

EBG

Members Handbook

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Approved by EBG Executive Committee

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1. Introduction

The EBG Handbook is the club's official reference document, providing clear guidelines on the topics that matter most to our members. It is reviewed and updated annually through the collaborative efforts of the Executive Committee, Tournament Committee, and Handicap Committee. Members are encouraged to consult this handbook whenever questions arise regarding membership, tournaments, scoring, player rankings, prizes, score posting, local rules, or golf etiquette.

2. Membership Guidelines

When individuals request to join EBG, they go through an eligibility review. The Executive Committee conducts the vetting process, taking into account factors such as level of interest, knowledge and passion for golf, commitment to playing 10 or more tournaments per year, geographical barriers to active participation, current handicap, and interest in improvement.

EBG is a family and hosts group activities involving significant others and children several times throughout the year. Club chemistry, like-mindedness, and inclusiveness are therefore taken into account during the membership review. After the Executive Committee deems an individual eligible, they are offered one of two pathways:

- a. **Courtesy Membership:** Allowing the broader EBG membership an opportunity to play with and get to know them.
- b. **Regular Membership:** If the applicant is already known to the greater EBG membership socially or through play in other golf clubs in the Bay Area circuit.

2.1 Regular Members

EBG was founded on, and remains grounded in, the principles of friendship. Membership comes with both privileges and responsibilities. All EBG members are expected to participate in club meetings, provide candid feedback, respect differences of opinion, and conduct themselves with professionalism among fellow members. The following are regular membership requirements:

- a. Each member must pay annual membership dues, which include the NCGA membership fee. This applies to all members, including those who hold membership in more than one golf club. No discount is provided for dual club membership.
- b. New NCGA members will be charged an additional initiation fee as determined by NCGA.
- c. Members who join or rejoin EBG between January 1 and June 30 will pay the full annual membership dues. Those joining between July 1 and December 31 will pay half of the annual dues. In either case, full NCGA membership and initiation fees apply, as NCGA does not prorate these fees.
- d. Regular members are expected to participate in EBG sponsored tournaments and outings on a consistent basis. If sustained participation is not possible due to health, employment, business, family, or any other reason, members may choose to leave the club without being required to pay annual dues. Members who leave in good standing retain the right to return within one year without undergoing any additional review or approval. Upon leaving, members will be removed from all club communication channels, including the email distribution list and WhatsApp groups (EBG Announcements, EBG Golf, Weekday Golf, and Weekend Golf). Returning members are not eligible for courtesy membership status. Any reinstatement after one year must follow the standard new member application process.
- e. EBG recognizes that some members hold membership in more than one golf club. Members are free to play out of any club of their choosing, including in inter-club tournaments against EBG. That said, we are confident the smart ones will always pick the winning side.
- f. Each member will have the opportunity to declare EBG as their **Home Club** at the time of joining, during annual renewal, or shortly thereafter. Members who designate EBG as their Home Club will be considered Home Club Members. All others will be classified as Non-Home Club Members.

Home Club Members: All Home Club members shall have the following rights, entitlements and obligations as long as they remain Home Club members.

- a. Right to vote for amendments to the EBG Constitution and By-Laws and Executive Committee. Entitled to run for the Executive Committee. Home Club members will constitute the entire electorate of EBG for said matters irrespective of the number of Home Club members.
- b. Represent EBG in the tournaments between EBG and other clubs and keep EBG interest ahead of their other club associations, barring which they will be deemed as non-Home Club members. Home Club members who earn a

governing position of another club will waive their right to vote and contest for EBG Executive Committee for the duration of their governance due to conflict of interest.

Non-Home Club Members: All non-Home Club members shall continue to be eligible for: representing EBG in inter-club, NCGA/USGA or other tournaments, voting on matters other than those listed above under “Home Club members (a)”, all perks, privileges, nominated committees, tournaments, outings, trophies, awards, prizes, social events, parties, celebrations, website access and chat groups etc.

