

## **Important Changes for 2009:**

- 1) The CGA Amateur (State Amateur) and CGA Senior Amateur Championships will now have statewide qualifying. This means that members from the SCGA, PLGASC and NCGA may attempt to qualify at any location in the state. As a result of statewide qualifying the CGA Pace of Play Policy (group checkpoint policy) will be used for all qualifying sites. Additionally, a new exemption criteria has been established for both championships.
- 2) The SCGA Amateur Championship at Wilshire Country Club will be a walking only event. Carts will be permitted during qualifying rounds but not during the championship.
- 3) The SCGA Amateur Net Championship will be divided into six flights (instead of four).
- 4) All players that participate in SCGA net competitions, including Team Play, must be a member of a club that has a certified handicap chair who has successfully completed the SCGA's certified Handicap Chair program within the last four years.

## **2009 SCGA TOURNAMENT POLICIES**

Participants in Southern California Golf Association tournaments must read the following information. Players are responsible for knowing the rules and regulations concerning participation in SCGA events.

### **CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

The Southern California Golf Association reserves the right to decline or withdraw any entry at any time. Any person whose entry is accepted shall be subject to the rules and conditions of play set forth by the SCGA. The reason for rejection of entry may include, but is not limited to, unbecoming conduct. By entering an SCGA administered event all participants agree that there are certain risks inherent in the game of golf and accept personal and sole liability for all such risks, including, but not limited to any health-related risks.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

SCGA events: all players must be amateurs and members of a current SCGA member club and meet index and any stated age requirements. This includes your club being in compliance with the SCGA's Handicap Certification Program. Members of clubs who are not in compliance will not be allowed to participate.

CGA events: all players must be amateurs and members of a current SCGA, NCGA or PLGASC club and meet index and any stated age requirements.

USGA events: refer to [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org) for tournament eligibility requirements for USGA championships and qualifiers. All USGA entrants must be members of a golf club and meet index and any stated age requirements.

It is the responsibility of the player to ensure that all eligibility requirements are met. The SCGA will attempt to notify players failing to meet any eligibility requirements prior to the close of entry. Nevertheless, any player failing to meet any one of the eligibility standards will not be allowed to participate in the tournament. Players with questions regarding their eligibility status should contact their club and/or the SCGA prior to the entry deadline date.

Exempt Players: Exempt players include, but are not limited to, those listed for each event, and must meet eligibility requirements for that event. Exempt players must register for the event prior to the entry closing date.

## **TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

All tournament participants must register online at [www.scga.org](http://www.scga.org). When registering online, first-time SCGA tournament players will create an online account and will be issued a Player ID and Password. Once registered with an account, players will be able to register for tournaments, withdraw from tournaments, create and update player bio information, view handicap index information, post pictures and even view player statistics. If you have played in an SCGA event in the past you only need to enter your Player ID and Password to access your profile and register for tournaments at any time. When registering for tournaments online all payments must be made by credit card. Players may access their account to update or change their password at any time.

It is important that tournament players provide and update the SCGA with accurate contact information (email, address, and telephone / cell phone numbers). Tournament confirmation, player information and pairings will be sent to players by email.

Alternates or players on the waiting list may show up to “standby” at the qualifying site or the championship site on the morning of the first round. All “standbys” must arrive and check in with SCGA staff 30 minutes prior to the first starting time. In the event that an active participant does not show up or withdraws prior to the start of his round, alternates will be selected based on the SCGA’s procedure for selecting alternates. Alternates do not have access to practice rounds at championship sites until they are officially notified by SCGA staff that they are in the championship field.

Entry fees cover various costs including green fees for the championship. Any costs not covered by the entry fee will be the responsibility of the player.

The Southern California Golf Association reserves the right to refuse entries at any time.

## **WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

The SCGA Withdrawal Policy applies both to withdrawals prior to the start of an SCGA competition and during an SCGA competition as set forth below:

**Withdrawal prior to the start of a competition:**

To withdraw for any reason prior to the start of an SCGA competition, a player must notify the SCGA Rules and Competitions Department at (818) 432-4169 or complete the tournament cancellation form located online at <http://www.scga.org/tourney/cancellation.htm>. Failure to notify the SCGA will subject the player to suspension from future SCGA competitions. A player who only contacts the course and not the SCGA will be subject to the suspension.

