

# ***OCEAN HILLS GOLF CLUB***

## **Local Rules for OHGC Tournaments**

**July 2024**



# OCEAN HILLS

## Country Club

### **I. Ocean Hills Golf Club (OHGC) Tournaments**

- A. **Monday Tournaments:** Open to both men and women, playing in single-gender or mixed groups.
  - 1. Men's yardage standards will be used in selecting holes for Magic Circle and Closest-to-the-Pin contests. Men playing from Blue tees and women playing from Red tees are eligible for these contests.
  - 2. Men are eligible for the men's Hole-in-One pool. Women are eligible for the women's Hole-in-One pool
- B. **Tuesday Tournaments:** Open to men only.
- C. **Wednesday Tournaments:** Open to women only.
- D. **Special Tournaments:** Open to both men and women, playing on single gender or mixed teams. Special Tournaments are sponsored and take place over two days on Monday, Tuesday and/or Wednesday in lieu of regular weekly tournaments. Each day is a separate tournament, and participants may compete on only one of the two days.

Tournaments with an individual format will have separate men's and women's divisions, but men and women may play together in mixed foursomes. For

tournaments with a team format, teams may consist of all men, all women or any combination. Entry fees shall be distributed as prize money within the competition from which the money was generated.

- E. **Guys and Dolls Tournaments:** Open to teams consisting of two men and two women. A vacancy may be filled by a substitute player or played as a threesome, if permitted. However, in each case, no more than two of either gender shall play on a team. Guys and Dolls tournaments are played on Saturdays or Sundays.
- F. **Touring Amateurs Tournaments:** Open to both men and women on single gender or mixed teams. Touring Amateurs tournaments are played at courses other than Ocean Hills Country Club with the support of the OHGC. Associated funds shall be handled by the OHGC treasurer as directed in the OHGC by-laws.
- G. **Niners Games:** Open to both men and women. Niners games are nine-hole competitions played on Tuesdays following men's regular tournament play. Handicaps are not required.

## II. OHGC Tournament Eligibility and Maximum Handicaps

- A. **Current Handicaps:** Only OHGC members with current OHGC handicaps may compete in OHGC golf tournaments.
- B. **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.
- C. **Provisional Handicaps:** New members and members who did not have an OHGC handicap prior to January 1, 2023 may be assigned a provisional handicap as described below. This handicap shall remain in effect until the player has posted six (6) tournament rounds after January 1, 2023.
- D. **How to establish a provisional OHGC handicap:** Play and submit scorecards for exactly three (3) 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: each player's last name with first name or initials, date, and signatures of ALL players in the round. The three cards shall be submitted together to the handicap chairperson. A new member may sign up to play in the weekly competitions (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday) while establishing their handicap, and their score — which must be recorded on a separate card and attested as above — will count toward handicap eligibility, but they will not be eligible to compete for tournament prizes until they have established an OHGC handicap.

A person with a USGA index may use it to establish a provisional OHCC handicap. Contact the handicap chairperson to complete this process.

- E. **Maintaining your handicap:** OHGC handicaps must be current to compete in OHGC tournaments. Specific requirements regarding the minimum number of rounds over a defined time period are currently being revised to reflect changes in our handicap system and will be published when complete.
- F. **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 for tournament play.

### 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
- Local Rules for OHGC Tournaments Played at OHCC (see below)
- USGA Rules of Golf, supplemented by these local rules

- 2. **Tournament Chairpersons** must, in addition, comply with "Tournament Chairpersons' Supplement to OHGC Local Rules." The tournament chairperson has the discretion to make limited adjustments to tee times, as needed, to maintain the smooth running of tournaments and pace of play (e.g. moving slower players to the end of the rotation).

#### B. Player Cancellations and Check-in

- 1. **Player Cancellations:** The tournament chairperson or designated representative must be notified as early as possible 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., only women may play on Wednesdays).
- 2. **Check-in:** Players must 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 next available tee time. When a group steps aside, the next foursome that has checked in shall be called to the tee, OR

- Accept the NEXT player(s) ONLY from the stand-by list, OR
- Play with less than a foursome and be assigned a blind draw, if allowed by the specific tournament instructions.