2.2 Courtesy Members

Courtesy membership is designed to give both parties the opportunity to evaluate whether a long-term, mutually rewarding association is the right fit. The following guidelines establish clear expectations for all courtesy members:

- a. EBG membership, both courtesy and regular, is open to all eligible golfers, without regard to religion, national origin, ethnic background, or any other characteristic protected by law.
- b. Courtesy membership is intended exclusively for new applicants. Regular members who allow their membership to lapse, for any reason, are not eligible for courtesy membership status upon rejoining. Courtesy membership is not guaranteed to all applicants.
- c. Courtesy members are expected to participate in both EBG tournaments and casual rounds. This participation is essential for becoming familiar with the club's standards and expectations, including scheduling, course logistics, pace of play, golf etiquette, and scoring procedures.
- d. Courtesy members are **not** eligible to compete for positions, points, or ranking in EBG tournaments.
- e. Courtesy members do **not** hold voting rights.
- f. Courtesy members are **not** eligible to serve on any EBG committee.
- g. Courtesy members are **not** subject to annual EBG membership dues unless and until they are granted regular membership.
- h. Courtesy members **are** eligible to represent EBG in inter-club tournaments.
- i. Courtesy members are responsible for all costs associated with their participation, including tournament and round fees, carpool contributions, post-round meals, social gatherings, and any other expenses shared among EBG members.
- j. Courtesy members will be added to the club's email distribution list and WhatsApp groups (EBG Announcements, EBG Golf, Weekday Golf, and Weekend Golf). Members may opt out of any or all communications at any time. Upon **non-conversion** to regular membership, courtesy members will be removed from all club communication channels.
- k. Courtesy members are strongly encouraged to obtain an NCGA Handicap Index prior to joining EBG, though no specific index is required. That said, courtesy members are expected to have sufficient experience to occasionally break 100 under the Rules of Golf and within the context of EBG tournament play.
- l. Courtesy members are expected to submit scorecards from all rounds played, whether with EBG members or otherwise, to the Executive Committee and/or Handicap Committee.
- m. To be considered for full EBG membership, a courtesy member must achieve a minimum Handicap Index of 27.0 across at least five EBG tournaments. Prior to making a final decision, the EC may, directly or through designated volunteers, seek input from existing regular members.
- n. An EC decision to grant regular membership takes effect immediately. Newly admitted members will be required to pay annual dues, upon which they will receive full voting rights and tournament eligibility.
- o. An EC decision to decline regular membership will be communicated to the courtesy member, along with a clear and reasonable explanation.
- p. A declined application is not a permanent disqualification. Applicants are welcome to reapply whenever they feel ready to do so.

3. Tournaments

Refer to the EBG Events Calendar on the EBG website for a complete list of tournaments and formats.

3.1 Handicaps

- a. Handicap Index is capped at 36.0 per USGA and EBG guidelines.
- b. Every new member is encouraged to complete a minimum of 5 rounds before their first tournament of the calendar year to establish an NCGA handicap and become eligible for the EBG ranking system.
- c. The handicap used for a tournament will be drawn from within one week prior to the tournament date.

3.2 Flights

- a. EBG tournaments will have two flights: Movers and Shakers.

3.3 Tees

- a. EBG default tees are WHITE tees.
- b. Players in the Movers flight only have the option to play from the blue tees. A request for blue tees must be made at the time of registration.

3.4 Scoring, Prizes, and Year-End Ranking

- a. Scorecards: The paper scorecard is the official scorecard for EBG tournaments. See Section 4: Scorekeeping for detailed information.
- b. All EBG stroke play tournaments will be scored based on the USGA Net-to-Par calculation, in which a player's gross score is adjusted based on their course handicap and stroke allocation.
- c. Each Major tournament winner will be awarded a trophy. In addition to the overall winner, recipients of Closest to the Pin (CTP) and Longest Drive (LD) awards will be recognized.
- d. At year end, the Player of the Year (POY) and other awards, as determined by the EC, will be presented at the EBG Annual Dinner.

3.5 Tie-breaker Process

Applicable to all EBG stroke play tournaments. The recommended USGA tie-breaker method for stroke play is matching scorecards, starting with the best net score on the back nine (holes 10–18). If a tie remains, it is resolved by progressively shorter segments of the round. The USGA tie-breaker method will be applied in BlueGolf to determine final positions.

