

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

**2024 MEMBER INFORMATION**

**MASTER COPY**

• <b>ARTICLE I</b>	<b>NAME</b>
• <b>ARTICLE II</b>	<b>MISSION</b>
• <b>ARTICLE III</b>	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>
• <b>ARTICLE IV</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>
• <b>ARTICLE V</b>	<b>TOURNAMENT EVENTS</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	
• <b>ATTACHMENT 0</b>	<b>NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION</b>
• <b>ATTACHMENT 1</b>	<b>2024 TTSGA PLAYING RULES</b>
• <b>ATTACHMENT 2</b>	<b>RULE CLARIFICATION: RED, YELLOW, AND WHITE LINES</b>
• <b>ATTACHMENT 3</b>	<b>TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE</b> a) <b>PLAYING GUIDELINES</b> b) <b>PGA GUIDELINES</b>
• <b>ATTACHMENT 4</b>	<b>HANDICAP MANAGEMENT PROCESS</b> a) <b>HANDICAP GENERATION</b> b) <b>HANDICAP ADJUSTMENTS</b>
• <b>ATTACHMENT 5</b>	<b>BE AWARE OF GROUP IN FRONT</b>
• <b>ATTACHMENT 6</b>	<b>2024 FINANCIAL PLAN</b>

# **TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of the organization is **Tennessee Traveling Seniors' Golf Association (TTSGA)**.

## **ARTICLE II. MISSION**

TTSGA provides a convenient, enjoyable, and authoritative organization by participating in organized golf events. To further goodwill, brotherhood, and fellowship, TTSGA

- offers a variety of organized games and events that promote teamwork, friendly competition, and individual participation
- promotes the learning of the USGA and TTSGA golf rules applied to team and individual play
- attempts to grow the game of golf increasing participation and enjoyment

## **ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. TTSGA Board of Directors serves as the Governing Body consisting of annually elected members. The Board of Directors will
  - administer the TTSGA affairs
  - call regular business meetings with a quorum of a majority of the board present to vote
  - conduct at least one General Membership meeting per year – announcing the meeting place, date, and time 30 days in advance
  - schedule Special Meetings as needed by the President or any two (2) officers
  - conduct election of officers at TTSGA's Annual Meeting
  - announce annual dues (preferred at Annual Meeting) at the beginning of each year,
  - limit TTSGA Activities to current year for paid members in good standing and members' guests
  - define the type and number of social activities
  - plan and announce the Annual Tournament Schedule in advance of the first tournament date
  - manage changes as needed for Schedules, Policies, and Rules
  - establish standing committees (i.e. Rules, Social, Banquet) necessary for TTSGA operations
  - appoint committee members for one-year terms
  - support voting via email, conference call, zoom, or by password protected forms on TTSGA Web Site
  - establishes TTSGA's line-item budget items and annual plan

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

**ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (cont.)**

2. Board members have the following duties:

**PRESIDENT**

- presides over TTSGA Board & Membership Meeting
- ensures that TTSGA's Constitution, By-Laws, Policies, and Rules are fulfilled
- ensures officers', directors', and committee chairs' duties are fulfilled

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**

- acts in the absence or inability of the president to perform his duties
- assists in all golf tournaments and social events
- ascends to the office of President, after one year term as 1st Vice President

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**

- acts in the absence or inability of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President or President to perform their duties
- assists in all golf tournaments and social events.
- ascends to the office of 1st vice president, after one-year term as 2nd vice president
- manages "No Show" Policy & keeping log of Members' " No Shows"

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

➤ **TREASURER**

- receives TTSGA monies and deposits all funds into TTSGA bank accounts
- disburses approved TTSGA funds, signing all checks
- keeps formal accounting files
- prepares an annual budget (Attachment #7)
- presents financial reports at board meetings and to the membership at Annual Meeting
- manages annual 10% Reserve Balance

➤ **SECRETARY**

- records TTSGA meeting minutes including votes, minutes, action items, and Board Meeting attendance
- announces TTSGA meeting notices
- maintains official TTSGA records-member information and status
- keeps the TTSGA official documents available upon Board request
- transfers all records to the next secretary
- performs other TTSGA duties as assigned by the board

# **TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

## **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

### ➤ SCHEDULES:

- acts as TTSGA liaison with golf courses' personnel
- selects the dates and golf courses for Board approval
- negotiates contracts with golf course management for dates, fees to be charged, available range balls, TTSGA minimum player requirements, and start times
- releases approved tournament schedule to membership
- defines special tournament events
- define Flight Levels using Member's Handicaps

### ➤ HANDICAPS

- develops and maintains official handicaps for all members
- provides handicap adjustments based on Members' tee boxes at tournaments
- performs tournament set up duties (scorecards, cart balancing, announcements, ...)
- collects and records the scores of each playing member for each tournament and announces the results
- prepares a tee sheet for each tournament showing the players for each flight and their handicap
- sends tee sheet to course management and members

