

# **THE BLUE HERON GOLF CLUB**

## **MEMBERSHIP GUIDE**

**Version Updated 3/01/2018**

## **CLUB STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION**

The Blue Heron Golf Club (TBHGC) is a club managed by volunteers in accordance with the club bylaws. The Board of Directors consists of six members: five elected by the members and one representative from the golf course.

TBHGC membership is open to all persons approved by the Board of Directors, who pay dues as required and comply with the rules and regulations of the club. Membership is limited to 1000. Annual dues are set by the Board and cover membership through December 31st of the year.

Board of Directors meetings are held regularly and are open to all members. Meetings are announced prior to the meeting. The annual Membership Meeting is held within a reasonable period after the last tournament of the year.

Current Board Committees include: Tournament Committee, Handicap Committee, Membership Committee and Social Committee. Future Committees may be added including: Tournaments – Weekday and Juniors.

A Nominating Committee is appointed by the President to seek candidates willing to run for open Board positions and the membership may also nominate candidates in accordance with the club's bylaws. Board members are elected by a majority vote of the membership. Officers are elected by the Board of Directors.

Financial statements are prepared by the Treasurer and submitted to the Board for evaluation and approval. Copies will be supplied to any member upon request.

## **CLUB BENEFITS**

### **Club Membership Entitles You To:**

- Play in The Blue Heron Golf Club Tournaments and Field Days
- Participate in special club events and social functions
- Participate in Stroke Play and Match Play Club Championships
- Home and Home Matches
- Be considered for Ryder Cup style events
- Annual awards banquet
- Access to Professional Instruction and PGA Pro-Am events
- Special golf travel events

### **Membership Benefits Include:**

- USGA Handicap Index calculated through the GHIN System
- 2 complimentary 18-hole green fees (valid anytime / non-transferable)
- 10% discount on green fees (excludes punch cards) / unlimited play programs / and twilight
- 10% discount on range balls
- 10% discount on merchandise purchased in pro shop
- 10% discount on all food and beverage (excludes alcohol)
- Reserve tee times up to two weeks in advance
- Twilight times start 30 minutes earlier for members during Spring and Summer

## TOURNAMENT OPERATING PROCEDURES

**To Participate In Tournaments, Membership Dues Must Be Paid In Advance** (see Rules for Guests). Membership is not effective until an Application Form is completed and submitted, and dues are paid.

**Minimum Age Requirement.** All players must be at least 16 years old, or in high school to participate in TBHGC tournaments.

**Pay the Full Tournament Fee In Advance.** All tournament fees must be paid prior to teeing off. In the case of a two-day or three-day tournament, the basic tournament fee is due before you tee off on the first day of the tournament. Optional side games must be paid on each individual day prior to play.

**Complete "Official" Tournament Score Cards.** Turn in score cards to the designated scoring location promptly (within 15 minutes of finishing your round). You are responsible for submitting an accurate, legible and signed (by yourself and your marker) scorecard.

**Posting Tournament Scores to GHIN.** The Handicap Committee will post all Tournament scores to GHIN.

**Tournament Winnings Are Paid In Course Credit.** The amounts will be put on member accounts on the pro shop (The Blue Heron Golf Course) computer. The certificates can be redeemed at the golf course, in the restaurant, or used towards future tournament fees or membership fees (winnings cannot be used to enter cash side pots).

**Rules for Guests Playing on Tournament Days.** To attract new and previous members, TBHGC member's guests are welcome to play in tournaments. Guests are not eligible for Club Championships, Hole-in-One Pot or the KP Challenge. Beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup>, guests are limited to two (2) tournaments a year. All Winter Series tournaments are open to guests and do not count towards the two (2) allotted tournaments.

**Pace of Play.** The Club's goal for all tournament rounds is 4 hours and 30 minutes (or less). Keep pace with the group ahead of you and everyone will have a more enjoyable round. The club reserves the right to penalize individuals or groups for unduly slow play if pace becomes a problem. Fivesomes are not encouraged and must be approved through the Tournament Committee.

**Tournament Scoring.** After rounds are completed, either a member of the Tournament Committee or the golf shop staff will enter scores into the tournament software and post on score sheets. After awards have been determined and announced the competition is deemed to be closed. The Tournament Committee shall handle all disputes and Rules of Golf questions/infractions with the final decision.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

To participate in Club Championships, players must meet minimum eligibility requirements established by the club:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Match Play Club Championship (All Flights)	<p>A match play tournament that begins mid-season. Matches are played over a designated period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players must declare their intent to play by submitting an entry form and paying the entry fee of \$20.00</li> <li>• Players are grouped into Flights; One Flight per 8 eligible players</li> <li>• Players must have an established handicap</li> <li>• Handicaps as of June 1<sup>st</sup> revision will be used for seeding</li> </ul>
Stroke Play Club Championship (Men's, Senior Men's & Women's & Juniors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players must have played in at least one TBHGC Tournament or have been a member of the club by June 1 to be eligible.</li> <li>• Tournaments played as a guest will count retroactively towards eligibility once a player joins the club.</li> <li>• Three divisions will play from three different sets of tees in this 36-hole tournament (Men's, Senior Men's and Women's).</li> <li>• There must be a minimum of five players in a division to count as a Club Championship.</li> </ul>

See tournament information pages in the Membership Guide for further details on qualifying for, entry fees and payouts for these events.

