

2020 Santa Ana Players Club Policies

In addition to any published Conditions of Play, Local Rules and Notices to Competitors, the following policies will be effective for the 2020 season.

To encourage participation in club tournaments, the goal of the Santa Ana Players Club is to provide an equitable, fair, and enjoyable competition for all of our members. The following policies should help achieve this goal.

Club Championship, President's Cup, SAPC Invitational

Club Championship Trophy Eligibility - All blue flight players are eligible to win the Club Championship trophy based on their gross score. Lowest overall gross score in any blue flight wins the Club Championship. Ties for the Club Championship only will be broken by a sudden death playoff starting on whichever course and hole the committee designates. All other ties will be a scorecard playoff per our current policy.

If a player plays in the blue gross flight, they can only win gross flight payouts and the trophy if they have overall low gross score. Unless flights are combined, if a player plays in a blue net flight, they can only win blue net flight payouts based on their net score (adjusted based the exceptional score policy) and the trophy if they have the overall low gross score.

SAPC Invitational Handicap Policy - Guests with non-GHIN handicaps or GHIN handicaps from golf associations other than the Sun Country Amateur Golf Association will be subject to a Players Club Committee (hereafter known as the *Committee*) review to establish a valid tournament handicap index. The *Committee* reserves the right to adjust a player's tournament handicap based on this review. For all flights, players must meet the tournament tee requirements discussed below or their handicaps may be adjusted downward as discussed below. All members must play in at least one Players Club tournament during the 2020 season to be eligible for the SAPC Invitational tournament. All participants must post at least three GHIN scores in the 12 months prior to the Invitational tournament. For the Super Bowl tournament, a player must have played at least on tournament in 2019 and be a current member of the SAPC.

All Tournaments

Tournament Deadlines – The following are the 2020 tournament deadlines, fees, and payment policies.

- For all Saturday tournaments: The deadline to sign up will be the Wednesday before the tournament by 5 pm.
- For all Wednesday tournaments: The deadline to sign up will be the Saturday before the tournament by 5 pm.
- The entry fee for all tournaments is \$25 per day (lunch no longer provided for most tournaments). 100% of all tournament fees will be returned as prizes. Match play will be \$35.
- The SAPC must release tournament tee times back to the course after the deadlines shown above. Late entries are not guaranteed entry into a tournament and entry will be on a space available basis. You will be notified of your status by Mark Vitale, the Tournament Chairman.
- Put your entry in the SAPC box, but if you mail in your entry, please allow enough time for the mail to be delivered to SAGC. (In some cases it has taken 6+ days for mail to be delivered across town)
- If you email your entry, please include all information that is on the entry form.
- For all tournament information or issues, please call or e-mail Mark Vitale at 505-301-4678 or mpvit555@gmail.com. Other board members do not have tournament information.

Tournament Tees – We recommend a player play tournaments from the tees they normally play from in daily play. You may move up or back in any particular tournament; however, your course handicap will change by plus or minus 3-5 strokes due to the World Handicap System calculation.

Committee Handicap Review: The purpose of handicapping is to create equity. Equity takes proactive attention to handicapping in order to bring fairness to club events. Because the primary concern of the *Committee* is to protect the field, the right of the *Committee* to adjust handicaps, whether for members or guests, will need to be exercised at times. To ensure a level playing field where all members feel they have a chance of winning if they play well, the *Committee* has a responsibility for making certain that each player's handicap reflects their true playing potential. The *Committee* will continue to enforce USGA WHS handicap policy by proactively reviewing player's scoring records throughout the golfing season and, as necessary, modifying handicaps.

It is USGA policy to have players post rounds in GHIN as soon as possible after the round is played. Any question of failure to post all valid Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) scores, either via the handicap computer or the Internet, failure to post scores in a timely manner, round manipulation, posting of numerous higher than normal away or Internet scores, several exceptionally low tournament (T) scores or a T score average over several recent months that is lower compared to the player's current handicap or consistently lower tournament scores in major club tournaments may prompt a reassessment of a player's handicap index resulting in a handicap adjustment or penalty score. Continued violations may result in withdrawal of the player's handicap index.