## **COMMITTEES**

### ➤ SOCIAL

- establishes Chair plus 2 members for Social Committee
- plans and implements all parties, picnics, and any other social activities approved by the board
- manages budget for the board securing a place and time for each event

### ➤ BANQUET

- establishes Chair and plans logistics for TTSGA's Annual Meeting
- manages budget and negotiations for TTSGA securing a place and time for Annual Meeting

### ➤ RULES CHAIR (up to 3 members on Committee)

- establishes Chair plus up to 3 members for Rules Committee
- provides TTSGA's annual playing rules
- enforces and interprets TTSGA's golf rule disputes

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

- serves on the board as voting member for one year following his term as president
- assists the current president and Board of Directors

# TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES

## ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Membership Maximum: 145 Qualified Members**
- 2. Membership Qualifications**
  - open to individual's 55 years or older
  - payment of annual TTSGA Dues
  - completion of two TTSGA event rounds as a new member, waiting list candidate, or guest to establish a TTSGA handicap in order to finalize New Membership qualification and be eligible for established prizes
  - must not average more than 36 over par for new and established members to maintain membership in good standing
- 3. Annual Membership Dues announced by Board of Directors at TTSGA Annual Meeting**
  - supports seasonal and annual meetings, and administrative fees
  - supports weekly prize money for top 5 players within handicapped flights
  - supports annual championships for players within handicapped flights
  - entitles the member to attend the Annual Meeting free of charge
  - entitles a member to invite a guest at a fee
  - requires member to RSVP in advance to attend Annual Meeting
  - must attend the annual meeting to vote for Officers and Directors
- 4. Golfer in good standing (Event Year's Annual Dues Paid by March 31)**
  - can participate in TTSGA sponsored tournaments
  - can participate in the Hole-in-One Event
  - is eligible for prize money
- 5. Golfer NOT in good standing (Event Year's Annual Dues unpaid by March 31)**
  - will be notified by the Rules Committee as soon as the delinquency is discovered
  - will have seven (7) days from notification to remit dues payment to TTSGA'S Treasurer
  - is not eligible for prize winnings of all prior events
  - is not eligible to enter any event for the remainder of the year until dues are paid and must reestablish Handicap analogous to a New Member
- 6. Limited Membership in good standing (Annual Dues Paid in Full)**
  - is unable to play due to personal or family health or circumstances
  - may apply for a limited membership providing he has been a member in good standing for at least one (1) year
  - sends request to participate in a tournament by notifying Tournament Director
  - has priority to those on the WAIT List when wanting to activate as an Active Member.
- 7. Termination of Member for Cause**
  - may be terminated for nonpayment of annual dues, violation of rules, policies, and qualifications
  - will not have any portion of annual dues or prizes refunded in any type termination
  - may be removed for Cause by three quarters vote of the Board of Directors. (Such Cause may be but not limited to refusing or neglecting compliance of the By-Laws/Policies, and/or rules of golf, or improper conduct)
  - follow a process that includes written removal details by the Board of Directors
- 8. Termination by Member**
  - resigns or drops out during the year forfeiting any refund of membership fee
  - receives a pro-ration of any prize money only if his membership is replaced via someone from the Wait List
- 9. . Membership Guest**
  - allowed to play with permission of the President or Tournament Director
  - allowed to play in TTSGA Non-Team Event a maximum of (3) times within the season
  - will not be eligible to participate in any prize money, hole-in-one, nor closest to the pin competitions

# TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES

## ARTICLE V. Tournament Events

### 1. Player Conduct: Members and Guests

- play in the spirit of the game by following rules, applying penalties (reference Attachments 0, 1, 2)
- must show consideration for others by playing at a prompt pace and looking out for the safety of others (reference Attachments 3, 4)
- must take good care of the course (replacing divots, repairing ball-marks, raking sand traps, and respecting club rules)
- must understand that while there is no penalty under the rules for failing to act in this manner, the Rules Committee may disqualify a player for acting contrary to the spirit of the game if it finds that the player has committed serious misconduct

### 2. Event Basics: Members

- **must enter each tournament event by using your membership id and password to get into [ttsga.golfclub.net](http://ttsga.golfclub.net)**
- **removes name from tournament by Thursday noon prior to the following week's tournament**
- accepts that if a member has multiple unexcused "no shows", then the Board of Directors may take disciplinary actions
- must register 30 minutes prior to tee time
- **Uses GOLFCLUB APP to enter scores in real time and submits final scorecard**
- must turn in scorecards within **5 hours and 15 minutes** of from start of play
- official scorer role is the first available name on the scorecard

### 3. Event Management: Members and Guests

- Reference Attachment 1: 2024 TTSGA PLAYNG RULES, RULE 14
- Reference Attachment 3: TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE
- Assigned Marshall travels around the course during tournament performing the following:

	OBSERVATION	ACTION
Round 1	➤ Group (a) lags too far with Group (b) in front	➤ Group (a) Warning—catch up with Group (b)
Round 2	➤ Group (a) continues to lag to far with Group (b) in front-no progress being made	➤ Group (a) Request—play 15 minutes/hole until caught up with Group (b)
Round 3	➤ Group (a) continues to lag to far with Group (b) in front-no progress being made	➤ Assess 1 shot penalty to Group (a) players
Round 4	➤ Group (a) continues to lag to far with Group (b) in front-no progress being made	➤ Assess 1 shot penalty to Group (a) players
Round 5	➤ Group (a) continues to lag to far with Group (b) in front-no progress being made	➤ Request Group (a) to pick up their balls, go to next hole or leave as Group is disqualified

### 4. Event Basics: "NO SHOW IMPACTS" (Owner: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President)

- A member's not showing up without notice requires incremental tasks to:
  - rearrange Member Cart assignment ensuring at least 3 golfers per group as well as adjusting scorecards
  - delay contracted Tee Off time as adjustments are completed
- No Show impacts TTSGA's relationship with Golf Course Management include:

# TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION

## BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES

- minimum number of contracted golfers
- incremental TTSGA costs to offset missing minimum number of golfers per contract
- Potential steps to address NO SHOW occurrences are as follows for the violating member:
  - will self-correct and not require Board Directors additional actions
  - will consider the following steps with continued NO SHOWS
    - 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence:** Member must sign up for next 4 events with Tournament Director in order to be scheduled
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence:** Member must follow 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence steps plus will not be eligible next 2 tournaments' prizes
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence:** Member subject to dismissal
- In the case when the Golf Course Management announces a condition of “**Cart Path Only**”, then the NO SHOW recognition will be waived

### 5. EVENT LOGISTICS: POLICIES

#### ➤ **HANDICAPS:**

- **uses the software-GOLFCLUB Application to calculate standard handicaps**
- details defined on TTSGA Web Site as well as Attachments 5, 6, 7
- requires two rounds to establish handicap and qualify for prize awards
- update Members' handicaps weekly
- assumes all players tee off from the default “senior” tees
  - Option 1: moves back a set of tees, member noting this movement on the scorecard and handicap will be program adjusted
  - Option 2: age 75 (obtaining within current year) and up, moves one tee box forward of their assigned tee, noting on the scorecard and their handicap will be program adjusted
- assumes all players in all flights may roll (untouched) their ball up to one grip length in the player's own fairway. The ball may NOT be rolled if it is out of the fairway for the hole that you are playing

#### ➤ **TIES WITHIN FLIGHTS**

- Step 1: Compare total net scores on Back Nine holes.
- Step 2: Compare the last six holes, then last three holes, then next 3, and then back from hole 18
- Step 3: Use Net Scores using Handicaps

#### ➤ **RAINOUT NOTIFICATIONS ON TOURNAMENT DAY**

- Authority to cancel a tournament includes:
  - TTSGA President or Tournament Director
  - Course Management
- Two hours prior to tee time on the day of a tournament, the Tournament Director will:
  - email members if a tournament is cancelled.
- Steps taken after a Rainout includes:
  - Schedule rained out tournament, if possible
  - suspend prizes for the rained-out tournament
  - issue Rain Checks or Refund is determined by Golf Course Management

#### ➤ **PRIZES**

- Tournament and skill contest winnings will be paid by:
  - once per year at the Annual Meeting
  - mail to members not attending Annual Meeting

# TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES

## ➤ CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

- A champion for each flight will be determined by
  - playing in designated "back-to-back" tournaments (a total of 36 holes)
  - using Player's handicap at the start of the first tournament
  - playing in designated tournaments as scheduled to be eligible to win
- TTSGA Board will announce each year the Championship tournament dates and courses
- A member must:
  - have at least 10 tournament rounds played to qualify to win his flight championship
  - may win the event tournament for that day with fewer played rounds

## ➤ TEAM EVENTS

- TTSGA President and Tournament Director will:
  - schedule at least two team events
  - determine format
  - announce event format

## ➤ HOLE IN ONE EVENT

- All Members in Good Standing
  - participate in this event.
- A Hole in One Event
  - allocates \$5 of each Member's Annual Membership Fee
  - will divide accumulated prizes equally for each hole-in-one scored the entire season
  - paid out at the end of the season's year
  - carries over to the next year when no Hole In One occurs.
- Members dropping out of TTSGA during the year forfeit any Hole in One winnings

## ➤ WAIT LIST:

- Applicants on the wait list
  - may play in all regular non team tournaments with an available opening
  - must request Tournament Director to play
  - will be dropped from the Wait List if he declines to join when his name comes up
    - will not be able to play as a guest for the balance of the year
    - cannot reapply for the list until the next year
  - refund deposit money should he drop off the wait list
  - may attend the annual meeting at a per plate charge as determined by the Banquet Chair

## ➤ COURSE LIMITATIONS/ ALL REGISTERED PLAYERS ACCOMODATIONS

- If a course is unable to accommodate all the players registered due to not enough carts or other reasons, players will be cut from the field on the following basis:
  - 1) guests
  - 2) wait list
  - 3) limited members
  - 4) members with previous "non-excused" no shows taken out of the field (in order of most to least, lottery with member who have equal numbers
  - 5) general lottery from field of players.

