

## Club Rules and Regulations

### RULES & REGULATIONS



1. USGA Rules govern all play.
2. FilAm GC Tournament Fee(s) are \$55. Members / \$60. Guests
3. Must have a golf bag and no more than 14 clubs.
4. Follow local Club Rules and Regulations and USGA Rules of Golf.
5. Dress Code (members shall be dressed in proper attire at all times).
6. It is recommended by FilAmGC that you carry a Rules of golf in your bag and use it whenever a question arises. If in doubt play the ball as is where it lies.

#### A. EXCEPTIONS (CLUB RULES):

7. If in doubt of any ruling, play a second ball and immediately following play ask for a ruling.
8. Out of bounds: All shots ending beyond any course boundary fence or as indicated by white stakes and posts on some courses follows USGA rules. Hit a provisional ball. If first ball is not found, provisional ball is the ball at play; Rules 27-1b adds two strokes penalty. If provisional ball is also not found, player may drop ball two club lengths from the entry point of the first provisional ball; player will be hitting 6. Lost ball not marked by red stakes (such as water hazards) follow rule on Out of Bounds ball.
9. In or around water hazard including RED boundary marker or other hazards. Move ball within two club length away from the hole. Add 1 penalty stroke. No penalty stroke if played in the hazard.
10. Unplayable ball due to immovable obstruction, such as sprinkler or electric post, replace ball one club length on or about where the ball lies not nearer the hole. No penalty stroke. Unplayable ball inside a forested area, tall grass or under a tree, move ball to two club lengths on or about the exit point of the ball not nearer the hole. Add 1 penalty stroke.
11. Unplayable lie. Drop ball 1 club length from spot no nearer the hole. Add one (1) penalty stroke. In case of flood ball (ball embedded in mud or casual water), do the same but no penalty.
12. Stroke relief applies to casual water, any area marked ground under repair (GUR), cart path, immovable obstruction, sprinkler holes, drain holes and burrows, move ball no nearer the green. No penalty stroke. Stones or shells lying near ball in bunker may be removed without penalty.

#### B. TIES:

13. For regular tournaments, individual, stroke, and single match play ties are broken for the purpose of trophy and prizes distribution; however, LeaderBoard point's scores are distributed evenly among the tied scores. Winner of higher trophy is the player.....
  - Who win the extra holes via sudden death play-off on the nearest available holes, if the golf course permits. If this is not permitted and since all holes are putted out (no concession)
  - Player with the lower gross score win, If still tied,
  - Player with the lowest Front Nine, If still tied,
  - Player with the lowest back Nine, If still tied,
  - Player with most birdies wins, If still tied,
  - Player with most pars wins.
14. For team match plays, ties stay as is.

### **C. ETIQUETTE:**

15. Play within your ability and drive the ball within your range. (Watch out for players up front). If a player plays a ball in a direction where there is a danger of hitting someone, he should immediately shout a warning. The traditional word of warning in such a situation is "fore."
16. Players should always show consideration for other players on the course and should not disturb their play by moving, talking or making any unnecessary noise. Players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players. On the teeing ground, a player should not tee his ball until it is his turn to play.
17. Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or directly behind the hole, when a player is about to play.
18. Back tees and ball farthest to the hole have priority when hitting the ball, same applied when in the putting green. Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn to play.
19. Follow pair numbering for the first tee and observe honor to all succeeding tees. However, ready golf is encouraged when everybody in the foursome agrees. Players should play at a good pace. It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front.
20. Always repair ball marks in green. Do not drag, twist, and pivot your feet while in the green. Do not step on other player's ball line. Remove pin only when all players are on the green. The closest ball to the hole man the pin. Players should remain on or close to the putting green until all other players in the group have holed out. Putt through at all times. Last ball to play reinserts the pin to the hole. Exit the green as quickly as possible.
21. Better player scores the card. Peer to peer review mandatory. A player who is acting as a marker should, if necessary, on the way to the next tee, check the score with the player concerned and record it. Update your score card before next tee. Total scores correctly. Sign, and co-sign score card.
22. Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. If a rake is within reasonable proximity of the bunker, the rake should be used for this purpose.

### **D: EQUIPMENT(S):**

23. It is the player's responsibility to ensure his clubs and golf balls conform with the Rules and if in doubt, the player's should not carry a club.
24. Conforming golf clubs and golf balls must be used at all times. List of conforming golf clubs and golf balls are available at the USGA website.
25. Used of non-conforming equipments including golf clubs (putter included) and golf balls are automatic disqualification and can lead to membership's termination.

