

With the substantial growth our MGA has experienced over the last several years, we have a lot of new members that may not be familiar with how tournaments are organized, managed, scored, etc. This document is intended to provide a tournament overview for new members as well as a refresher for existing members.

This overview will cover the following topics.

- Monthly vs. Majors Tournaments
- Entry Fees, Players Pool and Payouts
- Tournament Schedule
- No-show or last-minute cancelations policy
- Missed payouts
- Posting scores
- Special requests
- Pace of Play

Monthly vs. Majors Tournaments

The MGA primarily organizes two types of tournaments, Monthly Tournaments and Majors.

- The Monthly tournaments are one-day events, usually with three flights, starting with either a shotgun start or assigned tee times. For a list of tournaments and their respective descriptions, please visit the [IHMGA website](#).
- The Majors (Member-Member and Member-Guest) are multiday events with a larger number of flights, culminating in a shootout to determine the overall winner.

In addition to the MGA sponsored events, there are two other tournaments (Medal Play Championship and the Club Championship) that are open to all IHCC members, including members under the age of 18 that have a handicap of 8.0 or less, and permission from the Pro to participate.

Entry Fees, Players Pool and Payouts

Every tournament has an Entry Fee and in most cases a Players Pool. Both are mandatory. For each tournament we structure the pay outs for winners so that at least 25% of the field is “in the money”.

There are two categories of fees for all participants and payout for the winners.

- Entry Fee - The entry fees are charged by the club directly to your IHCC account (usually \$30) and are used to pay for food & beverage items as well as any other tournament expenses. The remaining funds are allocated to the Pro Shop credit portion of the payouts. The Pro Shop credit goes directly into your personal IHCC account which can be applied to purchases in the pro shop.
- Players Pool – For every tournament we collect a small Players Pool fee (usually \$20). **This mandatory fee is payable in cash on tournament day when you check in.** All of the money collected is paid out in the form of Cash Pay outs at the conclusion of the tournament.

All tournaments are self-funding. Meaning, 100% of the fees collected are used for tournament expenses and prize money.

Tournament Schedule

Starting in February each year we try to have one tournament every month. We work with the club on available dates so on occasion the monthly cadence may not work out perfectly but that is the goal. The tournament schedule is posted on the IHMGA Website early in the year, so everyone can plan accordingly.

There are some key dates to consider for each tournament.

- **Registration Opening Date**
Registration for tournaments usually opens about three weeks prior to the tournament date. The MGA attempts to send out reminder emails prior to opening registration but it is ultimately your responsibility to be aware of the tournament schedule. We have a large membership group and limited capacity to accommodate everyone, so registration is on a “first come” basis. Even if the tournament is full, you can still sign up and get on the wait list. In the three-week period between opening registration and the tournament date there will be withdrawals and those on the wait list can move up into the tournament field. Also, if we have a large waitlist for any given tournament the club may work with us to expand the field.
- **Registration Closing Date**
The Wednesday before the tournament date, registration will close at noon. The registration list is then sent to the pro shop for assignment of pairings and tee times. Once the pro shop completes that task, the pairings and tee times are reviewed by the MGA and distributed to the players on Thursday or no later than Friday.
- **Tournament Day**

On the day of the tournament, the MGA will set up a registration desk, either inside the mens locker room or somewhere outside depending on weather conditions. **All players must check in.** At check in time be prepared to pay for the player's pool. Remember these are the funds that will be used to pay for the cash portion of the payout. If someone doesn't check in and pay that morning, it will delay some of the payouts. You don't want to be "that guy" that forgot to check in and had to be tracked down.

At the conclusion of the tournament, we usually have a keg available. This is a good time to hang out and socialize with other members. Also, the cash payouts will be distributed at the end of the tournament. If you think you might be in the money, please stick around for the pay outs.

One side note, for tournaments with a shot gun start, the driving range will get crowded so give yourself plenty of time to check in and warm up.

