

Pine Hills Men's Golf Association Rules (2024)

PART A) General Tournament / Event Rules

All golf in the Pine Hills Men's Golf Association will be under the jurisdiction of the **2024 Rules of Golf** as approved by the USGA with the exception of those local rules adopted under local rules provisions.

The following local rules are adopted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the *Rules of Golf*:

1. Tee Box Rules

At the **START of the PHMGA Season**, you will be seeded in one of the following four flights based on your GHIN. If you meet the Flight + Age criteria as defined below, you can make a **one-time irreversible election that is season long** as per below terms :-

- **AA Flight** Players, age 60 and over on April 1st may play the Hybrid Tees, **EXCEPT** during the PHMGA Championship Events
- **A Flight** Players, age 65 and older on April 1 may play the White tees, **EXCEPT** during the Flight Championship event.
- **B and C Flight** Players, age 65 and over on April 1st may play the Gold tees, **EXCEPT** during the Flight Championship event.
- **C Flight** Players, age 70 and over on April 1st of may play the Green Tees, **EXCEPT** during the Flight Championship event..

Note : should a member move flights because of a handicap change you will not be permitted to move up or down two tee boxes from where you started the season.

2. In case of ties in handicap events, the Association will use the USGA recommendations as shown in the Rules of Golf, with the following additions:

Match Play - play-off hole(s) will be played on the same day as the match was started. In the event of darkness or inclement weather, the play-off continuation will be mutually

agreed upon by the players and subject to the provisions of local rules. Strokes in handicap match play events occur in the same sequence on extra holes as in the original 18 holes.

Stroke Play - in weekly events, ties will result in splitting the prize money between all tied players.

3. In match play tournaments, **each competitor must attempt to contact his opponent for the purpose of an agreed starting time or date.** If a Saturday time cannot be arranged, the match must be played upon mutual agreement before the following Saturday. If no contact or agreement between players has been made, both should be available to play at the regular Association starting time on Saturday. If an opponent is not ready to play by 10 minutes after his Association starting time, the Tournament Director will rule the match a forfeit.

In case of rain or threatening weather, both players must mutually agree to play at a later time or date. Otherwise, play must continue as scheduled.

4. Association members are responsible for **posting their own score** (gross score, net score, etc.) on the league Laptop in Golf Genius **within 15 minutes after completion of the round.** Only posted scores will be eligible for prizes. Scorecards must also be turned in for each foursome and placed in a box designated for that purpose.

Members DO NOT need to post their league scores with USGA GHIN, the Golf Genius tool will do it for you.

5. **Guests** will be permitted to play with Association members only during the last 15 minutes of the allotted starting times, provided such play does not interfere with Association play and that there is an open starting time available. Association members have priority on starting times. The same guest can be invited no more than 3 times during a given year.
6. The **PHMGA Club Championship winner automatically qualifies for NOGA's Cleveland Amateur and Senior Amateur events.**

Qualification / eligibility to compete in the **PHMGA Club Championship** will require :-

- A. Anyone in the AA Flight at the time of the "Seeding Tournament" will be eligible to participate - so long as the member has **played at least 4 weekly events prior to the start** of the Seeding Tournament.

- B. A “Declaration of Intent” to play in the Club Championship must be made by the **week before the Seeding Tournament.**
- C. The entire eligible AA flight will be seeded 1-16, using the best **two gross scores** from the Seeding Tournament.
- D. The Seeding Tournament is a **72-hole medal event** played over 4 consecutive weeks starting sometime in June. For this event, players **continue to use their “normal” tees.**
- E. The Club Championship final will be 36 holes of match play to be completed on the same day. The finals in all other flights will be 18 holes of match play.

The A/B/C Flight Championships will be conducted in the same fashion as in years past. The Top 8 seeds will be determined based on the best total gross score from 2 of the 4 rounds in the Seeding Tournament, while seeds 9-16 will be based on GHIN handicap.

Standard flight tees will be used for the A-C flight championships, i.e. A flight – Hybrids; B/C flights – White tees (**C flight tees under review by Tournament committee**). A/B/C Flight Championship Finals will be 18-hole events.

PART B) Local PHMGA Course Rules

(New rules for 2023 shown in blue type)

1. Event playing rules will be dependent upon course conditions and posted in the clubhouse **each Saturday by 8:30 a.m.** Rules will be one of the following: -
 1. **Summer.** Play ball **down through the green** - with exception of **free relief permitted from divots in own fairway**. Drop within a club length, no closer to the hole.
 2. **Winter.** Lift, clean and place in own fairway only - within one club length, no closer to the hole.
 3. **Jungle.** Lift, clean and place through the green, within one club length, no closer to the hole, cut change permitted - and **including Lift / Clean / Rake Replace relief in all bunkers.**

Note : no relief from Penalty Areas under any playing conditions.