### **E: AWARDS and CASH PRIZES:**

26. At all FilAM GC Tournaments the club award trophies for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. There are also trophies for the Longest Drive and Closest-to-the-Pin winners.

There is also the Hole-in-One Cash Prize: All members who play at each FilAmGC tournament are eligible to win the cash prize. If there are multiple players who make the hole in one at a Tournament, the players will divide the cash prize. EXAMPLE: If the club has a "kitty" of \$750. for the Hole-in-One cash prize, players who make the Hole-in-One will divide the prize equally:  $\$750 \div 2 = \$375$ , if three players the prize is divided equally  $\$750 / 3 = \$150$  and so on. The cash prize is for Members Only.

26a. Closest-to-the-Pin = during the tournament, closest to the pin must be a tee-shot that is on the green (much like the longest drive needs to be in the fairway). If half of the ball is on the green and

half is off the green, meaning if the ball is touching the fringe, the ball is not count and the ball is consider off the green.

26b. Longest Drive = during the tournament, longest drive must come to rest in the fairway (much like the closest to the pin needs to be on the green). If half of the ball is resting on the fairway and half is resting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> layer fairway or rough, the ball is not count and consider off the fairway.

## **E: TOURNAMENT CLUB RULES:**

27. All USGA Rules will be adhered to. The only exceptions will be at the direction of the Tournament and Rules Committee, which consists of three FilAmGC board members or officers and the tournament course professional; USGA procedures and guidelines will be followed in enforcing the Rules.
28. The Tournament Committee will be responsible for dates, sites, and formats for all FilAmGC tournaments. The FilAmGC Board of Directors (Board) will oversee and have final say in all Tournament Committee decisions.
29. A \$2.00 fee will normally be collected from tournament players at sign-in. This money will be used for FilAmGC expenses and for other purposes deemed appropriate by the Board, and which will further the FilAmGC interests and influence.
30. In match play handicaps assigned to tournament players will be based upon those provided by the GHIN Handicap System. The Tournament Committee reserves the right, as provided by the USGA Rules of Golf, to arbitrarily raise or lower the handicap assigned to a player in FilAmGC tournaments.
  - The player with a higher course handicap will have a maximum one stroke per hole on the given holes. Example: Player A has a course handicap of 10 while Player B has 18. They have an 8 point difference in handicap; therefore, Player B gets one stroke handicap on the first 8 holes.
  - The higher handicap player will receive no more than 18 strokes on any given round of match play from the lower handicap player. Example: Player A has a course handicap of 10 and Player B has 35. Even though the difference is 25 strokes, the maximum number of strokes that Player A can give Player B is one stroke per hole or 18 strokes for the whole round.
  - Since the same round and points will be applied to the regular tournament, every golfer should hole out. In other words, NO GIMME. Ties are broken with extra holes via sudden death play-off on the nearest available hole, if the golf course permits. If this is not permitted and since all holes are putted out (no concession), see club rules for breaking "TIES". For the sake of faster play, a golfer may hit the ball out of turn. In other words, READY GOLF.
31. The USGA Slope Rating Course Handicap Table (the Snoopy Book) will be employed for computing tournament handicaps for each tournament course played.
  - 31a. During all FilamGC strokeplay tournaments the maximum handicap index allowed is 28 for both men and woman.
  - 31b. Meaning if you carry a 35 Handicap Index, FilamGC will only allow and reduce your handicap to 28 Maximum Handicap. For example if you shot a gross score of 101 and your Handicap Index is 35, FilamGC will only calculate 28 as your Handicap.  $101-28=73$ . Your net score is 73.
32. The Tournament Committee or the club chairman will determine the tee times played at each tournament for each flight.
33. A Member registration fee of \$55.00 is for all Stroke-Play Tournaments. Flight pairings are based on our current leader board points. For example if the top four players on the leader board decide to play, the top four players will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> flight pairing, the next four will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> flight pairing, the next four will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> flight and so on.
34. If members bring a guest(s) to play in our monthly Stroke play tournament, their registration fee is \$60.00 for all FilAm GC sanctioned tournaments. The guest must have a current, valid and verifiable Handicap Index at time of registration. If the guest does not have an established, verifiable handicap the guest will play the tournament at scratch. Meaning the

guest gross score is the guest net score, for example if the guest shot a gross of 89, the guest net score is 89.

35. Women's handicaps may need to be adjusted when they are competing against men within a flight because of a difference in the Course Rating from the tees the women are playing from, and those played by the men in the same flight. Men seniors may have to be adjusted as well.
36. Only FilAmGC members are eligible to compete for players' pool and day money (including the Hole in one cash prize). Guests and non-members may compete for skins, closest to the pin, longest drive and longest putt unless the Tournament Committees denies these options before play begins.