Tie-Breaker Sequence (Scorecard Matching)

- a. Last 9 holes (holes 10–18)
- b. Last 6 holes (holes 13–18)
- c. Last 3 holes (holes 16–18)
- d. 18th hole only
- e. If still tied, repeat the 9–6–3–1 sequence using the first 9 holes (holes 1–9), or use a coin toss.
- f. Shotgun Start: If a shotgun start was used, the “last nine” are always considered holes 10–18, regardless of which hole a player started on.
- g. **Net Competitions** — Handicap Deduction: When applying this method to net scores, a proportional portion of the Playing Handicap (PH) must be deducted: $\frac{1}{2}$ of PH for 9 holes, $\frac{1}{3}$ of PH for 6 holes, and $\frac{1}{6}$ of PH for 3 holes. Round to the nearest whole number.

Worked Example

Step 1: Compare last 9 holes (holes 10–18)

Player	Gross (holes 10–18)	½ PH Deduction	Net Score / Result
Player A	48	13	35 — Still tied → Step 2
Player B	47	12	35 — Still tied → Step 2
Player C	51	15	36 — Finishes 3rd
Player D	51	13	38 — Finishes 4th

Step 2: Compare last 6 holes (holes 13–18) — Players A & B only

Player	Gross (holes 13–18)	½ PH Deduction	Net Score / Result
Player A	32	9	23 — Winner
Player B	32	8	24 — Runner-up

Final Result: Player A wins with a net score of 23 on the last 6 holes (holes 13–18).

EBG Majors ONLY — Playoffs (EBG Local Rule): Course permitting, all players tied for a first place within a flight (after application of all penalties) will participate in a playoff. If the course does not permit a playoff, or if ties remain after the two playoff holes (including for first place), ties will be broken using the USGA recommended method of matching scorecards from the original 18-hole round.

- a. **Playoff Format:** The playoff will consist of two holes. The player with the lowest combined net score over the two (2) holes will be declared the winner.
- b. **Stroke Allocation:** Handicap strokes for the playoff will be assigned at one ninth (1/9th) of each player's 18 hole playing handicap (rounded) in accordance with the USGA recommendations.
- c. **Absence from Playoff:** Any player who is not present and ready to play at the designated playoff start time will forfeit the tie-breaker.
- d. **Score Posting:** Playoff holes are used solely to determine a winner. Scores from playoff holes will not be included in the final tournament score.
- e. **Playoff Access:** Only players participating in the playoff are permitted on the course during playoff competition. Other players are not permitted to accompany or follow the group during playoff play.

4. Scorekeeping

The Executive Committee (EC) has established the following guidelines for scorekeeping and score posting. These guidelines apply to all official EBG tournament rounds, as well as any other rounds played by EBG members in any setting including casual rounds, non-EBG tournament rounds, and all other rounds eligible for handicap posting under World Handicap System (WHS) guidelines.

Final Tournament Results: Tournament Committee (TC) will announce the official tournament and contest winner(s) after reviewing the signed official paper scorecards, applying tie-breakers and penalties. Any disputes must be raised at the time of submission; results may be delayed until all disputes are resolved. Results are considered final once posted on the “EBG Announcements” WhatsApp channel and distributed via email.

4.1 Score Recording

- a. Designated official scorers will be assigned to manage both the paper scorecard and the digital leaderboard.
- b. The designated scorer’s sole responsibility is recording scores. They are not accountable for any matters beyond scorekeeping duties.
- c. **The paper scorecard is the official scorecard for all EBG tournaments.** After the completion of each hole, scores must be communicated to both the paper scorecard keeper and the BlueGolf digital scorer.
- d. In the event of any discrepancy between the submitted paper scorecard and BlueGolf digital scorecard, the paper scorecard shall prevail and be deemed the official record for all scoring and tournament related purposes.
- e. If a player believes another player has incorrectly counted strokes, they may request a re-count. If the dispute cannot be resolved, an asterisk (*) shall be placed next to the disputed hole and score. All disputed scores must be reviewed and resolved with the EBG Rules Committee before the scorecard is signed and submitted.
- f. Scores must also be entered into the electronic live leaderboard using the BlueGolf Scorecard app after each hole.
- g. During a round, members outside the foursome may not prompt or remind other groups to enter scores into the electronic leaderboard.
- h. Members requiring assistance with the electronic scoring system should contact the EC and/or Tournament Committee (TC) for training.