No-show or last-minute cancelations policy

After the tournament registration closes, the field is locked in. We use the number of players to calculate the payout amounts available after covering any food and beverage expenses. Therefore, anyone who cancels after noon on the Wednesday before the event can expect to see a charge for the tournament on your bill.

Missed payouts

As previously stated, if you win money for any given tournament, we will distribute the cash payouts at the conclusion of the tournament. If for any reason you are not around after the tournament, your winnings will be available at check in for the next tournament.

From time to time the MGA may schedule a "payout date" at the club to distribute any cash owed to previous winners. **After December 31st, any uncollected winnings will be forfeited and allocated to future food & beverage or other MGA expenses.**

Posting scores

For most tournaments we are now using Golf Genius to capture scores. If Golf genius is being used those scores will be automatically posted to GHIN for handicap purposes. For other tournaments such as the Year-long Match Play events please make sure you post your scores accordingly. **Please note that for the Match Play events there is an official procedure for posting scores if the match ends before 18 holes. For example, if the match ends after 15 holes, you should record net par for the remaining 3 holes. Also, these scores should be posted as Competition scores not Home Course scores.**

In any case it is your responsibility to make sure that all tournament scores are posted correctly and that your handicap is accurate. Scorecards are provided by the pro shop for each tournament for your use in cross-checking and validating scores in Golf Genius. In addition we have a tool on IHMGA website that allows you to print your own score cards with handicaps.

Special requests

For every tournament the MGA receives multiple special requests. Sometimes it's someone who signed up as a single and wants to be paired up with a buddy. Other times it's a request for a specific tee time (early tee time, last tee time etc). Please keep in mind that the pairings and tee times are managed by the Pro Shop not the MGA. The pro shop staff are very accommodating and we have a good working relationship with them, but they also have other duties to take care of. We will work with the Pro Shop to grant special requests as best we can, but there is no guarantee.

Pace of Play

Lastly, we all complain about pace of play during tournament days. Everyone wants to play well, and we certainly don't want to let down our teammates, but there is no reason why we still can't keep up the pace and complete your round in under 4.5 hours.

Here are some tips to speed up play all the time, not just during tournament (and yes there are many more).

- **Be prepared to hit your shot** – On the tee box, be ready. Have your tee, gloves, ball etc. ready to go. This is not the time to mark your ball and clean your grooves. Also have an extra ball with you in the unlikely event you hit it out of bounds or in the lake. On your second or third shot, be ready to hit your shot when it's your turn. Better yet, have everyone in your group agree to "ready golf." Don't wait for everyone else to hit before getting your distance and club, judging the wind etc.
- **Limit your practice swings** – You should only need to take one or two practice swings. If you need more than that you should be at the practice range... or taking lessons. Taking more practice swings is not going to help you hit a better shot.
- **Plan ahead** - If it's cart path only, take several clubs with you to your ball to avoid walking back and forth to the cart. If you hit a ball in the woods, take an extra ball with you to hit a provisional in case you can't find the first one. If you are in a position where you might chunk one into a sand trap, bring your sand wedge with you just in case. You get the point.

- **Club Management** - After your shot, don't waste time putting your clubs in the bag. Carry them with you in the cart to your next shot. Then, put away your previous club while getting the correct club for the next shot. You can also clean your clubs while you're driving to the next shot.
- **Keep Up** – If there is a gap between your group and the group in front of you, make a concerted group effort to catch up.
- **On the green** - Read your putt while other players are putting out. Be ready to putt when it's your turn. If you brought extra clubs with you on the green, place them on your path back to the cart.
- **Save story telling for the right time** – We all have funny or interesting stories to tell. Don't start telling stories on the tee box or right before someone is getting ready to hit. Save it for a dead time between shots. Or for the 19th hole.

These may seem like insignificant time savings on their own but think about it. If everyone were to implement these strategies it is reasonable to save at least a couple of minutes per hole. That's 36 minutes per round, or more time to spend around the keg after the round!