



Major Changes to Standing Rules, Version July 23, 2023  
Revised Version Effective March 20, 2024

**III. MEMBERSHIP, Item 7**

We have had several requests from ladies wanting to join as associate members to see what the league is all about and if they feel it is a good fit for them. Previously, the Associate Membership was offered only to former or current SBWGA-18 members. This membership is now open to new members as well.

**IV. MEMBERSHIP HANDICAP REQUIREMENTS**

**V. HANDICAP RECORDS & PENALTIES**

**VI. POSTING SCORES**

The World Handicap System implemented major changes effective January 16, 2024. Suzanne Stone-Griffith, Handicap Chair, has been communicating these changes for the last several months. Please review these changes and become familiar with the new requirements.

**VII. SBWGA-18 LOCAL RULE**

Pace of play is increasingly important, both to our league and to all SaddleBrooke One golfers. SaddleBrooke Course, Hole #2, was a frequent cause of delay of game. In an attempt to relieve this issue, SBWGA-18 put a local rule in place mandating only two balls in the water, and included two additional drop zones, one by the aqua tee box and one across the pond where we park our carts. This local rule has turned out to be very confusing for many of our members, and the board has discussed all options available, looking to benefit our members and pace of play.

The board has voted to remove this local rule, including the two manufactured drop zones, effective March 20, 2024. SaddleBrooke Course, Hole #2, will be governed by the Rules of Golf, specifically R&A USGA Rule #17, Penalty Areas. A new SBWGA-18 Local Rule will also cover this hole: No player may take a gross score higher than nine on SaddleBrooke Course, Hole #2. When a player reaches a gross score of nine, it is mandatory that they pick up their ball and record a gross score of nine. This will not disqualify a player from any tournament, ACE Day, or any games played on Tuesday.

Additionally, SaddleBrooke Course, Hole #2, falls under the SaddleBrooke One Golf Local Rule for Decorative Rock, as indicated on the back of the scorecard: Players must take free relief under R&A USGA Rule 16.1.

Please be sure you are familiar with R&A USGA Rules 17 and 16.1. Below are three links to helpful materials:

1. Printed version of Rule 17, Penalty Areas  
<https://www.usga.org/rules/rules-and-clarifications/rules-and-clarifications.html#!ruletype=fr&section=rule&rulenum=17>

2. Link to a video covering options available to players under Rule 17  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfjY8G79MEI&list=PLnU5qUEfww3f5x5gRldQB9yWr5YdBwWwV&index=8>
3. Printed Rule 16.1, Abnormal Course Conditions (for decorative rock)  
<https://www.usga.org/rules/rules-and-clarifications/rules-and-clarifications.html#!ruletype=fr&section=rule&rulenum=16>

## **X. MAJOR TOURNAMENTS, Item 9, Club Championship, Senior Club Championship and Legends Club Championship**

This item was brought up to date to reflect the change implemented earlier this year reducing the Legends Club Championship from a three-day tournament to a two-day tournament.

## **XI. SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS, Item 3, Member-Member**

USGA recommends the spread between partners' course handicaps be limited to eight strokes. If the spread is greater, USGA studies have shown those teams have an advantage. SBWGA-18 is adopting a slightly more generous ten stroke differential for our Member-Member Tournament. Members may partner with any other partner regardless of their handicap; however, the higher handicap will be adjusted downward to be only ten strokes above their partner.

## **XI. SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS, Mid-Summer Classic**

The SMGA does not wish to continue this tournament, therefore, it has been eliminated.

## **XII. ONGOING GAMES AND AWARDS, Items 2, 3, and 4**

To streamline the membership options process for all the volunteers involved, we have changed the join process from "at any time" to "only at time of annual dues registration, or during Membership Options open registration July 1-15."

## **XII. ONGOING GAMES AND AWARDS, Item 2, Eclectic**

The exclusion of Eclectic from Major Tournaments and Special Tournaments has been eliminated. Further, since the inception of the Eclectic game for TPD, the Membership Options Committee has been entering scores manually each time this game is played. This has become a very time-consuming task, so the scoring is being transitioned to Golf Genius so the game can be automatically scored. The change here is that the Golf Genius program can only score by SaddleBrooke One Golf's 18-hole course combinations, specifically, SaddleBrooke-Tucson, Tucson-Catalina, and Catalina-SaddleBrooke. The spirit of this game remains the same and will continue to be scored based on the players' lowest gross scores for each hole throughout the year. This is a minor change, but nonetheless a mid-year change in a game participants pay to participate in. Therefore, any member who feels this changes the game to something they do not wish to participate in may opt out of the game and request a refund. This option must be exercised by contacting Sandi Chester, Treasurer, prior to April 30, 2024. No refunds will be given after that date.

## **XII. ONGOING GAMES AND AWARDS, Item 3, Chip-Ins**

This item has expanded to include a description of chip-ins. No other changes were made.

## **XIII. OTHER AWARDS, Item 3, Most Improved Golfer**

Language was added to make the criteria clearer; however, no changes to the criteria were made.