**2019 Commonwealth Golf Rules - Revised April 24, 2019**

1. Each team must be comprised with a minimum 50% of the players that are an active State, Federal, or Local Government employee, or a retiree from a State, Federal, or Local Government organization (including educational systems) to be eligible to participate in the Golf League. All participants must be 18 years of age or older.

2. Dues for the year are $30.00 per player and must be turned in to the league treasurer by June 12th 2019. If dues are not paid in full by June 12th, 2019 that member will forfeit all match points accumulated in previous and future played matches until paid in full.

3. Team Captains will have all rosters turned in by April 26th, 2019. The rosters shall include the name of each player and their contact information (phone, preferably cell, and email address). The deadline for adding players to a team or to replace a player is June 12th, 2019.

4. There shall be no more than fourteen teams in the Golf League. Players need to work together within their playing groups to ensure that all matches are played as expeditiously and as honorably as possible. There is nothing to prohibit a match player from conceding a stroke or a shot regardless of course placement to an opponent at any point during a particular hole or match and it will be accepted and received favorably for such concessions to be made during the match to speed up play. Here are some recommendations:

* Give putts that are within the length of the putter grip.
* Hit a provisional from any location that the players believe a ball is out-of-bounds or may be difficult to find. Be sure provisional is easily identifiable from the first ball. **NEW OPTIONAL LOCAL RULE: Estimate the spot where your ball went out of bounds or where it is most likely to be if lost. Identify the point at the nearest edge of the fairway that is the same distance from the hole as that spot and drop a ball within two club-lengths of that point no nearer the hole. The penalty is 2 penalty strokes (you will be hitting 4th shot). You will still have the option to play a ball within one club-length of the spot where your previous stroke was made for a 1 stroke penalty (you will be hitting 3rd shot). The time to search for a ball is reduced to 3 minutes, not 5 minutes**.
* Have your opponent pick up after 10 shots.
* Be ready to play when it’s your turn

5. SEGMENT AND TOURNAMENT PRIZE MONEY

A.  League play will be divided into segments based on the number of teams, to be determined before the start of the season by league officers. In the event of a first place tie at the end of any segment, those teams will have a playoff to determine the segment winner. The playoff will consist of two team members from each team to play nine holes for a low net total. An equal amount of money will be awarded for each team that wins a segment. The distribution of segment prize money will be at the discretion of the Team Captains.

B.  The distribution of tournament prize money to team members who do not play in the tournament shall be at the discretion of the Team Captains. Team Captains will inform the Treasurer when submitting tournament rosters as to the distribution of potential tournament winnings. If the Captain does not inform the Treasurer while submitting their tournament roster, any tournament prize money won by that team will be divided among all team members qualified to play in the tournament under Rule 23, not just those who actually participated in the tournament.

6. Regular scheduled play will be on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays**. All matches must have a tee time and start no later than 5:30 p.m.**

A. Team Scheduling: Should a Team Captain have a conflict in scheduling a match due to a shortage in players, he/she must coordinate an alternate day with the opposing Team’s Captain. It must be scheduled for that week through the Juniper Hills Pro Shop for a tee time.

B. Players should contact the opposing team no later than noon the day of the match and make a tee time with the Juniper Hills Pro Shop, (502) 875-8559.

C. If all four players have agreed to meet at the set tee time, then the players should arrive 15 minutes prior to the tee time and be prepared to tee off (see 6D for forfeiture rules) . A common courtesy call to the player's partner or to the Juniper Hills Pro Shop, (502) 875-8559, is appreciated so others in your match will be aware of your delay and your continued intent to play the match. The call would be appreciated; however, the thirty minute rule would still be in effect; or

D. If any player involved with the match is not prepared to tee off or later than 30 minutes past their agreed tee time for any unforeseen reason then that part of the match shall be forfeited. The team players who are present shall flip a coin to determine which member will play the match for the final point. The person whose opponent did not show up has the option to play or not. If both opponents do not appear, the opposing team forfeits all 3 points. The team present must turn in a completed scorecard (see Rule #20). In either case, forfeiture without playing does not count as one of the 6 required matches as stated in Rule #22.

E. All matches require a tee time from the pro shop, (502) 875-8559. When you are making a tee time inform them that you are playing a State League Match.

 F. Starting on any other holes besides 1 or 10 must be coordinated with the pro shop staff.

7. There are No Rainouts unless the course is closed. All matches must be played to ensure a fair chance of winning a segment for all Teams.

* Matches must be made up within 14 days in which the match was rained out. If the match cannot be made up by either team, no points for the match will be awarded to either team. If one team is unable to make up the missed round, but the opposing team makes the effort and is available to play, the team unable to make up play within two weeks forfeits the 3 points for the missed match, and the 3 points will be awarded to the opposing team.
* Five holes shall constitute a match. The handicapper will adjust scores and handicaps accordingly.

8. Handicapping will be as follows:

* During match play, all strokes are to be counted and recorded on the League scorecard. If a match is played elsewhere the official score card will be that particular course's score card.

