

WGAWP: What Is New for 2016

Every season the WGAWP Board evaluates issues that have surfaced and introduces changes that are appropriate to support our mission. The following document summarizes what is new for 2016:

MEMBER CLUBS:

- Addition of Southpointe Golf Club.
- Loss of Rolling Hills, Lone Pine, and Shadow Lakes.

GENERAL PROCEDURES:

- **Application Processing:** Allow ten working days for processing of applications.
- **Slow Play Policy:** The slow play policy has been extended with a new process that applies for our Individual Stroke Play events with Tee Times. This policy is fair to the participants and practical for our volunteer staffing and will be applied consistently. This Slow Play extension, listed below, is included under Tournament Rules, Point 3.
 - For all individual stroke play tournaments with tee times, the WGAWP posts Pace of Play for the event and monitors start and end times for the group. The end of round is established when the flag is replaced back in the hole on #18. Groups that exceed the established pace by more than 15 minutes and are more than 15 minutes behind the group in front of them, are issued Slow Play warning letters. Any member who receives two slow play warning letters within a 24 month time frame is placed in the Slow Play Restriction List which places her at the end of the field in all Tee Time Tournaments and disqualifies her from A Open Days. The "Slow Play Restriction" is lifted after 24 months of not receiving a Slow Play warning letter.
- **Withdrawal Policy:** Previously players could only elect to withdraw from a tournament due illness or injury. In recognition of our new Slow Play policy, players may now elect to withdraw as a courtesy to fellow competitors with limits as defined under Tournament Rules, Scoring and Winners, Point 4.
 - Members are strongly encouraged to complete all scheduled rounds of a tournament. A player may elect to withdraw from the competition if she becomes ill or injured during play or in the interest of pace of play and courtesy to her fellow competitor(s) after recording excessive scores on one or more holes determines she is out of the competition. A member who decides to withdraw must announce it to her fellow competitor(s) and immediately stop play. If needed, she acts as a non-playing marker. Withdrawals from tournaments are recorded and monitored. Members who elect withdrawal on multiple occasions may be ruled ineligible for subsequent events at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- **Cell Phone Usage:** In recognition of the benefits and wide-spread use of the technology, a new cell phone policy is instituted. It continues to prohibit use of phones for voice communications, but permits texting and limited internet usage if allowed by the host club. This is specified under Tournament Rules, General, Point 4.
 - As long as they are permitted by the host club, cell phones may be used on the course for distance measuring, for USGA rules, for appropriate internet related information (i.e. weather), and for texting. Emergency information can be communicated via texts. The Tournament Committee may elect to communicate instructions to the field via texts (particularly related to weather delays). Cell phones are to be silenced and cannot be used for incoming or outgoing calls.
- **Open Days:** Criteria for specifying "A" and "B" Open Days have been established and defined under Open Days, Point 5.

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- The WGAWP reserves the right to designate Open Days as an “A” or “B” Open Day. The decision to assign the “A” or “B” designation will be made by the Board upon recommendation of the Open Day Chair, after a review of participation levels at consecutive Open Days over a two-year period. When participation levels over that time period are consistently below 10 foursomes, without good cause, the Open Day will be designated as a “B” Open Day.

TOURNAMENTS:

- **Championship - Ties for Championship Flight:** Ties for any position are resolved by a playoff immediately following the qualifying round. Players not available for the playoff forfeit that position. If all players tied for a position forfeit, the position is resolved through a blind draw.
- **Championship - Other Flights:** Participants not qualifying for the Championship flight are flighted by handicap and seeded by their qualifying round gross score. Ties for all positions are resolved through a blind draw.
- **Spring 2 Day:** Winner to be awarded a Medallion. Ties for first place to be resolved by a playoff. To assure competitive field, the 10 lowest handicap entries are included.
- **Seniors'/Super Seniors':** Super Seniors' age defined now as 65 (previously 60).
- **Buck Cup:** One section of the event changes to Chapman format rather than Modified Alternate Shot. No longer have requirement that partners be from the same club.
- **Curley/Semple:** No longer medallion events.
- **Triple Sixes / Best 2 of 4:** Limiting field to 100 players to help with pace of play and relinquishing course back for member access.

WEBSITE:

- **New Tab – Clubs:** Provides information on our Member Clubs. Must be logged in with your user id to view most sections. Includes Club Roster with links to individual club websites; Contact Info, Course Ratings that includes women's ratings for all tees on the courses; and Course Information Documents that provide WGAWP local rules for the clubs.
- **Membership:** 2016 Membership roster allows selection of a specific club and allows viewing details of member information.
- **Tournament:** Look for a new page “At a Glance” under the Tournament Tab. Print this document for a quick reference of the WGAWP Season.

WEST PENN COLLABOATION:

- **Permanent Office Space:** WGAWP to have permanent office space and address at the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association facilities.

YEARBOOK:

- Rewrite and reorganization of the “Responsibilities of Members” and “Tournament Rules” sections for clarity and conciseness.
- Eliminate “USGA Course Rating” page as more extensive and current ratings available on the website.
- New “Events at a Glance” page that consolidates Open Day schedule with the Tournament Schedule.