



Pen Pushers of America Golf Society Official Handbook



Definition/Introduction:

What is a Golf Society? A golf society is an organization with regular members who get together periodically at different golf courses to compete and have fun. The purpose is to have regular golf competitions and social gatherings. We want to play in competitively fair competitions, with a group of good, fun loving, guys. Serious enough to mean something important when you win, but not so serious that people start to act like cut-throats, or complainers, or become difficult to play with. It is like a Golf Club without a home course. Pen Pushers of America meets 9 times per year (March – November). We have a nine-event tour each season, with both individual event and total tour awards and recognitions. All events have a common structure and format, (explained in this document). The society also has rules, regulations, and processes to manage the events and other activities. There is a board of directors committee that manages and governs the society. It is a not-for-profit organization, totally run by volunteers, to provide the best golf society experience, for the best possible price.

About this document:

This document is written with the purpose of documenting the Pen Pushers of America Golf Society's rules and guidelines used to run events and manage the society over-all. It will include information regarding the organization structure, its goals, rules, events structure, committee roles, and member responsibilities and guidelines. Over 200 events have been held over the last 20+ years. This golf society has evolved and is managed by a committee who keep the traditions alive and going for every event, and every season. This document is meant to help both the managing committee and the Members to keep those traditions alive and guide them going forward. It will need to be kept up to date, revised and expanded as needed. It should be read and understood by all members. It is divided into two sections. The first section is focused on general membership rules and guidelines. The second section is focused on our golf events.

Sections:

1. General Membership Rules, Roles, and Responsibilities
2. Event Structure, Rules, and Guidelines

Document Revision History:

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SECTION 1: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RULES, ROLES AND GUIDELINES
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Section 1.1: Our origin: Pen Pushers UK

We are part of the international golf society, The Pen Pushers, founded in 1985 in the south of England by a gentleman by the name of Raymond Deem and a few of his golf buddies. Ray is still the chairman of the Society today (2021). The Pen Pushers of America is a spin-off, local chapter centered in northern Virginia, USA. An American (John Sullivan) while on international assignment in England was invited to be a member of Pen Pushers in 1998. When he returned to the States in 2001, he explained the golf society to several friends and the first event was held in June of 2002. The membership has grown over the years through our many “golf buddy” connections. The Britts donated one of our first perpetual trophies, “The British Cup”, in 2004. We play a Ryder Cup format competition against the Britts every four years, schedule permitting. That event is called the “Deem Cup”. We compete for a crystal jug that looks similar to the Claret Jug, the British Open trophy.

Sections 1.2: Our Culture and Values:

Our golf society is not for everyone who plays golf. We are looking for a certain type of golfer. Membership only happens if a current member sponsors a guest, and the committee approves their request for membership. Whether you are a member or a guest, we expect all golf rules and etiquette to be followed at all times at our events. We understand that some new golfers may need some help with rules and etiquette and our members will help them with that. Our values include integrity, honesty, and brotherhood. We do not lie, cheat, or steal. We do not put-up with club throwing or F-bomb screamers. We are all friends with a common love and respect for the game, respect for other players, including players of all skill levels. If they can keep up with the pace of play, and play by the same rules, we welcome high handicappers as well as those in the single digits. We have a wide ranging mix of skill levels in our society, and we like it that way. We want our events to be both competitively meaningful and fun for all. Our culture is to be helpful to each other and without gamesmanship. So, no jerks allowed...

Sections 1.3: Code of Conduct:

Pen Pushers Golf Society is an organization of gentlemen who play golf. It is expected that Members and their guests are honest, courteous, polite and respectful while at our events. This Code of Conduct helps to explain why we have a code, and describes what we mean by the term “gentlemen”. This Code of Conduct has been developed to ensure a safe, friendly and respectful place for Members and guests to gather in the spirit of cooperation, relaxation, good will, fun and friendly competition. The Code of Conduct differs from rules in that it addresses acceptable/unacceptable behavior. In the event of unacceptable behavior, the Committee retains final review and disciplinary authority to impose suspensions and/or expulsions of Members from Membership.