**Withdrawal during an SCGA competition:**

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 an SCGA official even if they are officially withdrawing. Players who do not follow this policy will be subject to suspension from future SCGA competitions. Players who withdraw also must sign and attest that the hole by hole scores are correct for the fellow-competitor's scorecard they were keeping and return that card to the fellow-competitor or another marker in the group.

### **REFUND POLICY – SCGA events**

Requests for refunds prior to the entry closing date will be honored less a \$10 (\$20 per team) administrative fee. Requests received after the closing date and 48 hours prior to the event will be honored less 50% of the entry. No refunds will be honored within 48 hours prior to the event. In lieu of a refund, players may opt to donate their entire entry fee to the SCGA Foundation (this is a fully tax-deductible donation; a receipt will be mailed to the donor).

### **SCGA PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY**

This policy applies to all SCGA administered competitions, including USGA qualifying competitions, CGA qualifying competitions, CIF, Community College and collegiate competitions administered by the SCGA Rules and Competitions Committee.

By submitting an entry for any SCGA-administered competition, the contestant understands that his/her participation is at the sole discretion of the SCGA. A contestant may be removed from any competition at the discretion of the SCGA staff or Rules and Competitions Committee at any time before or during the competition. Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed to be detrimental to the image of the SCGA or the “Spirit of the Game” are grounds for such removal and suspension from future SCGA-administered competitions. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Willful damage of the golf course or golf course property
- 2) Club throwing or unnecessary club tossing
- 3) Offensive or unbecoming language
- 4) Public criticism of golf course or verbal abuse of SCGA staff, officials, volunteers, host club staff or other contestants
- 5) Potential endangerment of others
- 6) Conduct deemed unbecoming

### **CERTIFIED HANDICAP CHAIRPERSON REQUIREMENT**

In an effort to continually ensure that all SCGA-sponsored net events are conducted on a level playing field, all participants in any SCGA Net competition, including SCGA Team Play, must be a member of a club that has a certified handicap chair who has successfully completed the SCGA’s certified Handicap Chair program within the last four years.

The SCGA’s Certified Handicap Chair program ensures that each participating club contains a handicap chair that is knowledgeable of the duties and responsibilities that go along with being a handicap chair. Players wishing to participate in SCGA net events this year should make sure their club has an SCGA certified handicap chair, and ensure that person’s certification is up to date. Certification seminars are held throughout the year; information about dates and locations of these seminars can be found at [www.scga.org](http://www.scga.org), by clicking under the Handicap / Member Services menu.

### **HANDICAPPING NET EVENTS**

In net events (except Team Play), the lowest current index of the last three months shall be used during each phase of the competition.

### **HANDICAP ADJUSTMENTS**

The SCGA reserves the right to adjust a player's handicap prior to or during any net competition based upon previous performances in SCGA events. If a player shoots significantly better than his or her Handicap Index, that player's course handicap may be subject to reduction in future SCGA net events (including Team Play). If the SCGA has to reduce the same player a second time, that player may be refused future entry to SCGA events. When a player's course handicap is reduced, the player and club handicap chair will be notified in writing or by phone. It is very important that each SCGA member club's handicap committee make certain that individuals whose indexes do not properly match their playing potential are dealt with at the club level before the SCGA has to get involved.

All clubs are reminded that it is within the purview of the club handicap committee to adjust the index of a player who fails to turn in proper scores or whose current index is not reflective of their playing potential.

### **12-STROKE POLICY**

The SCGA uses the following policy for scratch events: if a player fails to return a score within 12 strokes of the SCGA/USGA course rating in at least one round of a qualifying event, an entry filed by that player for future championship events may be declined unless the player can demonstrate that he or she is capable of competing at the championship level. For example, if the course rating is 72.7, the player must return a score of 85 or better. All competitors must return a scorecard regardless of what score they shot.

