



OFFICIAL

HIGHLAND'S GOLF LEAGUE RULES

MARCH 2019 REVISED

## I. Team Structure

1. The league will consist of eight teams of six players each.
2. Each team will have a captain in charge of scheduling individual matches.
3. Each team will have a co-captain who will act for the captain in his absence.
4. The teams will be divided into two divisions of four teams each.
5. Teams 1,3,5 & 7 will be called the "Hookers" .\* (revised to original 2015)
6. Teams 2,4,6 & 8 will be called the "Slicers". \*(revised to original 2015)

## II. Handicaps\* (revised 2003)

1. Players who participated in previous years' activities.
  - a. Initial handicaps will be determined on the basis of the previous twenty (20) league scores.
2. New Players
  - a. Initial handicaps will be based on an estimated score for the first match. This estimate will be considered as one match and will be averaged with the players actual score for his first match and for subsequent adjustments until four actual scores are recorded. Afterward the handicap method will be used.
3. Adjustments to the initial handicaps will be made every three weeks.\* (revised 1998)
4. Handicap Method (revised 2003)
  - a. Handicaps will be based on the best fifteen (15) of the last twenty(20) actual scores recorded by each player during the current and previous year(s). The total number of strokes over par will be divided by the number of rounds (15) and multiplied by .95(95%)to give the new handicap.
  - b. For players who have not completed twenty rounds and have completed at least four rounds, handicaps will be based on the best 75% of their completed rounds.
  - c. The maximum handicap for nine holes will be 18.

### III. Match Arrangements

1. Match scheduling procedure: Each team will have a team captain who will be responsible for the scheduling of individual matches between his team and the opposing team. Whenever possible, team captains should schedule the next week's matches while at the course on Monday evening. A desirable time schedule follows:
  - a. Monday - Tuesday  
Opposing team captains determine individual matches.
  - b. Wednesday - Thursday  
Members call team captains for the names of opponents to be played on the following Monday.
  - c. Friday - Saturday  
Team members call individual opponents and arrange match times.
  - d. Player's (with the consent of their opponent) may schedule a match during the week if they are unable to attend on Monday. If possible, matches should be played at Cloverleaf.
2. Playing Short
  - a. If one team is short of players for any particular match, matches may be played after proper scheduling with each player of the short team playing two (but not more) members of the opposing team. The short team player is thus playing two matches in parallel.
  - b. If one team (the short team) fails to furnish at least one player for every two players on the opposing team, then the short team forfeits two points for each unopposed player to the opposition.
3. Official length of all matches will be nine holes. Scores must be turned in at the end of the ninth hole.
4. Forfeiture: Failure to show up for a previously arranged match will result in forfeiture of all that player's points. A player claiming a forfeit must play nine holes to be entitled to the points.

### IV. Methods of Scoring

Members are competing for two types of awards as follows:

1. Team effort
  - a. Players with the lower handicaps will award their opponents the full difference between handicaps.
  - b. Handicap strokes are awarded to the man with the higher handicap at the most difficult holes, as rated on the club scorecard.
  - c. Points will be awarded as follows: One point to the player with the lowest score for the nine holes and one point for the player who wins the most holes. In the event of a tie in either of these, a half point will be awarded to each player. A player facing two opponents may win such points from each opposing player.
  - d. Team scoring will be determinant for league standings. A team can accumulate 0 to 12 points in one evenings' play. (Two points maximum for each of the six individual matches.)

- e. There will be one regular season winner for each division ("Hookers" & "Slicers"), determined by the team with the most points.
- f. In the event of a tie for the team standings, each team will share the title (revised 2015) .

## 2. Individual effort

- a. The president's cup will be awarded at the end of the regular season to the player earning the most number of points. A player can only earn points toward this trophy in matches with his principal opponent. In the event of a double match, the principal opponent must be identified before the match. If there is a tie between two or more members, a nine hole playoff for the president's cup will be arranged between the involved players (medal play) at their convenience, prior to or on picnic night. Current (up to date) handicaps will be used.

## V. Specific Rules

### 1. USGA rules will govern play with the following exceptions:

- a. When Cloverleaf local rules supersede.  
(NOTE EXCEPTION#1: Cloverleaf Local Rule i.e. "trees separating fairways"; player(s) will not be awarded a free drop; follow item "d" below.)  
  
\*(NOTE EXCEPTION#2: Cloverleaf Local Rule i.e. "white stake out-of-bounds on right side of Hole #4 on First Nine, on left side of Holes number 8# & #9 on Second Nine"; play ball "as it lies" with no penalty; follow USGA rules for lost ball or an unplayable lie.  
\*Revised (March,2013)
- b. A player may move his ball, without penalty, with the club head only, a distance of six (6) inches or less in order to improve his lie. This may only be done in fairway of the hole being played.
- c. Provisional ball. The league will allow the player the option of playing their provisional ball (with a stroke and distance penalty), even if the original ball is found. (The intention is to speed up play, i.e. not going back and playing a third shot.)
- d. For unplayable lies, the league will allow the player to take relief no closer to the hole (with a 1 stroke penalty). This fore goes the need of keeping the "drop point" positioned in-line with hole in the event that 2-club lengths does not provide relief. (The intention here is to speed up play and prevent players from going back to replay a shot).
- e. For lost balls and no provisional ball has been played; the player must replay the shot with a stroke and distance penalty.

### 2. Outing Handicaps (introduced August, 2017)

- a. For all league outings, outing handicaps will be used based on at least five scores from previous league outings. Outing handicaps will be maintained and posted on the league web site: [www.highlandsgolfleague.com](http://www.highlandsgolfleague.com).
- b. For players who do not have enough previous outing scores, a handicap based on their league handicap but sloped (USGA slope and rating) to the outing course will be used.