

TOURNAMENT RULES

The following rules apply to all Buffalo Golf Club **Competitions** unless noted otherwise in the tournament information. Also refer to our Local Playing Rules for exceptions to the USGA Rules of Golf.

1. The handicap classes for all Tournaments and Sweeps are as follows:
Class A: 0-9 Class B: 10-16 Class C: 17 and over
2. Weekly **Competitions**, including Sweeps, shall start on Wednesday and end at 4:00pm on Sunday (or Monday for designated holiday weekends)
3. Sign the appropriate registration book before you play in any EVENT. If a player decides not to play a tournament after signing the book, he must cross out his registration entry BEFORE making a stroke on the first hole. Attested score cards must be turned in on the day of entry. Exception: The card may be turned in the next day if the clubhouse closes before the member finishes the round.
Due to the clubhouse being closed from Covid-19 restrictions, tournament registrations must be emailed to GroverTournaments@gmail.com until further notice. See the BGC Covid-19 document or the document in the clubhouse window for details.
4. **Competitions** and Sweeps cards must be attested by another member. In the case of a team EVENT, their card must be attested by a club member who is not on the team.
5. When a player is entered in two EVENTS for the same round, separate cards, both properly identified and attested, are required.
6. Current handicaps apply in all competitive EVENTS, even though the competitions may have started during a previous handicap period. The handicap book in the clubhouse is the official source for handicaps and it overrides other handicaps (club website, GHIN website etc.)
Due to the clubhouse being closed from Covid-19 restrictions, the handicaps on the BGC website are the official tournament handicaps until further notice.
7. A member may compete several times in the week's sweeps, but is Eligible for only one of the prizes awarded.
8. **In Certain Match Play Tournaments** such as the President's Cup, Harvest Cup, and any others, matches must be contested within the prescribed time or one or both players (teams) shall forfeit the contest or be disqualified. Top man (team) in pairing is responsible for arranging the time of the match, although their opponent(s) may arrange the match upon mutual agreement. Circumstances preventing such match must be reported to the Tournament Chairman, whose decision on default or disqualification shall be final.
9. In cases of ties in weekly **competitions** and Sweeps, the winner shall be determined by matching cards beginning at the number one handicap hole, then the number 2 handicap hole, and proceeding until a winner is determined.
10. In Tournaments where members play directly against each other, such as in the Club Championships, President's Cup, Harvest Cup, and others, and end up tied on the last hole, the players will continue in a "sudden death" playoff, with handicap strokes, if applicable, applied as in match play, hole by hole.
11. Disqualification will result if: you sign up for the same tournament more than once on different dates, dates that don't match (tournament book vs. scorecard), signing tournament book after starting the round, failure to have the card attested by another member and failure to record your tournament score in the score book.
12. All matters of dispute shall be referred to the Tournament and Rules Committee for final resolution.
13. The scores for all **Competitions** and Sweeps must be submitted on BGC tournament cards (white/blue/gold-tournaments; green-sweeps) in the correct box. Cards that are deposited in the wrong box will be discarded. The "Double Net Bogey" adjusted scores must be entered into the BGC handicap book.

14. ***Any member who qualifies for one of the Club's major tournaments or a public tournament where the fee is paid by the Club, and withdraws less than 48 hours before the scheduled start of the tournament or after the tournament is in progress, shall be ineligible to compete in the same tournament the following year. However, the tournament committee is authorized to waive this penalty after reviewing the circumstances.***

15. During the Club Championship competition, if a group finishes the round more than two holes behind the group in front and over 3 hours 45 minutes from their time of starting, all players in the group are subject to a penalty of two strokes. However, the tournament committee is authorized to waive this penalty for individual players or the entire group after reviewing the circumstances.

LOCAL PLAYING RULES

The USGA Rules of Golf and the Grover Cleveland Course Rules (as printed on the scorecard) are to be applied in membership play, except as modified by the following rules. Also refer to our Tournament Rules for additional rules in tournament play.

