

## **General Club Policies**

### **1. Membership Qualification**

CommonGround Men's Golf Club is a State of Colorado not for profit corporation and tax exempt as described in IRC 501(c)(7). Membership in The Club is open to any adult male golfer. Before competing for prize money, members must enter a minimum of 54 holes of scores in 9 or 18 hole increments into their respective GHIN accounts, or have a verifiable USGA® Handicap Index® issued by GHIN.

### **2. Membership Fees**

The cost of an annual membership for the CommonGround Men's Golf Club is \$100. Members can sign up for The Club in the Men's Club Portal within the USGA Tournament Management System, also known as Golf Genius. Membership fees include a new or renewed GHIN account number and eligibility to participate in our summer tournament series. Memberships expire December 31 each year, regardless of the date of registration.

### **3. Membership Cancellation/Refund**

Once membership has been approved, membership dues are generally non-refundable, except for special individual circumstances that are approved by the CommonGround Men's Golf Club Board.

### **4. Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability**

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in a CommonGround Men's Golf Club tournament, the participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with the participation in a golf tournament, including but not limited to being struck by lightning, getting hit by a golf club, suffering from heat exhaustion, heart attack or injury from uneven terrain, all of which risks participant assumes and solely accepts, and waives all claims of injury to body or property against the CommonGround Men's Golf Club. Further, the participant agrees that while on the premises of a CommonGround Men's Golf Club tournament, the participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with participant, shall be present at their own risk and that CommonGround Men's Golf Club shall not be liable for any claims for injuries or damages whatsoever to person or property of the participant or related person arising out of or in connection with the participation in the tournament or presence at the tournament. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless CommonGround Men's Golf Club from all claims by or liability to participant or affiliated person.

### **5. Tournament Formats**

The majority of tournaments are stroke play, although other team and individual formats may be included. The First / 1<sup>st</sup> flight (sometimes known as Championship Flight) is the group of lowest handicap golfers in the club. Prize money in this flight is mostly based on gross with one net prize paid out. Additional flights usually compete on net scores. CommonGround Men's Golf Club play will be

## CommonGround Men's Golf Club Policies and Procedures Guide

governed by the current Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association (USGA®.) Other specialized formats, such as match play or best ball, will be played in accordance with USGA® Rules of Golf.

The Men's Club Board is responsible for determining dates and tournament formats prior to the season. CommonGround Golf Course staff will generally support the Men's Club in various ways: including setting up the tournament in the Golf Genius Tournament Program; handling player registration, check-in, and Skins money collection if applicable; enter scores after the event; dispense prize money and shop credits, and assist with pace of play monitoring.

### **6. Tournament Flights**

Many CommonGround Men's Golf Club events are flighted based on the size of the field, and the most reasonable handicap distributions for each tournament. Final decisions on flighting are solely at the discretion of the CommonGround Men's Golf Club Board.

Players are flighted initially based upon their most current USGA® Handicap Index® or a modified tournament index assigned to individual participants by the Handicap Committee of the Men's Club Board. Players without established handicaps can play in Men's Club tournaments, however, they may not compete for prize money until five 9-hole scores have been posted in the GHIN system.

### **7. On Course Rules**

All play will be governed by the current USGA® Rules of Golf as set forth by the USGA®. The CommonGround Men's Golf Club or Course Management provides information containing local rules and any special rules that will govern play before each tournament.

### **8. Dress Code**

Men's Club Participants are expected to comply with the CommonGround Golf Course dress policy. Golfers are required to wear golf appropriate attire. Men should wear a collared golf shirt. T-shirts, tank tops, cut off shorts, beach wear, or gym wear are not proper attire. The decision regarding golf appropriate attire is left up to the golf shop staff and/or the CommonGround Men's Golf Club Board.

### **9. Player Conduct**

CommonGround Men's Golf Club Players shall conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. Any excessive display of anger, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, illegal drug use, lack of golfing etiquette or disrespect to a fellow player, golf course staff member, or any other individual may be grounds for disqualification from any tournament and expulsion from the Men's Club. The CommonGround Men's Golf Club Board reserves the right to revoke the membership, without a refund, of any individual at any time for conduct deemed inappropriate or damaging.

## **10. Prize Money**

For each tournament, a portion of each player's entry fee is used to populate each flight's prize pool. The value of the prize pool at each tournament will be established prior to the tournament and is based on participation. The prize pool is typically formulated to pay approximately 25% of the field. In the event of a tie, all ties are broken as determined by a scorecard playoff using the USGA® Card Match Method. Prize money determined for each place will be paid in full to the winner of the scorecard playoff. In order to adhere to the USGA® Rules of Amateur Status, no single prize awarded will exceed \$750 in value. Prize money is paid in shop credits.

