



Rules Official Handbook

Your Passion. Our Purpose.

scga.org

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Section 1 – SCGA Introduction and Background

The Southern California Golf Association was founded on July 29, 1899 with representatives from five clubs – Los Angeles, Pasadena, Redlands, Riverside Polo & Golf and Santa Monica. They met in Joseph Sartori's office (Director and Club President of Los Angeles Country Club) at Security Bank in downtown Los Angeles where they ratified a constitution and by-laws drafted by Sartori who used similar wording to that of the USGA. "The object of this association," says Article II of the SCGA constitution, "shall be to promote interest in the game of golf; the protection of the mutual interest of its members; to establish and enforce uniformity in the rules of the game by creating a representative authority, its executive committee, to be a Court of Reference as a final authority in matters of controversy; to establish a uniform system of handicapping; to decide on what links the amateur, open and ladies' championships of Southern California, and such other championships, as may be decided upon by the executive committee, shall be played."

From these reserved origins comes an Association which now includes over 1,400 member clubs, courses and organizations plus an additional 155,000 total members from across the southland region. Policies of the SCGA are established by the SCGA Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The Executive Director is charged with management and administration of policy and is supported by the staff of the SCGA.

The SCGA actively cooperates with the United States Golf Association (USGA), Northern California Golf Association (NCGA), Professional Golfers Association of America Southern California section (SCPGA), Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), California Alliance for Golf (CAG), the International Association of Golf Administrators (IAGA) and many other golf-serving associations.

The SCGA pursues its goals and objectives through the effort of two groups: the SCGA staff and the hundreds of volunteers who serve for the love of golf and preservation of the spirit of the game (approximately 125 of whom are rules officials). Each year the Rules and Competitions staff, along with the Rules and Competitions Committee, will assess the needs and policies of the rules and competitions program. During this time, each rules official will be evaluated for reappointment for the following tournament season. Appointments are for a period of one year. Re-appointment is based on staff and committee review, self-evaluation, knowledge of the *Rules of Golf*, and a willingness to continue to serve.

The SCGA conducts over 180 days of SCGA, CGA, USGA, high school and collegiate qualifiers and championships every year. Without the assistance and cooperation from volunteer rules officials, these competitions would not be held in such high regard.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with an overview of the SCGA competitions program and a detailed description of your duties and responsibilities as a SCGA rules official. It is also intended to enhance effectiveness and consistency at events, and to instill confidence in our rules officials so they may better handle situations that arise during competitions.

Section 2 – Mission of the SCGA Rules & Competitions Department

Mission

To be the trusted leader and resource in providing premier regional golf competitions and support on the *Rules of Golf* and tournament administration to SCGA members, member clubs and the Southern California golfing community.

Values

We are committed to delivering excellence and upholding the values long associated with the game of golf.

Principle Goals

- Provide premier regional championships for the various demographics of the SCGA, featuring golf's most commonly used formats.
- Enhance the value of the SCGA membership while showcasing the SCGA in the best light possible.
 - Offer various competitive and relevant playing opportunities such as Team Play and the One-Day Series to reach a larger portion of the membership.
 - Provide a first-class experience for players and host facilities at all competitions.
 - Offer excellent customer service through our staff and volunteers.
- As part of the overall mission of the Association, capitalize on our reach and contact with SCGA members, member clubs, and the Southern California golfing community.
 - Enhance relationships with host facilities and key stakeholders.
 - Draw positive attention and focus to the SCGA through our Rules and Competitions program.
- Serve as the lead authority on the *Rules of Golf* and tournament administration in Southern California.
 - Answer questions on the *Rules of Golf* and educate the Southern California golfing community about the *Rules of Golf* through industry-leading educational initiatives such as *Rules Crew* and *Know the Rules*.
 - Provide guidance and support on tournament administration to SCGA member clubs and other tournament organizers in Southern California.

Section 2 – General

Rules Officials

Volunteers within the Rules and Competitions Department are more commonly known as rules officials. Each rules official will be appointed to a one year term, which begins January 1 and will be evaluated annually. Rules officials will assist in the onsite administration of SCGA/CGA/USGA qualifiers and championships, officiating and ensuring that the event is conducted in accordance with the *Rules of Golf* and SCGA tournament policies. Specific duties performed by rules officials may include: starting, roving, observing, timing, scoring or acting as a forecaddie.

Qualifications:

Rules officials must be able to understand and interpret the *Rules of Golf*. One doesn't have to be an expert, but every rules official should have a general understanding of the *Rules of Golf*. Rules officials should have a desire to improve their knowledge of the *Rules of Golf*. Other key qualifications for an SCGA rules official include:

- Personal skills in dealing with players and host facilities, while representing the SCGA in the best way possible.
- Sensitivity towards tournament players and other rules officials.
- Understanding of the *Rules of Golf*, its Decisions, and open mindedness on difficult decisions.
- Understanding of tournament administration.
- Availability to work a minimum of five tournament days per calendar year.
- Willingness to assist in many different capacities during a tournament day.
- Must be a current SCGA member through a Type 1, 2 or 3 golf club.