## TOURNAMENT/FIELD DAY AWARDS AND PAYOUT

**Club Tournaments/Field Days:** The entire field will be in a single division. The division is divided into flights (about 16-20 per flight based on total number of players) based on course handicap. The entire tournament entry fee will be distributed based on gross and net finish per flight.

A player cannot win both a net and gross prize (player will be awarded whichever prize is worth more). In the event of ties, the total prize for the ties will be distributed equally.

Ties for trophies (or other awards) for the Memorial Day Classic, Labor Day Classic and the Stroke Play Club Championship will be decided by a sudden death playoff as determined by the Committee. If a player is not available for the playoff, the trophy/award goes to the player that is there. If both players are not there, scorecards will decide the winner using the USGA tie breaker guideline. \*In the tournaments with a playoff to determine the winner, prize funds will not be split and will be awarded based on playoff finish.

## MATCH PLAY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

The Match Play Club Championship is a match play tournament, with brackets being announced on June 1. The Match Play Club Championship is open to all Club members and follows the rules and format described below.

1. Players must have an established handicap as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. players will be placed in brackets based on handicap as of June 1<sup>st</sup> revision.
2. To participate in the Match Play Club Championship, players must declare their intent to play by submitting an Application Form and Entry Fee. Applications for participation open on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline for submitting an application is May 20th.
3. All eight player flights will be determined and seeded based on handicaps with the lowest handicap being the #1 seed and the highest handicap being the #8 seed. The first flight will play Gross match play if the difference in handicaps is not significant as determined by the Tournament Committee. All other flights will be net match play with the lower handicap player receiving zero strokes and the higher receiving the difference on the lower handicap holes. Any ties for positioning in flights or seeding because of a tie(s) will be broken randomly.
4. Tees used for match play will be determined by the Tournament Committee prior to announcing the brackets.
5. Each round of matches must be completed by a set date, which will be determined by the Tournament Committee prior to announcing the brackets.
6. If only one player arrives to play the match on the mandatory match deadline date, he/she wins the match (See Rule 6-3A). If both players fail to play, both forfeit.
7. The USGA Rules of Golf and any applicable local rules shall govern all play.
8. Pairings for each division are per standard eight player single elimination bracket:
  - #1 seed vs. #8 seed
  - #4 seed vs. #5 seed
  - #3 seed vs. #6 seed
  - #2 seed vs. #7 seed
9. Club Championship brackets will be announced by email on June 1. As matches are completed, the winning player is responsible for updating the bracket posted at the golf course immediately after completion of the match. Any discrepancies shall be handled by the Tournament Committee.

NOTE – The above is subject to change at the Tournament Committees discretion.

## STROKE PLAY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

The Stroke Play Club Championship is a 36-hole stroke play tournament that takes place over a weekend in September and is open to all Club members and follows the rules and format described below.

1. Players must have played in at least one TBHGC Tournament or have been a member of the club by August 1 to be eligible to participate. If a player plays in a TBHGC Tournament as a guest and later joins the Club, that previous event will count as the required tournament.
2. All TBHGC Tournaments held at The Blue Heron Golf Course after March 1 will count towards the one required tournament played.
3. To participate in the Club Championship, players must declare their intent to play in either the Men's, Senior Men's or Women's Championship by signing up for the tournament prior to the entry deadline.
4. Tees used for each Championship will be determined by the Tournament Committee prior to the championship (Likely tees: Men-Blue, Senior Men-White, Women-Red)
5. An optional "Horserace" will be played on Friday followed by a Calcutta and Tournament social hour.

NOTE – The above is subject to change at the Tournament Committees discretion.

## TBHGC TOURNAMENT/FIELD DAY FORMATS

**\*Note: Tournament schedule and formats are subject to Board determination. Not all formats will be used in a calendar year.**

**Stableford:** Points are awarded on each hole based on score (gross and net). The most points accumulated determine the winners. Players will receive 100% of their course handicap for net scoring.

