

# HAGA New Member Information

Welcome to the Houston Amateur Golf Association, or HAGA! Our organization has been going strong since 1952 and is made better with each new member.

This information will acquaint you with some of our procedures but feel free to ask any member if you have any questions along the way.

## Tournament Information

- Chuck Kelley is our Tournament Director. Chuck arranges the schedule and selects the courses we play
- HAGA schedules events approximately every 2 weeks
- Members have no minimum number of events
- Generally, events are targeted at 6,300 to 6,700 yards
- New applicants for membership are required to play two HAGA events to establish their flight (assuming they have an established GHIN index already).
- In the event the player does not have a GHIN index upon joining HAGA, the requirement is 2 HAGA events plus 3 other rounds posted to establish an official index (or additional HAGA rounds).
- While part of the “Special Flight”, all Special players compete against one another, rather than being placed in the “Flight” they will later qualify to play. Results for the Special flight is based on a Callaway system where the gross score determines the strokes received for the event. Depending on the number of “Specials” in the flight, HAGA will pay up to three places for low net score.
- Each individual flight is comprised of 12-18 players established by course handicap, based on USGA guidelines for slope and rating:
  - Championship Flight
  - First Flight
  - Second Flight
  - Third Flight
  - We divide the number of players in the event by 4 and approximately 25% of the field goes into each flight.
- Course Handicap for each player is determined by using the USGA guidelines for slope and rating for the course & tee played
- Players aged 62 and up may elect to play as a “Senior” member from the next tee forward. Seniors electing to do this will be assigned a handicap based on the

## Prizes:

- Prizes are awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> place in the form of Golfsmith Gift Cards. The cards allow HAGA to provide more prize money, due to a discount we receive from Golfsmith. Cards are distributed at the next HAGA event (or held until your next event).
- In addition to awards for winners, there are individual cash wagers that can be made at each individual tournament, by placing \$5.00 in each “pot”:
  - 2’s – any 2 gets a share of the pot (Birdie or Eagle)
  - Skins – birdie (or better), lowest score on the hole out of the entire field with no ties per hole. Split the pot among the skins that holdup.
  - Players’ Pool is the “Low Net” score, after the course handicap is assigned (Specials cannot participate) – 1 winner
  - “Low Gross” – for lowest gross score – 1 winner
  - All cash in the pots are divided equally and shared by the participating members. The cash is paid at the end of the event.
  - “Hole in One” pot is also available and continues until a player makes an ace.
- Players also earn Player of the Year (POY) points for the top 10 in each flight (see next page).
- Usual Gift Card and POY point awards (each flight):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$180 GC, plus 500 POY points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$100 GC, plus 350 POY points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$60 GC, plus 250 POY points
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place - \$30 GC, plus 180 POY points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place - \$10 GC, plus 130 POY points
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – 90 POY points
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – 60 POY points
  - 8<sup>th</sup> – 40 POY points
  - 9<sup>th</sup> – 30 POY points
  - 10<sup>th</sup> – 20 POY points
- There is usually a Championship, First and Second flight. There can be a Third flight depending on the number of players. Our goal is to have 15 players per flight as a minimum but may fluctuate from 12-18. We will use USGA guidelines for course handicap for each player. Players must check in before play
- In the Special flight, Gift Card amounts and the number of places paid depends on the number of players in the flight. There are no POY points for Specials.

### **Player of the Year Points**

- In addition to prizes, members earn Player of the Year (POY) points for all of the prizes described.
- POY points are used to determine eligibility for competition outside HAGA, Match Play seeding and “Player of the Year” award.
- #1 POY receives one year of free HAGA membership including free registration to all HAGA events.

### **Registration for Tournaments**

- All events require players to register by the Friday prior to the Sunday event. HAGA uses BlueGolf as our registration website.
- All charges are made via credit card placed on file with your HAGA profile.
- An additional fee is charged to the player for the Blue Golf website cost (3.5%) and to the credit card processor (3.25%).
- Most events are \$80 plus the fee of \$5.40.
- Cancellations must be made by Saturday noon in order to receive a refund for the event. Cancellations are done by the member on the BlueGolf website.