All Members and guests are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that:

- Is respectful and reflective of personal integrity, honesty, and responsibility to Members, guests, and course staff at our meetings. This same integrity, honesty and good will are expected whether at the clubhouse, in the parking lot or on the golf course at a Pen Pusher sponsored event.
- Does not insult, harass, talk down to, scream at golf course staff, Members, and/or guests and does not create unnecessary strife and divisiveness.
- Does not damage the character, integrity, good will, property, or community perspective of Pen Pushers Golf Society.
- Observes proper golf etiquette while at Pen Pusher Events. This includes observing event and local rules, proper speed of play, and adhering to Pen Pusher scorecard practices for accuracy and completeness.
- Accepts responsibility for the conduct of their guests.
- Abides by all rules and policies as specified in the Pen Pusher Handbook.
- Avoids unsafe circumstances/activities for oneself, or other individuals.
- Serves as an ambassador for Pen Pushers when out in the community. We are all representatives of Pen Pushers Golf Society.
- Acknowledges that Pen Pushers is a family social environment that prohibits the use of obscenities and/or loud boisterous behavior in an offensive or threatening manner.
- Precludes Member or guest from over intoxication, for both the individual and collective safety and well-being of all Pen Pushers Members.
- Acknowledges and meets all financial obligations.

Section 1.4: Commitment Note:

By paying Membership dues each year, the Member confirms that they have read and understand this document, and agree to follow and help to enforce this Code of Conduct. If a Member is witness to an infraction of this code, they are obligated to report it (with discretion) to a committee Member as soon as possible.

Membership Benefits:

Section 1.5

Being a member comes with many benefits and opportunities, but it also comes with some responsibilities. Following the rules of our events is mandatory as well as adhering to our code of conduct. Failure to do this can, and will, lead to expulsion from the golf society. Memberships are renewed on an annual basis. These membership benefits include:

- Access to the Tour of Events for the season
 - Nine (9) monthly events at different premium courses in Northern Virginia
 - Perpetual Trophies for each event (with all previous winner of that event)
 - Prizes and awards at each event,
 - Champion, Putting Competition, Closest to the Pin, Long Drive, Lion-Man, and Goat-boy

- A true and fair test of your golf skills, against a field of 30-40 players per event
- Access to the password protected website (www.penpushers.us)
 - The website has all the information about our golf society.
 - Is the portal to register for events (and to register guests)
 - Handicap and event score history is kept based on our Stableford scoring method.
- Ability to bring guests to our events and sponsor them for membership.
- Opportunity to participate in international Ryder Cup competitions against our English chapter.
- Access to golf trip packages
 - Ocean City
 - Myrtle Beach
 - England
- Access to more than 50 golf buddies

How we are Managed:

Section 1.6

Pen Pushers Golf Society is a “not for profit” organization and is managed by a board of committee members with both general and specific roles and responsibilities. These are all volunteer positions. No one is paid or makes money from Pen Pushers. This committee meets periodically to plan and resolve matters for the golf society. In January each year, this committee meets to plan the upcoming season and confirm roles and responsibilities for the season. It is at this meeting that potential rule or policy changes are considered, and the schedule and venues for the season are confirmed. This information is shared with the membership as part of the “season opener newsletter”. The general responsibilities include, but are not limited to, helping to manage, and run our events, helping to educate members regarding our rules and policies and helping to enforce them. The committee also defines and modifies our rules and policies as needed. The specific committee roles are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chairman | Executive Officer |
| 2. Vice Chairman(s) | Executive Officer |
| 3. Treasurer | Executive Officer |
| 4. Handicap Secretary | Executive Officer |
| 5. Director of Events | |
| 6. Captain | |
| 7. Vice-Captain | |
| 8. Event Organizer(s) | |
| 9. Charity Director(s) | |
| 10. Communications Director | |
| 11. Golf Trip Director(s) | |
| 12. Website Webmaster | |
| 13. Membership Director | |

Committee members often hold more than one title/role or function at a time. Most of these roles are self-explanatory based on the name. More details on some of these specific roles is below. The entry level position to become part of the committee is Vice-Captain.

