

OCEAN HILLS GOLF CLUB

Local Rules for all OHGC
Tournaments Played at
Ocean Hills Country Club

November 2019



OCEAN HILLS
Country Club

I. OHGC Tournaments

1. **“Men Only” Tournaments**: played on Tuesdays. Regularly scheduled Players may play on Monday, Tuesday, or both days.
2. **Mixed Play Tournaments**: played on Mondays. Women or Mixed teams may play at the end of the men’s Monday schedule.
 - a. Women may play as standbys or substitutes on men’s teams.
 - b. Men’s teams adding a woman player or long-term substitute would be considered a mixed team and would play at the end of the rotation.
 - c. Men’s standards will be used for Magic Circle and Closest to the Pin.
 - d. No Hole-in-One Pool for Women’s Monday play.
3. **Women Only” Tournaments**: played on Wednesdays.
4. **Special Tournaments**: periodically played on Monday, Tuesday and/or Wednesday in lieu of Men’s or Women’s Tournaments. During Special Tournaments having an “Individual” format, the women and men shall be in separate competitions, but may play together in a foursome. Entry fees shall be distributed as prize money within the competition from which the money was generated. During Special Tournaments having a “Team” format, the teams may consist of all men, all women or any combination. Members may only play in one of the two day’s tournaments.
5. **Guys and Dolls Tournaments**: played on Saturdays or Sundays. The gender requirements are two (2) women and two (2) men to a Team. A vacancy may be filled by a substitute player or a “Blind Draw”, if permitted by the Specific Tournament Instructions, or played as a threesome, if permitted. However, in each case the gender requirements shall not be exceeded.
6. **Touring Amateurs Golf Tournaments**: Tournaments played away from OHCC have the support of the OHGC. Associated funds shall be handled by the OHGC Treasurer as directed in the OHGC By-Laws.
7. **Niner’s Tournaments**: After the Men’s tournament on Tuesdays, interested members (Ladies & Men) gather for organized nine (9) hole tournaments. Handicaps are not required.

II. OHGC Tournament Eligibility and Maximum Handicaps

1. **Current Handicaps:** Only OHGC Members, with current OHGC handicaps, may participate in OHGC Golf Tournaments.
2. **New members** of the OHGC must establish their initial handicap in accordance with procedures established by the OHGC. Handicap adjustments made thereafter are derived by participation in OHGC Tournaments played at OHCC.
3. **How to establish a Handicap:** Play five (5) full rounds, 18 holes each, at OHCC, with at least one other player as witness. In order for the score card to be used for handicap eligibility, a scorecard for each round must include the following: Players' Last Names with first name or initials, Date, and Signature of ALL players. The 5 cards are to be placed in the Handicap Box by the Casa door. A new member may sign up to play in the weekly tournaments (Monday and Tuesday for Men; Wednesdays for Ladies) while establishing their handicap, but their score will count for establishing their handicap but not for that tournament and they will not be eligible to win any tournament prizes until they are given a handicap. A person with a GHIN INDEX may use it to establish an OHCC handicap. It will be computed by multiplying the GHIN INDEX by 40%. Contact the handicap chairperson.
4. **Maintaining your Handicap.** OHGC handicaps must be current to participate in OHGC Tournaments. Handicaps are considered current by having at least five (5) posted individual tournament scores by December 31st of each calendar year, to qualify for tournament play in the following calendar year. If this requirement is not met, the member may still play in tournaments, but with only 50% of his or her listed handicap. Once a player posts the required five (5) scores in a calendar year, the corrected handicap may be used. If the 5 scores cannot be met for extenuating circumstances (injury or extended sickness), a letter of appeal may be submitted to the Handicap Chairman
5. **Maximum Handicaps:** The maximum handicap allowed is 25 for women and 21 for men for OHGC Tournaments. A member's current listed handicap may exceed these maximums but will be reduced to these maximums for Tournaments.

III. Local Tournament Rules for all OHGC Golf Tournaments played at OHCC

A. General

1. Players must comply with:

- OHCC Homeowners Association's "Handbook of Rules and Regulations", concerning the Golf Course.
- OHGC Local Tournament Rules for all OHGC Golf Tournaments played at OHCC (listed herein).
- USGA Rules of Golf, where not in conflict with these "local rules".