### C. Scorecards 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:** 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. This includes every stroke taken with the intention of striking the ball (including misses or “whiffs”) beginning with the first stroke from the tee with the intention of placing the ball in play, through the player’s last stroke putting the ball into the cup, plus any accumulated penalty strokes. In addition, they shall make all other required entries on the score card.
3. **Maximum Score:** If you pick up your ball without completing a hole (for any reason), record an X on the scorecard. You will be assigned a score of Par plus 5 strokes for that hole. You will continue to be eligible for awards for that day’s game EXCEPT in the case of individual Low Gross/Low Net formats. If you pick up in these games, you will be disqualified.
  - Picking up is encouraged to enhance pace of play. If you feel you have reached your maximum score for handicap purposes (net double bogey, or par plus 2 plus any handicap strokes you have for that hole), please pick up.
4. **Signing Scorecards:** Before submitting the two (2) score cards, each must be signed by all players playing in the group. A player’s signature shall indicate agreement with the hole by hole entries (or team score for scrambles) on the card. Signing scorecards that do not match is grounds for disqualification of all players in the group.
5. **Gross Score** is the total of all strokes taken, plus penalty strokes, during a round of golf. Gross score applies to both individual and team competitions.
6. **Net Score** is the individual or team’s gross score minus the applicable handicap, as defined by the specific tournament instructions.
7. **Adjusted Score** is the player’s score that is used for purposes of computing OHGC handicaps. For handicap purposes, a maximum score of NET DOUBLE BOGEY is used. The player’s adjusted score is the gross score minus all strokes taken above net double bogey (par plus two strokes plus the players handicap strokes for that

hole) on each hole. Adjusted scores are ONLY used for computing handicaps; NEVER for competition.

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

1. **Magic Circle:** A player's ball is deemed to be in a "Magic Circle" when the player's initial tee shot results in the ball coming to rest either touching the circle line or between the line and the flagstick.
  - The player whose ball is in the Magic Circle shall print his/her name on the Magic Circle card provided at the green, and another player must verify and attest the ball's position by initialing the Magic Circle card adjacent to the signature.
  - Holes used for Magic Circle 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 considered Closest To The Pin, the ball must have been the player's initial tee shot, must be on the green and must be closer to the flagstick (i.e., "Pin") than any other player's ball.
  - In order to determine the distance a ball is from the flagstick, the distance shall be measured from the flagstick 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 provided at the green, and the player who made the required verifications must initial the card next to the player's signature.
  - Holes used for Closest to the Pin 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:** For a player's ball to be a Hole-in-One, the ball must have been the player's initial tee shot and must 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 designated representative for:

- Submitting score cards that do not comply with specific tournament instructions posted that day at the Casa, are illegible, are incomplete or incorrect, and/or are not signed by all members of the foursome.
- Cheating or any other violations deemed by the tournament chairperson or by the rules committee to be serious enough for disqualification.

## **2. Rules Violations:**

- Any member wishing to report a violation of USGA rules or OHGC local rules 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.
- The written report shall be submitted to the tournament chairperson or designated representative. If possible, the chairperson or representative shall resolve the matter and so notify the OHGC Rules Committee in writing. Otherwise, the alleged violation report shall be forwarded to the OHGC Rules Committee.
- The OHGC Rules Committee consists of the rules chairperson who shall chair the committee, and the president and second vice president of the OHGC. If a committee member is unable to serve, another member 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.
- The committee shall thoroughly investigate all reported violations, including interviewing all members involved. Such matters shall be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.
- The committee may choose to take no action or may levy penalties using the following guide lines:
  1. First Offense — Written warning;
  2. Second Offense — Thirty (30) days restriction from playing in OHGC tournaments, and/or a handicap reduction, at the discretion of the committee;
  3. Third Offense — Sixty (60) or more days restriction from playing in OHGC tournaments.
- Any actions taken by the rules committee shall be separate from any disqualifications by the tournament chairperson or designated representative.

- The committee's decision shall be final and all involved members shall be notified in writing by the chairperson. The 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.
- F. **Tournament Cancellation:** Prior to or during a tournament, the tournament chairperson or designated representative may cancel the tournament because of adverse weather. All entry fees shall be refunded.
- G. **Illness or Injury:** Players who discontinue play having completed fewer than nine holes due to 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

- A. **Group Size:** 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.
- B. **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. Bag tags for residents are available from the front desk of the OHCC clubhouse.
- C. **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.
- D. **Golf Carts:** 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. Disabled residents who have been qualified by the HOA may drive approved one-person carts: such carts are driven at the driver's sole risk.
- E. **Non-Driven Carts:** Pull carts, push carts and battery operated bag carts are permitted on the golf course and pedestrian walkways.
- F. **Preferred Lies:** When a tournament chairperson invokes "Preferred Lies" (also known as "Winter Rules"), a ball in the fairway may be lifted, cleaned and placed within the length of an open OHCC score card of its original location, no closer to the hole.