B. ESC (Equitable Stroke Control) is an adjustment of individual hole score (for handicap purposes) in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's highest potential. ESC is used after the round and is only used when the actual score or the most likely score exceeds his/her maximum number. ESC sets a limit to the number of strokes a player can take on a hole depending on his Course Handicap. Below is the maximum number a player can take:

**Course Handicap (9 holes)** **Maximum Number Score**

 4 or less 1 Over Par

 5 9 2 Over Par

 10 14 3 Over Par

 15 20 4 Over Par

C.  Handicaps will be based on the USGA scoring system. The handicap of new players (players with a 99 listed as a handicap on the weekly handicap sheet) will either be by the established GHIN handicap with Juniper Hill course adjustments made or shall be calculated as follows:

The first three matches you play with 85% of what you shoot. (Example: Shoot 45 minus par 35 = 10 times 85% equals 9 handicap.) A chart will be posted on the bulletin board for determining the appropriate handicap for new players. For the fourth match you will be assigned a league handicap.

After four matches, the handicapping system will use the lowest 50% of your scores toward your handicap. The handicap system will keep up to 20 scores.

* The 2 lowest score out of 4 - 5 scores.
* The 3 lowest scores out of 6 - 7 scores.
* The 4 lowest scores out of 8 - 9 matches.
* The 5 lowest scores out of 10 - 11 matches
* And so on through 20 matches using 10 lowest

D. Only scores from the previous 3 years of league play will count toward the current year’s handicap.

9. All former players will start with last year’s handicap adjusted only by adding the previous year’s tournament scores (front nine and back nine). New players who have an established GHIN handicap will report this handicap to their team captains. Team captains are to report the player's 9-hole handicap.

10. The maximum handicap will be 18 strokes.

11. Handicaps as posted will be final unless an error is reported and adjusted prior to the beginning of the next week's play.

12. Each match is worth 3 points. The low handicap player from each team will play and whoever has the most points after 9 holes will be awarded 1 match point. The high handicap player on each team will play and whoever has the most points after 9 holes will be awarded 1 match point. The third match point is awarded based on the lowest team total score minus the handicaps

A. If two players on a team have the same handicap, the winner of a coin toss will play as the low handicap player for that team.

B. Should only one member from each team show up at a scheduled match, they will play for a total of 1 point (no points will be awarded for the team portion).

13. Points for holes will be awarded as follows:

5 - Three or more under par

4 - Two under par

3 - One under par

2 - Even par

1 - One over par

14. All players will play from the white tees.

15. Lies may be improved by the length of a League scorecard, but not closer to the hole or moved onto the green. Example: When the ball is behind a tree, it can be moved the length of a scorecard in any direction that is not closer to the hole. A player may declare his ball is in ground under repair if his opponent agrees.

16. No penalty for a double hit (counts as one stroke) or if your ball hits you or your equipment accidentally after a stroke.

17. No penalty if your ball strikes the flagstick when you have chosen to leave it in the hole. If someone is tending the flag, you cannot hit the flag.

18. Ball near property line fences may have lie improved (State League score card), but may not be moved closer to the hole.

19. Ball in sand trap will be played under USGA rules. It cannot be improved and there will be no grounding of the club in the sand.

20. End of year tournament will be a shotgun start with lunch served after conclusion of play. The format is stroke play. All putts must be holed out.

19. Questions on course rules or League guidelines or the interpretation of rules and guidelines should be directed to the Juniper Hill club professional or the president of the league. Should the golf course professional or president of the league make a decision, that decision for that match is final!

20. Score cards shall be completed, signed, dated, attested, and dropped into the box marked "State League" on the day the match is played. The box is located inside the Juniper Hill pro shop. Full names and team numbers must also be written on the score cards otherwise both teams will forfeit all points for that match. All signed score cards with a required minimum of 5 completed holes will constitute an official match.

21. Current Handicap printout will be posted each Monday on the board across from the Men’s Locker Room.

22. Each player must play at least 6 matches in order to participate in the year-end tournament as a member of his team, and to win prizes. Forfeiture without playing does not count as one of the 6 required matches.

23. All matches are to be played at Juniper Hills Golf Course unless all 4 players and the 2 team captains are notified and agree to the match being played elsewhere.

24. League matches will be played on the front nine during odd-numbered segments and on the back nine during even-numbered segments, unless otherwise directed by golf course officials.

25. For services rendered, the handicapper will not pay dues, and will be awarded a $75.00 gift certificate from the league and a $50.00 gift certificate from the golf course.

26. At least one week prior to the beginning of each segment, each captain shall email a list of golfers scheduled for that segment to the league website manager (Josh Allen at josh.allen@lrc.ky.gov. The website manager will post these schedules and other relevant information on the state league website (address forthcoming). For services rendered, the website manager will not pay dues and will be awarded a $50.00 gift certificate from the league.

27. All Juniper Hills local golf rules will be observed by all league members, with the exception of movement of the golf ball one scorecard length and the local rule noted in Rule #4. If there are questions regarding the rules, please contact Kirk Schooley in the Pro Shop.