Rules Chair

The role of rules chair is a one year appointment, which begins January 1 and is evaluated annually. The primary duty of a rules chair is to understand and be able to interpret the *Rules of Golf*, while assisting SCGA staff and the other rules officials in making rules interpretations. The rules chair and staff, acting as a team, bear the responsibility for conducting a successful and enjoyable tournament. The rules chair at each specific event will be involved with the local rules, committee assignments and the placement of rules officials on the golf course. The rules chair may also assist with golf course setup, as needed. He or she will be looked at to help train and assist rules officials and serve as mentors to fulfill the tournament program goals.

Qualifications:

- Strong personal skills in dealing with players and host facilities, while representing the SCGA in the best way possible.
- Proven leadership skills and sensitivity when dealing with other rules officials.
- The ability to act collaboratively with the SCGA staff member onsite.
- Strong understanding of the *Rules of Golf*, its Decisions, and open mindedness on difficult decisions.
- Strong understanding of tournament administration and golf course setup.
- Strong understanding of SCGA policies.
- Tenure with the SCGA Rules and Competitions as a rules official.
- Availability to work multiple qualifiers and championships per calendar year.
- Willingness to assist in many different capacities during the tournament day.

Prospective Rules Officials

Prospective rules officials will be a key component to growing and maintaining the roster of rules officials. This will allow for proper administration of a growing tournament schedule, as well as to replace retiring officials who can no longer participate. Each prospective rules official must complete an online application and attend at least one SCGA tournament for a ride along. During the ride along, the prospective rules official will observe every function of a rules official during a SCGA tournament (starter, on course official, rover, timer, and scorer). The SCGA staff and rules chair will each meet personally with the prospective rules official and get to know him or her and answer any questions he or she may have regarding the program. This time is also used as an interview for the prospective rules official regarding the SCGA to make sure he or she understands the commitment of becoming a rules official. Once approved, and prior to the following tournament season, a prospective rules official will be required to attend a training/orientation where further association and tournament program details will be reviewed.

Mentor Program

Each new rules official will be assigned a mentor, who may be used as a guide during their first year volunteering with the SCGA. Mentors will be chosen from our most experienced, knowledgeable, and thoughtful rules officials. These mentors exist to help guide and support new rules officials as they ease into their new role on the SCGA R&C committee. New rules officials should contact their mentor with any questions they have regarding the *Rules of Golf* and/or SCGA tournaments and policies. Mentors should act as a solid resource for their assigned mentees.

Code of Conduct

It is important to remember that the SCGA is a membership organization. The majority of our tournament participants are members we provide a service to; that being an exceptional tournament experience. We are all in a customer service position; each of us represents the face of the SCGA to tournament players. Interaction with players needs to be in a friendly and positive manner. You will only have one opportunity to make a first impression and it will set the stage for the end result. As a rules official, the manner in which rulings are given is just as important as the accuracy of the ruling; we hope both are spot on!

The rules official "Code of Conduct" is always to interact with the players in a friendly and positive manner. As a rules official you will naturally have frequent person-to-person contact with tournament players. If a player is proceeding correctly, there is no need for a rules official to get involved unless specifically asked. If a player is making a mistake, the rules official should get involved, as he or she is there to assist the player and help the player avoid penalties. Whatever the circumstances may be, at that moment, the rules official is the face of the SCGA. The rules official must act the part by conducting him or herself in a professional - not officious - manner. The rules official must look the part by presenting a neat, well-groomed appearance while attired in the official uniform.

When involved with a ruling you must listen and get all of the relevant facts before acting. Remember, players usually approach you only when they have a problem and quite often are upset with their situation. Your task is to act and leave that situation better than when you encountered it. Occasionally you may become involved with a player who is confrontational or acting inappropriately. If you feel that disciplinary action is necessary, contact the SCGA staff member on-site who will act accordingly. In addition to this "Code of Conduct", rules officials are expected to adhere to the guidelines and regulations outlined in this handbook.

Assessment

Each year the rules and competitions staff, along with the rules and competitions committee, will assess the needs and policies of the tournament program. During this time, each rules official will be evaluated for reappointment for the following tournament season. Such methods of evaluation include:

- Staff and committee review;
- Self-evaluation;
- Knowledge of the *Rules of Golf*;
- Willingness to serve as a rules official.

Education

The Rules and Competitions department will provide numerous opportunities to help educate and train its rules officials throughout the year, including:

- *Rules of Golf* workshops and seminars,
- Rules official training workshops;
- USGA guest speakers;
- SCGA *Rules Crew* and *Know the Rules* video series;
- Rules official newsletter;
- On-course training and support from rules chair and SCGA staff;
- Rules of Golf publications;
- Mentoring program.