## ➤ COMPLIANCE WITH POLICIES:

- Any member that fails to comply with TTSGA policies relating to:
  - slow play,



# TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES

- failure to timely notify that you will not be playing or
- showing up late for tournaments
- no show

is subject to various actions by the board including MEMBERSHIP dismissal for habitual violations

## ➤ MEMORIALS

- Funds limited to a \$100 per need are allocated on an as needed situation for members and immediate family member

## ➤ E-MAILS TO MEMBERS:

- The TTSGA e-mail Membership list
  - will only be available to the Secretary and Tournament Chairman
  - are to be sent by blind copy (bcc).
  - is prohibited to promote the sale of merchandise, promote shows; or raise money for benefits.

## ➤ WEBSITE

- The TTSGA maintains a website at [www.ttsgagolfers.com](http://www.ttsgagolfers.com) which contains:
  - information as the current officers and directors, policies, and photos
  - key documents -current tournament schedule, event winners and rules
  - TTSGA's Constitution, By-Laws. Policies, Rules, and Minutes
- Documents can be printed in PDF format from the website.

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

PRINTABLE ATTACHMENTS ARE INCLUDED on  
**[TTSGA WEB Site: TTSGAGOLFERS.COM, TAB"MEMBER INFO"](http://TTSGAGOLFERS.COM)**

**#0: NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

**#1: 2024 TTSGA PLAYING RULES**

**#2: RULE CLARIFICATION: RED, YELLOW, AND WHITE LINES**

**#3: TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE**

- a) PLAYING GUIDELINES
- b) PGA GUIDELINES

**#4: HANDICAP MANAGEMENT PROCESS**

- a) HANDICAP GENERATION PROCESS
- b) HANDICAP ADJUSTMENTS

**#6: BE AWARE OF GROUP IN FRONT**

**#7: ANNUAL BUDGET**

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

**#0: NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

TTSGA TOURNAMENT LEADERS	KEY FUNCTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burl Young               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tournament Director</li> <li>○ Handicap Chairman</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes Course Contract Agreements</li> <li>• Establishes Annual Tournament Schedule and Updates</li> <li>• Distributes Weekly Tournament Pairings, Course Information, ...</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dale Penn               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TTSGA SECRETARY/TREASURER</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributes Weekly Tournament Results</li> <li>• Maintains Membership: in good standing and other situations</li> <li>• Maintains Wait List</li> <li>• Manages all financial aspects for TTSGA</li> <li>• <b>Send USERNAME AND PASSCODE for access to GOLFCLUB APPLICATION</b></li> </ul>
<b>KEY OPERATING PROCESSES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regular members must sign up every event on schedule that wants to play:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Member is responsible to remove name from playing after they signed up</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually a "trial player list" is sent out late Thursday or early Friday for member verification               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Respond only if there is a problem</b> -You are not on list and wanted to be on list OR</li> <li>○ You notified you were not playing and were included in error</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pairings list will usually come out at least two days prior to tournament outing.</li> <li>• Waiting list members <b>MUST</b> notify Tournament Director prior to cutoff to be included in the event               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Note: waiting list member is assumed not playing unless he is notified</li> </ul> </li> <li>• No shows sometimes happen but please try to avoid being a no show. Multiple No Shows could impact your future Tournament eligibility.</li> <li>• If something comes up that prohibits you from playing in several events, the Tournament Director maintains an "injured reserve list". By requesting to be put on injured reserve, you are off regular member status (no longer listed as a player in each event) until you send Email (<a href="mailto:TTSGA1@gmail.com">TTSGA1@gmail.com</a>) to be put back on regular status.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new member must play in <u>TWO league outings</u> before you can win prize money</li> <li>• To start your index is based on your application form data or a best guess at how you score.</li> <li>• As a new member plays more rounds with the league, one's index changes based on how you score.</li> <li>• Due to excessive cost to upgrade software to current USGA standards, our handicap software uses 2019 based USGA handicapping rules.</li> <li>• As more scores posted. please feel free to see the Tournament Director at an outing with questions. <b>The goal is to have fun and fair competition.</b></li> </ul>	

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

- Flights are based on total number of players divided by number of flights and sorted by INDEX. There are times when two players with same tournament handicap will be in different flights (lower index in more skilled flight).
- There are default teeing grounds for each outing (usually the courses senior teeing ground). If you choose to play on longer teeing grounds, you will generally get more handicap strokes based on difference in rating for teeing grounds and slope differences (all calculated by software).
- If you are 75 or older you may also opt to play shorter teeing grounds (if available), and your **tournament handicap will be adjusted down. Also, your score card MUST reflect your change of teeing ground.**

