

2017 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 2017 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 2016 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.

All Tournaments

Tournament Deadlines – The following are the 2016 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). 100% of all tournament fees will be returned as prizes.
- Any entries received without payment will be considered late unless payment is received before the deadline. If you pay after the deadline you may have to pay the entry fee plus a \$10 late penalty (One day tournament - \$35 total; two day tournament - \$70 total). The SAPC must release tournament tee times back to the course after the deadlines shown above. Late entries or entries received without payment 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.
- If you email your entry, your payment must be in the SAPC box by the deadline or you will be considered late.

- For all tournament information or issues, please call or e-mail Mark Vitale at 505-301-4678 or mpvit555@centurylink.net. 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 which should give them at least 6 scores from those tees that count for their handicap index. In any handicap tournament, a player may play from any teeing ground (blue, white or green); however, if a player does not have at least 6 scores that count from the selected teeing ground, they may still play from the selected tees except that the *Committee* will decide the appropriate handicap stroke deduction from their course handicap. This could be anywhere from a 1-4 stroke reduction depending on the player's circumstances and playing history. This reduction will be for the current tournament only and it is not negotiable. A player may always move back from green to white or blue or from white to blue except that for blue tees a 16 handicap or less is required.

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 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 handicap 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 will appear as a "P" score in the scoring record. You may provide signed scorecard evidence to refute this "P" score.

Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)

Equitable Stroke Control is a USGA system to adjust a score on a hole based on the player's handicap as a method to prevent sandbagging. All scores must be ESC'd before being posted. The following table gives the adjustment:

Course Handicap	Maximum Score on a Hole
9 or less	Double bogie
10 to 19	7
20 to 29	8
30 and greater	9

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, 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 gross flight to increase the flight size and the winning payouts. If there are at least 3 blue gross participants, there will be a blue gross only flight with payouts based on flight size. If there are 2 or fewer blue gross only participants, then those blue gross players will be moved into the first blue net flight and there will be no gross payout. If a player who wanted to play blue gross immediately call or e-mail 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 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 is the slow pace of play. Over the past few seasons we have encouraged players to play at a faster pace, but we have had little success. *The USGA Rules of Golf*, Rule 6-7, Undue Delay; Slow Play, states in part: “The player shall play without delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the *Committee*.” 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@centurylink.net) or Warren Von Worley, Vice President, at 291-0028 (wvon@comcast.net).