

HAGA New Member Information

Welcome to the Houston Amateur Golf Association, "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

- Upon arrival at the tournament site, players must check in with the HAGA Tournament Coordinator at least 30 minutes before your tee time (or event start time).
- HAGA's Tournament Director (Chuck Kelley) arranges the HAGA schedule and selects the courses we play
- HAGA events are on Sundays, usually every other weekend, adjusted for holidays & major events
- There is no required minimum number of events, although participation in our Club Championship requires a minimum of six events in the calendar year
- Generally, events are targeted at 6,300 to 6,700 yards
- New members are called "Specials" and are required to play a minimum of two HAGA events **and** have an official USGA GHIN handicap index before they are promoted to the Regular Flights
- HAGA provides a GHIN subscription for all members
- Note that to establish an official USGA GHIN handicap index a player must have a minimum of 5 rounds posted to their GHIN record
- 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 are based on the same net scoring results as the other HAGA flights. 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. Players are placed in flights based on their course handicap.
 - We usually have 3-4 flights: Championship Flight, First Flight, Second Flight, Third Flight, etc.
 - Players are divided equally based on the size of the field and number of flights for the event
- Course Handicap for each player is determined by using the USGA guidelines for slope and rating for the course & tee played

- Events are individual stroke play. There is one team event – a 2 man "Better Ball" with partners chosen
- **Members aged 62 and up** have the option to play as a "Senior" member from the next tee forward. Players who elect to play as a Senior must do so for the entire year, with the opportunity to "UNDO" before June 1. Specials are eligible to play as Senior if they choose

Prizes:

- Prizes are awarded in the form of Visa Gift Cards. USGA guidelines prevent HAGA from paying cash awards
- Gift Cards are distributed to the winners at the conclusion of scoring at each event
- Up to four places are paid, depending on the size of the field for the specific event
- Scores are input into the USGA scoring system to determine accuracy and calculate tie breakers
- In addition to awards for winners, there are optional individual cash wagers that can be made at each individual tournament, by placing \$5.00 in each "pot":
 - Deuces Wild – any 2 splits the pot (Birdie or Eagle)
 - Skins – birdie (or better), lowest gross score on the hole, out of the entire field, with no ties per hole. Split the pot among the skins that holdup
 - "Low Gross" – for lowest gross score – 1 winner
 - Players' Pool is the "Low Net" score, after the course handicap is assigned (Specials cannot participate in this game due to Handicap requirement)
 - 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" pool is \$5.00 and continues until a member in the pool makes an ace, then we start over with another pool
- Players also earn Player of the Year (POY) points for participation in tournament and position of finish in each flight. All participants earn a minimum of 20 POY points for participation.
- Standard POY point awards (for each flight):

PLACE	POY POINTS	PLACE	POY POINTS
1	500	6	90
2	350	7	60
3	250	8	40
4	180	9	30
5	130	10	20

Player of the Year Points

- In addition to prizes, members earn Player of the Year (POY) points based on individual results by to
- POY points are used to determine eligibility for competition outside HAGA, Match Play seeding and “Player of the Year” free golf awards
- Top four POY players receive free golf for a specified number of events for the following year

In 2016, HAGA introduced ** 4 ** “Major Events” that will earn more POY points and have higher prize money payouts. These events are recorded in GHIN as “Tournament” rounds. All other events are entered in GHIN as “Away” rounds, based on 2016 USGA guidelines

Registration for Tournaments

- Players must register online 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 \$95 plus tax and the fee of \$5.65
- 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
- Players that register early receive preferential tee time assignments; the earlier you register the better!

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 rules adopted:
 - Accidental movement of the ball or the marker on the green - replace with no penalty
 - Removal of stones in a sand trap if they could cause potential injury to the player
- Score is recorded by a playing competitor, called a “Marker”. Players must sign for their score and the 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
- HAGA tournament scores are posted to the GHIN system by the HAGA Handicap Chairman

- Course handicaps are calculated by the Handicap Chairman for each event using the player’s most recent GHIN handicap index adjusted by the slope rating for course & tees being played. For Seniors, an additional adjustment is made to compensate for the lower course rating for the Senior tees versus the tees played by the rest of the players.

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’s target pace is a 4.5 hour round
- HAGA appoints the Low Handicap player in each foursome as the “Pace of Play Captain”, who will offer instruction to keep the group moving; all players are expected to respect the need to keep up their pace
- 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 (2 year terms)

- **President – George Harlow**
thegrharlows@comcast.net
- **Treasurer – Ron Hill**
rlhometx@comcast.net
- **Tournament Director – Chuck Kelley**
Charles.kelleyaia@yahoo.com
- **Handicap Chairman – Kirk Girouard**
kirkgirouard6736@aol.com
- **Membership Chairman – Randy Mackay**
Dennis.Mackay@gmail.com
- **Secretary – Fred Lagrasta**
flagrasta@gmail.com
- **“At Large Members”:**

BRUCE ANGEL	JEFF PAVLINA
CHIP BLOCK	ERIC TREVINO
LP JONES	CHUCK WINFREE

BOD elections are for a 2 year term. All Active HAGA members may vote and are eligible to seek any office. The next election is in October 2018