Tournament Registration

In December, a tournament schedule for the following year will be sent to each rules official. Officials will be able to indicate on the tournament schedule which tournament sites they wish to serve at during the upcoming tournament season. SCGA staff will then send a confirmation back to each individual indicating which sites they have been selected to officiate at. Many sites receive an overwhelming response to work for various reasons. Therefore, staff will remove rules official from over-subscribed sites on a case-by-case basis. Other sites may not receive enough volunteers. When this occurs, the SCGA will post the sites that require additional assistance on the Help List.

Information and Documentation

Prior to the start of the season, staff will notify each rules official of which sites they have been confirmed to volunteer at. Prior to each tournament, each rules official will receive two emails from staff:

- 1) Approximately two to three weeks before each event, SCGA staff will email the tournament assignments to all rules officials scheduled to work that particular event. The assignments detail the duties for the day (including the rules chair, tournament committee, starters and timers) and the time everyone should arrive. Also enclosed in that email will be a copy of the previous year's local rules for the golf course (if available). It is helpful to familiarize yourself with the local rules in advance of arriving at the course.
- 2) One week before each event, SCGA staff will email all players the pairings, starting times, Player Information, and final reminders about the event. Rules official will be copied on this email, as well.

Uniform

It is important that players are able to recognize SCGA rules officials. Rules officials will be required to wear the SCGA "field uniform" at all SCGA-sponsored events. The field uniform consists of a royal blue SCGA logoed golf shirt, khaki/stone bottoms, SCGA logoed hat, and an official nametag. The SCGA will supply all rules officials with royal blue SCGA uniform shirts, a hat and a nametag. Additional uniform items, such as long sleeve shirts and rain gear (jacket and/or pants), are available for purchase at the beginning of each year. Non-uniform items can also be purchased with the SCGA logo and worn for personal use.

Expenses

Rules officials are responsible for all of their own expenses leading up to, during, and after a tournament. However, breakfast, lunch and refreshments will be provided by the SCGA when on a work assignment. One key item all rules officials are required to purchase is a push-to-talk earpiece to be used with SCGA radios. It includes a microphone with a talk button, enabling you to leave your radio on your belt for the entire day. A number of different types of earpieces can be obtained online at various websites. SCGA staff recommends the “Motorola 56517 Earpiece with Inline Push-to-Talk Microphone” which can be found on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for \$25.

Alcohol and Smoking

Rules officials are prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverage while on a volunteer assignment. It is absolutely essential that your conduct be beyond reproach and that your rulings be well thought out so as to protect the tournament field and the integrity of the SCGA.

Officials may smoke cigars or cigarettes as club policy dictates; however, smoking is prohibited when interacting with players and is prohibited around the starting tee, scoring area and scoreboard.

Safety

If a rules official is injured, experiences a medical emergency, or accidentally damages golf course property while working a SCGA tournament, the SCGA staff member must be notified immediately.

Absences

If a rules official cannot work on a day assigned, he/she should contact the SCGA Rules and Competitions Department as soon as possible. Failure to provide staff with ample notice can adversely affect the success of the tournament. Rules officials that do not notify the SCGA of their absence or consistently withdraw from their assignments may be discontinued as a rules official.

Rules Official Assignments

The rules official registration/assignments can be accessed at golfgenius.com. You will see an option to “Sign In” on the top right corner of the webpage. Once you have logged in, click on “2019 SCGA Rules Official Portal.”

The rules official website is constantly updated with information to educate our rules officials. We ask that you visit this site prior to any event you are scheduled to work. Common information sought on this site is your individual volunteer schedule, confirmed volunteer participants at each event, help list, the Tournament Schedule, the roster and more. Assignments can be viewed by clicking on “2019 Calendar of Events,” then click on “More Info” next to the event you’re working, and the link for Assignments will appear.

The SCGA Rules & Competitions Department welcomes feedback that will continue to make this site informative and valuable for everyone.

Section 3 – Tournament Day Procedures

Arrival

Rules officials are expected to arrive at the tournament site at the time assigned on the assignment sheet emailed to each individual working the event. This is typically 30-45 minutes prior to the first starting time. This will allow enough time to pick up the appropriate tournament documents and to be briefed as to the specifics of that day's assignments at the meeting. Upon arrival each rules official should report to the staff member and rules chair. Each rules official will be issued a radio to be used for communication throughout the day. The rules chair should be at the course at least 45 minutes before the first scheduled tee time. Normally, they along with the SCGA staff member will review the assignments and local rules for the day with the rules officials.