- Double Bogey or more is worth 0 points
- Bogeys are worth 1 point
- Pars are worth 2 points
- Birdies are worth 3 points
- Eagles are worth 4 points
- Double Eagles are worth 5 points

**2-Person Scramble:** Each player hits a tee shot. Thereafter, players select the best positioned ball and each player hits from that position until the ball is holed. Details regarding the number of required tee shots and handicap allotments will be covered in the specific tournament announcement. Teams receive 35% of the low player's course handicap and 15% of the high player's handicap to determine the team handicap.

**Nassau:** Individual stroke play. Each nine plus the full eighteen holes are separate competitions. Players will receive 100% of their course handicap for net scoring.

**Field Day:** Individual stroke play or something new if a fun new format is proposed throughout the season.

**Masters Par-3:** Individual stroke play. Each hole will be shortened to a par-3. Players will receive 100% of their course handicap (re-rated for course yardage) for net scoring.

**The Masters, U.S. Open, British Open, and PGA Championship:** Individual stroke play. Players will receive 100% of their course handicap for net scoring. Additionally, in these tournaments there may be a side "pick-a-pro" game.

**2-Person Best-Ball:** Partners play their own ball and count their best individual score (gross and net) per hole. For net scoring, men will receive 90% of their course handicap and women will receive 95%.

**Memorial Day Classic:** A special 2-day, 36-hole, individual stroke play tournament, open to the general public as well as members. Players must have a USGA Handicap Index to participate. Players will receive 100% of their course handicap for net scoring.

**Best-9:** Individual stroke play. Scores are taken from nine holes in this combination: two par 3's, two par 5's, & five par 4's. Players will receive 100% of their course handicap for net scoring.

**Labor Day Classic:** A 36-hole, 2-Person Best-Ball tournament, open to the general public as well as members. Players must have a USGA Handicap Index to participate. This tournament may be played over two golf courses. For net scoring, men will receive 90% of their course handicap and women will receive 95%.

**Mission Impossible:** Individual stroke play. Tees and hole locations are set up so that the course plays to its highest degree of difficulty. Players will receive 100% of their course handicap for net scoring.

**Member-Guest:** 2-Person Best-Ball tournament where members MUST bring a guest as their partner. Players must have a USGA Handicap Index to participate. For net scoring, men will receive 90% of their course handicap and women will receive 95%.

**Choose-Up:** Choose-up was created to provide competition between players of all skill levels when a TBHGC scheduled tournament is not being held. The competition is both an individual gross & net and a blind draw 2-

person team best-ball. The Choose-up game is available every Saturday unless another event is scheduled. Any member or guest who has a valid USGA handicap Index is eligible to compete in the Choose-up game. **Choose-up is a friendly competition for TBHGC members and guests, it is not a TBHGC sanctioned Tournament/Event.**

**Tournament Score Posting in the GHIN System:** All eligible Tournament and Choose-up scores from March 1 until November 15 will be posted. The Tournament Committee will announce which events will be posted to GHIN as Tournament "T" scores and all other tournaments/events will be posted as regular Home "H" scores per USGA Handicapping Rules.

## **TBHGC TRAVEL EVENTS**

TBHGC Travel Events are open to anyone with an established USGA Handicap Index

**Lake Chelan Trip:** 2-Person team event played over a weekend in late September. Thursday and Friday are single day events. The single day events are best-ball. The weekend event will be a combination of best-ball and net.

## **TBHGC TOURNAMENTS – OPTIONAL TOURNAMENT DAY SIDE GAME CONTESTS (Cash-in & Cash-out)**

**Players compete during each tournament by declaring the side games prior to the tournament. You must sign up and pay to be eligible to win!**

**Closest to the Pin (KP):** The competitor hitting his first tee shot "closest to the hole" on each par-3 wins a portion of the pot. Each flight will be a separate contest. There will be a KP on every par-3 at each tournament. The \$10 entry gets players into each contest with the pot split evenly between all the holes within each flight. \*Note: \$1 of this entry goes toward the end of the year KP Challenge Shootout.

**Deuce Pot:** All competitors scoring a gross 2 or better on any hole splits the pot. A player will get paid for each deuce scored. If there are no deuces, the pot will be dispersed amongst the other side games within the same flight. Each flight will be a separate contest.

**Better Nine:** The player(s) or team(s) with lowest gross and net score from the front nine or back nine wins the pot. Each flight will be a separate contest.

**Pick a Pro:** During the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open and the PGA Championship tournaments, you can pick a pro of your choice for a side-pot entry fee of \$5. Your gross or net score combined with your pro's final day score will determine the winners. Pick your Pro before play on Saturday. Each flight will be a separate contest.

**KP Challenge:** During each eligible TBHGC Tournament members who pay the \$10 KP entry fee are automatically entered. A season long list of the ten individuals with the closest distance to the hole on any par-3 will be kept. At the year-end banquet in October, the ten individuals with the closest distances will compete in a Shoot-Out on hole #18 from a yardage between 100 -130 yards. \*Note: must be a TBHGC member to be eligible.

