

SOUTHWEST DEAF GOLF ASSOCIATION

Guidelines

1. Date of Tournament

Section 1. The annual Southwest Deaf Golf Association tournament shall be held during the weekdays of June except for the week immediately after Father's Day. The site of the future tournament must be determined two years in advance.

2012 – Austin, TX (ADGL)

2013 – Wichita Falls, TX

2014 - Dallas, TX

2015 - San Antonio, TX

2016 – Oklahoma (WinStar Golf Club)

2017 – Louisiana (The Island, Plaquemine)

2018 – Kyle, TX (Plum Creek Golf Course)

2019 – New Braunfels, TX (The Bandit Golf Club)

2020 – Tournament Cancelled due to COVID

2021 – Austin, TX (Falconhead Golf Club)

2022 – Cedar Park, TX (Twin Creeks Country Club)

2023 – Kingsland, TX (Legends at LBJ Lake Golf Club)

2024 – Farmington, NM (Pinon Hills Golf C.)

2. Tournaments

Section 1. The Open Division tournament shall have three rounds (54 holes).

Section 2. The Senior Division tournament shall have three rounds (54 holes). Play for seniors must start at 8 a.m.

Section 3. The Super Senior Division (3 days) tournament shall have three rounds (54 holes) with a minimum of 3 golfers.

Section 4. The Super Senior Division (2 days) tournament shall have two rounds (36 holes) with a minimum of 3 golfers.

Section 5. Any golfer may participate in the Open Division tournament.

Section 6. Any golfer fifty-five years of age or over may participate in the Senior Division tournament.

Section 7. Any golfer seventy years of age or over may participate in the Super Senior Division tournament.

Section 8. A scramble tournament is optional on the first day of the Southwest Deaf Golf Association tournament to be open to the public.

3. Contribution to Tournament Prizes from Member Golfers

Section 1. SWDGA shall host the annual tournament and collect a prize fee of eighty dollars per member golfer playing three days and fifty-five dollars per member golfer playing two days.

4. Golfer Dues/Fees

Section 1. A golfer shall pay fifteen dollars for SWDGA membership dues and pay five dollars for the SWDGA golf tournament registration fee prior to the start of the first round.

Section 2. The host tournament committee shall keep five dollars per golfer as a registration fee.

Section 3. The host tournament committee shall collect fifteen dollars per golfer for membership dues, which shall be given to the SWDGA treasury.

Section 4. The host tournament committee shall keep twenty-five dollars per golfer as a late fee

5. Merchandise and/or Prizes

Section 1. Merchandise and/or prizes shall be at least one thousand dollars paid annually by a host committee in addition to the total amount of entry/prize fees.

6. Prizes

Section 1. The host committee must purchase and/or solicit donations for prizes for all entrants of the tournament. All prizes must be distributed into categories, i.e. scratch for open golfers and senior golfers.

7. Distribution of Prizes

Section 1. All prizes coming from the entry/prize fees should be distributed to all the ranking golfers after the results of the tournament are produced.

Section 2. A prize amount should be given to the last-ranking golfer, and from the last to the top-ranking golfer - the prize amount will increase at each climb up the ranks.

Section 3. The host tournament committee must present the listing of prize giveaways to the Executive Committee of SWDGA for approval prior to the start of the first round of the tournament.

Section 4. Handicap System

The prize pool will be automatically divided between the Net and Gross categories. A player will **only** receive a prize from the category in which they rank higher. For example, if a player fares better in the Gross category, their Net standing will be excluded, and vice versa.

Determining a SWDGA Golfer's Handicap:

1. Primary Method:

SWDGA will use the golfer's previous three SWDGA tournament scores, considering up to nine rounds. The best three scores from these nine rounds will be selected to calculate the handicap, with the course rating factored in.

Example: If the lowest scores from the previous nine rounds are 85, 88, and 90, the calculation will be: $(85 + 88 + 90) \div 3 = 87.6$. Then $87.6 - 72 = 15.6$ then adjust for course rating before tourney play.*

Note: If the golfer does not have enough SWDGA tournament rounds, SWDGA will accept any qualifying rounds from other *Regional Deaf Golf Tourneys up to the past 5 years, or League Play with SWDGA Committee approval.*

2. Alternative Method:

If a golfer has fewer than nine qualifying* rounds but at least six rounds within the past three years, the best two scores will be selected to calculate the handicap.

Example: If the lowest scores from six rounds are 102 and 105, the calculation will be: $(102 + 105) \div 2 = 103.5$. Then $103.5 - 72 = 31.5$ then adjust for course rating before tourney play.*

3. First Tournament Method:

If the golfer has no previous qualifying rounds, their scores from the current tournament will be used. Once the golfer completes two or three rounds (depending on the category), the best score will be used to establish the handicap.