Course Setup

SCGA staff will prepare the course for tournament play prior to the competition beginning. This preparatory work will include selecting hole locations, teeing areas to be used, marking and identifying hazards, ground under repair, out of bounds, obstructions and/or integral parts of the course, etc. Upon specific assignments from the staff or the rules chair, rules officials may be needed to assist in the proper tee set-up before play and checking for the accuracy of hole locations.

Functions of the Rules Chair

The rules chair and staff, acting as a team, bear the responsibility for conducting a successful and enjoyable event. The primary duty of a rules chair is to understand and be able to interpret the Rules of Golf and assist staff and the fellow rules officials in making Rules interpretations at each event. Specific responsibilities of the rules chair are as follows:

1. SCGA staff will usually call or email the rules chair prior to the event to discuss the local rules, course conditions and recommendations for assignments and placement of rules officials on the golf course.
2. SCGA staff and/or the rules chair will brief the rules officials at least 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled starting time on the details of the event such as:
 - Assignments
 - Pace of Play for the golf course
 - Play-off Procedures
 - Club Policies and Use of Golf Carts
 - Review Course Conditions and Local Rules
3. Provide on-course training to rules officials as needed
4. Remain available at all times including the play-off. (If it is absolutely necessary to leave the course, notify staff and assign someone to act in your absence.)

Functions of a Rover

A rover, with direction of the rules chair and staff act as an additional level of support on general areas of a golf course as identified by the rules chair. Specific responsibilities of the rover are as follows:

1. Become familiar with the set of holes you will be observing. You will need to know these holes and be prepared for any rules situations that may occur.
2. Assist fellow rules officials with rulings: other rules officials will call on the rover for assistance in clarifying local rules, defining ground under repair or assisting with rulings. Rovers should check on the officials that are stationed on their holes to see if any rulings are taking place and to ensure that the rulings are correct.
3. Pace of Play: Rovers and the rules chair will enforce the pace of play policy. Rovers/rules chair may be requested to monitor groups by individual players who feel they have a slow player in their group.
4. Assist fellow rules officials with breaks throughout the day. May include taking over a hole or holes while another rules official takes a break.

Functions of a Starter

The function of the starter is very important to the SCGA. The starter may be the only rules official a player has contact with during an event. It is a goal of the SCGA to offer a consistent and positive experience for players as they start their round. All players should be treated equally, giving them the “championship” experience, whether it is a net event or a scratch event. The starter should arrive at the assigned teeing ground at least 20 minutes prior to the first scheduled starting time to do the following:

1. Arrange the starter’s table to the rear of the tee and away from the tee markers.
2. Inspect the starter’s box and make sure it is properly stocked.
3. Place the clock so the players can see the time when they arrive at the teeing ground. (Synchronize your watch with the official time)
4. Announce to the committee the “official time” over the radio.
5. Review the Player Information Sheet, Local Rules, Hole Locations and Pace of Play so you may be able to answer any questions that may arise.
6. Review the dress code for the day. You must know the proper dress code for the day and enforce it. Caddies and players should be properly attired with their shirts tucked in. Refer to the dress code on whether cargo shorts are prohibited (cargo shorts are permitted in SCGA events unless the host club has a policy against them). If you have time, glance at the players on the practice putting green to ensure they are in compliance with the dress code. If all players are properly attired, nothing needs to be said to them. If a player is in violation of the dress code notify the staff in charge immediately.
7. Identify from staff where the scoring area will be located for players to immediately return their score cards after the round.

Guidelines for Rules Officials

All rules officials should remember that the players are the main event. Rules officials utilized on the course may be assigned to patrol a number of holes or work in a fixed area to assist in the flow of play. Regardless of their assignment, they are responsible to ensure that the competition is played in accordance with the Rules of Golf and such Local Rules or Conditions of Competition which may be in effect. Rules officials should be aware that play may be around them at all times and they must keep their voices quiet and golf cart movement to a minimum many times during the day.

Guidelines for Scoring Officials

It is the responsibility of this assignment to see that all official score cards are returned properly at the scoring area. Only the players, SCGA officials on duty, and caddies, if requested by the players, shall have access to the scoring table. All conversation with the players should be kept to a minimum. Each score card returned must have 18 individually identifiable gross scores and 2 signatures; the player and their marker.

Rules Official use of Golf Carts:

Golf carts must be used safely and in accordance with club restrictions on their use. They should be parked in locations where they are unlikely to interfere with play or be a distraction to the players and should not be started or moved without regard to the player’s position.

Positioning:

Rules officials should position themselves in locations which will permit them to observe play, assist players and maintain communications. Safety is always a concern and you should exercise caution in selecting your position and always remain alert. Discussion between rules officials and players should be professional and above reproach. Always maintain a professional demeanor that emits an atmosphere of helpfulness.