Vice-Captain (Entry level position to Committee)

- Holds position for 1 year.
- Becomes Captain the following year.
- Responsible for setting up and keeping track of putting comp activities and equipment for each event.
- Event day; early set up and take it down of equipment before we golf. Monitor and organize competitors during the competition for following the process and rules.
- Organize tie breaker at events when required.

Captain

- Holds position for 1 year, may transition to another role on committee.
- Assists Event Organizers and Vice-Captain during events.
- Organizes “9 holes” for 27 hole events

Event Organizers (leads the planning, negotiates contract with the course, and responsible for all event day activities for the event)

- Event Directors Checklist

Handicap Secretary (Official Keeper of our membership handicaps and scoring records)

- Owns and applies our Handicap methods and calculations, fairly and without bias

Director of Events (helps define and maintain consistency in our events, checklists, and policies)

Communication Director (Authors and distributes communications to members)

- Newsletters, event reminders and recaps

Website Webmaster (Manages all aspects of our website footprint)

- Hosting services, content management and controls, database management

Chairman (Responsible for everything related to the Golf Society)

Membership Director (Manages the process of guests becoming regular Members)

How to become a Member:

Section 1.7

The path to membership is straight forward. A member can bring a guest to an event. The membership path starts with the sponsoring member declaring to the Membership Director that their guest would like to be considered for membership. At this point the guest becomes a “Candidate”. The candidate must then play 2 more events as a guest/candidate with at least one committee member in their foursomes for those rounds, and then being subject to approval by the committee.

The sponsoring member is responsible for his guest and must be present and play in the same foursome as their guest through this process. That sponsoring member takes the responsibility for explaining to the guest how we operate our events, some of our history, keeping scorecards, Handbook content, and behavior regarding rules and policies. That sponsoring member is “vouching” for that guest as a potential future good member. There are additional detailed rules for guests attending events in the “Events” section of this document. Any questions about this process should be addressed with the Membership Director.

Nominate a friend to become a Member:

Step 1: Friend plays at one of our monthly events as a guest of Member.

Step 2: Sponsoring Member contacts Membership Chairman, declaring that their friend has played as a guest, has read the Handbook, and wants to become a member. They provide the candidate's name, handicap information, phone and email address.

Step 3: Membership Chairman schedules Event pairings for the next 2 events where the candidate will play with a committee member.

Step 4: Committee discuss and agrees to extend membership to the candidate (or not).

Step 5: Membership Chairman lets the candidate and the sponsoring Member know the outcome of the committee decision.

Rookie Season Policy:

For a new Member's rookie season, they are eligible for all Tour Category Awards EXCEPT Tour Champion. As a guest or candidate, they can win all monthly event categories EXCEPT Champion or Goatboy. The rookie season is defined as the year that the new member completes his eligibility (If the new member becomes eligible after the final event of the season, he will be eligible for all awards including the Tour Championship for the following season).

New for 2025

Returning inactive members:

Returning members who have been inactive for more than 1 year will require their Pen Pushers handicap to be validated and adjusted. This will be done in their first 2 events, where they will not be eligible to win Champion or Goatboy and no Grand Prix points will be awarded.

New for 2025 Member Fees

- **Annual Membership Dues:**
 - \$125.00 per season (required for each member)
- **Event Fees** (paid only for events as attended)
 - \$110.00 per Event (required for each event)
- **Charity donation** is included in the Event Fees.

Website Functions:**Section 1.8**

- Registration process (Registration Tab – www.penpushers.us)
 - All registration for events is done through the website. ID and logon credentials are required to register.
 - Member can also register guests on this page.
- Directions to Payment process (Links on Registration page on the site)
 - With PayPal or Venmo
- Member Contact information (protected by logon credentials)
- How to contact us
- Handicap Tracking
- Event Scores and History of Scores
- Event Rules
- Pen Pushers Handbook
- Photos
- History of PP
- Code of Conduct

Handicap Rules**Section 1.9**

Many of our members do not keep an official USGA GHIN handicap. For this reason, and to base our handicaps primarily on how players perform at our events, we keep handicaps for all our members. We use our stableford scoring method as the basis for our handicap calculations.