**G. Protected Areas:** 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.

**H. Ground Under Repair:** When a ball comes to rest in an area marked as “ground under repair,” the ball must be dropped, without penalty, within one club length of the nearest point of complete relief, no closer to the pin.

**I. Care of the Course.** Players are expected to:

1. Fill divots with sand on tee area and replace divots on fairways.
2. Smooth out footprints, etc. in bunkers and leave rakes in bunkers.
3. Repair all ball marks on greens and aprons.
4. Use only putters on greens.

**J. Out of Bounds:** Landscaped areas surrounding the golf course that are marked by white stakes are “Out of Bounds.”

1. If a player is virtually certain his or her ball is out of bounds, the player should expedite play by hitting a provisional ball, or choose option 2 below.
2. If the player has not played a provisional ball, he or she may, under penalty of two strokes, drop a ball in the fairway, within two club lengths of the edge of the fairway, at a point no closer to the hole than the place where the ball last crossed out of bounds. (OHGC Local Rule - See Section R, below)

**K. No Play Zones:**

1. **Construction Areas:** Fenced areas marking construction sites are designated No Play Zones. If a ball enters a fenced construction area, the ball may not be played as it lies due to personal risk to the golfer. The player may, under penalty of one (1) stroke:
  - a. Hit again from the previous spot;
  - b. Drop in a designated drop area;
  - c. Drop the ball within two (2) club lengths from point of entry into the penalty area, no closer to the hole; or
  - d. Drop the ball within a club length of a line from the pin through the place where the ball entered the penalty area, no closer to the pin.



- 2. Landscaped Slopes:** Landscaped slopes are designated as No Play Zones. If a ball enters an interior landscaped slope marked by red stakes, the ball may not be played as it lies due to the damage it may cause. The player may, under penalty of one (1) stroke:
- a. Hit again from the previous spot;
  - b. Drop in a designated drop area;
  - c. Drop the ball within two (2) club lengths from point of entry into the penalty area, no closer to the hole; or
  - d. Drop the ball within a club length of a line from the pin through the place where the ball entered the penalty area, no closer to the pin.
  - e. 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.
- 3. Tree Wells:** Players are required to take free relief if the ball lies within a tree well. Drop the ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole. No penalty.

**L. Staked Trees and Construction Fences:**

1. Staked trees and construction fences are considered immovable obstructions. If a staked tree or construction fence interferes with a player's stance or swing, the ball may be dropped within one (1) club length of the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole. No penalty.
2. If a temporary immovable obstruction (TIO), such as a construction fence, lies in a player's line of sight or projected ball flight to the hole, the player may take free relief by dropping the ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief or in a designated drop area. The player may not take free relief if the ball is unplayable for reasons unrelated to the TIO.

- L. Concrete Drains:** Balls entering concrete drains must be dropped within one club length of a point on the side of the drain furthest from the green nearest the point of entry, no closer to the hole. No penalty.
- M. Tee Shots:** To minimize damage to teeing areas, tees must be used for the initial shot from the teeing area, and may be used for any subsequent shots from a teeing area.
- N. Priority for Tournament Play:** Whenever an approved tournament is scheduled, the course is reserved exclusively as of the earliest tee time for tournament participants until the last group in the tournament has teed off.
- O. Practice Green:** The practice putting green is for putting only. No practice chipping or pitching onto the practice putting green is permitted due to the possibility of damage to the surrounding grass area.
- P. Golf Shoes:** Metal-spiked or heeled shoes are prohibited. Soft-spiked shoes are recommended.
- Q. Immovable Obstructions Close To Putting Greens — Local Rule:** The player may take free relief from interference by an immovable obstruction (a man-made object, such as a sprinkler head) when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play. The immovable obstruction must be:
- Within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
  - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

The player may drop the ball, without penalty, within one club-length of the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole.

Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

- R. Lost Ball or Ball Out-Of-Bounds — Local Rule:** When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance.
1. For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping a ball within two club lengths of that point of the fairway that is nearest to the point, but not nearer the hole than, the place where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course, or last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.
  2. Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule, the original ball that was lost or out of bounds is no longer in play and must not be played. This is

true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time.

3. But, the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when that ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area, or the player has played another ball provisionally.
4. A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

**USGA Rules of Golf shall apply for all situations not covered by these local rules.**

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**Golf Club Website [ohgc.net](http://ohgc.net)**



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