1. Be familiar with your area and situations that may occur in your area. If any additional marking is required, notify the rules chair or staff member. Make sure to review:
 - Dropping Zones
 - Ground under repair markings and potential areas
 - Maintenance problems
 - Out of bounds markings and locations
 - Obstructions
 - Water hazards markings and locations
2. Be alert for any gaps in play or groups that are playing slower than their allotted pace of play. Notify rovers if a group appears to be playing too slowly under the guidelines of the pace of play policy in effect that day.
3. Notify the Rules Chairman or staff of any significant rulings during the day. Be alert for any potential rules problems with a player. Our job is to prevent rules infractions before they happen rather than waiting and then penalizing a player.
4. Use the radio with discretion. Always attempt to use your ear piece.

Items you should have in the cart with you:

- Decisions on the Rules of Golf / Rules of Golf Book
- SCGA or USGA Hard Card
- Pairings sheet
- Pace of Play sheet / Timing Sheet
- Local rules sheet / Hole location sheet
- Radio with earpiece
- Watch or stopwatch for recording times
- Tees, pencils, club score card

Rulings:

The SCGA encourages our rules officials to be involved when needed to gain experience with rules decisions on the golf course. We do not intend to micro-manage the ruling process; however, we insist on the protection of players. If you are uncertain of a situation, it is your responsibility to contact a rover, rules chair or staff person.

1. All rules officials should be familiar with the procedure they should follow when confronted with a rules problem. At a minimum, they should have knowledge of Rule 3-3 which permits the play of a second ball in Stroke Play and Rule 2-5 pertaining to a player making a claim in Match Play. These rules enable the players to continue without delay and a decision can be made later by the Tournament Committee.
2. When players see a rules official, most will believe that they can answer all questions. The best statement to say when approaching a player is "How can I help?" You should carefully assess the player's questions to determine if you are qualified to resolve the situation. If you are certain of the ruling, you should make a decision and notify the player of their options under the Rules of Golf or of the proper ruling.

However, keep in mind that no one will have all the answers. Players proceeding after an incorrect ruling or decision might get themselves into an even more complicated situation. The rules official who makes the wrong ruling will be embarrassed, the player may have an advantage or disadvantage that may or may not be able to be corrected. This is why every rules official has a radio, don't be afraid to call a rover, rules chair or staff to ask for the answer to a rules situation or to confirm that you have the correct answer.

3. The primary safeguard against mistakes is for a rules official to proceed carefully with the players, get all the facts and make decisions only when you are certain that you are qualified to do so. If you have limited experience don't be afraid to say, "This is interesting, I want to get a second opinion," or "We want to make the correct decision," and call for assistance. It is admittedly difficult to say "I don't know" when asked a question. However, it is even more difficult to correct an incorrect ruling or reverse a wrong decision.
4. In match play, our rules officials may be asked to act as referees or observers. A referee must act on any breach of a rule that they observe or anything that is reported to them.

Relief from Assigned Area:

A rules official may have to leave their assigned area. Notify the rover, rules chair or staff if leaving an assigned area for more than ten minutes. When duties are done and/or all players have completed play in your assigned area, notify the Rules Chairman, and see if help is needed at another location. If you need to leave for:

- A restroom break, just go.
- A lunch break, call the Rover or Rules Chairman so he can arrange a replacement if necessary.
- The end of the day, please arrange to turn in the radio to staff.

Markers:

Occasionally, rules officials are assigned to act as a playing marker if the number of team pairings is uneven or a single player is the sole player in a pairing. If you are designated as a marker you may play but must make every effort to facilitate the player's round and keep up with the expected pace of play. Your own play is secondary. Oftentimes a withdrawal may occur mid round leaving a single player in a group. In this case the official may need to ride along with the player for a number of holes and keep track of their score card while the Committee decides whether to move the player to another pairing group.

Player Conduct:

Notify the rules chair or staff of any unbecoming or inappropriate conduct from any of the tournament players or caddies. The SCGA will not tolerate this type of behavior. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Willful damage of the golf course or golf course property
- Club throwing or unnecessary club tossing
- Offensive or unbecoming language
- Public criticism of golf course or verbal abuse of SCGA staff, officials, volunteers, host club staff or other contestants
- Potential endangerment of others
- Conduct deemed unbecoming
- Failure to post scores for handicapping purposes
- Manipulation of scores posted for handicapping purposes

Player Withdrawals:

All players are expected to complete the competition which they start. Acceptable reasons for withdrawal during a competition are physical injury, illness, or an emergency. Poor play is not an acceptable reason for withdrawal. A player who withdraws without an acceptable reason or without notifying SCGA personnel will be subject to suspension from future SCGA competitions. If a player is aware of a possibility of withdrawal (e.g. injury) he should notify the SCGA as soon as possible and before pairings are announced for the next day.