- For Members who do have a GHIN handicap
 - We use the lower of their two handicaps for our events.
 - It is the responsibility of the member to alert the event organizer and the Handicap Secretary if their GHIN handicap goes below their Pen Pusher handicap prior to playing in an Event.

Monthly Adjustments

Each month, after the event, we register and record scores and make an analysis regarding the need to make handicap adjustments on all players from that event. We also do a special adjustment on the event winner. This involves an extra cut to help make sure that we do not have the same person winning every month. We want to spread the wins around in the group some. The monthly adjustment for the winners and non-winners will be on a graduating scale based on handicap range. For the monthly adjustment, we will use the average score for that event minus the high and low scores (Avg. Score). The Average Score is a better indication of the course difficulty and weather conditions on that day.

Monthly Winners Handicap (HC) will be adjusted based on the players HC range for that event as follows:

Beginning HC Up to 6.0 -1 and -.1 per point over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 6.1 to 12.0 -2 and -.2 per point over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 12.1 to 18.0 -3 and -.3 for points over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 18.1 to 24.0 -4 and -.4 for points over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 24.1 to 30.0 -5 and .5 for points over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 30.1 to 36.0 -6 and .6 for points over Avg. Score

Non-winners HC will be adjusted by the same tenths of a points system as above based on HC for that event for scores above or below Avg. Score. The monthly adjustment will be limited to +/- 5 times the appropriate tenths of a point adjustment. A score of Avg. score, less high and low score, incurs no handicap adjustment unless that player is the event winner. These adjustments are made because it is much easier for a higher handicapper to shoot 5 to 10 points better than their handicap than it is for a lower handicapper.

The purpose of all the handicap adjustments is to bring the members handicaps in line with their Stableford scores and create a level playing field where all members have a chance to win an event. The Committee makes all handicap rule decisions, interpretations and rule changes for the Handicap Secretary to implement. Members should not complain to the Handicap Secretary about their handicap.

Annual Adjustments

At the beginning of each year, we review the handicaps and the past season's scores of each member for potential handicap adjustments. The maximum handicap is 36. For the beginning of each season, we will adjust a member's raw handicap +1 stroke for each point where the rounded average prior year's scores (5 event minimum) is below score averages for the previous season using the guidelines below , (Maximum Adjustment will be 3 points up and at the discretion of the committee). We will adjust a member's raw handicap -1 stroke for each point where the rounded average prior year's scores (1 event minimum) is higher score averages by 6 points or more. Raw handicaps are rounded for use at each event.

HC Adjustment Guidelines:

Up to 6.0 max adjustment +/-0.5
6.1 to 12.0 max adjustment +/-1.0
12.1 to 18.0 max adjustment +/-1.5
18.1 to 24.0 max adjustment +/-2.0
24.1 to 30.0 max adjustment +/-2.5
30.1 to 36.0 max adjustment +/-3.0

SECTION 2:**EVENT STRUCTURE, RULES, AND GUIDELINES****Monthly Events:**

Our monthly events are golf outings. They are played at different golf courses with several competitive and social aspects. The competitive aspects include on a regular basis several categories.

They are:

1. Champion,
2. Putting Champ
3. Long Drive (the Big Dog)
4. Closest to the Pin
5. Lion Man
6. Goat-boy
7. New for 2025 Sam Snead award for anyone shooting their age or better.

The results from these event categories also roll up to our season tour categories, such as Tour Champion. In addition to the competitive nature of our events, there are also regular social aspects, which generally occur after we play the round of golf, we have an awards banquet/gathering. We provide a light meal, award the trophy's and prizes that were won, make general announcements, and celebrate the day together. These events have a consistent structure with some general and specific rules and guidelines. This section describes these aspects in more detail.

