



The Grove April 2026

The Official Newsletter of the Buffalo Golf Club

Kevin Starr, Editor

Organized in 1912 100+ years and counting www.bgcgolfclub.com

President: **Kevin Starr** Vice-President: **Matt Mariconda** Treasurer: **Joseph Attea** Secretary: **John Barrett**

Board Members: **Mike Bass, Joe Coyne, Tom Czerniejewski, Rich Fries, Ken Hupkowicz, Greg Kaszubski, Dan Lach, Nick Lowery**

SPRING STAG INFORMATION

The Spring Stag is ON! We hope to see you on **Sunday, April 19 from 1:00-4:00 PM at Mooney's, 1531 Military Road, Kenmore.**

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE RSVP VIA EMAIL (kjsbqc57@gmail.com) SO THAT WE CAN GIVE MOONEY'S AN ACCURATE COUNT. IF YOU ARE BRINGING A POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER, INCLUDE THAT IN YOUR RSVP.

The stag would be a great time to pay your yearly dues (although earlier would be better – see below) and to catch up on details regarding the start of our 2026 season.

Among the prizes available is a gift certificate from Russell's/Salvatore's Grand Hotel for their "Grand Package" – an overnight stay in a whirlpool suite, dinner for two, and a breakfast buffet the next morning – a \$299 value! Tickets to win this prize will be sold for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. You may buy as many chances as you like.

2026 BGC MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular membership - \$120. The hole-in-one jackpot fund is an additional \$5. **Therefore –members who pay regular dues and participate in the hole-in-one jackpot will owe \$125.** New member initiation fee will remain at \$25. Members who were granted a leave of absence for last year and who did not pay dues for the 2025 season will not have to pay the additional \$25 initiation fee if they are reactivating their membership for the coming season

Social membership - \$60

Life Members - \$75. Life members who participate in the hole in one jackpot will have \$80 total payment due.

Many BGC members choose to pay their dues at our spring stag. This is an option again this year. Members may also mail their dues checks to BGC Treasurer Joe Attea, 284 Blackstone Boulevard, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Checks should be made out to The Buffalo Golf Club. Joe will also accept payments via Venmo - @Joseph-Attea. (Make sure to use this exact Venmo address. There is another Joe Attea on Venmo that has inadvertently received some members' dues payments due to typing errors.) Please consider paying your dues before the season starts. This will help streamline our membership process.

***Also – be aware that unpaid members cannot play in tournaments
or attest the scorecards of paid members!***

IMPORTANT DATES

First tournament – starts April 29 (will be adjusted, if necessary, based on Grover’s opening date and weather conditions)

Sweeps – will start the same week as the first tournament

President’s Cup Qualifier – May 11 - May 25 at 5 PM

Match Play Championship Qualifier – May 26 – June 7 at 5 PM. The Senior division will use full handicaps for the Match Play Championship.

Club Championship Qualifier (36 holes) – July 1 – July 19 at 5 PM

Harvest Cup Qualifier – July 20 – August 9 at 5 PM

BUFFALO DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION 2026 CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

See the link below for information:

https://he.nysga.org/2026-bdga-schedule-is-here?ecid=ACsprvveANibqXu0-hOL_WCXEj_J7An0KHspA8MKkVnok9iuJuKESp2tnwqiQLvTxcx6Hx60LE6m&utm_campaign=NYSGA%20Events&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9JBLUGQ7ZS8PPkCdzrfVjVT0PkkUbyVog6leyvpv_PXB4qY_WhwEVhgZ3ZnbM5h6OAc8WR_apOGBJ0Bq8Ec02VUf9EvIA&hsmi=410626352&utm_content=410626352&utm_source=hs_email

HANDICAP POSTING IN NEW YORK STATE BEGINS APRIL 15

Please remember to post all of your home and away scores on GHIN. You should also post your away scores for rounds played in warm-weather states (and countries) during the winter months.

HANDICAP CHANGES – reminder from 2025

The USGA and R&A made several changes to handicap rules and guidelines effective 2024. The most noteworthy changes are outlined below.

1. 9-Hole Rounds – 9-hole scores may be entered as a total score or hole-by-hole score in GHIN. USGA will calculate an “expected 18-hole score” overnight and use that score to calculate your new handicap for the next day. Previously, 9-hole scores were held until a second 9-hole score was entered and the two scores would be combined to produce an 18-hole score. Your GHIN record will show that a 9-hole score was used for this round. 9-Hole rounds are only valid for handicap purposes if you play all 9 holes. Previously, you could use a score for handicap purposes if you played a minimum of 7 holes.
 2. If you play an 18-hole round, but skip some holes or don’t finish the round, you must enter your hole-by-hole score in GHIN, leaving the unplayed holes blank in GHIN. USGA will calculate an “expected score differential” for the unplayed holes. They will then use the scores for holes you played combined with the expected score differential for unplayed holes to calculate an 18-hole expected score for your round. If you are one of our few members that do not enter your scores into GHIN yourself and you don’t play all 18 holes, you will have to put your scorecard into the handicap book so the BGC handicap chairman can enter a hole-by-hole score. Remember that if you play any holes alone, those holes must be treated as unplayed holes for handicap purposes.
 3. The minimum length for a course to get a slope and rating has been reduced, so it is possible that par 3 and “executive” courses could be rated by USGA. If a course does have a rating, you should enter your score for handicap purposes. Keep in mind that many of these course managers may opt not to pay to get a rating for their course, in which case you cannot enter the score into GHIN.
 4. Remember that if you don’t finish a hole (as happens frequently in match play or non-tournament rounds), you should use your “most likely score” for that hole for handicap purposes. Use your best judgement to determine what score you would have most likely achieved.
 5. For more information or to learn more about the World Handicap System, visit <http://usga.org/whs> or check the handicap guidelines on the BGC website, program book, and in the clubhouse.
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MEMBERS 70 AND OLDER

If you are planning to play from the red tees, you must declare your intention to do so by contacting Rich Fries and Matt Mariconda **BEFORE you start playing in the weekly tournaments**. (Members who declared red tees last year do not need to declare again this year, unless they are changing back to white tees). If you turn 70 during the golf season, you may switch to the red tees after your 70th birthday by notifying Rich or Matt before playing your first tournament from the red tees.

PROGRAM BOOK

As with last year, the BGC program book will be digital-only. Members will be notified when it is available online.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

This year's tournament schedule is now available via the BGC website. There will also be some hard copies in the clubhouse.

WALL OF HONOR

The Buffalo Golf Club Wall of Honor is dedicated to members in recognition of their sportsmanship, years of dedicated service to the club, and their love for the game.

Congratulations To the following members for achieving this honor:

2024 - Alan Mis
2024 - Richard Fries
2017 - Tom Fries
2015 - Paul Andruczyk
2014 - Joe Attea
2014 - Tom Smith
2014 - Donald Day
2012 - Dave Rader
2011 - Jim Burzynski
2010 - Howard Biondi
2009 - Joe Walz

Nominations for The Wall of Honor are being accepted through June 1, 2026. If you feel that someone in the BGC is worthy of consideration, submit his name via email to Kevin Starr (kjsbgc57@gmail.com). All nominations will be reviewed by the BGC Executive Committee and the living members on the Wall.

Posting Scores

Thanks to Rich Fries for sharing these videos about posting scores. Each of them is less than two minutes long. Worth watching!

Posting scores: What you should know - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJCBDuRB1ho>

Hole-by-hole scoring - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=YJSFP3qRkIRj88CH&v=inr6MpC3wPo&feature=youtu.be>

12 great examples of golf etiquette

1. **Play ready golf:** Play golf when you're ready to play. When it's not your turn, make sure to do everything you can to be ready to play immediately when it's your turn. Most preparation for a golf shot can be done while someone else is playing. Take no more than 45 seconds to play your shot once it's your turn. Really, you can take less than 30 seconds.
2. **Don't hit into groups in front of you:** Yes, we're trying to keep up and keep moving, but don't be in such a race that you could injure or anger groups in front of you. Make sure you're only hitting when you know you won't interfere with the group in front of you. If you can't hit, let others in your group go in front of you to keep things moving.
3. **Replace your divots:** When you take a divot with your swing in the fairway or other short grass, make sure to put that turf back into the ground after your shot and give it a good stomp to keep it in place. If you can't replace the turf or are playing with Bermudagrass, make sure to put some of the pre-mixed seed that facilities will give you for your cart or bag.
4. **Rake the bunkers:** When you have to hit out of the sand (sometimes multiple times in a row), make sure to clean up the bunker for the next person by using the rake to smooth out your divot and footprints, including your path to your shot in the bunker.
5. **Fix your ball marks (plus one other):** When your ball hits the green from any kind of distance beyond 50 yards, you're going to make a ball mark. Find that spot and fix it with a divot repair tool, gently working the edges to the center with pulling up or tearing the grass. Then find another ball mark that some other person didn't fix and clean that one up, too.
6. **Don't walk in someone's putting line (directly or through line):** It's rude and potentially game-altering to step in someone's intended putting line. Try your hardest to step over or around it, even if you're wearing spikeless shoes. And when your partners are putting, make sure not to stand behind them (until the putt is hit) or in their through line (the area beyond the cup).
7. **Know when to be quiet and out of the way:** Don't talk while someone is swinging or standing over a putt. Make sure to stay out of your partner's eyesight as they swing. It's also not a good idea to stand directly behind someone as they swing. Generally, don't be a distraction.
8. **Limit mobile phone use:** Keep your phone on silent or vibrate, taking only important/emergency calls. Limit how often you look at your phone for other purposes, including emails and other messages.
9. **Handle the flagstick the right way:** When tending the flagstick, get out of the way of any potential players who could be putting your way. If you're the closest player to the hole when everyone gets on the green, your job is to pull the flagstick, putting it down on the fringe. If you finish the hole first, grab the flagstick off the ground and put it back in the cup when everyone is done. If you're holding the flagstick, make sure to grab the top of the stick with the flag and pole together so the wind doesn't whip around the flag.
10. **Know the Rules of Golf:** The Rules of Golf are complicated, but you should know the basics, including how to handle penalties for hitting in hazards and out of bounds.
11. **Don't be a jerk:** Every group of golfers has their own standards for decorum, but it's generally a bad idea to swear like a sailor, throw or break clubs, whine a lot or not interact with the other people in the group whatsoever.
12. **End-of-round greeting:** When the round is over, shake hands with your partners or do a fist bump or wave or give a hug. That's just good practice.