- Our web site [TTSGAGOLFERS.COM](http://TTSGAGOLFERS.COM) has bylaws, policies, and TTSGA rules of play in addition to or in lieu of USGA rules.
- See document explaining how handicaps are established in our league under Key Documents on our web page.
- Follow the rules and make sure everyone in your playing group follows rules. If there is a question play two balls and get ruling after event.
- All players are to be available for any announcement **30 minutes prior to scheduled TEE Time** such that all players are at their assigned Tees to start the Tournament on time
- If you hear about a communication that you do not receive, please check with Tournament Director or Secretary/Treasurer regarding correct email address and make sure our email is on your address book. Also be aware, some email programs consider messages with lots of blind carbon copies to be junk or spam so check that folder as well.
- You may invite a guest to play in an event (not in team events) if there is room. Notify Tournament Director with request

**DAY OF TOURNAMENT (TAKE NOTICE)**

1. Focus on everyone to be at their assigned hole at the scheduled tee time. (It seems our announcements do not start til tee time or close to it). If WARM UP TIME is needed, then arrive an hour early so that all players are at their carts **30 minutes prior to tee time allowing 15 minutes for announcements and 15 minutes to get to assigned hole.**
2. Rather than repeatedly dwell on fast play, focus on the time we have the course (4- and 1/2-hour playing time or MAXIMUM OF 15 MINUTES PER HOLE). Play ready golf and one does NOT need to mark your ball every time.
3. In our policy we have a stipulation that we have not been strict with those states **"failure to check in 30 minutes prior to tee time makes member not eligible for prize money in said event"**. Thus, if checked in and warmed up 30 minutes prior and at

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

carts we can check for pairings adjustments and get to starting holes on time. One of the officers (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP) will make sure all have at least a threesome so that no time is spent during any announcement time.

## **#1: 2024 TTSGA PLAYING RULES**

**General.** Enforce these rules within your playing group to protect the integrity of the game within the field. If your group cannot agree on a rule interpretation, play two balls from the location in question until holed, then bring the question to a member of the Rules Committee. Maximum search time for a ball is 3 minutes!

### **1. Marking and Identifying Your Ball.**

You must be able to identify your golf ball with your own mark. It is recommended that on the 1st tee each player identify their ball and mark to their playing partners. A ball you cannot identify is potentially a lost ball (if two players hit the same ball into the same area, and they cannot be identified, they are both lost balls). Identify your ball before playing each shot.

### **2. Ball In your own fairway.**

Your ball can be bumped with the clubhead within one grip length.

### **3. Maximum Score.**

The maximum score on any hole is double par. All putts must be holed out, unless your next putt gives you a double par or is a 4-putt. If it is for a 4-putt, then pick up and move on.

### **4. Abnormal Ground Conditions.**

If your ball comes to rest in what the playing group agrees is an abnormal ground condition, drop 1-club length away, no closer to the hole, and hit with no penalty. A "bad lie" or a poorly maintained area does not mean that you are in an abnormal ground condition. This will be a relatively rare occurrence. If your ball is in your own fairway, but rests on rocks or a bare spot, you may move your ball without penalty to the nearest area of grass (not necessarily the nicest area or best position), no closer to the hole. If you are not in your own fairway, the ball must be played down as it lies. If rocks, gravel, or other conditions prohibit a shot or threaten damage to a club, you have the option of taking an unplayable lie with a 1-stroke penalty.

### **5. Penalty Areas.**

Hit your ball as it lies, without improving stance or lie, with no penalty, OR, drop out 2-club lengths from where your ball entered the penalty area and hit from there, or anywhere along the line from the flagstick thru where your ball entered the penalty area, with a 1-stroke penalty.

### **6. Out of Bounds.**

Drop a ball 2-club lengths in your fairway equidistant from where the OB occurred and hit from there, 2-stroke penalty (if a tee ball, you are now hitting 4). If you choose to hit a provisional ball from the tee (only for a ball believed to be OB), you cannot elect this option. You must make the decision from the tee.

### **7. Lost Ball.**

A.) If your ball is lost in rough or grassy areas that have no penalty area markings and cannot be found within 3 minutes, determine, in your best estimation, the point where your ball crossed over or entered into that area, drop a ball within 2-club lengths of that point, no closer to the hole, and hit, with a 1-stroke penalty.

B.) If lost in a non-mowed area, use your best judgement to identify the area where the ball was lost when entering the area, drop a ball 2-club lengths from that point into the next lower cut of grass, no closer to the hole, and hit from that spot with a penalty of 1-stroke.

C.) After a 3 minute search, your ball is lost and must be played as such. If it is subsequently found, it is still "lost" and must be played under penalty for a lost ball. Once you have taken a penalty drop for a lost ball, the "dropped ball" is the ball in play. If your original ball is found, it is termed the "wrong ball".

# **TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION**

## **BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

### **8. A.) Hitting from the Wrong Tee.**

Incurs a 1-stroke penalty, if corrected before leaving the teeing ground on that hole. If not corrected, there is a 2-stroke penalty.