#### **F: Registration and Sign-up Procedures:**

37. At the beginning of each year, The Tournament Committee and the Board of Directors will publish a Schedule of Tournaments for the upcoming year. Tournament dates, sites, costs, formats, deadlines for players to enter tournaments, and other relevant information will be published with this Schedule. The Tournament Committees, with the Board's approval, may change or alter this Schedule from time to time during the year.
38. FilAmGC members will be informed in a timely and appropriate manner of such changes; all changes will be posted on the FilAmGC website under the events.
39. The Schedule of Tournaments will include the deadlines for entering tournaments. These deadlines may vary, depending on what different courses require, and on other considerations. FilAmGC members in good standing who enter before the deadline will be included in the tournament. Sign-up sheets will generally be available at sign-in for the following tournament. The Tournament Committees has the prerogative to arbitrarily include or deny inclusion of additional players after the entry deadline has passed. The FilAmGC maintains a website to register entry into a FilAmGC tournament.
40. If a member has registered to play at a tournament, the member has (5) days of the day of the tournament to inform the tournament committee that he/she cannot play at the tournament. If the member fails to notify the tournament committee within the (5) days of the tournament, the member is required to pay a \$10. fee.
41. The FilAmGC encourages members to bring guest players, and encourages non-members who are interested in becoming members to participate in tournaments. Non-members and guests may play one tournament under such circumstances, and additional tournament only with the approval of the Tournament Committees or President, after which they are encouraged to become members, or failing this, cease participating in FilAmGC tournaments.
42. If, after registering for a tournament, changing circumstances preclude your playing in the tournament, you must immediately inform the Tournament Committees, either directly, or by email. If the FilAmGC incurs any expense because of your cancellation, such as a greens fee that the tournament course will not refund to the FilAmGC, you must reimburse the FilAmGC for such expenses.
43. Players should settle all monetary obligations to the FilAmGC prior to participation in a tournament. The Tournament Committees or President may arbitrarily refuse to allow a player who has unpaid debts or membership dues to participate in tournaments or other FilAmGC activities.

#### **G: Canceling a Tournament, Stopping Play:**

44. If inclement weather threatens, players may find out the status of the tournament by visiting the FilAmGC website or by calling the tournament course.
45. The Tournament Committees will decide whether to begin play or cancel a tournament. Once play begins, the tournament should be played to its end unless there are dangerous conditions such as lightning, or unless the course becomes unplayable. The Rules Committee, Tournament Committees, or the tournament course staff will determine when and if the course becomes unplayable, and may decide to stop play because of dangerous weather.
46. If a tournament, once started, is canceled, the Tournament Committee should:

- a. If possible, secure refunds / rain checks for all players who did not complete their rounds. Refund all players' pool and skins money to players in flights in which all players did not complete their rounds.
- b. For flights in which all players did complete their rounds, pay out players' pool and skins. Canceled tournaments will not be used for Points Race totals.
- c. When inclement weather threatens, any player may, before the round begins, withdraw from the tournament; such a player is liable to the FilAmGC for his / her greens fee, if the course holds the FilAmGC liable.
- d. "USGA Rule 6-8 will be observed when rain or other bad weather occurs during a tournament: "...Bad weather is not of itself a good reason for discontinuing play. If the player discontinues play without specific permission from the Committee, he shall report to the Committee as soon as practicable. If he does so and the Committee considers his reason satisfactory the player incurs no penalty. Otherwise, the player shall be disqualified." Thus, a player cannot stop play, temporarily seek shelter, or unduly delay playing a stroke because of rain, wind, etc. Players may take time for rain gear, umbrellas, etc.
- e. If lightening or other conditions make play unsafe, a player may discontinue play and seek shelter. There is no penalty for doing so, and the FilAmGC encourages players to seek safety when danger threatens.
- f. If the course management or Tournament Committee stops play because of danger, players must stop play, as per USGA Rules.
- g. In a Scramble Format, if a tournament is **Rain Outs**. While every effort should be made to complete an 18-hole event, the weather may not allow everyone to finish their round. If the whole field does not complete 18 holes, the Tournament Committee and host professional should help score the event using the following guidelines.
  - i. Determine how many holes all the teams have completed; scoring must be based on the same number of holes. For example, if half the field played 13 holes and half completed 12 holes, you have a 12-hole tournament and only the first 12 holes completed by each team should be considered in the scoring.
  - ii. Determine each team's score relative to par for the appropriate number of holes. Scores must be determined relative to par (i.e., how many strokes under/over par) because each team will have played a different assortment of holes with a different total par.
  - iii. If ties exist, the Golf Pro should match cards based on the hole scores on common holes starting with the lowest handicap hole.
  - iv. Committees Decisions Are Final  
Filipino American Golfers Club Tournament Committee decisions are final and not subject to appeal. This rule does not prevent a Committee from correcting an incorrect ruling and imposing or rescinding a penalty.