The Shoot-Out will be held in three rounds as follows:

**Round 1:** Each finalist will have two shots to qualify for the next round. Order of play will be based on the season-long standings – farthest to closest. The six closest in this round will advance. The four players not

advancing will be equally rewarded a merchandise prize determined by the Committee.

**Round 2:** Each finalist will have two shots to qualify for the next round. Order of play will be based on the Round 1 standings – farthest to closest. The three closest in this round will advance. The three players not advancing will be equally rewarded a merchandise prize determined by the Committee.

**Round 3:** Each finalist will have two shots. Order of play will be based on the Round 2 standings – farthest to closest. Players will be awarded a cash/merchandise prize determined by the Committee for first, second and third place.

**Hole-in-One:** Beginning with the first tournament of the year, players can buy into the Hole-in-One pot for \$5. This pot will build until someone gets a hole-in-one during a TBHGC Tournament, with a cash payout going to that player. Once the pot is cleared, players can re-up for another \$5. This is designed to help offset bar fees associated with the tradition of making a hole-in-one (basically acts as \$5 hole-in-one insurance). The Club expects members to take part in this. Players must re-up the \$5 fee each calendar year.

## **TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Certain activities such as a no-show, late show, or not having an advanced tee time by TBHGC Members can create problems for the economical and efficient management/operation of the golf course and TBHGC, including, but not limited to

- Loss of golf course revenue (green fees, cart rental, driving range, restaurant & bar)
- Tee time adjustments
- Player tournament registration & payment of entry fees
- Tournament and side pot entry information compilation

In order to prevent these problems and create a pleasant golfing experience for golf course patrons and TBHGC tournament participants the following policies apply to tournament registration:

The “Cut-Off” date and time to enter or withdraw from any TBHGC tournament will be 2:00 p.m. on the day preceding the tournament. Members can enter a tournament by:

- Signing-up on the tournament registration sheet at the front desk
- Calling the golf course and requesting to be added to the tournament registration sheet

Members can withdraw from a TBHGC tournament by calling the golf course and should do so before the entry deadline.

Depending on the actual number of tournament entries (tee time requests), the Tournament Committee will make tee time adjustments to create full foursomes and a series of continuous TBHGC Tournament tee times. For any adjusted tee times, TBHGC will contact the player via email, and confirm the player’s actual tee time before the Tournament.

If a TBHGC Member wants to sign up after the entry deadline it will be on a space available basis. Many times once the pairings and flights have been created it is difficult to add additional players. Players arriving on the day of the Tournament without a tee time reservation will be under the same above guidelines.

## **POSTING NON-TOURNAMENT SCORES / ADJUSTING SCORES**

Your handicap is only as good as the scores you record and it is your responsibility to post scores for all rounds played regardless of the course played. Scorecards for all rounds played between March 1 and November 15

should be posted. Rounds played outside of the NW where GHIN does not have a "freeze period" (i.e. California, Arizona, Nevada, etc.) should also be posted.

The Handicap Committee carefully monitors handicaps and scores. In the interest of fairness, the Handicap Committee is authorized by the Board to adjust handicaps if they suspect "sandbagging." The USGA also has a system to adjust handicaps if necessary.

The Handicap committee will post a periodic report showing rounds played for peer review. Please review this report when it is published and report to the Committee possible omissions you are aware of. The Handicap Committee will also periodically review tee sheets and reporting records for consistency.

**Adjusting Scores:**

After your round, check your card hole by hole and reduce the score on any hole when your gross score for that hole exceeds the maximum allowable strokes per hole in accordance with the following handicap chart. Deduct the total of the excess strokes from your total gross score to arrive at your net or adjusted score for the round.

<u>Home Course Handicap</u>	<u>Maximum Score Allowed Per Hole</u>
9 or less	Double-Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 and above	10

**Example:** Your handicap at The Blue Heron is 11. The maximum score you can take on any hole is 7. And you just shot an 88 with the following scores over 7: You would adjust as follows:

Hole	Score	Deduct
#4	8	1
#8	9	2
#13	10	3

This is how your final adjusted score you submit will look:

Your Gross Score	88
Your Total Deductions	6
Your Adjusted Score	82
The Score You Post	82

**LOCAL RULES at TBHGC**

- Unless marked otherwise the course boundary is played as a playable area. If a ball cannot be found it is played as a "Lost Ball." If the ball goes into the river, it is played as a "Lost Ball." If you can find your ball you can either hit it or deem it as "Unplayable" and take relief in accordance with USGA Rules.
- OB lines/stakes surround the driving range.