4.2 Scorecard Submission & Official Scoring

- a. **The paper scorecard must be signed by both the official paper scorecard keeper and the BlueGolf digital scorer prior to submission.** The scorecard must then be officially submitted, either directly to the Tournament or Executive Committee member, and/or by posting it in the EBG Golf Only chat within one hour of last group’s round completion and/or before leaving the golf course.
- b. **Player’s Responsibility: All player(s) within the group are responsible for ensuring that their hole-by-hole scores are accurate and properly recorded on the paper scorecard.** For skipped or unfinished holes, EBG local rule 5.6 applies. **A score must be entered for every hole before submitting the paper scorecard.**
- c. Any disputed score marked with an asterisk (*) must be reviewed and resolved with the EBG Rules Committee prior to scorecard submission.
- d. Scorecards must be reconciled between the paper scorecard and the BlueGolf digital scorecard prior to submission. Any discrepancies must be resolved before the paper scorecard is signed and officially submitted.
- e. **Official tournament results are determined by the paper scorecard.** Once a paper scorecard has been signed and officially submitted, it is considered final, and scores may not be reversed or altered except by the Tournament Committee (TC) for the application of Pace of Play (PoP) penalties in accordance with EBG/USGA rules.

Wrong Score Penalty according to USGA: After the official paper scorecard has been submitted.

- i. Higher Score: If a player returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the higher score stands.
Example: On Hole 7, a player actually takes **6 strokes**, but records **7 strokes** on the scorecard. Since the recorded score is higher than what was actually taken, the **7 stands** and counts for the hole.
- ii. Lower Score/No Score: If a player returns a score lower than taken or no score at all, they are disqualified.
Example: On Hole 12, a player actually takes **5 strokes**, but records **4 strokes** on the scorecard. Because the recorded score is lower than what was taken, the player is **disqualified**.

4.3 Score Posting

- a. NCGA/GHIN shall be used for score posting and handicap calculations.
- b. All scores posted in NCGA must comply with the guidelines of the World Handicap System (WHS).
- c. Players may post 9-hole, 18-hole, or incomplete round scores in NCGA in accordance with WHS guidelines.

- d. EBG official tournament scores will be posted by the Tournament Committee.
- e. All EBG members are encouraged to post their scores after each round to ensure handicaps remain current for tournament play. Members are encouraged to use the GHIN mobile app for convenience.

5. Pace of Play

EBG is committed to improving the pace of play experience for all members and fellow golfers. The following policy and guidelines are in effect for all EBG rounds. The pace of play policy was implemented starting June 2, 2024. The EC and TC may adjust completion times if course, weather, or other conditions warrant a change.

5.1 Completion Time & Being in Position

- a. Total time allowed to complete 18 holes is 4 hours 35 minutes, which includes a 5-minute break after 9 holes.
- b. Each group will be provided with paper scorecards showing the MAXIMUM allowable time to complete each hole based on the group's scheduled starting time. This is called the hole completion time and is defined as the time when the last player in the group walks off the green.
- c. Each hole's maximum allowable time includes time to search for balls and other common occurrences. Normally the hole should be completed faster than the time on the scorecard. Ready golf and making up lost time on the next hole are highly encouraged.

Staying with the Group Ahead — Being in Position

- d. Each group is required to stay "in position" of the group ahead. Being in position is defined as:
 - i. Reaching the teeing area of a par-3 before the group ahead has teed off on the next hole.
 - ii. Reaching the teeing area of a par-4 before the group ahead leaves the putting green of that hole.
 - iii. Reaching the teeing area of a par-5 before the group ahead gets to the putting green of that hole.

5.2 Checkpoints and Time Recording

- a. EBG will implement the 9th and 18th holes as checkpoint holes within an 18-hole round.
- b. Each group is required to record actual hole completion time for checkpoint holes only. Failure to record time will result in a 1 or 2 stroke penalty.
- c. Recording hole completion time for other holes is optional but highly encouraged for future policy improvements.
- d. Recording in-position status on the scorecard for each hole (whether the group was in position of the group ahead) is optional.
- e. It is each player's responsibility to be aware of their group's position relative to the published hole completion time.

