

# **RULES OF COMPETITION**

Membership Dues \$30

1. USGA Rules govern all play except where special rules are posted by the Tournament Chair.
2. Tournaments are flighted by handicap index and all scores are gross.
- 3.. Decisions of the Committee shall be final.
4. Members are expected to check annual changes in the "Rules of Golf", and carry a rules book at all times.
5. Ties will be decided by USGA methods of matching cards or, when special conditions require, by an alternate method agreed to by the Committee.
6. Entries will not be refunded after tournament closing date.
7. Dress code will be strictly enforced; no tank tops, short shorts or denim.
8. Only a member of the Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Committee and / or a member(s) of the Executive Committee, shall decide disputes arising in tournaments that cannot be settled by the players. If a question arises with respect to a player's handicap index, a member of the Handicap Committee shall be consulted. Decisions of the committee shall be final.
9. All entries include range balls, carts, golf, and prizes.
10. Go to [swtga.org](http://swtga.org) to register and pay or make all checks payable to SWTGA and mail to the tournament chair.
11. Due to the popularity of some tournaments and venues, the field may be limited.
12. All balls must be holed out to be counted.
13. Post scores as indicated on the tournament schedule.
14. The use of cell phones is only allowed as distance-measuring devices and in emergency situations.

## **By-Laws**

### **I MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership in the South-West Women's TriCounty Golf association is open to women with an established USGA Handicap Index of 18.0 or less who hold a membership in an 18-hole regulation private club located in Collier, Lee or Charlotte County, Florida. Membership in a private club is waived for founding members.
2. Acceptance of membership binds each member to abide by all provisions of the By-Laws and the Standing Rules of the Association, and to accept and enforce all rules and decisions of the Board of Directors acting within its jurisdiction.

3. A member whose USGA handicap index exceeds 18.0 may be ineligible to play in any events during a given season until her USGA handicap index is restored to 18.0 or lower. A member must play to an 18.0 or lower index.
4. A member who has served a full term as President of the Association is eligible to maintain her membership, regardless of handicap, provided she pays the annual dues and competes in the tournaments within the handicap limit of the Association.
5. Honorary membership may be conferred by the Board of Directors upon any woman who rates such recognition by reason of her interest in or service to the game of golf. Such honorary member shall have all privileges of membership, except to vote and hold office. Honorary members shall pay no dues. Honorary membership may be cancelled at any time upon due notice by the Board.

## II MEETINGS

1. The Annual Meeting shall be held prior to the end of the fiscal year at such time and place as decided by the Board of Directors.
2. No meeting of the Association shall be held without 10 days notice in writing to the membership, by the Secretary, stating the time and place of such meeting.
3. The fiscal year will begin on May 1st following each annual meeting. The order of business to be observed is as follows:
  - A. Roll call
  - B. Reports of the association
  - C. General business
  - D. Election of new Members of the Board of Directors
  - E. Adjournment
4. Special meetings of the Association may be called at the discretion of the President or shall be called upon the written request of five voting members. Notice of a special meeting shall state the nature of the business to be transacted.
5. Twenty-five members constitute a quorum. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

## III BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

1. The Board of Directors shall meet at such time and place, as they shall designate.
2. They shall uphold the By-Laws and Standing Rules of the Association.
3. It shall be the duty of the Board to conduct at least 6 golf competitions each fiscal year.
4. Election for members of the Board shall be by ballot and will take place at the Annual Meeting. In fiscal years ending in an odd number, the following officers shall be elected to serve for two years or until their successors shall be elected

