) and accurately count all of your strokes and any penalty strokes. If you need help – just ask another player in your group. *Also, it's really easy to forget a bad shot so please be kind and don't take offense if a playing partner asks you to recount your strokes. Same for incurring and counting a penalty stroke.* Your playing partner is expected to do just that – it's called "protecting the field" and it's the lynch pin for maintaining fairness and an even playing field.
- Because we play a round simultaneously with others, we need to keep up a good pace so the groups behind us do not have to wait. **The expected pace is NO MORE than 4.5 hours for 18 holes, or an average of 15 minutes a hole.** If you maintain situational awareness of time, it's totally doable. But it

does require you to pay attention and play faster if you lose sight of the group in front of you or if you are averaging more than 15 minutes per hole.

- As for **posting** – your Handicap Index (H.I.) is accurate only if you post all of your scores. The system is based on that assumption. Note – your H.I. is NOT an indication of your average score. It's an indication of your **potential** to shoot a low score. The H.I. is a measurement of your 8 lowest scores in your last 20 rounds, averaged, and then reduced by 4%. The experts say you should play to your H.I. or better only once every 4 rounds or 25% of the time. Now that handicaps are updated daily, you need to post your score on the day of play to ensure the new handicap coming out the next day is accurate.

Weekly Competition

Last year the West Seattle Golf Club (WGGC) purchased a yearly subscription to the Premium Golf Genius Electronic Online Real Time Scoring Program. The WSGC has close to 2000 members and is commonly (mis)referred to as “the Men’s Club” even though it’s “A Club For Everyone”, both women and men are welcome to join and participate in their Tournaments. The WSGC graciously shared the Premium Golf Genius program with our women’s club at no cost to us. It’s an expensive program – over \$4000.00 a year. For 2026, the WSGC purchased a different electronic online scoring program at a better price point. It’s called “Live Tourney” and they are sharing the program with us this year too. However, at last Board meeting on Jan 13th, the WCC recommended we hold off for now and instead use the free version of Golf Genius until we know more about Live Tourney and how it works. (The USGA and WaGolf share the free Golf Genius program with every club). Because it’s not supported by the free version, for us this means **no more electronic online scoring in real time using a GGID and your smart phone**. Instead, you’ll be keeping a paper scorecard, as detailed below.

Weekly Competition (Weekly Comp) Procedures:

1. Choose your Tees:
 - You can play from any Tees: Gold, Purple, Green, or White (or Blue or Black if you so desire). Last year, we removed using Tee Divisions and went to using Flights only. Which means all players will be flighted based on Handicap. The number of Flights will depend on the number of players. Everyone is competing in their flight based on their NET score to win money on the pro shop books to spend as you please.
 - The player who shoots the Lowest GROSS score of anyone in the field who plays that week also wins book money
2. Scorecard Instructions:
 - Use the regular West Seattle Golf Course scorecard.
 - Print your **First** and **Last** name clearly on the first line and record your gross hole-by-hole scores. (It’s important to add your last name. We have a large club with multiple members with the same first name.)
 - On the second line, print which tees you played (Purple, Gold, Green, or White).
 - On another line, print the name of the player whose score you are keeping, the Tee they are playing and record their gross hole-by-hole scores.
3. Reconcile and Certify Scores:
 - At the end of the round, reconcile your scorecard with the player whose score you are keeping.
 - Both players should review each other's scores to ensure accuracy.

- Once reconciled, ask the other player to sign your card as "Scorer" and you attest your score by signing in "Attest" box. Do the same for the other player – you sign their scorecard as their Scorer and they sign to Attest their score.
4. Submit Scorecards:
 - Double-check that the numbers in each box, the name and the date are legible.
 - Drop your scorecard into the box in the locker room. Each player must turn in an individual signed and attested scorecard.
 5. Post Your Score to GHIN the Same Day:
 - Before dropping off your scorecard, either take a photo or make a copy of your scores so you remember it when you post.
 - To be eligible to win any book money for weekly comp, you must post your scores to the GHIN app or GHIN.com by midnight of the day of play.
 6. Weekly Competition Committee (WCC) Takes it From There:
 - The WCC will collect the scorecards and manually enter your hole by hole into the Golf Genius software.
 - The WCC will have already programmed Golf Genius for the "game of the day". The GG software will do all the math and figuring for us.
 - Winners and their prizes will be announced quickly.