5.3 Pace of Play (PoP) Penalties

- a. A group whose hole completion time exceeds the maximum allowable time at any checkpoint hole will be assigned one stroke Pace of Play (PoP) penalty per member, unless the group was in position and finished the checkpoint hole within 15 minutes of the group ahead. A maximum of two PoP penalties may be assigned per player over 18 holes.
 - i. If the Committee determines that one or more players in a group caused the group's failure to maintain pace of play, any player who complied with this policy may be exempted from penalty, while the player(s) responsible may still be penalized.
- b. One member of the group will be designated to monitor and record hole completion time and in-position status. This member is responsible for informing others in the group if they are falling behind.
- c. Scorecard Pace of Play (PoP) time penalties may be applied by the Tournament Committee (TC) after scorecard submission, per Section 4.2.

Unreasonable Delay

- a. In addition to the foregoing, any players must **not** unreasonably delay play, either when playing or between holes, may be subject to penalty in accordance with USGA Rule 5.6(a) – Penalty for Breach of Rule. Penalties are: one stroke for the first breach, the general penalty (two strokes in stroke play, loss of hole in match play) for the second, and disqualification for the third breach.
- b. If the Tournament Committee (and/or Executive Committee) determines that a player's slow pace of play constitutes serious misconduct, penalties will be applied in accordance with USGA Rule 5.6(a).

- c. Penalties assessed for unreasonable delay of play are separate from, and may be imposed in addition to, any penalties issued under the EBG Pace of Play (PoP) policy.

5.4 General Pace of Play Guidelines

- a. All players are expected to follow proper etiquette and adhere to the pace of play guidelines recommended by the golf course. The course marshal will enforce pace of play. Players are urged not to argue with the marshal.
- b. Your pre-shot routine should be less than 40 seconds after placing your ball on the ground/tee.
- c. Total time to look for a lost ball is 3 minutes or less. During this time, other players in the group should continue with their shots. Play ready golf.
- d. If your ball lies in a very difficult spot, consider taking a drop rather than playing from a poor lie.
- e. Always carry one or more required clubs and an extra ball when walking away from your cart.

Marshal Instructions

If the marshal instructs a player or group to pick up their ball and/or skip a hole, the following will apply:

- i. Subject to time and course conditions, player(s) may be permitted to return and replay the skipped hole(s) without penalty. Approval to replay must be obtained from the course prior to doing so, and all arrangements are the responsibility of the affected player(s).

If the skipped hole(s) are **not** replayed for any reason, including course unavailability or the player's decision **not** to replay, the following scoring procedures will apply:

- ii. In stroke play: the player will receive a gross Penta score, defined as +5 strokes over par for the hole: 8 on a par 3, 9 on a par 4, and 10 on a par 5.
- iii. In match play: the hole is considered halved.

5.5 Scorecard Time Tracking

Scorecards include start and end round times, as well as guidance on the maximum minutes per hole each foursome should target to maintain proper pace. It is each individual player's responsibility within the foursome to play ready golf and keep pace. Course marshals may direct groups to skip holes if they determine the group is not maintaining adequate pace. Foursome completion times will be tracked and compiled over the course of the tournament season.

5.6 Maximum Scores Per Hole

In an effort to improve pace of play, a gross Penta score (+5 from par) will be applied for all tournaments. Once a player has reached the maximum stroke count for a hole, they must pick up their ball and record that score:

- a. Par 3 — Maximum score: 8
- b. Par 4 — Maximum score: 9
- c. Par 5 — Maximum score: 10

5.7 Out of Bounds — Model Local Rule E-5

Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds: When a player's ball has not been found, or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed under Model Local Rule E-5 rather than stroke and distance. For a two-stroke penalty, the player may drop a ball in the fairway near where the ball went out of bounds.

- a. If you hit a shot where Local Rule E-5 would not be beneficial given the ball's likely location, play a provisional ball immediately.

5.8 Searching for a Lost Ball

- a. Limit the search for a lost ball to 2–3 minutes maximum.
- b. If you are confident the ball is lost in deep rough or thick vegetation, take the lost ball penalty and proceed.

Hint: If you locate your ball in an extremely difficult lie, consider that taking an unplayable lie penalty or lost ball penalty may result in fewer total strokes than attempting to play from that position.

6. Winter Rules (EBG Local Rules)

The following EBG Local Winter Rules apply when declared in effect by the Tournament Committee (TC). These rules are based on standard preferred lies conditions and are designed to ensure fair play during adverse course conditions (e.g., wet weather, soft turf, temporary standing water).