All players who start a round must return a scorecard personally to SCGA staff or a SCGA official even if they are officially withdrawing. Players who do not follow this policy will be subject to suspension from future SCGA competitions. If a rules official is aware of a player who wishes to withdraw, make sure the player signs and attests that the hole by hole scores are correct for the fellow-competitor's score card they were keeping and return that score card to the fellow-competitor or another marker in the group. You may shuttle the player withdrawing into the clubhouse by cart.

Section 4 – Pace of Play Policy & Guidelines

Pace of Play Policy

The Tournament Committee at each competition will determine the maximum allowable time each group is permitted to play the stipulated round. **This time will be posted on each player's score card and each player is expected to maintain a pace faster than the maximum allowable time.** The stipulated round is complete when the last player in the group completes play of the final hole and the flagstick is replaced.

Lead Group(s):

The lead group(s) must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allowable time established by the committee. If they finish over the maximum allowable time, each player will be assessed a penalty of two strokes to their score for the final hole.

- Exception: If the lead group is held up by play that was sent out before them or that began on the opposite tee, they will be exempt from penalty if they finish over their maximum allowable time but within **14** minutes of the group in front of them.

Following Groups:

Any subsequent group must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allowable time established by the committee. If they finish over the maximum allowable time, they must finish within **14** minutes of the group in front of them. If they finish over the maximum allowable time and more than **14** minutes behind the group in front of them, each player will be assessed a penalty of two strokes to their score for the final hole.

Exemptions from Penalty:

If a group does not finish within their maximum allowable time due to circumstances beyond their control (such as a ruling or a ball search on the final hole, or any other circumstances which the Committee deems to be exceptional) but was otherwise in position during the play of the final four holes, the Committee may be justified in waiving the penalty. Being in position means to be immediately behind the group in front of you.

Any group that has a slow, deliberate or non-responsive player(s) may report the player(s) to SCGA Staff or a SCGA Rules Official at any time during the stipulated round, and the player(s) will be monitored. If SCGA Staff or a SCGA Rules Official identifies that a player(s) in the group is the cause of the group failing to maintain pace of play and determines other players are playing within the requirements of this policy, those meeting the requirements of this policy may be absolved from penalty while the others may not.

The SCGA Tournament Committee reserves the right to review all penalty situations.

Pace of Play Guidelines

The purpose of the SCGA Pace of Play Policy is to put the responsibility of pace of play on the players and to have each pairing group play faster than their maximum allowable time. Our goal is for officials to spend less time monitoring pace of play during tournaments. Officials do not need to communicate with players regarding pace of play except in accordance with the policy guidelines. The information below outlines the responsibilities of the SCGA staff, rules officials and players in the event.

Staff Responsibilities

- Establish the maximum allowable time for each hole and the round and ensure it is reflected accurately on each player's score card and the pace of play charts. Information such as walking times from greens to tees and turn times should be factored into this maximum allowable time.
- Communicate the policy and requirements to players in advance of the tournament.
- Ensure that the starters are comfortable discussing the policy with the players and that the entire committee has a strong understanding of the policy.
- Set up SCGA clocks on the driving range and putting green. Move these clocks, along with pace of play signage, to the 9th and 18th tees prior to the first groups arriving there.
- Be available to answer questions prior to the round.
- Multi-task at the scoring area, entering scores while dealing with potential pace of play appeals.
- Handle group penalty reviews in coordination with the rules chairman and tournament committee.
- Monitor, document and evaluate the pace of play stats for the entire field after each event.

Rules Official Responsibilities

- Do not communicate with players regarding pace of play except as otherwise provided in this document.
- Record the time each group finishes the hole(s) you are assigned on the pace of play chart. This is internal information to be used if a group is penalized and requests an appeal. This information will also assist staff in evaluating the maximum allowable time established for the golf course.
- If a player requests that his group be monitored, notify staff or the Rules Chairman immediately and follow the monitoring procedures within this document.

Player Responsibilities

- Read and understand the policy. Ask staff or the starter any questions in advance of the round.
- Play ready golf throughout the entire round.
- Check their pace throughout the round relative to their maximum allowable time on the score card.
- Make every effort to finish the round within the maximum allowable time or within 13 minutes of the group in front of them.

Section 5 - SCGA Competitions Program

GROSS CHAMPIONSHIPS

California Amateur Championship

The California Amateur Championship is the state's premier amateur event. Co-hosted by the SCGA and the NCGA, the championship started in 1912 and was contested at Pebble Beach GL for 96 years until it began rotating between Southern and Northern California. Open to members of the SCGA and NCGA with a Handicap Index of 4.4 and below, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 156 players. The championship utilizes 36 holes of stroke play qualifying followed by single-elimination match play for the top 32 players.