Social Play: A member may elect to play "socially" and not be included in the monthly competition. This is for members who may be injured or recovering from an injury or who want to play with specific guests on more of a social basis than a competitive basis. Their scores will not be eligible for goat-boy, champion, lion man, or grand prix points. They are still eligible for putting champ, closest to the pin (must make par or better), and long drive.

Shore Tour: To be eligible to win the Shore Tour Trophy you must be a Penpusher member and have played in at least 2 monthly events. Guests are still eligible for daily prizes and awards. Daily awards and prizes are determined by the Event organizers. The Shore Tour is currently played in Ocean City, MD, and could be played in other locations in the future. Shore Tour Champion is determined based on total overall Stableford points earned (currently 3 days). Due to the small field size handicaps are not adjusted based on results of the Shore Tour.

Event Categories: Section 2.1

1. Champion

- a. Highest Stableford Score for the event
- b. Drinks a Toast from the Champion's Chalice at the awards ceremony.
 - i. Champion's Chalices is filled with beer for the toast by the previous month's champion.

2. Putting Competition

- a. A putting competition will be set up on the practice green of the course one hour before the scheduled start time..
- b. It generally consists of 5 holes but can also be a single hole format. Par on each hole is 2.
- c. It is laid out by the reigning Vice-Captain.
- d. It is considered "optional",
 - i. if you want to compete arrive early, all putting competition closes 15 minutes prior to shotgun start time!
- e. You are allowed only one practice round with one ball.
- f. When ready to compete, you must declare "this is my official" and pair up with a partner, you will witness each other's score.
- g. Enter your score and the witness' initials on the clipboard to make it official.
- h. If there is a tie, there will be a putt off to determine the winner organized by the Vice-Captain.

3. Long Drive (The Big Dog)

- a. A single hole will be selected by the Event Director for each event.
- b. Winner is determined by longest drive in the fairway of the hole where you teed off.
- c. The winning ball must come to rest in the fairway or on the green and be the closest to the hole. The longest tee shot that lands – and stays! – in the fairway, wins the longest drive.
 - i. This is to say that a ball could be hit further off the tee box, be in the fairway, but not be closer to the target hole, so winning shot has shortest shot to the green, etc.

4. Closest to the Pin

- a. Determined by a tee shot that is closest to the pin at rest.
- b. Ball must come to rest on the green.
- c. Player must play to par or better on the hole or be disqualified from Closest to the Pin.

5. Lion Man

- a. This category is intended for the lower handicappers in the group.
- b. It is awarded to the player with the Lowest Gross Score of the day
- c. Tie Breaker rules will apply if necessary.
- d. Can be won more than once by a player in a season.
- e. Drinks a Toast from the Lion-Man Chalice at the awards ceremony.
 - i. Lion-Man Chalice is filled with beer for the toast by the previous month's Lion-man.

6. Goat-Boy

- a. Intended for the player who struggled the most on that day.
- b. Measured as the lowest stableford score of the day.
- c. Can be won only once per season (Exempt for season after winning it)
- d. Exemption rule only applies in the “same season.”

In addition to these main category awards, we also award for the following:

- Each **gross Birdie** or better (Eagle, Double Eagle, etc..) is awarded a **whiskey** at the awards ceremony for this event.
- Each player in the **champions foursome** is awarded a bottle of **wine** at the awards ceremony.

Tour Awards: (Awards for the Season Totals)

- Tour Champion – Most Grand Prix Points for the Season (based on 8 best events)
- Tour Putting Champ (Most Putting wins for the season)
- Tour Big Dog (most Long Drive wins for the season)
- Tour “Mean Green Machine” (most Closest to the Pins for the season)
- Tour Birdie Master (Most Birdies for the season)
- Lion Man of the Tour (Most Lion Man for the season)
- Event Participation recognition

Tour Finale Policy: For the final 2 events of the season, we put the top 8 Grand Prix point leaders together in two foursomes. First -Fourth together, and fifth – 8th together. This allows the Tour Leaders to play head to head for the final two events.

