

HAGA

Continued from previous page.

"This way, we don't have people complaining that so-and-so should be in this flight or that flight because they lied about their handicap."

For the first five events, players participate in a "special flight," Jones said. They compete against other "special flight" players, but are still eligible to win the same certificates.

Jones said when players complete five "special flight" events, the HAGA takes their top three scores and places them in one of the flights. After that, Jones said handicaps are figured exactly like the USGA system, meaning they are based on the top 10 scores out of 20 rounds.

"It is all very fair," he said. "But some players take a while to get used to the style of play. If you hit one out of bounds, you have to hit another from the tee. There are no give-me

(putts). We play by the rules."

Jones said approximately 90 players have been playing in the bi-monthly events, although there usually is no limit to the number of entries per event, he added.

"We ask people to sign up at least six days in advance," Jones said.

Players interested in joining the league should call HAGA chairman Scott Peterson at (713) 664-4644 or Jones at (281) 454-7426.

"We will mail them an information package that they need to fill out and send in with a check for \$45," Jones said. "The \$45 is an annual cost that goes toward our newsletter and for establishing the handicaps."

Once players are registered, Jones said they may call the HAGA tournament hotline at (281) 499-4653 to find out times and dates, and register up for the coming events. Players must pay their own green and cart fees to play in each tournament. Jones added that there is a sign-up sheet at each tournament for the upcoming events.

"Sometimes we put a limit on the number of players per event," he said. "It all depends on the course, and whether they do a shotgun start

or make us have tee-times."

The next tournament is March 16 at Clear Creek Golf Course near Pearland. Some of the other events are as follows: March 29, Sharpstown Golf Course in southwest Houston; April 13, Waterwood National in Huntsville; April 27, Evergreen Point Golf Course in Baytown; May 10, Kingwood Cove Golf Club; May 17-18, Del Lago Resort on Lake Conroe (two-man best ball); June 8, Wedgewood Golf Course in Conroe; June 22, Weston Lakes Golf Course in Fulshear; July 6, Galveston Municipal Course; July 20, Bentwood Country Club in Porter; Aug. 31, Lake Houston Golf Club in Huffman; Sept. 14, Cape Royale Golf Course in Cold-spring; and Oct. 18-19, Waterwood.

The 72-hole HAGA club championship will be held Aug. 9-10 at Bear Creek Golf World and Aug. 16-17 at Southwyck Golf Club in Pearland, Jones said.

"Our numbers have really increased," he said. "But members come and go. Some come out for a tournament or two and realize they don't like the format. That is okay. This is not for everybody."