1. When adverse conditions are declared and posted by the Tournament and Rules Committee, you may lift, clean, and replace your ball without penalty if it lies in your own fairway. You must mark the spot before lifting the ball (see USGA Rule 14.1) and the ball must be replaced on its original spot (see USGA Rule 14.2). If your ball lies in the general area, but not in your own fairway, you may lift, clean, and drop your ball without penalty. You must mark the spot before lifting the ball (see USGA Rule 14.1) and the ball must be dropped as close to its original spot as possible (See USGA Rule 14.3). Penalty for playing ball from a wrong place in breach of Local Rule: Two Strokes Under USGA Rule 14.7a. It is not permissible to take relief under this rule when playing BGC major tournaments or qualifiers for major tournaments.
2. Anywhere in the general area of the course, a player may take relief if his ball is embedded in its own pitch-mark. (See USGA Rule 16.3 for details)
3. Cracks in the ground in parts of the general area cut to fairway height or less are ground under repair. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b, but interference does not exist if the crack only interferes with the player's stance.
4. At the player's option, dung from geese may be treated either as a loose impediment that may be removed under Rule 15.1, or ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.
5. There is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved on the putting green. See USGA Rule 13.1d for details.
6. After consultation with your playing partners, old hole locations on the putting greens may be treated as Ground Under Repair if they are above or below the surrounding area by the thickness of an American quarter, and the problem cannot be easily remediated. Please proceed under USGA Rule 16.1d.
7. Tractor or other equipment tracks, piles of grass or topsoil, and other spots obviously damaged and to be repaired except in penalty areas, may, after consultation and agreement with playing members, be treated as "ground under repair." Apply USGA Rule 16.1.
8. If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line, telecommunications line, or pole supporting the lines during the play of hole number 9, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for what to do). Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: Two Strokes Under Rule 14.7a.
9. Relief may be granted on paved or gravel cart paths that interfere with the stance, area of intended swing, or lie of the ball. Apply USGA Rule 16.1 without penalty
10. If abnormal ground conditions in a sand bunker (including casual water) interfere with a player's stance, intended swing area, or lie of the ball, the player is entitled to relief as specified in USGA Rule 16.1c. If rakes are unavailable for use in the bunkers, abnormal ground conditions shall also include areas that you deem to be unplayable because they haven't been raked (e.g., a footprint or a disturbed area from previous play). Proceed under USGA Rule 16.1c.
11. Stones and other loose impediments in a sand bunker may be moved as specified in USGA Rule 12.2a. However, if moving the loose impediment causes the ball to move the player must take a one stroke penalty and replace the ball as specified in USGA Rule 15.1b.

12. Staked trees are to be considered no play zones: If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or its stakes, or such a tree or its stakes interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f. If the ball lies in a penalty area, and interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing exists from such a tree or its stakes, the player must take relief either with penalty under Rule 17.1e or with free relief under Rule 17.1e(2). Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: Two Strokes Under Rule 14.7a.
13. The areas of the course defined by red stakes are to be played by the USGA Rules pertaining to red penalty areas. There shall be no free drop for balls that come to rest in casual water or abnormal ground conditions within these hazards. See USGA Rule 17 for details.
14. After consultation and agreement with playing members, areas of the course where the grass has been allowed to grow to six inches in length or more are to be played as red penalty areas, whether or not they have been marked by red stakes. This includes, but is not limited to the mound areas on holes 4, 9, and 10. It also includes areas outside the red stakes in marked penalty areas where the grass has been allowed to grow. You may take relief as defined in USGA Rule 17 "Penalty Areas". None of the unmarked areas shall be played as red penalty areas if the grass has been mowed to less than six inches in length. In order to take relief, it must be known or virtually certain that your ball came to rest in the penalty area, otherwise it must be played as a lost ball with stroke and distance relief as specified in USGA Rule 17.1c. This is especially important to keep in mind on the right side of hole 10 where the trees block your view of the long grass on and around the mounds.
15. Any fences and road curbs surrounding the course, as well as the entry road (Holes 10 and 11) and any area of the parking lot are out-of-bounds. Any fences bordering the parking lot and interior roads are to be treated as immovable obstructions, not boundary markers.
16. Distance measuring devices, such as range finders and GPS devices, are permitted. See USGA Rule 4.3 for details.