Grand Prix Point Distribution System

NEW for 2025 Pen Pusher members earn Grand Prix points based on their finish at each event, with an emphasis placed on the top 3 positions (Winner, runner up and 3rd place). Grand Prix points are awarded by finish position as defined in the Grand Prix point distribution table. At season end, the Pen Pusher member with the highest cumulative Grand Prix points using the best 8 out of 9 possible events wins the Tour Championship. This change will allow more opportunity to compete for the tour championship if a member is unable to participate in all 9 events. Your best 8 events based on Grand Prix points will be used to determine your total for the year.

In previous years, only the top 15 players in each event were awarded Grand Prix points. In 2022, the Grand Prix points awarded have increased in value and will be awarded to the top 40 participants in each event. Majority of the Grand Prix points will be distributed to the top 32 players. Those players that finish lower than 32nd place will receive 1 point up to 40th place. Any exception to this will have to be approved by the committee.

- Exception to this Grand Prix points distribution table:
 - The Goat boy for each event will receive points if they are in the top 40 places. .
 - Exempt Goat boys still receive points if they are in the top 40 places.

Grand Prix Point Distribution Table

Event Finish Position	Grand Prix Points Awarded	Event Finish Position	Grand Prix Points Awarded
1	40	21	13
2	36	22	12
3	33	23	11
4	30	24	10
5	29	25	9
6	28	26	8
7	27	27	7
8	26	28	6
9	25	29	5
10	24	30	4
11	23	31	3
12	22	32	2
13	21	33	1
14	20	34	1
15	19	35	1
16	18	36	1
17	17	37	1
18	16	38	1
19	15	39	1
20	14	40	1

Event Registration and Payment: Section 2.2

Registration:

Registration for the events is strictly handled through the website.

- Access to the registration page is Member ID and password protected. (www.penpushers.us)
- From the menu on left, select "Registration."
- Input User ID and password
- From the Event Registration table, Change the "?" to a "Y" for YES, or "N" for NO
- IMPORTANT: Must click the "Submit Changes" button for registration to be complete
- Page will refresh with new entry to confirm that it was input to the database for the event.
- Verify that it recorded your registration status correctly, if not try again...
- A member can go back and change their registration status up to a few days before the event.
- A member is responsible for registering and making sure they pay the outing fee before the event. The member must include contact email and their USGA handicap or best guess.

Event Registration Locked:

A few days (sometimes a week) before an event the registration status is “locked”, and any changes at this point need to go through a committee member (preferred Event Coordinator)

- The last day to register for each event is shown on the registration page.
- Registration on the site is also locked at a maximum of 40 players per event.
 - Exception to this cap is only possible through the Event Director for the event

Cancellation Policy:

If you need to cancel up to a week before the event, just go to the site and change your status to “N”. If it is at the last minute (after the registration page is locked), please call the Event Organizer ASAP. This allows us to adjust the player count, assess the impact on the pairings, and let the course know to not have to pay for the last-minute drop out. Contractually, courses have the right to still charge us for that slot if it is last minute. In most cases they give us a break. If you cancel at the last minute, and the course insist on charging us for the slot, the member is responsible for paying for this.

Payment:

All Payments for Events and Membership fees should be paid through the current electronic payment method.

We except payments one of two ways:

1. PayPal Through mobile app or the link [Paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) Account to send to: penpushers@gmail.com
2. Venmo Through mobile app



If you set up these payment services directly to your checking account there are no additional fees. If you link these payment services to a credit card there are often additional fees. Members are responsible for any addition fees associated with their payment process.

Tie-Breaker Rules:**Section 2.3**

Our general Tie-Breaker Rule is as follows:

For Event Championships:

1. Lowest Gross score on number 1 handicap hole (most difficult hole)
2. If still tied, continue to next most difficult hole until a winner is determined.
3. If still tied after all gross scores used, use back nine total stableford, then front nine if needed, (should never be needed....)

For Event Goat-boys: (the inverse of the event champion method)

1. highest Gross score on number 18 handicap hole (on easiest hole)
2. If still tied, continue to next easiest hole until a winner is determined.
3. If still tied after all gross scores used, use back nine total stableford, then front nine if needed, (should never be needed....)

Putting Contest ties:

Determined by a putt-off, layout and format defined by the Vice-Captain.

New for 2025 Tour Champion ties:

1. Total Season Stableford points (using the best 8 out of possible 9 events).
2. Number of wins.
3. If still tied then co-champions.

Other Tour Awards:

Determined during head-to-head competition at first event of following season.

Pace of Play:

Section 2.4

Pace (or Speed) of play is a particularly important topic for our golf society. It is easy for a golfer (especially the new golfers, though some of our lower handicappers can play slow too), to take too much time looking for a ball, or lining up a putt. Adding in the fact that this is a competitive event, people play slower than normal. We have several rules and practices to help with this.

1. We play “Ready Golf”, go to your ball, and play it, if you need some help with a ruling, wait and ask for assistance from your group.
2. Make every effort to keep up with the group in front of you.
3. Adhere to USGA rules regarding how long to look for a ball for no more than **the three minutes allowed**.
4. Don’t be on the phone when it’s your turn to play, and help your foursome keep up by watching each other shots.
5. Pen Pushers Lost Ball rule (Exception)....

All USGA Rules apply to our events except where Pen Pusher exception for a lost ball rule can be applied.

Exception: Pen Pushers Lost Ball/OB Rule:

This exception applies to shots hit from anywhere on the golf course, though it is most common when hitting from the tee box. It applies to a shot that may be lost (other than in a penalty area) or out of bounds. The USGA rule also applies regarding “hitting a provisional”, as you will always have the option to hit a provisional, and all USGA rules around hitting and playing a provisional apply.

Similarly, the USGA has rules applying to balls lost in a penalty area, and Pen Pushers follows those.

However, if you do not hit a provisional ball, you can take relief under penalty of one stroke if your ball went out of bounds or was lost but not in a penalty area (such as being lost in the woods, in deep grass, under leaves, in a thick shrub, etc.).

If your ball is out of bounds, you can drop within two club lengths of the point where your ball last crossed the out of bounds line, but not nearer the hole.

If your ball is lost in a condition other than a penalty area or out of bounds, you can drop within two club lengths of the point where your ball last crossed the edge of the condition, but not nearer the hole.

In either case, the drop point should be agreed upon by an active Pen Pushers Member in your playing group, and if possible by a Member who actually saw your shot.

The penalty is one stroke, so for example if your tee shot was lost or out of bounds, you would be hitting three after the drop.

Requirement to use this exception rule:

1. Drop Location, where you take the drop must be agreed to by an active member of the golf society.
 - a. by a player from your playing group
 - b. should be someone who saw the shot.
2. Two (2) club lengths from boundary
3. One (1) Stroke Penalty

General comments regarding Pace of Play:

As a club without real estate, we are guests at every course we play. If we become known as a club that clogs up a course, that routinely takes 5-6 hours to complete our rounds, then we won't be able to book the great courses that we book every year. Maintaining an acceptable pace of play in every event is critical for us.

Pen Pusher expectation. We believe a foursome should be able to play a round of tournament golf in no more than 4.5 hours, assuming that group is not impeded by the group in front of them. That is a maximum. We also believe that all players should play *ready golf*. This is the standard for our club.

Are we the right club for you? If you think that *every* putt needs to be read from 17 different angles, if your pre-shot routine would make the average PGA Tour pro mutter "while we're young", if you're perfectly happy standing around waiting to hit because the person who "has the honor" is answering the call of nature, then Pen Pushers are probably not the right club for you. But if keeping up with the group in front of you is part of your golf-DNA, then we are the club for you.

Falling Behind. If your group falls behind the group ahead or is holding up the group behind you may be asked to skip a hole(s) in order to maintain pace. If asked by course management or by a committee member you must immediately skip the hole and record a "blob" for the entire foursome on that hole.