### **8.B.) Hitting the Wrong Ball.**

Incurs a 1-stroke penalty, if corrected before leaving the green on that hole. If not corrected, there is a 2-stroke penalty. (Effective January 30, 2024)

### **9. Ball in a Bunker.**

Whether a bunker is maintained (has rakes) or is not, you may drop out of and behind (not beside) the bunker on a line from the pin thru the original position of the ball for a penalty of 1-stroke. This includes an unplayable lie. If your ball is in a depression in the bunker (footprint, plugged lie, animal track, etc.) or packed from rain and not properly raked or prepared, you may smooth the area (rake or foot) and replace the ball. If your ball is in an area of casual water or mud within the bunker, you should find the nearest point of relief within the bunker and play from that point without penalty. Only if a bunker is completely full of water may the player drop out of the bunker on a straight line from the pin thru the original position of the ball. If you are taking outside relief, you should announce this to your playing partners for their concurrence. If there has been rainfall immediately before the day of play an announcement will be made before the group tees off as to whether or not the bunkers will be in play. If they are in play, the above paragraph applies. Players are not entitled to relief from a bunker that is merely wet or has muddy areas. As noted above, you may find relief from a muddy area within the bunker without penalty. Players are not entitled to relief from wet sand, but may rake or smooth the area in which the ball lies as noted in the second paragraph of this guideline. If the bunkers are not in play, the player will drop the ball out of the bunker as if the bunker is completely full of water, without penalty. The drop will be along the line from the flagstick thru the original position of the ball.

### **10. Ball Hit Into Body of Water (Excludes Tee Shots on Par 4 and Par 5 Holes.**

Drop your ball on the other side of the water on a line from the flag to where the ball entered the water, unless there is a designated "drop zone". Either drop incurs a 1-stroke penalty.

### **11. Ball Hit Into and Found in a Non-Mowed Weed Area.**

Ball can be played from that spot without penalty, OR, dropped 2-club lengths outside the nearest border of the non-mowed area with a 1-stroke penalty.

### **12. Moveable Obstructions.**

Can be moved without penalty. Immovable Obstructions. (anything artificial or temporary, including sprinkler heads), players get free relief, including ball, stance, and swing. No Relief is available from natural growing things, such as trees, shrubs, vines, bushes, tall grass, etc. Additional free relief is available within 2-club lengths of a sprinkler head in a closely mowed area (fairway length) where it is on the line of play and is within 2-club lengths of the green. Relief, in all of these situations, is a free drop within 1-club length, no closer to the hole, in the same length of grass.

### **13. Ball Unplayable.**

A player can declare a ball unplayable at any place on the course except in a penalty area. Our Association follows USGA Rules, except that we will not give ourselves the option of going back and replaying the shot under a 1-stroke penalty.

# TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES

## **14. Slow Play.**

TTSGA Members are not entitled to play at their own pace in the Association. TTSGA Groups must keep up with the group playing ahead. Toward this objective, the following guidelines are REQUIRED:

- If your group finishes play in more than 4-1/2 hours and is 15 minutes behind the finishing time of the group ahead, each member of your group will be penalized 1-stroke.
- If your group is 20 minutes behind, each member of your group will be penalized 2-strokes.
- If a player is identified with three such violations, they may not be invited back into the Association for the following year.
- If the TTSGA Member attracts 5 such violations, they will be immediately dismissed from all remaining tournaments and their Association entry fee will be refunded, on a prorated basis.

## **15. Disqualification.**

If a score is submitted in your name and does not reflect any applicable penalties, you will be disqualified for submitting a score lower than you had. In addition, any player practicing on the course on the day of play will be disqualified. This includes chipping to or putting on any of the course greens.



## **#2: RULE CLARIFICATION: RED, YELLOW, AND WHITE LINES**

### **Difference in Red, Yellow, and White Stakes OR LINES?**

- **WHITE STAKES/LINES** define Out-of-Bounds (OB) and **Cannot** be moved to aid in playing a shot.
  - **Two Shot Penalty** for a ball hit OB per USGA and TTSGA rules.
    - TTSGA has adopted the USGA **Local Option Rule** that
      - ✓ allows a ball to be dropped on an equidistant arc anywhere along a line from the flag and where the ball is believed to have gone OB to within two club lengths into the fairway.
      - ✓ must make the decision to use this **Local Option Rule** before leaving the tee or previous shot
    - OR**
    - ✓ hit and must use a provisional ball
    - ✓ cannot use the **Local Option Rule** from the point where the ball is determined to have gone OB
    - ✓ Note that you may play in some other club tournaments where they have adopted the **Local Option Rule** for everyday play, but do not allow it in tournaments.
- **RED and YELLOW STAKES/LINES** define Penalty Areas (i.e.: body of water) with different options associated with drop area for the next shot:
  - **One Shot Penalty** for a ball in the Penalty Areas per USGA and TTSGA rules
    - Allows the ball to be dropped from where the last shot was played
    - OR**
    - anywhere along a line from the flag back thru the point where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.
  - For a **RED PENALTY AREA**, one has the additional option of dropping the ball within two club lengths of where the ball last crossed into the penalty area.
  - An option that was eliminated in the 2020 USGA rule changes allowed one to drop on the other side of a penalty area, equidistant from the flag.
  - When playing from a penalty area, you can now remove any loose impediments; ground your club; or take practice swings that touch the ground.
  - A penalty area is the only area on the course(There are now five areas on the course. Can you name them?) where you cannot declare a ball unplayable.
  - **TTSGA rules differ from these USGA rules in one important respect**
    - **Rule #11): When hitting into red or yellow penalty areas we may-under the same one penalty stroke-drop on the other side of the penalty area along a line from the flag thru the point where the ball entered the penalty area.**
      - ✓ **One could hit into a body of water, take a one stroke penalty and drop on opposite side of the water.**

# TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION

## BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES

### #3: TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE

#### a) Playing Guidelines

#### **Slow Play is mentioned by the TTSGA Membership as an area that needs to be**

**addressed.** The Tournament Director is often asked: "How long will it take for your group to finish?" The pace of play is instrumental in negotiating tournaments costs and schedules with the Golf Course Management. Why do the courses care? They want us to play and enjoy, but they also want to maximize revenue and get the course open to the public as quickly as possible. When Golf Course Management is told that course is available in five hours—TTSGA better value. **This step is a CLEAR BENEFIT to TTSGA and the Golf Course.**

Every golfer's duty is to keep up with the game in front and not just ahead of the game behind

**Note the following suggestions** as the eight items are not designed to rush players, but assist in keeping the pace of play optimize for all:

1. The easiest of all recommendations is to **play ready golf**. There is no need to debate, particularly when you are in the fairway, who is furthest out. The first person who is ready should hit. That goes for the tee box as well.
2. If you aren't hitting, **get ready to play**. Know where and how far you want to hit the ball when it's your turn to swing.
3. Don't wait in the cart for your partner. **Go to your ball and get ready for your shot**. If you want to leave the cart, that's fine, too, but take a couple clubs and start walking. Nothing wastes more time than sitting in the cart watching someone else play.
4. **Play every lost ball as a lateral hazard**, assuming you aren't in a tournament stipulating otherwise. Stroke and distance is the worst penalty in the game and it's the nemesis of pace of play. If you must adhere strictly to the rules, hit a provisional if there is any doubt.
5. **Be aware of how much time you spend looking for balls** in the woods. Too many amateurs end up traipsing through the trees in search of a ball that will provide an unplayable lie even if found. Don't be afraid to declare a ball lost. Unfortunately, it's part of the game.
6. **Fill out the scorecard on the next tee box**, not beside the green where you just putted.
7. **Take every precaution to avoid walking back to the cart**. Keep an extra ball in your pocket if you are in search of one; bring more than one club, particularly if you are chipping and have a variety of choices. Golf is a thinking man's game and using your head before you get to the ball will speed up play.
8. **Don't mark every putt**. If you have a two-footer or something just outside the leather, go ahead and knock the ball in the hole. You shouldn't rush, but conversely, there is no need to slave over every putt as if The Masters is at stake.

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

**TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE  
b) PGA Guidelines**

**PLAYING GUIDELINES**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When playing in groups of 4, the completion of play is expected to be:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 4 hours and 30 minutes or no more than 15 minutes per hole</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When playing in groups of 3, the completion of play is expected to be:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 4 hours and 15 minutes or no more than 13 minutes per hole</li></ul></li></ul> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Groups can self-manage their Play by meeting the following Guidelines ensuring they retain their position with the preceding group::**

- Meeting the allotted time to play a hole.
- Reaching the **Par 3 Tee** before the preceding group has cleared the next tee.
- Reaching the **Par 4 tee** before the preceding group has cleared the Par 4 green.
- Reaching the **Par 5 tee** when the preceding group is on the putting green.