Per the USGA Rules of Handicapping manual, the *Committee* may review all aspects of a player's handicap history including, but not limited to, the items listed above. Based on this review, the *Committee* may adjust a player's handicap prior to a tournament or post a penalty score. Before a handicap is adjusted, the player will receive a notification e-mail that explains the reduction. The player may immediately explain in writing or in person, the circumstances or mitigating factors surrounding the proposed handicap adjustment. When a final decision has been made to modify a player's handicap it will be applied, as a minimum, to the next tournament that they enter. This final decision may not be appealed. If the reduction applies to a specific period rather than an individual tournament it may be identified by an "M" in the GHIN system. A penalty score may be applied without discussion with the player and it may appear as a "P" score in the scoring record. You may provide signed scorecard evidence to refute this "P" score.

WHS Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)

WHS Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is the USGA system to adjust a score on a hole based on the player's handicap as a method to prevent inflated handicaps. Under the WHS, equitable stroke control (ESC) will allow a player to score a maximum net double bogey on a hole. That is, if you get a stroke or two on a hole, you can add those to the double bogey score to arrive at the maximum allowed score for the hole. Adjusting a hole score to a net double bogey can be done either automatically, when hole-by-hole score entry is used, or by the player, when submitting an adjusted gross score for the round.

The table below compares the maximum allowed strokes under the USGA ESC and the WHS ESC for a selection of handicaps. Under WHS ESC, the maximum hole score for a single-digit player will either stay the same or increase by one stroke. A 15-handicap player will have his maximum hole score either reduced or stay the same with the exception of a par 5 where he strokes (1S). Similarly, a 25-handicap will have his maximum hole score either reduced or stay the same except on a par 5 where he gets two strokes (2S). Therefore, the single-digit player should see a small increase in his Index while higher handicap players should see a small decrease in their Index due to the change in ESC.

ESC Table

Maximum Allowed Strokes under the Old USGA and New WHS

Par	5 Handicap			15 Handicap			25 Handicap		
	USGA Old	WHS New		USGA Old	WHS		USGA Old	WHS New	
		1S	NS		1S	NS		2S	1S
3	5	6	5	7	6	5	8	7	6
4	6	7	6	7	7	6	8	8	7
5	7	8	7	7	8	7	8	9	8

Tournament Flights and Payouts: Depending on the number of entries in each tournament, the *Committee* will plan to have flights that play from the blue, blue/white, white and green teeing grounds in each tournament. No yellow flights are planned. Major tournaments may add a black flight. We encourage eligible SAPC players to enter the blue or white gross flights to increase the flight size and the winning payouts. If there are at least 5 blue or white gross participants, there will be a blue or white gross only flight with payouts based on flight size. If there are 4 or fewer blue or white gross only participants, then those blue or white gross players will be moved into the first blue or white net flight and there will be no gross payout. If a player who wanted to play blue or white gross immediately calls or e-mails Mark Vitale to withdraw from the tournament, based on the fact there is no gross payout, they will receive a refund of the tournament entry fee. All other blue/white, white and green flights will be net only. The *Committee* will attempt to keep the flight sizes from 8-12 players with handicaps within 5 strokes in each flight but that is not a hard requirement. Approximately one third of each flight should place in the prize money. Ties for gross and net prizes will be broken using a scorecard playoff starting on a hole designated by the *Committee* and then going backward.

Pace of Play (Included in Conditions of Play and Local Rules): Our most significant Players Club issue has been the slow pace of play. Over the past few seasons we have encouraged players to play at a faster pace and the pace has improved significantly. We still need to continue to continue this trend. *The USGA Rules of Golf*, Rule 5.6, Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play, states in part: “You must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between holes and a round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace.” The *Committee* has designated that you must play your tournament round in 4 hours and 30 minutes or less and maintain your position on the course to avoid penalties. See our Conditions of Play and Local Rules for the complete policy on slow play enforcement and penalties.

Any questions or comments regarding the above should be forwarded to Mark Vitale, Tournament Chairman, at 505-301-4678 (mpvit555@gmail.com) or Warren Von Worley, Vice President, at 291-0028 (wvon@comcast.net).