Scorecard Rules:**Section 2.5**

- **Stableford format** (number of points awarded is determined by the number of strokes taken to par after being adjusted in relation to a player's handicap) Ex: a handicap of 10 will be afforded an extra shot to the holes that have a stroke index of one to ten. A 24-handicapper would get two extra strokes on holes with a stroke index of one to six and one extra shot on holes with a stroke index of seven to 18. Scores are as follows:

○ Net double bogie or higher	0 points
○ Net Bogie	1 point
○ Net Par	2 points
○ Net Birdie	3 points
○ Net Eagle	4 points
○ Net Albatross	5 points

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- **Card verification** (trading cards and signing before turning them in)
 - We trade cards at the beginning of the round with another member in our group. They become the official score keeper for your round and sign the card at the end of the round after completing and verifying with the player. Players should also keep their own scores to compare and validate at the end of the round.
- **How we fill out cards**
 - We fill out individual cards for each player.
 - Cards must have scores for:
 - Gross
 - Net
 - Stableford Points
 - Birdies are **CIRCLED** so that whiskey prizes can awarded.
 - Cards must include totals for Gross, Net and Stableford Points
 - Cards must be signed by both the Player and the Score Keeper before turning them in

The History of Stableford



Dr. Frank Stableford

The Stableford system was the brainchild of Dr. Frank Barney Gorton Stableford (1870–1959) – hence the capitalized ‘S’ in the name – to stop golfers from giving up after a poor start to their rounds. It was first used at Glamorganshire Golf Club, Penarth, Wales, in 1898, and first used in competition at Wallasey Golf Club in Wallasey, England, in 1932. Stableford is especially popular in the UK and is the preferred scoring system for a lot of club competitions and social golf events. It is also known to speed up play as, once it is no longer possible to score a point, players do not have to complete the hole.

Guest Rules:**Section 2.6**

- The sponsoring Member is responsible for his guest and must be present for the event.
- Only ONE guest is allowed per member per event (exceptions may be given but MUST be obtained in advance)
- Guests are not allowed to invite guest observers to ride along.
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- The same guest is only allowed to play three times in a season as a guest or become a member.
- Guests are not eligible to win the event championship, or Goat-boy.
- Guest can win:
 - Putting contest
 - Long Drive
 - Closes to the pin
 - Charity raffle
 - Lion Man

Other General Rules:**Section 2.7**

- **NO MULLIGANS**
- The Ball must come to rest in the hole to score any points on that hole.
- **Special note:** When we play Shotgun start, playing additional holes are not allowed (ex: group finished their 18 holes on hole number 15 – **DO NOT**, repeat, **DO NOT**, continue play on holes 16, 17 and 18 on return to clubhouse. All groups should finish at about the same time and then return to the clubhouse to awards.
- Violations of Pen Pusher rules can result in expulsion or in case of a guest not being allowed back to play.
- **No GIMME's** - You must PUTT OUT to score any Stableford points on the hole, and the ball must come to rest in the hole, no whining about the ball would have gone in if the stick were out, etc.
- **The PICKUP rule.** (This is a Speed of play rule) If you have hit enough shots such that you cannot score on the hole, please pick up your ball, declare that you are a “blob” for the hole, (record as “0” points, gross score as shots to earn “0” points).
- **Closest to Pin winners** must make Par or Better to win award.
- **Long Drive** ball must be in our own fairway, and closest to the hole.
- **Ball Drop Policy,** Any time that you need to take a drop, first agree the place to make your drop with others in your foursome, “line of entry to the hole” etc.
- **Senior Tees:** We currently do not have rules for playing the Senior Tees. All of our players play from the same tees at our events, generally the “equivalent of the White Tees”. But this rule may need to be re-evaluated soon as several of our members could now be eligible for Senior Tees as per the USGA guidelines.

If in doubt about what to do: (while play in an event)

- Discuss with your group.
- Make a decision and continue play.
- Bring the ruling to attention of committee member after the round and before you sign your card. Guidance will be given on how to score it on your official card.
 - Worst case scenario, you take a “blob” on the hole.