- and qualified: President, Treasurer, and two Directors. In fiscal years ending in an even number, the following officers shall be elected to serve for two years or until their successors shall be elected and qualified: Vice President, Secretary and two Directors. There will never be fewer than eight Directors. The immediate Past President shall become a Director until replaced.
5. Five Directors constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The absence of a Director for three consecutive meetings unless excused by the Board constitutes a resignation.
  6. Vacancy in any office shall be filled by a majority ballot vote of the Board.
  7. The Executive Committee, consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, may meet for emergency action. Such action shall be subject to ratification by the Board.
  8. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and shall issue written notices of and preside at all meetings of the Board and in general perform the duties of this office. She is ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, without the right to vote.
  9. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in her absence or at her request. The Vice President shall be the Chair of the Trophy Committee and shall select her own committee with the approval of the Board.
  10. The Secretary shall keep an authentic record of all meetings of the Association and the Board. She shall issue a written notice of the Annual Meeting. She shall conduct the correspondence of the Association. She shall present at each Annual Meeting a full report on all matters relating to Association affairs, including a summary of all actions taken during the year by the Board.
  11. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all of the Association funds, receiving all fees and dues and depositing all funds in a depository designated by the Board. She shall disburse these funds only in conformity with the budget and as directed by the Board. She shall present at each Annual Meeting an accurate report of the financial affairs of the Association; she shall make a like report whenever requested by the Board. She shall preserve the Treasurer's books. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Board may appoint an accredited person to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer.

#### IV STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Tournament Chair shall select tournaments, arrange the schedule and conduct the tournaments. She may be assisted by an Assistant Tournament Chair.
2. The Handicap Chair shall have charge of members' handicaps and be responsible for having an up-to-date handicap sheet available at each competition.
3. The Membership Chair shall be responsible for the renewal of current memberships and the enrolment of new members. She will oversee the development, printing and distribution of the Membership Directory. She will maintain an updated computerized listing of all current members.

4. The Rules Chair will ensure that the USGA Rules of Golf and it's Decisions, The SWTGA Hard Card and the courses' local rules as published in the notice to players are followed.
5. The Historian and Publicity Chair shall keep a scrapbook of Association activities and report publicity to the news media.
6. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President. The four additional members shall be selected by the Chair, subject to the approval of the Board. A Past President should be a member of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of officers and members of the Board at the Annual Meeting.
7. Additional Committees. The Board may appoint such other committees as may be required, with such duties and regulations as the Board may prescribe.

## V REVENUE

1. The dues shall be payable in October of each year for the forthcoming year. Any member whose dues remain unpaid by December 1st shall be barred from participating in affairs of the Association until such dues are paid, or such member may be dropped from the membership at the discretion of the Board.
2. Membership dues are payable with application for membership.

## VI AMENDMENTS

1. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting, at any meeting of the membership provided that notice of the general nature of the proposed amendment shall be included in the notice of the meeting.

## VII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

1. Robert's Rules of Order Revised is the parliamentary authority of this Association.

## **SWTGA POLICY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES 2016**

**Effective: January 28, 2016**

### **SWTGA's ETIQUETTE POLICY ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

To insure that players demonstrate consideration for others and maintain pace of play, the use of cell phones or other electronic devices (phone calls, texts, emails, or internet access) during the stipulated tournament is NOT ALLOWED, except:

- in emergency situations (ex: acute medical illness or safety issues) or
- as a conforming multi-function distance-measuring device (DMD).

This policy exceeds the restrictions in the Rules of Golf but is within the jurisdiction of the SWTGA's authority as the "Committee" and is in effect regardless of the host club's policy. It is the responsibility of all players to monitor compliance with this policy and report serious infractions. The penalty for a serious breach of this etiquette policy may be disqualification (Rule 33-7).

### **SWTGA's SUMMARY POLICY ON DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES (DMD)**

For SWTGA events, the USGA's rules, decisions, and penalties will be followed. A local rule will allow players to use distance measuring devices, whether dedicated or multi-functional, provided they access only distance measurements. If multi-functional (cellphones, tablets), the device's usage is to be restricted to DMD (conforming) purposes only with the exception of making phone calls in emergency situations or accessing applications specifically allowed by the USGA (Rules of Golf, weather or compass information).

The changes to Rule 14-3 (Artificial Devices and Unusual Equipment) that are effective January 1, 2016 are two-fold. First, the penalty for breach is being reduced for the first offense from disqualification to two strokes in stroke play (loss of hole in match play). For subsequent breaches, the penalty remains disqualification. The second change is that the mere existence of non-conforming features on a multi-functional device will no longer warrant a penalty as long as they are not used.