2. **Tournament Chairpersons** must, in addition, comply with the "Chairperson's Supplement to OHGC Local Rules."

B. Player Cancellations and Check-in

1. **Player Cancellations:** The Tournament Chair-person or his/her representative must be notified, preferably in advance, when a player is not going to play as scheduled. A player may arrange for a substitute as long as the substitute meets the Tournament requirements; e.g., "Men Only."

2. **Check-in:** Players shall "check in" at the Casa at least 15 minutes prior to their assigned starting time. If all players of a foursome have not "checked in" as required, the group may:

- Step aside and wait until their group is complete, then take the first available "tee" time. When a group steps aside, the next subsequent foursome that has "checked in" shall be called to the tee.
- Accept the next player(s) from the "Standby List."
- Play with less than a foursome and be assigned a "Blind Draw," if eligible by the Specific Tournament Instructions.

C. Score Cards and Posting Scores

1. **Sample scorecard:** Entries on score cards must comply with the scoring format shown on the Sample Score Card posted at the Casa.

2. **Keep two score cards:** While on the Course, during play, two (2) players must maintain separate score cards for the

group and record, for each player upon completion of each hole, every stroke taken from the time a player addresses the ball on the Tee for his/her first stroke through the player's last stroke of the ball into the Cup, plus any accumulated penalty strokes. In addition, they shall make all other required entries on the score card.

3. Recording exception: To enhance pace of play, you may pick up your ball after 5 strokes, and enter an X on your scorecard for the following:
 - When you are playing a team game involving one or more team partners and your ball is no longer required for team score.
 - When you choose not to finish the hole (for any reason).
 - Once you have picked up your ball, your score CANNOT be used for the team's score for that hole, and you will not be eligible for any 18-hole INDIVIDUAL gross or net prize awarded for that day's event.
4. **Signing Scorecards:** Before submitting the two (2) score cards, each must be signed by the players whose names appear thereon. A player's signature shall indicate agreement with the hole by hole entries (or team score for scrambles) on the card.
5. **"Gross Score"** shall be the total of all strokes recorded during an 18 hole round of golf. "Gross Score" applies to Individual as well as Team Tournaments.
6. **"Net Score"** shall be the "Gross Score" minus the applicable handicap, 100% or a percent thereof as required by the Specific Tournament Instructions. "Net Score" can apply to Individual as well as Team Tournaments.
7. **"Adjusted Score"** shall be the player's "Gross Score" minus all strokes taken above five (5) on each hole, except Hole #14 which shall be all strokes taken above six (6).

D. Magic Circle, Closest-to-the-Pin, and Hole-in-One

1. **Magic Circle:** In order for a player's ball to be considered as being in a "Magic Circle," the ball must have been the player's

initial “Drive,” and the ball must either be touching the Circle Line or be between the Line and the Flagstick.

- The fact that a player’s ball complies with the above provisions must be verified by another player in the group.
- The player whose ball is in the “Magic Circle” shall print his/her name on the Magic Circle Card posted adjacent to the Green, and the player who made the required verification must place his/her printed initials adjacent to the signature.
- Holes used for “Magic Circle” purposes shall be limited to those with Yardage Markers displaying 100 yards or less for women and 125 yards or less for men.

2. Closest to the Pin: In order for a player’s ball to be “Closest To The Pin,” the ball must have been the player’s initial “Drive,” must be on the Green and closer to the Pin than any other player’s ball.

- In order to determine the distance a ball is from the Pin, the distance shall be measured from the Pin to the nearest side of the ball, using the tape measure provided adjacent to the Green.
- The fact that a player’s ball complies with the above provisions, including the method of measuring, shall be verified by another player in the group.
- The player whose ball is to be considered for “Closest to the Pin” shall print his/her name on the “Closest to the Pin” Card posted adjacent to the Green, and the player who made the required verifications must place his/her printed initials adjacent to the signature.
- Holes used for “Closest to the Pin” purposes shall be limited to those with Yardage Markers displaying 100 yards or less for women and 125 yards or less for men.