### **Rules of Play**

- USGA rules govern all play. Players may not waive any USGA rules on their own.
- Players must hole out on all holes
- HAGA local rule allows for the removal of stones in a sand trap if they could cause potential injury to the player, however the ball cannot be moved in the process of removing stones.
- Score is recorded by a playing competitor. Players must sign for their score and player is responsible for accuracy of score posted.
- Tournament Director may elect to play “Lift, Clean & Place” for specific events based on condition. Unless specifically called by the Tournament Director, no player may elect to use LC&P on his own or within the group.
- Scores are posted to the GHIN system by the Handicap Director.
- Course handicaps are assigned by the Tournament Director for each event using the most recent GHIN player index and slope rating for course & tees.
- Groups are randomly assigned by the Handicap Chairman and the BlueGolf website

### **Pace of Play**

- By its nature, tournament golf takes longer than a social round. For that reason, members are expected to play with pace during the event.
- HAGA would like to target a 4.5 hour round.
- As a general rule, if the group ahead of you is on the green or further when you reach the tee, you are out of position and should pick up your pace.
- HAGA plays “ready golf” on all shots. Please be ready to go and hit the ball.
- HAGA reserves the right to penalize players in a group that finishes more than 20 minutes behind the group in front of them. Penalty can range from 1 to 2 strokes for all players in the group
- The group time is posted when a member submits a signed scorecard to the scorer’s table.
- Groups are expected to “self-police” their time and keep up with the group in front of them, not just stay ahead of the group behind.

### **Current Board of Directors**

Serving on the BOD is voluntary and BOD members are not paid.

- **President – George Harlow**  
[gharlow@billjacksonappraisers.com](mailto:gharlow@billjacksonappraisers.com)
- **Treasurer –Ron Hill**  
[rlhometx@comcast.net](mailto:rlhometx@comcast.net)
- **Tournament Director – Chuck Kelley**  
[Charles.kelleyaia@yahoo.com](mailto:Charles.kelleyaia@yahoo.com)
- **Handicap Chairman – Kirk Girouard**  
[kirkgirouard6736@aol.com](mailto:kirkgirouard6736@aol.com)
- **Membership Chairman – Fred LaGrasta**  
[flagrasta@gmail.com](mailto:flagrasta@gmail.com)
- **Secretary – Eric Eisen**  
[ericeisen@aol.com](mailto:ericeisen@aol.com)
- **“At Large Members”:**
  - Bruce Angel
  - Ken Barnum
  - Chip Block
  - Derek Chinnners
  - Jamie Diaz-Grenados
  - Randy Mackay
  - Martin Noyola
  - Ben Snead
  - Eric Trevino

Elections are held annually at the Club Championship (September). Term is for one year. All Active HAGA members may vote and are eligible to seek any office.

### **2015 HAGA Schedule**

All events are played on Sunday unless noted otherwise.

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	START TYPE
05/31/15	CINCO RANCH	9:00	SG
06/07/15	CYPRESSWOOD (TRAD) - REPLAY	11:00	TT
06/14/15	RIVER PLANTATION	11:00	TT
06/28/15	GOLF CLUB OF HOUSTON (\$100)	2:00	SG
07/12/15	KINGWOOD (LAKE COURSE)	8:00	SG
07/26/15	RIVER RIDGE	9:00	SG
08/09/15	MOODY GARDENS	9:00	SG
08/23/15	HIGH MEADOW RANCH	9:00	SG
09/13/15	CINCO RANCH	9:00	SG
SAT. 9/26/15	RIVER RIDGE - 2 DAY CLUB CHAMP.	9:00	SG
SUN. 9/27/15	RIVER RIDGE - 2 DAY CLUB CHAMP.	9:00	SG
10/11/15	CYPRESSWOOD (CYPRESS)	11:00	TT
10/25/15	QUAIL VALLEY (ELDORADO)	12:00	SG
11/08/15	GLEANNLOCH PINES	TBD	SG
11/22/15	CYPRESS LAKES	TBD	SG

Additional events may be added. Please check the BlueGolf website for current HAGA schedule.

Current fee for all events is \$80 unless noted otherwise. Club Championship is \$80 each day; however players not participating in the two day championship contest may pay and play for a single day.