

**Metro Seniors Golf Association
Rules of Play
Revised 3/31/2022.**

1. All events will be played in accordance with the “Rules of Golf” as published by the U.S.G.A. (Latest Edition) and local golf course rules except as modified herein.

2. Q: HOW DO I QUALIFY TO MAINTAIN A CURRENT HANDICAP TO PLAY IN CLUB EVENTS?

A: All members must maintain a current handicap in order to play in club events. A new member handicap may be established by playing three (18) hole rounds from appropriate tees at McCabe, or any other Nashville Metro course with another MSGA member, or have proof of handicap from an established and verifiable organization such as USGA or other organization. Qualifying rounds may also be played during league play to establish a starting handicap. Once a handicap is established, it will be valid for one year, through December. To continue to maintain a handicap, a member must play a minimum of five (5) club own-ball events during the current year. The MSGA Handicap Committee chairman will provide an explanation of the handicap system being used at the first member meeting of each year and will post the explanation as well as current member handicaps on the MSGA website.

3. Q: WHEN DO I SIGNUP FOR THURSDAY’S PLAY AND WHAT DO I DO IF I MISS THIS DEADLINE?

A: Sign up deadline for Thursday events will be noon on Monday before the Thursday event. No member of the Board or captain of the week can add players who fail to meet this deadline. On Thursday, if a member wishes to play but failed to sign up, he can come to the captain’s table before the first tee time, or shotgun start, and request to be added as a replacement for an absent player or fill out a three man team. No new tee times or holes will be added for those who come on Thursday. The captain’s table can only fill those vacancies that exist on the

pairings sheet based on a priority of when the player was added to the late list. If a member has signed up to play and is late for their tee time, they may be disqualified from playing that date if a replacement player has been used. If a replacement player has not been used, it is up to the captain to determine if the member can play. If the late player(s) joins up with their scheduled group, they will record a double bogey for every hole not played with their group. The pairings/tee times will be on the website for members on Tuesday and tournament play results will be on the website for members on Thursday. (The website address is MSGA1973.com).

4. Q: WHEN CAN I IMPROVE MY LIE AND WHEN CAN I NOT IMPROVE MY LIE?

A: In all events the lie of the ball may be improved one club length in any direction, NO NEARER TO THE HOLE, anywhere on the course, except in a hazard or on the green. This means that the ball may be moved from under a tree as long as it is not moved more than ONE club length, no closer to the hole. The ball may be lifted, cleaned and placed at any time, except in a hazard.

5. Q: IF I MOVE MY BALL IN THE ROUGH ONE CLUB LENGTH DO I STAY IN THE ROUGH?

A: In moving the ball, it must remain in the same cut of grass (ball in the rough must stay in the rough; ball in the fairway must stay in the fairway, etc.).

6. Q: WHEN DO I AS AN A, B, C, OR D PLAYER PICKUP AFTER I'VE MADE A DOUBLE BOGEY?

A: All players must pick up on double bogeys. Failure to putt out for par or bogey will result in a double bogey.

7. Q: WHEN CAN I HIT FROM THE RED TEES AND WHEN DO I HIT FROM THE GOLD TEES?

A: At McCabe all male players who are 80 years of age or older, and all female players, may play from the red tees. Male players who are 79 years of age or younger, will play from the gold tees.

Once a player chooses the tees that he/she will hit from in an a MSGA event, they may not change that tee selection during the 18 hole event. At McCabe holes #9 South, #3 Middle and #6 North will be played as par 5 holes. All players will move back one tee from where they normally would hit. Gold will play from White and Red will play from Gold.

8. Q: WHAT AM I TO DO IF I HIT MY BALL IN THE WATER OR IN A LATERAL WATER HAZARD?

A: If a ball comes to rest in a water or lateral hazard, it may be played as it lies, without grounding the club and without penalty, or the ball may be lifted and placed anywhere on a line where it entered the hazard with a one stroke penalty. A ball in “ground under repair” or in casual water may be placed at the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole, without penalty.

9. Q: IF I HIT MY BALL INTO A SAND TRAP—WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

A: Bunkers at McCabe are in an inconsistent unplayable condition, therefore for the duration of the 2022 season we will have bunkers as optional play. The option is to play the ball where it lies in the bunker or the player may continue to pull the ball and play it behind the bunker in line with the flag. It is not where the ball goes into the bunker, but where the ball ends up. If player chooses the option to pull the ball from the bunker, any ball ending in bunker must be played to the green, over the bunker. This decision may be made on a hole by hole basis.

10. Q: EXCEPT ON THE TEE IS THERE ANY PENALTY FOR MAKING A TEE FOR MY BALL?

A: The ground or grass must not be distorted by a club, shoe/foot, or fingers to build a tee except on a regular teeing ground. A two (2) stroke penalty will be assessed for each shot played from such a tee. It is the responsibility of each player in the group to enforce this rule. Violations should be reported to the event captains or a MSGA board member for proper actions.

11. Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF I TURN IN (BY MISTAKE) AN INCORRECT SCORECARD?

A: Score cards must be checked for accuracy before being submitted. Cards with a lower score than correct will be corrected and two strokes will be added. Cards with a higher score than correct will stand as submitted. Once a card is turned in, it becomes official. Cards must be legible and event captains have the option of not accepting the score card if it is not legible.

12. Q: WHAT IS THE POLICY IF A GREEN IS DESIGNATED "UNDER REPAIR"?

A: Any green designated under repair at the start of play will remain under repair for all players. In this case, show -par and skip the hole.