A player who receives such a letter should respond in writing to the SCGA Rules and Competitions Committee. In most cases, a brief response explaining that day's poor performance, and documenting a few previous tournament scores that meet these guidelines will be all that is needed in order to regain the player's eligibility. The goal of this policy is not to deter beginning tournament golfers or to penalize players for one bad round. We are trying to ensure that all players competing in SCGA scratch events are of the quality expected in Southern California amateur championships.

### **PRE-TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

It is essential that the SCGA has the proper email addresses for all tournament players. The SCGA will email player information, starting times and conditions of competition to all participants. The SCGA will not be mailing this information unless a player specifically requests so. This information and the pairings will also be available on the web site at [www.scga.org](http://www.scga.org). It is the responsibility of a player not receiving his or her starting time by email within seven days of the event to contact the SCGA office prior to the competition. The SCGA cannot be responsible for any errors in transmission.

### **PRACTICE ROUNDS**

Practice round information will be made available after the close of entries (Refer to the Player Information Sheet which is emailed to each player and located on the SCGA website). Players may not be entitled to receive a practice round on the date they request as some clubs may have specific date restrictions.

### **RULES OF GOLF**

The USGA Rules of Golf; the SCGA Hard Card (Conditions of Competition and Local Rules) and Player Information Sheet (online on the SCGA web site); and the Local Rules Addendum (distributed at each site), will govern play during all phases of the competition.

### **OFFICIAL TIME**

The clock at the tee (1<sup>st</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>) where a player begins his/her stipulated round is the official time of starting. Starters will not page players in advance of their starting time. Players should report to the tee 5-7 minutes prior to their starting time to receive information from the starter.

### **NON-METAL SPIKE POLICY**

All players and caddies must wear non-metal or soft spikes. Players and caddies will not be allowed to wear shoes with traditionally designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic) or spikes, regardless of design, comprised entirely or partially of metal in any SCGA competition or in any CGA or USGA qualifying event administered by the SCGA.

### **WIRELESS HANDHELD DEVICES**

The use of wireless handheld devices, such as cellular telephones, by a player or caddie is prohibited during the stipulated round of any competition. This prohibition shall also apply to areas designated by the club. Failure to observe this policy may result in disciplinary action including withdrawing playing privileges for the rest of the tournament or for future SCGA events.

### **CADDIES AND GALLERY**

Some sites may restrict caddies and gallery; refer to the Player Information Sheet for more information. At most sites caddies and gallery must adhere to the dress code of the club and the SCGA (Refer to the Player Information Sheet).

### **CARTS**

For SCGA events (except the SCGA Amateur Championship), CGA Senior Qualifying and Championship and CGA (State) Amateur Qualifying sites in Southern California, golf carts are permitted in all phases of competition, subject to limitations imposed at the club level. Hand carts may also be allowed, subject to club policy. Refer to the Player Information Sheet for more information. In the CGA (State) Amateur and SCGA Amateur Championships and USGA events, other than the U.S. Senior Amateur, players and caddies may not use golf carts. Event spectators may not use carts during any SCGA, CGA or USGA competitions. All drivers must be at least 16 years of age (older if club policy stipulates).

### **POSTING TOURNAMENT SCORES**

All scores will be posted as "T" scores. All scores will be posted by the SCGA staff. Players should not post their own scores on a SCGA posting computer or online.

### **INCOMPLETE ROUND POLICY**

SCGA players should be prepared to play through rainy conditions. The SCGA will only suspend play if there is danger from lightning, the course becomes unplayable or there is extreme weather conditions (such as hail, severe rainstorm, etc.). The SCGA does not issue refunds for rounds cancelled due to rain.

When weather conditions or darkness threaten a suspension of play during an SCGA Qualifier, the following procedure will be used to determine the qualifiers from that site:

Players will be told on the tee that today's play consists of two stipulated rounds of nine holes each. Note: The player shall continue play between the nines as they would during an 18 hole qualifier and scores will be kept on the same score card.

If the entire field completes 18 holes, the qualifying will be based on the total score for the two stipulated rounds.

If the entire field completes 9 holes, but less than 18, the qualifying score will be based on the 9 hole stipulated round.

If the entire field completes fewer than nine holes, and the tournament cannot be rescheduled for another date, the chairman of the event will conduct a sporting draw to determine the qualifiers.