3. Hole-in-One: In order for a player’s ball to be a “Hole-in-One” the ball must have been the player’s initial Drive and have traveled from the Tee into the Cup with one stroke of the ball.

E. Disqualification, Rules Violations, and Cheating

1. **Disqualification:** Individual players participating in Individual Tournaments and entire Teams participating in Team Tournaments may be disqualified by the Tournament Chairperson or his/her representative for:

- a) Submitting score cards that:
 - Do not comply with specific tournament instructions posted that day at the Casa.
 - Are illegible.
 - Are incomplete or incorrect.
 - Are not signed by all members of the foursome.
 - b) Not entering the correct adjusted score on the score reporting sheet in the Handicap book (if required).
 - c) Cheating and any other violations deemed by the appropriate Tournament Chairman or the Rules Committee to be serious enough for disqualification.
2. **Reporting Rules Violations:**
- a) Any member of the OHGC wishing to report an alleged violation of USGA or these “OHGC Local Rules For All OHGC Golf Tournaments played at OHCC” must do so in writing immediately upon completion of play. The report must include the name of the member reporting the violation, the name of the member(s) who allegedly committed the violation and a brief description of the violation.
 - b) The written report shall be submitted to the Tournament Chairperson or his/her representative. If possible, the Tournament Chairperson or his/her representative may resolve the matter and so notify the OHGC Rules Committee in writing. Otherwise, the alleged violation report shall be forwarded to the Rules Committee.
 - c) The OHGC Rules Committee consists of the Rules Chairperson who shall Chair the Committee, the President and Vice President of the OHGC. If, due to unexpected circumstances, a Committee member(s) is unable to serve, one of the other members of the OHGC Board of Directors shall act as an alternate. In the absence of the Rules Chairperson, one of the other members of the Committee shall act as the Chairperson.
 - d) The Committee shall thoroughly investigate all reported alleged violations, including interviewing all members involved. Such matters shall be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

- e) The Committee may take no action or may levy penalties using the following guide lines:
 - First Offense – written warning.
 - Second Offense – Thirty (30) days restriction from playing in OHGC Tournaments played at OHCC. And or, a handicap reduction, at the discretion of the Committee
 - Third Offense -Sixty (60) or more days restriction from playing in OHGC Tournaments played at OHCC.
 - f) Any actions taken by the Rules Committee shall be separate from any disqualifications by the Tournament Chairperson or his/her representative.
 - g) The Committee's decision shall be final and all involved members shall be notified in writing of the decision, by the Committee Chairperson. The Committee Chairperson shall compile a file of all reports, records and correspondence associated with the matter and retain such file as long as actions by the Committee are pending. Thereafter, the Chairperson shall forward such file to the OHGC Secretary for further retention for a period of three (3) years.
3. **Cheating:**
- a) Any blatant or purposeful cheating and/or deliberately ignoring the Golf Tournament Rules must be brought immediately to the attention of the Tournament Chairperson.
 - b) A written report must be immediately submitted to the Tournament Chairperson or his/her representative, who shall in turn submit it to the Rules Committee. The Tournament Chairperson or his/her representative may immediately disqualify the offender(s).
 - c) Upon the receipt of the complaint from the Chairperson, the Rules Committee shall thoroughly investigate all written reported alleged violations. Such matters shall be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.
 - d) If it is deemed that cheating has transpired, the player(s) disqualification from the event shall be confirmed. The penalty of suspension from any future OHGC Tournament play for 90 days or more, will be assessed.

- e) Those found in violation of cheating shall not be eligible to receive any prize money, including "Closest to the Pin," "Magic Circle" or "Chip-in" or other special prizes in the Tournament in which they were disqualified.
- f) The Rules Committee Chairperson shall notify the effected player(s) in writing, of the Committee's determination.

F. Tournament Cancellation: Prior to, or during a Tournament, the Tournament Chairperson or his/her representative may cancel the entire Tournament because of adverse weather. All submitted entry fees shall be refunded.

G. Illness or Injury: During play, players who have completed fewer than 9 holes and who discontinue play because of illness, injury, or weather shall have their entry fee refunded upon their request. The Tournament Chairperson's Supplement provides guidelines for scoring discontinued play.

IV. General Course Rules

1. **No Group Larger than a Foursome** is permitted. Residents are limited to three guest players. For safety reasons, no spectators, pedestrians, children under 10, or pets are allowed on the course or practice areas.
2. **One Bag per Player:** Each player must have his/her own clubs in a bag or in a carrier. Sharing one bag or carrier is not permitted. While on the golf course, residents must display their current Ocean Hills bag tag.
3. **Personal Injury and Home Damage:** Each golfer is personally responsible for any injury to another person or damage to a home or to other personal property. Such damage must be reported to the homeowner and to the Clubhouse front desk at the end of play. All players in the group should see that the matter is properly reported.
4. **Motorized golf carts and vehicles** may be driven on the golf course by Recreation, Maintenance and Security personnel, qualified disabled residents and Tournament Chairpersons or their representatives. Qualified disabled residents may drive approved one-person carts: such carts are driven at the driver's sole risk.

5. **Non-Driven Carts:** Pull carts, push carts and battery operated bag carts are permitted on the golf course and pedestrian walkways.
6. **Winter Rules:** When Winter Rules are invoked by the Tournament Chairperson, the ball may be lifted, cleaned and placed within the length of an open OHCC score card of where it originally lay, no closer to the hole.
7. **Stay off Tees, Greens and Aprons!** No bag carts, motorized golf carts, carrier stands or golf bags are to be on the tee areas, greens or aprons. Carts must not be pulled, pushed or driven between bunkers and greens.
8. **Ground Under Repair:** Players must comply with all golf course “ground under repair” markings and direction signs.
9. **Players Should:**
 - Fill divots with sand on tee areas and replace divots on fairways.
 - Smooth out footprints, etc. in bunkers and leave rakes in bunkers.
 - Repair all ball marks on greens and aprons.
 - Use only putters on greens.
10. **Out of Bounds:** Landscaped areas surrounding the golf course that are marked by white stakes are “Out of Bounds.” If you know, or there is any possibility your ball is “Out of Bounds,” expedite play by hitting a provisional ball.
11. **Landscaped Slopes:** If a ball enters an interior landscaped slope marked by red stakes, the ball must be dropped within two (2) club lengths from point of entry, no closer to the hole, with a one (1) stroke penalty. No ball shall be hit out of a landscaped slope due to the damage it may cause.

Exceptions:

Hole #3. Relief from any immovable obstruction (including cart path) may be taken by dropping in the drop area without penalty.

Any ball coming to rest to the right of the cart path may be dropped in the drop area with a one (1) stroke penalty

Hole #4. When a player’s ball enters the landscaped slope to the right of Hole #4 tee area, the player must continue play from either the tee area or the established “drop area” with a one (1) stroke penalty..

12. **Tree Wells – Free Drop**: Players are required to take a free drop if their ball lies within a tree well. Take a stance at the nearest point of relief and drop the ball within one club length, no closer to the hole.
13. **Staked Trees** are considered unmovable obstructions. If a staked tree interferes with a player's stance or swing, the ball must be dropped within one (1) club length of the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole. No penalty.
14. **Concrete Drains**: Balls entering concrete drains must be dropped within one club length, on side of drain furthest from the green opposite the point of entry, no closer to the hole, with no penalty.
15. **Tees used for Initial Drives**: To minimize damage to teeing areas, tees must be used for the initial drive.
16. **Scheduled Tournaments have Priority**: Whenever an approved Tournament is scheduled, the course is reserved exclusively as of 8:15 AM for tournament participants until the last group in the Tournament has teed off.
17. **The practice putting green is for putting only**. No practice chipping/pitching onto the practice putting green is permitted because of possible damage to the surrounding grass area.
18. **Golf Shoes** Metal spiked or heeled shoes are prohibited. Soft spiked shoes are recommended.
19. **LOST or OOB**. When a player's ball cannot be found or is thought to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows as an option to proceeding under stroke and distance. For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping a ball in the fairway within 2 club lengths of closest estimated point where the ball was lost or went out of bounds.

20. USGA Rules of Golf shall apply where not in conflict with these local rules.

OCEAN HILLS GOLF CLUB

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Golf Club Website

<http://ohgc.net>



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