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

**#4: HANDICAP MANAGEMENT PROCESS  
a) HANDICAP GENERATION PROCESS**

**ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND CONSISTANT HANDICAP FOR A NEW and Existing TTSGA MEMBERS**

**OPTION #1: Indicates an Index upon joining (via MEMBER Application)**

✓ <b>Step 1</b>	Establish a handicap as a base by creating three score values using our home course (Country Hills Yellow Tees)
✓ <b>Step 2</b>	Record next two competitive rounds generating 5 scores start handicap calculations.
✓ <b>Step 3</b>	Record successive competitive scores replacing the estimated Country Hills scores creating the foundation for future handicaps based on actual competitive rounds. ✓ When successive competitive scores are completed, a County Hills generated round is removed. ✓ If higher competitive rounds are higher than original index, then lower score is removed. ✓ If lower competitive rounds are lower than original index, then higher score is removed.
✓ <b>Step 4</b>	✓ Record 6th competitive round as system now has 6 full competitive rounds
✓ <b>Step 5</b>	✓ Upon the 6th competitive round completion, use of scores for handicap are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Completed Rounds</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5-6: use best 5 rounds</li> <li>▪ 7-8: use best 2 rounds</li> <li>▪ 9-10: use best 3 rounds</li> <li>▪ 11-12 use best 5 rounds</li> <li>▪ 13-14 use best 5 rounds</li> <li>▪ 15 -16 use best 6 rounds</li> <li>▪ 17 use best 7 rounds</li> <li>▪ 18 use best 8 rounds</li> <li>▪ 19 use best 9 rounds</li> <li>▪ 20 use best 10 rounds</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
✓ <b>Step 6</b>	✓ With 20 completed rounds, the <b>additional rounds are used following the Standard Handicap Process—taking the best 10 rounds</b>

**OPTION #2: Does not indicate an Index upon joining (via Application)**

✓ <b>Step 1</b>	✓ Establish a handicap as a base by creating three score values using the first competitive score as base index for three scores.
✓ <b>Step 2</b>	✓ Follow Option 1, Steps 2 through 6

**STANDARD HANDICAP PROCESS: USES THE BEST 10 ROUNDS FROM THE LAST 20 ROUNDS**

Note the following Process to indicate New Member Handicap Status listed on Reports/Scorecards

- Name listed in “ALL CAPS”: Manually Calculate
- Last Name in “CAPS”: two complete rounds, win Prizes
- Name no “CAPS”: full membership, established Handicap

# TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES

## #4: HANDICAP MANAGEMENT PROCESS b) HANDICAP GENERATION PROCESS

In 2022, the TTSGA board adopted a new policy allowing players 75 or older to move to shorter tees than the default tees where the rest the field is playing. Additionally, if a member wishes to move to longer tees than default tees then that also is an option.

Each tee box on a course has a slope and rating and is found on most score cards. Often the slope and rating for the forward tees require a contact with the Course Pro to provide the slope and rating.

When a course is input into TTSGA handicap system, the slopes and ratings are input along with yardages and handicap rating for each hole. These slopes and ratings are then used by the handicap application software to calculate tournament handicaps.

In an effort to explain what happens when competitors play from different tee boxes and how the "tournament handicap "is affected, the process is as follows:

### ASSUMPTIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Member's Index= 26.8</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gold Tee Box from Score Card</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Slope Rating: 68.0</li> <li>○ Course Rating: 123</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Green Tee Box from Score Card</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Slope Rating: 65.2</li> <li>○ Course Rating: 110</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### CALCULATION: : **Member Index x (Slope) / 113) = Handicap**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Input data:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Member Index=26.8</li> <li>○ Plays from Gold Tee Box</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tournament Handicap</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>(26.8 x (123/113) = <u>29</u></b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Input data:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Member index=26.8</li> <li>○ Plays from Green Tee Box</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tournament Handicap</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>(26.8 x (110/113) = <u>26</u></b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

When you choose to move to shorter teeing ground/tee box, you are basically playing a different course. Since members are competing in same flight and playing from different teeing grounds, an adjustment is made based upon rating difference of the two teeing grounds/boxes **(an adjustment of 3 strokes)**

USGA calculates this information to assure fair assessment for all players based upon established INDEX.

Our league recalculates index after each round (except for championship rounds where index does not change between rounds).

**NOTE:** Handicap of course will change between rounds because we are playing different courses) so members index is kept current.

## **#5: BE AWARE OF GROUP IN FRONT or BACK**

**SITUATION:** What is the worst feeling in Golf? Answer: hitting and possibly injuring a fellow golfer. Do not hit a ball into the Group ahead of you. Also, you are responsible to Visible to the Group behind you.

**FACTORS:**

- Keep in mind that just because you can't see someone, it doesn't mean there isn't someone in your ball's path. Several courses we play have blind spots due to the various hills.
- Using different Tees can create some distance misinterpretations and result in incorrect club selections.
- The speed of play is not improved by hitting into the group in front.
- On occasion, one may slice, or duck hook a ball towards another hole/ fairway.

**GUIDELINE: If there is ANY chance that your shot could hit the player(s) in front of you, do not hit your ball into the group. Why run the risk of injury to fellow golfers?**

**PLEASE ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION**

**TENNESSEE TRAVELING SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION  
BY LAWS, RULES, & POLICIES**

**#6: 2024 FINANCIAL PLAN**

- 85% of the Membership Dues are allocated for Membership Benefits-Flight Prize Money, Tournament Championship, Hole in One, Closest to the Pin, Multiple Group Lunches, Annual Banquet/Meeting, ...
- 10% of the Membership Dues are allocated for TTSGA Operations-IT Handicap Software, Web Hosting, Scorecards, Office Supplies, ...
- 5% of the Membership Dues are allocated to maintain a Reserve for unscheduled events-Memorials, ...

Income and Expense details are maintained by the Board Treasurer and reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors.