



# The Grove

## MAY 2026

*The Official Newsletter of the*  
*Buffalo Golf Club*  
Kevin Starr, Editor

Organized in 1912 100+ years and counting  
[www.bgcgolfclub.com](http://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**

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### SPRING STAG AT MOONEY'S HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Over 70 members attended our first stag of the season. Requesting that members RSVP worked well – thank you to everyone who responded. Congratulations to Tom Fries for winning the big prize – dinner, an overnight stay in a whirlpool suite, and breakfast the next morning at Russell's.

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### 2026 BGC MEMBERSHIP DUE

**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.

Members may 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.) You may also put your dues payment in an envelope and put it in the Sweeps box – but if you do this, please contact Joe Attea so that he knows to look for it.

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

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## **CLARIFICATIONS RE: BUNKER PLAY**

- As per USGA rules - **no rake and place** in bunkers. May not move the ball, even if it's in a footprint or animal impression.
- If a ball in a bunker is in an **abnormal course condition** (temporary water, burrowing animal hole, ground under repair, or immovable obstruction), you are allowed to take relief or play it as is. You get free relief if you take relief in the bunker or penalty relief (one stroke) if you take relief outside the bunker.
- If you take relief in the bunker, find the nearest point of complete relief no nearer the hole and drop within one club length. Complete relief means that neither your ball, stance, or swing are interfered with by the abnormal course condition. If there is no area of complete relief, you may drop within one club length of the point of maximum available relief no nearer the hole.
- If you take relief outside the bunker it may be dropped outside of the bunker on a line from the hole through the point where the original ball came to rest no nearer the hole for a one stroke penalty. You may go back on this line as far as you want. You may also take stroke and distance for one stroke penalty by dropping at the estimated spot where the ball was originally played from.

AS PER USGA:

If you don't want to or decide you can't play your ball as it lies when your ball is in a bunker, you may decide it is unplayable. If you do this, you have four total options, and two will always require that you take relief inside the bunker.

You have three one penalty stroke relief options.

- (1) You may play a ball from the spot of your previous stroke (if this spot was out of the bunker, this option gets you out of the bunker; but if your last stroke was from in the bunker, you must stay in the bunker) (see Rule 19.2a).
- (2) You may take back-on-the-line relief in the bunker (see Rule 19.2b).
- (3) You may drop in the bunker within two club-lengths of where your ball lies but not nearer to the hole (see Rule 19.2c).
- (4) Your fourth relief option comes with **two** penalty strokes – you may get out of the bunker using the back-on-the-line relief option (see Rule 19.3b).

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## **ANNUAL HOWARD BIONDI INVITATIONAL**

- **Entry fee has been \$70 p/p in the past; it's always been in August, usually the Saturday after club championship weekend. We weren't able to run it last year, so we've made some changes, including making it more affordable and still fiscally sensible for the BGC:**
- **DATE: Saturday, June 27, 8 AM shotgun start**
- **COST \$30 PER MEMBER WITH GOLF PASS (\$50 W/O )**
- **COST \$50 FOR NON-MEMBER GUEST**
- **INCLUDES, GOLF, CART, DINNER, DRINKS, AND PRIZES**
- **DINNER AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED AT THE CLUBHOUSE.**
- **\*THERE IS A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPOTS AND WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT THE FIRST 80 ENTRIES (NO EXCEPTIONS)**
- **THE CUT-OFF FOR ALL ENTRIES IS JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**

- **\*ALL PAID MEMBERS CAN ATTEND THE DINNER PORTION OF THIS EVENT - NO CHARGE IF NOT GOLFING - AND WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THE LUCKY MEMBERSHIP (dues paid for 2027).**

**APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON BGC WEBSITE.**

**You may email the completed form to Joe Attea ([usaph@aol.com](mailto:usaph@aol.com)), John Barrett ([pjbarrett\\_7@msn.com](mailto:pjbarrett_7@msn.com)) or Greg Kaszubski ([gpk109@icloud.com](mailto:gpk109@icloud.com)) or just put your check and application in the sweeps box.**

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## **PRESIDENT'S CUP AND MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER**

The President's Cup Qualifier runs from May 11 through May 25 at 5:00 PM. Brackets will be posted after the qualifiers close. Do not enter the President's Cup tournament if you will be unavailable to play matches regularly through July 19.

The Match Play Championship Qualifier will run from May 26 – June 7.

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## **TOURNAMENT SCORECARDS**

Scorecards are in the mailbox on the patio wall. **BE SURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING WHICH CARDS TO USE FOR EACH TOURNAMENT.**

Read the section in the BGC Tournament Rules section of the program book that outlines tournament procedure violations that will result in disqualification (in addition to USGA playing rules that result in DQ). Attested tournament cards should be deposited in the locked mailbox on the patio. **Please make sure that all signatures and other information on the scorecards are legible! Illegible scorecards may be subject to disqualification.**

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## **INFORMATION REGARDING USE OF RED TEES**

**Remember to notify Matt Mariconda ([mattmariconda@yahoo.com](mailto:mattmariconda@yahoo.com)) and Rich Fries ([richf416@gmail.com](mailto:richf416@gmail.com)) before playing your first tournament if you are 70 or older or will turn 70 during the season and plan to compete from the red senior tees.**

### **More Information on Red Tees**

- 1) Members must inform the Tournament & Rules chairman before playing their first tournament of the season that they intend to use the senior/red tees.
- 2) Members must use their red tee handicap when playing from the red tees.
- 3) After a member begins using the senior/red tees, they may not change back to the white tees until the following season.
- 4) Scratch tournaments must be played from the white tees.
- 5) Members may play from either white or senior/red tees during non-tournament rounds, but must accurately record the tees used for handicap purposes.

When playing tournaments that have handicaps allocated hole-by-hole (match play vs. par, Stableford, etc.) use the handicap rating shown on the **tournament scorecard** (or the white tee hole handicap ratings from the Grover scorecards). The red tee handicap ratings shown on the Grover scorecards are for female golfers.

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## **SWEEPS**

Look for the Sweeps registration book in the clubhouse. Remember to sign the book and put your entry fee in the blue Sweeps box (in an envelope) before teeing off if you want to compete in Sweeps. Mike Bass will be running Sweeps again this year.

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## **HANDICAPS**

Tournament handicaps will be updated approximately every two weeks as in past years. Remember to check your handicap in the clubhouse before submitting your tournament or Sweeps scorecard. Remember to post your home and away scores in GHIN! This is a USGA requirement to ensure that everyone has accurate handicaps. If you don't have access to a computer or smartphone, write your scores in the handicap book in the clubhouse.

USGA made several changes to handicap guidelines in the past couple years. See the program book and last month's newsletter for additional information regarding these changes.

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## **PROGRAM BOOK**

The updated 2026 Program Book will soon be available on the BGC website. No printed copies will be distributed this year.

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## **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND RULES**

The 2026 tournament schedule is posted on the BGC website.

Additionally, the full BGC Tournament Rules are posted on the BGC website – See “BGC Rules” in the Member Menu.

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## **INFORMATION RE: THE TEE TIME RESERVATION SYSTEM**

TO BOOK A TEE TIME AT GROVER:

<https://www.chronogolf.com/club/grover-cleveland-golf-course>

Also – as per the Erie County Parks and Recreation department regarding missed tee times:

*If a passholder is named, they will be held responsible. If listed as 'guest,' the team captain (person who made the reservation) will get a strike if a member of their party does not show. The team captain will only receive one strike per occurrence (so if two members of your party do not show, you will still only receive one strike for that booking).*

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## **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

- If you have not received your BGC bag tag yet, see one of the Board members when you're at Grover. The bag tags are in the clubhouse BGC locker. Thank you to Alan Mis for making the tags for our new members.

- The County Cup tournament vs. the Elma Meadows Men's Club is scheduled for late July. BGC team members will be selected based on handicap index on July 1. Handicap flights are slightly different from our BGC handicap classes (9.9 or less, 10.0-17.9, and 18.0 and higher).
- Erie County was not able to reach an agreement with a vendor for the Grover clubhouse. Vending machines will be placed in the clubhouse with a variety of food/beverage choices.
- Schenck House Museum— scheduled to open to the public on Wednesday, May 20. Open Wednesdays from 3-7 and Saturdays from 10-2. A BGC trophy, a medallion from 1914, and potentially some other BGC artifacts will be displayed.