California Women's Amateur Championship

The California Women's Amateur Championship is the state's premier women's amateur event. Co-hosted by the SCGA and the NCGA, it's open to members of the SCGA and NCGA with a Handicap Index of 7.4 and below. The championship utilizes 36 holes of stroke play qualifying followed by single-elimination match play for the top 32 players.

California Senior Amateur Championship

The California Senior Amateur Championship is the state's premier championship designed for players age 55 and older. Co-hosted by the SCGA and the NCGA, the championship rotates between Southern and Northern California. Open to members of the SCGA and NCGA with a Handicap Index of 7.4 and below, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 90 players and is contested over 54 holes.

California Senior Women's Amateur Championship

The California Senior Women's Amateur Championship is the state's premier senior women's amateur event. Co-hosted by the SCGA and the NCGA, it's open to members of the SCGA and NCGA with a Handicap Index of 18.4 and below. The championship is contested over 54 holes.

SCGA Amateur Championship

The SCGA Amateur Championship is the Association's premier event. Started in 1899 along with the founding of the SCGA, it is the second longest, continuously-contested amateur championship in the United States. Open to members with a Handicap Index of 5.4 and below, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 84 players and is contested over 72 holes.

SCGA Women's Amateur Championship

The SCGA Women's Amateur Championship is the Association's premier championship for women. Open to female golfers (not necessarily members of the SCGA) with a Handicap Index of 9.4 and below, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 72 players and is contested over 54 holes.

SCGA Mid-Amateur Championship

The SCGA Mid-Amateur Championship is the Association's premier championship designed for members age 25 and older. Open to members with a Handicap Index of 5.4 and below, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 84 players and is contested over 54 holes.

SCGA Senior Amateur Championship

The SCGA Senior Amateur Championship is the Association's premier championship designed for members age 55 and older. Open to members with a Handicap Index of 9.4 and below, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 84 players and is contested over 54 holes.

SCGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship

The SCGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship is the Association's premier championship designed for female members age 50 and older. Open to members of all skill levels, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Super Senior Championship

The SCGA Super Senior Championship is the Association's premier championship designed for members age 65 and older. Open to members with a Handicap Index of 9.4 and below, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

Southern California Junior Amateur Golf Championship (Boys Division)

The Southern California Junior Amateur Golf Championship is the Association's premier championship designed for members age 18 and younger. Co-hosted by the SCGA and the SCPGA, the boys division is open to Southern California male golfers with a Handicap Index of 5.4 and below. The championship is contested over 36 holes.

Southern California Junior Amateur Golf Championship (Girls Division)

The Southern California Junior Amateur Golf Championship is the Association's premier championship designed for members age 18 and younger. Co-hosted by the SCGA and the SCPGA, the girls division is open to Southern California female golfers with a Handicap Index of 9.4 and below. The championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Match Play Championship

The SCGA Match Play Championship represents the Association's only championship that features the match play format. Open to members with a Handicap Index of 5.4 and below, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features a 32-player, single-elimination format.

SCGA Senior Match Play Championship

The SCGA Senior Match Play Championship represents the Association's only championship that features the match play format. Open to members with a Handicap Index of 9.4 and below, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features a 32-player, single-elimination format.

SCGA Women's Match Play Championship

The SCGA Women's Match Play Championship represents the Association's only championship that features the match play format. Created in 2018, this championship features a 16-player, single-elimination format for some of the top female golfers in Southern California.

SCGA Public Links Championship

The SCGA Public Links Championship is designed for members who are not listed on a private or semi-private club's member roster. Open to members with a Handicap Index of 5.4 and below, the championship is contested over 54 holes.

SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Men's Championship Division)

The SCGA Tournament of Club Champions is the Association's culminating championship for the club champions of SCGA member clubs. The Men's Championship Division is open to members with a Handicap Index of 2.4 and below, and the championship is contested over 18 holes.

SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Senior Men's Championship Division)

The SCGA Tournament of Club Champions is the Association's culminating championship for the club champions of SCGA member clubs. The Senior Men's Championship Division is open to members with a Handicap Index of 5.4 and below, and the championship is contested over 18 holes.

SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Women's Championship Division)

The SCGA Tournament of Club Champions is the Association's culminating championship for the club champions of SCGA member clubs. The Women's Championship Division is open to members of all skill levels, and the championship is contested over 18 holes.