6.1 Preferred Lies — Fairway

- a. If a player's ball lies on a closely mown area (fairway) through the green, the player may lift, clean, and place the ball without penalty.
- b. The player must mark the ball before lifting, then place it within 12 inches (not nearer to the hole) of the original spot, provided the new position is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

6.2 Preferred Lies — Rough and Other Areas

- a. A ball in any area "through the green" other than the closely mown area (fairway) may be cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay, and not nearer to the hole.
- b. The lie of the ball cannot be improved with the drop. For example, if the ball is in the rough or a bush, the ball must be dropped in the same rough or bush.

6.3 Standing Water in Bunkers

- a. If a player's ball lies in temporary (standing) water in either a fairway-side or greenside bunker, the Ground Under Repair (GUR) rule for bunkers with standing water applies.
- b. The player may drop the ball within 12 inches from the nearest point of relief (as near as possible to where the ball lay), no closer to the hole, without any stroke penalty.

6.4 Mud Areas and Tire Marks

- a. If a player's ball lies in a mud area such as tire marks, the Ground Under Repair (GUR) rule applies.
- b. The player may drop the ball within 12 inches from the nearest point of relief (as near as possible to where the ball lay), no closer to the hole, without any stroke penalty.

6.5 Temporary (Puddled) Water — Not in a Hazard

- a. If a player's ball lies in temporary (puddled) water that is not in a hazard/penalty area, the player may play the ball as it lies or take free relief.
- b. To take free relief: find the nearest point of complete relief (clear of the puddle), then drop the original ball or another ball within 12 inches of that point, not nearer to the hole.
- c. Free relief from a puddle is also available if the ball is in a bunker (Rule 16.1c) or on the putting green (Rule 16.1d), without stroke penalty. Relief is not available from a puddle inside a penalty area.

6.6 Ball Placement Rules

- a. A player may place the ball only once. The ball is in play once it has been placed.
- b. If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot where it was placed, the ball must be replaced without penalty.
- c. If the ball comes to rest on the placed spot and subsequently moves on its own, there is no penalty — the ball must be played as it lies.

6.7 Failure to Mark Before Lifting

- a. If a player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it, or moves the ball in any other manner (such as rolling it with a club), a one-stroke penalty is normally incurred.

Note: The EBG Committee has elected to waive this penalty under Winter Rules conditions.

7. Tournament Registration & Cancellation Policy

The following policy governs entry fee cancellations and refunds for all EBG tournaments.

7.1 Entry Fees Cancellation and Refund Policy

- a. Cancellation before the RSVP deadline: A refund will be issued, less any applicable processing and credit card transaction fees.
- b. Cancellation after the RSVP deadline: No refund will be issued unless the original player secures an eligible replacement player in accordance with the following conditions:
 - i. For EBG tournaments, the replacement player must be a current EBG member.
 - ii. Any reimbursement arrangement between the original player and the replacement player is strictly a private matter. EBG will not participate in, facilitate, or assume responsibility for any payment transaction between parties.
 - iii. The original player must notify the Tournament Committee (TC) of the replacement player no later than two (2) days prior to the tournament date to allow sufficient time for updates to pairings, the electronic leaderboard, and related tournament logistics.

8. Disqualifications

- a. Incorrect Score Submission: See Section 4.2 — Wrong Score Penalty.
- b. Picking Up Before Completion: Picking up a ball before putting out on a hole (except when applying Rule 6.c or when gimmies are permitted), or failing to complete the round, will result in disqualification.

9. Ruling Challenge Procedure

Any EBG member may formally challenge a ruling by following the procedure below. All challenges are time-sensitive and must be submitted in accordance with the deadlines set out in each step. The email timestamp serves as the official filing time in all cases.