13. Q: WHAT IF A THURSDAY ROUND HAS STARTED BUT IS INTERRUPTED BY BAD WEATHER?

A: Once an event has started, every effort will be made to complete the round. If the warning siren sounds all players should return to the clubhouse and wait to hear from the event captains as to whether the event is delayed or cancelled. The decision to continue or cancel play will be made by the officials of the metro course being played. If the event is delayed, and play continues in a reasonable time, winners will be determined by the captains who will accept only scorecards that reflect 18 holes of completed play. In the event the round is suspended due to weather and play does not begin again within one hour of suspension, the round will be cancelled. All monies will be applied to the next round in which the player competes.

14. Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF FOR WHATEVER REASON EVERYBODY DOES NOT COMPLETE THEIR ROUND?

A: If 100% of the groups cannot complete play, all entry fees will be applied to next event in which the player participates.

15. Q: WHEN WE PLAY A SCRAMBLE WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM ON A TEAM WITH ONLY three PLAYERS?

A: In a scramble event three man teams will receive a handicap adjustment and each player on the three man team will alternate hitting two shots on every third hole. The player hitting two shots will hit first and last on that hole. When three man teams play in non-scramble events they do not hit alternate shots.

16. Q: IF I CAN'T FINISH A ROUND BASED ON MY OWN DECISION—WHAT HAPPENS?

A: Any team or player failing to complete a round on their own decision forfeits all prizes. In a scramble, a team of at least three players may continue with an adjustment to the team handicap. Additionally, these three players will alternate hitting two shots on every third hole (see Rule #15)

17. Q: IF I TIE WITH SOMEONE ELSE FOR AN EVENT PRIZE-DO I STILL RECEIVE A PRIZE?

A: In all events prizes will be divided equally in case of ties.

18. Q: WHO DETERMINES FEES FOR EACH EVENT?

A: Entry fees for each event will be determined by the MSGA Board of Directors.

19. Q: HOW DOES “CLOSEST TO THE PIN” WORK AND WHAT IF SOMEONE MAKES A HOLE IN?

A: Closest to Hole Contest- A player can win more than one (1) par 3 prize closest to the pin each day. A hole in one wins that day's total cash “closest to the pin” prizes, unless specified otherwise before play begins. The ball must be on the green to count in this contest. If there are multiple players with holes in one, then the total cash prize for closest to the hole will be divided equally between the players.

20. Q: HOW ARE DISPUTES CONCERNING THE LEAGUE HANDLED?

A: Disputes should be referred to and will be settled by the MSGA Board of Directors. The decision of the MSGA Board of Directors will be final.

21. Q: WHAT DO I DO NEXT IF I HIT MY BALL OUT OF BOUNDS OR I CAN'T FIND MY BALL?

A: If a ball is hit (or believed to have been hit) out of bounds from the tee box, the player will move down to where it is believed the ball left the course and drop a ball at the closest edge of the fairway even with where the ball left or is believed to have left the course. The penalty is one stroke. No player will take more than one hit from the tee.

22. Q: WHAT HAPPENS TO ME IF I FAIL TO CALL IN TO NOTIFY I WON'T BE THERE?

A: You must be at the golf course and ready to play prior to your tee time. Failure to show up or call the captain prior to the tee time will result in suspension for the following week . The captain of the team is responsible for reporting this infraction to the Board. The Board will post the penalty on the sign-up sheet for the following week's play and notify the member of the suspension.

23. Q: WHAT'S THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO NOTIFY THE CAPTAIN PRIOR TO MY TEE TIME THAT I WON'T BE THERE—IT'S MY 2ND OR 3RD TIME TO DO SO?

A: Violators of rule #22 for a second time will be suspended for two weeks. A third time will result in a four weeks suspension and the fourth violation within the same year will result in revoking the MSGA membership.

24. Q: CAN ANY OF THESE RULES BE AMENDED AND BY WHOM?

A: These rules may be amended by the Board of Directors with member approval at any time and will be posted before play

begins. Because of Covid restrictions on meetings in 2021, the rules may be amended by action of the Board of Directors without member approval.

25. Q: WHAT'S THE PROCEDURE IF I CREATE A DISCIPLINE PROBLEM OR VIOLATE A RULE?

A: Anyone violating these rules will be called before the MSGA Board of Directors for a hearing. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the Association. The decision of the MSGA Board of Directors will be final.

26. Q: HOW MANY CLUBS AM I ALLOWED TO CARRY IN MY BAG?

A: Players should only carry fourteen (14) clubs (USGA Rule 4.4) and all clubs must be in keeping with USGA standards.

27. Q: WHEN BAD WEATHER OCCURS OR IT'S RAINING AT MY TEE TIME HOW'S THAT HANDLED?

A: Inclement Weather Policy: The Captain for the weekly tournament along with officials at the metro course scheduled for the event will make the decision to play or not to play. If play is started, only metro course officials can stop play by sounding the horn. It is up to each individual member to make a decision to come to the golf course when it is raining and/or to play in the rain. There is not a number to call for a rain out or delay.

28. Q: I'LL BE SMOKING DURING MY ROUND-WHAT ABOUT PLAYING WITH NON-SMOKERS?

A: Smoking Policy: If you smoke and plan on riding in a cart with a non-smoking member you should ask that player if they are OK with you smoking. If not, the smoker will be required to get a separate cart. The metro course may choose to assess an extra charge when a cart is not shared.

29. Q: WHEN ARE MEMBERS EXEMPT FROM PAYING A MEMBERSHIP FEE?

A: Any member turning 90 years of age during the playing year is exempt from paying a membership fee.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- **Maintain pace of play (See slow play policies)**
- **Repair all ball marks that you see**
- **Replace divots**
- **Don't use putter to retrieve ball from hole**
- **Don't drag feet on greens**
- **Practice golf etiquette and respect others**
- **Requests for special tee times (late, early, before, or after a certain time) will only be accommodated by event captains whenever possible.**