Example: John Doe, playing in the SWDGA for the first time, scores 88, 85, and 95 in the current tournament. His best score, 85, will be used as the basis for his handicap. Subtracting the par of 72 results in a 13 handicap. The course rating will then be factored into his 13 handicap.*

4. * Course Handicap Formula:

To adjust your golf handicap for a specific course rating, you need to calculate your "Course Handicap" by multiplying your Handicap Index (15.6) by the course's Slope Rating, then divide that number by 113 (the standard slope rating); this gives you the number of strokes you should receive on that particular course based on your handicap level and the course difficulty.

Formula: Course Handicap = (Handicap Index) x (Slope Rating) / 113.

Example: If the course you're playing has a Slope Rating of 130, your Course Handicap would be: (15.6) x (130) / 113 = 18.0

**Qualifying tournaments include regional/national events such as FWGAD, SEDGA, MDGA, and USDGC/WDGC. Certain golf outings or league play outside of regionals/nationals may also be considered upon review by the SWDGA committee.*

8. Proper Attire for Golfers

Section 1. All golfers are required to wear the proper attire; golf shirts and proper slacks or shorts (not cutoff slacks, cargo shorts, or jeans) during the tournament rounds.

9. Total Yardage of Golf Course

Section 1. It is suggested that the total yardage of the golf course for the Open Division exceed 5,999 yards.

Section 2. It is suggested that the total yardage of the golf course for the Senior Division exceed 5,499 yards.

Section 3. It is suggested that the total yardage of the golf course for the Super Senior Division exceed 4,999 yards.

Section 4. The slope rating of the golf course must be 110 or better.

10. Final Results of Tournament Rounds

Section 1. The host committee's chairperson shall write up the final results of each day of the tournament (Open Division, Senior Division, and Super Senior Division) and he/she shall return the official golf cards (scores) to the Secretary of SWDGA on the day of the tournament.

11. Posting Results of Each Round

Section 1. The host is responsible for posting the results of each round on a suitable bulletin board or placard at the tournament site. The host shall return golf scorecards to the Secretary of SWDGA immediately after placing the results on the board.

12. Condition of Golf Competition

Section 1. The conditions of the golf competition and the rules governing tournaments given by this association shall be those prescribed by the United States Golf Association (USGA).

13. Flights of Tournament

Section 1. Depending on the number of participating golfers, there shall be a championship flight and a minimum of two flights. Official gross scores shall make flights on the first round subject to approval of the Executive Committee

14. Inspection of Golf Facilities

Section 1. An official representative from SWDGA who happens to live near the site shall conduct an inspection of golf facilities, arrangements, and plans of the host tournament committee for the annual tournament and shall arrange a valid contract between SWDGA and the host tournament committee. The host tournament committee will reimburse the SWDGA representative's expenses.

15. Passing Out Golf Rules

Section 1. The host committee of the SWDGA tournament shall pass out the local golf rules the evening before the first day of competition. The host shall be responsible for contacting the golf course manager to ensure agreement on the local rules, course conditions, etc.

16. Signing Score Pads

Section 1. Each score must be signed by an opposing pair after the scores are added properly and are confirmed as correct. Failing to do so will lead to a penalty of two strokes.

17. Outside SWDGA Region

Section 1. SWDGA tournaments are open to any deaf golfer wanting to participate.

18. Etiquette for Golfers During Tournament

Section 1. Do not write your score while you are on the green. Depart from the green as soon as your threesome or foursome is finished.

Section 2. Do not move or talk while a golfer is playing a shot.

Section 3. Do not stand too close when a golfer is playing a shot.

Section 4. Wait until the players ahead of you are far enough before playing.

Section 5. Prepare yourself discreetly while other golfers are playing in order to be ready when your turn comes.

Section 6. Do not look for your ball for more than three minutes and replace the lost ball as time expires. (Add an additional stroke for the lost ball.)

Section 7. Replace all divots. Erase (smooth out) all footprints in sand traps. Repair ball marks on the green.

Section 8. Do not walk on the line of the putt of other golfers.

Section 9. Do not disturb other golfers with your shadow.

Section 10. Do not drop clubs on the putting green.

Section 11. Replace the flagstick correctly when leaving the green to an upright position.

Section 12. Always stay at least thirty feet from the greens if in a cart. Keep cart on the cart path as much as possible.

Section 13. The player whose ball is the farthest from the cup always plays first.

Section 14. You must play within four and a half hours on the course or a penalty of two strokes will be assessed to the threesome or foursome for the slow play.

Section 15. Common courtesy and proper manners will ensure everyone has a good tournament. (Revised 2024 meeting)