New for 2026 - While all members are welcome to play on both weekly comp days – Tuesday and the following Saturday – if you do, the scorecard from the Tuesday round will be the one that counts for weekly comp. At the Jan 13th Board Meeting, the Board voted to make this change on the theory it is fairer to allow everyone one chance and one chance only per week to compete for a prize.

Monthly Tournaments – Stay tuned as we're still sorting out whether we'll give Live Tourney a try. If not, it will be just like the weekly comp procedures, i.e. paper scorecard only and the Tournament Committee will manually enter your hole by hole scores in to Golf Genius

Sign Ups for Weekly Comps and Monthly Tournaments:

- It's the same as last year. We use an online program called Sign Up Genius. You'll receive an email from our club with a link to sign up. For weekly comp, you can sign yourself up and one other player. It is best practice to set up a Sign Up Genius login so you can manage your own sign up.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do your best to NOT leave gaps in our tee sheet. If an open slot remains, your tee time could be moved earlier or later preserving a contiguous block of tee times around our 10:00 AM Super Senior slots. If your tee time changes, you will be notified by email.
- Signups display a week at a time and will automatically roll into a new week. If you see LOCKED or FULL on the signup, management of the Tee Sheet has been turned over to the Pro Shop. You must contact the Pro Shop directly at 206-935-5187 to make any modifications (adds, changes, cancellations).

Intra Club Match Play Tournament – Last year Kim Depew kicked this off for our club and we're going to do it again this year. Susan Eastern and Margaret Smith are working together to create the timing and Tournament procedures. Stay tuned to get an email from them with this information and an invitation to sign up.

GSWPGA:

- As a member of WSWG you are eligible to golf with the “Greater Seattle Women’s Golf Association” – GSWPGA. They have several tournaments and a yearly Championship. Their website is www.gswpga.com. Check it out. Lindy Gaylord is our Club Representative to the GSWPGA and she coordinates the Tournament sign ups and payments. If you have questions, Lindy’s contact info is lindyblissgaylord@gmail.com and 206-910 9142.
- The GSWPGA also oversees the Team match play competitions between various Seattle area women’s golf clubs. Nicole Stone is our Team Captain and she will send out an email with more information in the coming months. Matches usually start in April and finish by October. For any questions contact Nicole at 206-334 1808.

Hole in One Pot – At our End of the Year Awards/Holiday Party/Annual Meeting in December 2026, Wendy Gapp volunteered to get this up and running and currently 31 members have signed up and paid the \$5.00 entry. Members have until the season starts on 3/3 to join by contacting Wendy and making arrangements for payment. To win the pot, the hole in one must happen during WSWG play on a Tuesday, Saturday, or any club Tournament play. Wendy’s contact info: wensydue@gmail.com and 206-307 4013.

End of the Year Awards/Holiday Party/Annual Meeting – We received a lot of positive feedback for having the end of the year awards in early December this past year and having a Holiday Party and Annual Meeting at the same time. The Board decided we should do that again this year. The target date is Saturday December 5, 2026 for this fun and lively gathering. Please save the date.

Gone but not Forgotten – Long time pro shop employee and West Seattle Golf Club member, Stu Tolkinen, passed away unexpectedly in January. He worked on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the pro shop and helped check us in. Stu was a good guy and well liked. I suggested it and the Board agreed we should donate \$100.00 to his memorial. Farewell to Stu.

Thank You and Shout Outs:

- Thank you to our Treasurer for the past six years - Shari Lewis. She did a fantastic job and we’re lucky to have her. Shari was also club Captain for two years back in 2020 and 2021, and is now mentoring our new Treasurer, Sheri Redford too. Shari is also really fun to golf and hang with. So, thanks Shari for everything you do for our club.
- Thanks to all the workers in the Pro Shop and in the Café and Bar. We very much appreciate their help in getting us on the course and in enjoying our post round food and drink.
- Thank you to our Head Golf Professional Colin Gants and Luke Nevin, Assistant Golf Professional and Tournament Coordinator – they work with us in scheduling and supporting our Tournaments and in general they support our club in all we do.
- Thanks also to the West Seattle Golf Club – the big club – for generously sharing their access to the Live Tourney program.
- Finally, thank you to the current Board members for all you do for our club. ***The Next Board Meeting to finalize the budget is February 20th at 2 pm in the locker room. Everyone is welcome to attend.***

That’s it for now. Feel free to contact me with any issues, concerns, ideas, a good joke or even an invite to coffee or for a beer. My contact info is smith.mm41@gmail.com and 206-605 6084. See you at the golf course. Margaret Smith