- a. **Submission (Trigger Event):** A formal Rules Challenge must be submitted by email to the Tournament Committee and Executive Committee, CC'ing only the directly involved players. The email timestamp is the official filing time. Send email to: ec@eastbaygolfers.com
- b. **Evidence Window (0–24 hours from submission):** The Tournament and Executive Committees may collect statements, scorecards, and any other supporting materials during this window. After 24 hours, the evidentiary record is closed, unless both Committees jointly agree to extend the window due to extraordinary circumstances.
- c. **Review and Deliberation (24–48 hours after the evidence window closes):** The Tournament and Executive Committees jointly review all facts and apply the Rules of Golf in accordance with USGA standards and EBG Local Rules to determine the appropriate ruling.
- d. **Final Decision Deadline (within 48 hours after the evidence window closes, or 72 hours maximum from submission):** A written decision must be issued within this window. The decision must include: the ruling outcome (upheld, overturned, or modified); the rule(s) applied; a brief explanation of the reasoning; any score adjustments; and the impact on standings, if applicable.
- e. **Distribution and Record:** The final decision is emailed to all original recipients and entered into the official EBG Rules Decisions Log. Any required scoring or handicap adjustments are made at this time.

10. Equipment Rules

10.1 Clubs

- a. A maximum of 14 clubs are permitted in a golf bag during all EBG tournaments.
- b. The putter counts as one of the 14 clubs.
- c. Any player may request that another player count their clubs at any time.
- d. If more than 14 clubs are found in a bag, a 2-stroke penalty will be applied to the total score.

10.2 GPS and Range Finders

- a. GPS devices and range finders are permitted on the course during all EBG rounds, in accordance with USGA guidelines.

11. USGA Rules & Ruling Decisions

- a. EBG players are responsible for learning and knowing the Rules of Golf as established by the USGA.

11.1 Ruling Decisions

- a. All players within a group are responsible for ensuring that the Rules of Golf are followed. If a player is unsure of a rule or procedure, clarification must be sought before playing the shot.
- b. A player remains responsible for any penalty incurred, even if incorrect advice or information was provided by a playing partner.
- c. A rules challenge regarding procedures such as ball drops, relief, or similar situations must be supported by at least two players within the group.
- d. Any disputed situation or potential rules infraction must be clearly marked with an asterisk (*) on the scorecard for review.

Upon completion of the round, the following process will be followed before an official ruling is announced by the EBG Tournament Committee:

- i. The EBG Tournament Committee will discuss the situation with the player(s) involved to fully understand the circumstances surrounding the infraction.
 - ii. After reviewing all relevant facts and applicable rules, the Tournament Committee will issue a ruling as soon as practicable, prior to the publication of final results.
 - iii. All rulings and decisions made by the EBG Tournament Committee are final.
- e. Conflict of Interest: Any EBG Tournament Committee member involved in an incident or infraction may participate only in the initial explanation of the situation and must recuse themselves from the ruling process. In such cases, ruling authority defers to the EC.

12. Golf Etiquette

- a. Players are expected to conduct themselves respectfully and avoid disrupting fellow competitors — both within their group and in other groups — during tournament play.
- b. Coaching, pressuring, or rushing another player during play is not permitted. Players must always remain courteous and respectful.
- c. Any etiquette or conduct concerns should be documented and reported to the EBG Tournament Committee after the round.
- d. Once a group completes a hole or finishes the round, players should promptly clear the green area and avoid delaying or disturbing the groups behind them. Extended discussions should take place in the clubhouse or designated areas.

12.1 Ready Golf & Pace of Play Principles

Players are expected to follow Ready Golf principles and maintain proper pace of play, including the following:

- a. Be prepared to play when it is your turn — calculate yardages, select clubs, read putts, and assess conditions while others are hitting.
- b. If riding in a cart, drop off your cart partner at their ball before proceeding to your own shot whenever practical.
- c. A player searching for a ball should take additional clubs and a spare ball before separating from the cart or group, to avoid unnecessary delays.
- d. The maximum time permitted to search for a lost ball is three (3) minutes, per USGA Rules. Fellow competitors may assist in the search but should not pressure or rush the player.
- e. Players should not wait unnecessarily for strict order of play if another player is not ready. Ready Golf is encouraged whenever it can be done safely and respectfully.
- f. Avoid conversations or distractions while another player is preparing for or playing a shot.
- g. Players walking the course should proceed directly to their ball whenever possible, provided they are not interfering with another player's line of play.
- h. Groups should maintain awareness of the group ahead. If the group in front is no longer visible on a par 4 or par 5, the group is likely out of position and must improve their pace of play.
- i. Players ordering food at the turn should call ahead whenever possible to avoid delays between 9th & 10th hole.