2. Free relief may be taken (nearest point of relief, stance plus one club length, no closer to hole) from the following areas of the golf course **PROVIDING THE BALL IS FOUND.**
 - **ALL AREAS** of **pine straw, flowerbeds, landscaping**, or where potential damage may be caused to **tree seedlings due to a golf swing.**
 - **Designated areas of Arborvitae, i.e.**
 - ✓ Hole #2 - behind and to left of green.
 - ✓ Hole #3 - behind green.
 - ✓ Hole #10 - behind green.
 - ✓ Hole #11 - left of green / behind #12 tee box.
 - ✓ Hole #16 - behind green

A ball lost in the areas above will be assessed a one stroke penalty and played from the nearest point of relief from the approximate area of loss – determined by consensus of the playing group / foursome.

3. **Lift / clean / rake / replace relief (within a club length - no closer to the hole) is permitted in bunkers during Summer and Winter rules play if the playing group /**

foursome agree that a ball is in an unfair lie caused by footprints or other damage which should have been raked during earlier play.

4. A ball coming to rest in a man-made aeration hole in **your own fairway (including fringe)** may be dropped no nearer the hole without penalty.
5. If **not in a Penalty Area** but obstructed by any of the following structures, then a player is entitled to complete relief under the rules of golf: -
 - a) Shelter houses; wooden bridges; water fountains, sprinkler heads and faucets; man-made concrete foundations, and paved cart paths.
6. Line-of-sight relief to the pin shall be permitted **from all electrical boxes** on the course. In such cases the player may lift and drop the ball, without penalty, within one club length of the nearest point of relief and no nearer the hole.
7. **During ALL events, a putt may ONLY be conceded if:-**
 - a) **the ball is a distance “within the leather” from the hole, i.e. measured from putter head to the bottom of the grip of a standard putter, AND**
 - b) **all in the playing group / foursome agree to the concession.**
8. **Hole #7 (Speed of play)**
 - a. For a ball lost on the grass bank left of 7th green, take a one stroke penalty, and play from the bottom of the hill at the corner of the creek.
 - b. **“Green Monster”. If the ball is found in a position where the green fence separating 7th green and 3rd tee box prevents line-of-sight to the 7th pin, then the player has the following options :-**
 - i. **Play the ball from where it lies.**
 - ii. **Take a free drop at a location representing the NEAREST point of relief from the line-of-sight obstruction.**
 - iii. **Take a one stroke penalty drop at the closest drop area - either above the 7th green, to the left of the cart path across from the Blue 3rd tee box, or below the 7th green, in front of the bunker, next to the fence. Note : these drop areas may not be marked by the course.**
 - iv. **Option 8b iii) is also the rule for a ball lost in the area of the “Green Monster.”**

9. The lake on #18 is a Penalty Area and should be played according to the rules of golf. Both lakes and the cart path are considered one penalty area. If a ball has been played across the water and has landed beyond the penalty area but rolled back in, the lake should be played as a penalty area. You may play the ball on the green side of the lake where it last crossed the penalty area, no nearer the hole.
10. Specific areas to the right and left of the #4 green will be marked as a penalty area. Two drop zones will be established, or a player can proceed under the normal rules of golf.
11. The use of a device that measures distance is approved. The use of a device that measures conditions that might affect a player's play (wind, gradient, and slope etc.) is permitted.
12. A club is "broken or significantly damaged" if it meets the following conditions:
- the shaft breaks into pieces, splinters or is bent (but not when the shaft is only dented)
 - the club face impact area is visibly deformed (but not when the club face is only scratched)
 - the club head is visibly and significantly deformed.
 - the club head is detached or loose from the shaft.
 - the grip is loose.
 - a player is not allowed to replace his or her club solely because there is a crack in the club face or clubhead.
13. Immovable obstructions close to the putting green

Criteria

- immovable obstruction(sprinkler) must intervene on the line of play between the ball and the hole
- immovable obstruction(sprinkler) must be on or within 2 club lengths of the green
- ball must be within 2 club lengths of the immovable obstruction(sprinkler)
- ball must be in fairway cut or lower and not in penalty area or bunker

Relief

- drop at nearest point of complete relief no closer to the hole