#### **H: Tournament Site Registration:**

47. Tournament fees are to be paid upon arrival at the course, at least 30 minutes before your tee time, on the day of the tournament, unless otherwise noted. Players who miss their tee times are subject to disqualification, as per USGA rules.

#### **I: The Rules Committee:**

48. The FilAmGC Rules Committee for a tournament will be comprised of four members: a professional at the tournament course, and three FilAmGC board members or officers; preferably, but not limited to, the Tournament Committees and the President. Other Board members and officers may fulfill this function if the Tournament Committees and/or President are not available.

49. All Rules questions and disputes must be settled before signed and attested score cards are submitted. Players who submit incorrect score cards are subject to penalty and/or disqualification, as per USGA Rules.
50. Each player is responsible for knowing the Rules of Golf, and for correctly applying them to his/her own play, and to the play of fellow competitors. When in doubt as to how to proceed under the Rules, play separate, provisional balls, record the scores for each ball, and bring the matter to the Rules Committee before the score is posted.

### **J: Score Cards:**

51. Players will be given tournament score cards at the registration table. This card must be exchanged with a fellow competitor in the same group; no player may keep his/her own score. Scores must be kept in accordance with the Rules of Golf and must accord with the conditions of play for the tournament.
52. Score cards must be totaled, reconciled, attested, and signed before submission. Players are responsible for accurately recording the score for each hole played. Recording a score lower than the actual score for a hole will result in disqualification.

### **K: Speed of Play**

53. Each group of players and each player within each group must take diligent, efficient, effective measures to stay in position with the group in front. The FilAmGC defines being out of position thus: If a group is not following immediately behind the group in front, it is out of position. If a group is out of position, it is playing too slowly, and is in the wrong. If a group is playing too slowly, it must make getting back into position the top priority.
54. To ensure speedy play, each group, and each member of each group should adhere to the following:
  - h. Report to the first tee in advance of your tee time, make introductions, exchange score cards, establish the order of play, and take care of all other business before your group's turn to play comes.
  - i. Be ready to play your shot immediately when your turn comes. Select a club and go through your pre-shot routine before your turn comes. Address the ball immediately when your turn comes.
  - j. Play ready golf: if the away player is unprepared to hit, declare your intention and make your shot. Encourage the other players in your group to do the same.
  - k. When another player is unable to locate his/her ball, play your own shot and then help search for the ball. Do not waste time searching for a hopelessly lost ball, or for a difficult to find ball that has entered a water hazard, or for one that has gone out of bounds. Understand that searching for lost balls hinders play on the entire course. Adhere to the USGA Rules of Golf when searching for balls.
  - l. On par 5 holes that are reachable in two shots and on par 4 holes that are reachable from the tee, once your group reaches their tee shots (par 5 holes) or the green, signal following players to play their shots. Waiting for the green to clear on such holes causes slow play.
  - m. Inform the Tournament Committees, President, or other Board members or officers when a player causes a group to not stay in position, causing slow play.
  - n. Use the Provisional Ball Rule when unsure of how to proceed, according to the Rules of Golf.
  - o. The FilAmGC encourages course personnel and marshals to closely monitor and police our tournaments for slow play and for appropriate behavior. Players who are uncooperative, rude, or abusive are subject to expulsion from the FilAmGC, and to other sanctions.
55. The FilAmGC Board will set policies, establish procedures, and take actions necessary to ensure speedy play, and to deal with players who cause slow play. All players are expected to comply with these measures. Failure to do so may result in the Board penalizing or expelling non-compliant players.

In circumstances unforeseen and/or not addressed by the Tournament Guidelines, the Tournament Committees, in consultation with the Chairman, President and other Board of Directors and officers, will strive to make an equitable and just decision. The FilAmGC Board of Directors, in accordance with the Rules of Golf, has final say in these circumstances.

All golf tournaments shall be governed by the USGA and in house rules. Any disputes or controversies will be settled by the Rules – Regulations, Chairman, and Tournament Committee.