SCGA Four-Ball Championship

The SCGA Four-Ball Championship is designed for two competitors to play as partners, each playing his/her own ball. The lower score of the partners is the score for the hole. Open to members with a Handicap Index of 7.4 and below, sides undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 52 sides (104 players) and is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Senior Four-Ball Championship

The SCGA Senior Four-Ball Championship is designed for two competitors to play as partners, each playing his/her own ball. The lower score of the partners is the score for the hole. Open to members age 55 and older, with a Handicap Index of 7.4 and below, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Women's Four-Ball Championship

The SCGA Women's Four-Ball Championship is designed for two competitors to play as partners, each playing her own ball. The lower score of the partners is the score for the hole. Open to female members of all skill levels, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Foursomes Championship

The SCGA Foursomes Championship is designed for two competitors to play as partners and play one ball (alternate shot). Open to members with a Handicap Index of 7.4 and below, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

CIF/SCGA High School Championships

The SCGA supports the CIF High School Championships for both boys and girls on a regional and statewide level. Qualifying individuals and teams participate in the CIF/SCGA Southern California High School Championships, where top finishers advance to compete at the CIF State High School Championships. The state championships rotate between the SCGA and the NCGA: SCGA hosts the Boys State Championship in the even years, and the Girls State Championship in the odd years.

NET CHAMPIONSHIPS

SCGA Amateur Net Championship

The SCGA Amateur Net Championship is the Association's premier championship designed for members of all skill levels who compete using handicaps. Competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 180 players and is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Women's Amateur Net Championship

Created in 2019, the SCGA Senior Women's Net Championship is designed for female members of all skill levels who compete using handicaps. The championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Senior Women's Net Championship

The SCGA Senior Women's Net Championship is designed for female members of all skill levels, age 50 and above, who compete using handicaps. The championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Public Links Championship

The SCGA Public Links Net Championship is designed for members who are not listed on a private or semi-private club's member roster. Open to members of all skill levels, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Net Division)

The SCGA Tournament of Club Champions is the Association's culminating championship for the club champions of SCGA member clubs. The Net Division is open to members of all skill levels, who compete using handicaps. The championship is contested over 18 holes and typically held at three golf courses, flighted by Handicap Index.

SCGA Four-Ball Net Championship

The SCGA Four-Ball Net Championship is designed for two competitors to play as partners, each playing his/her own ball. The lower net score of the partners is the score for the hole. Open to members of all skill levels, competitors undergo 18 holes of qualifying to reach the championship proper, which features 104 players and is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Senior Four-Ball Net Championship

The SCGA Senior Four-Ball Net Championship is designed for two competitors to play as partners, each playing his/her own ball. The lower score of the partners is the score for the hole. Open to members of all skill levels, age 50 and older, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Women's Four-Ball Net Championship

The SCGA Women's Four-Ball Net Championship is designed for two competitors to play as partners, each playing her own ball. The lower score of the partners is the score for the hole. Open to female members of all skill levels, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

SCGA Senior Women's Four-Ball Net Championship

The SCGA Senior Women's Four-Ball Net Championship is designed for two competitors to play as partners, each playing her own ball. The lower score of the partners is the score for the hole. Open to female members of all skill levels, age 50 and older, the championship is contested over 36 holes.

ONE-DAY SERIES

The SCGA One-Day Series features one-day competitions played throughout the year – mostly on weekends – at some of Southern California’s most popular courses. Open to members of all skill levels, the One-Day Series utilizes different formats throughout the year, as players compete using handicaps. Competitors earn year-long points based on their net finish in each event in a race for the SCGA One-Day Series Player of the Year award.

SCGA One-Day Series Match Play Championship

The SCGA One-Day Series Match Play Championship is the culmination of the year-long SCGA One-Day Series. The top-16 participants on the One-Day Series Points List are invited to compete in this single-elimination match play tournament, as the series wraps up and ultimately crowns its match play champion and Player of the Year.

LEAGUES

SCGA Team Play

SCGA Team Play offers an opportunity for members from varying clubs to compete against each other over the course of a season. Teams of 16 play home and away matches competing concurrently in an individual net and four-ball net match against their opponents. Clubs form their own groups, with group winners meeting in single-elimination play-offs, ultimately culminating in an 18-hole championship.

SCGA Women’s Team Play

SCGA Women’s Team Play offers an opportunity for female members from varying clubs to compete against each other over the course of a season. Teams of 12 play home and away matches competing concurrently in a-ball net match against their opponents. Clubs form their own groups, with group winners meeting in single-elimination play-offs, ultimately culminating in an 18-hole championship.

SCGA Scratch League

SCGA Scratch League is designed as a means for the top players from public and private clubs to compete against one another over the course of a season. Alongside a non-amateur staff member from the club, players compete against other clubs in their group, tallying points along the way. Clubs from winning groups advance to the SCGA Scratch League Championship, from which two clubs advance to a California State Championship.

SCGA Twilight Leagues

SCGA Twilight Leagues are hosted at a number of SCGA facilities during the summer. Open to members and non-members, SCGA Twilight Leagues provide recreational, yet competitive, nine-hole rounds of golf on a weekly basis. Players compete in an individual net stableford format, tallying points toward a team total. Winning teams from each league site advance to the culminating SCGA Twilight League Championship in the fall.

Section 6 - Contact Information

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