## **11. Skins**

In most tournaments, CommonGround Men's Golf Club offers a skins competition. Buy-in is voluntary, and is typically \$10 per round. The skins competition is not flighted and pays out both net and gross in cash.

## **12. Proxies**

Most CommonGround Men's Golf Club tournaments include a "closest to the pin" competition, included in each player's entry fee. Proxies are awarded on each of the par 3 holes, and payouts are in shop credit.

## **13. Points Chase**

To stimulate member involvement in Men's Club events throughout the season, The Club operates a Points Chase where players accumulate points for tournament participation and performance. The Points Chase is funded by membership dues. Specific details regarding the Points Chase are published before the start of the golf season.

## **14. Ringer Competition**

We will have a season long Ringer Competition. This is where you accumulate a scorecard of your best score on each hole through the course of the season. The lowest score on the card at the conclusion of the competition wins. Specific details regarding the Ringer Competition are published before the start of the golf season.

## **15. Hole-in-One Policy**

Each year, CommonGround Men's Golf Club funds a cash pool funded by membership dues to be divided between members who achieve a hole-in-one during the course of the season. Only holes in one made by Club members during full field one or two day events will be considered. Holes in one made during season long events or during casual non-event play are not considered. In the event that multiple holes-in-one significantly deplete the prize pool, the board may modify the funding calculation. Currently we fund \$3 from each member's dues annually. In the event no member makes a hole in one during the year, the fund is carried over to future years.

## CommonGround Men's Golf Club Policies and Procedures Guide

The Club “insures” the tradition of a golfer who makes a hole in one shall buy the drinks for other golfers. The Club will purchase one keg of beer for Holes in One made during normal one or two day flighted tournaments. The Club will pay the bar tab up to the cost of one keg of beer for situations with limited golfers in attendance.

### **16. Pace of Play Policy**

Pace of play policy is determined by course management on an event by event basis and is published ahead of time with the tournament rules and formats for the event.

### **17. Inclement Weather**

Severe weather-related conditions may prevent, delay or suspend play when the course is rendered unplayable, or the safety of players is at risk, as determined by golf course staff.

The CommonGround Men's Golf Club will do everything possible to complete the full number of holes in a tournament.

Tournaments, especially in the spring, can be delayed due to frost. Participants should remain on the premises and wait for the tournament to resume. No refunds/rollovers will be issued for weather delays.

In the event a tournament is played but the player chooses not to play in less-than-perfect weather, the player must check in on site for the event, and a rain check for golf only will be issued by golf course staff in accordance with CommonGround Golf Course rain check policies. Greens fees and tournament fees will not be refunded.

### **18. Maximum Hole Score**

In the new WHS, regardless of their Handicap Index or Course Handicap, each player can post a Maximum Score of Net Double Bogey.

### **19. When to post scores and when not to**

Members should always post a score in these situations:

- Post scores from home and away courses.
- Post scores in all forms of play; match play, stroke play, even team competitions in which you are requested to pick up.
- Post your score when you play at least 14 holes out of 18 holes or at least 7 out of 9 holes. On the holes you didn't play, record a par plus any handicap strokes you would have received – your “Most Likely Score”
- Post a score if you play two nines even if it's the same nine, or nines from different days. Simply combine the nines into an 18-hole score. Add each nine-hole Course Rating™ together and average the Slope Rating.®

## CommonGround Men's Golf Club Policies and Procedures Guide

- Post scores played in an area observing an active season even when your home club is in an inactive season.

Members should not post a score in these situations.

- When fewer than seven holes are played;
- When made on a golf course in an area in which an inactive season established by the Authorized Golf Association is in effect;
- When, as a condition of the competition, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14, or types of clubs are limited as, for example, in a competition that allows only iron clubs;
- When scores are made on a course with no USGA Course Rating or Slope Rating;
- When a player uses non-conforming clubs, non-conforming balls, or non-conforming tees; or when a player incurs a second breach of Rule 14-3.
- When a player plays alone;
- When a player ignores one or more Rules of Golf and fails to post an adjusted hole score as required under Section 4-1 and 4-2, or fails to record the appropriate penalty for a breach of rule. For example, if a player anchored the club while making a stroke during a round and did not record a penalty for doing so (See Rule 14-1b), the score would not have been played under the Rules of Golf and therefore would not be acceptable for handicap purposes.
- When a player ignores one or more Rules of Golf and fails to post an adjusted hole score as required under Section [4-1](#) and [4-2](#), or fails to record the appropriate penalty for a breach of rule. For example, if a player anchored the club while making a stroke during a round and did not record a penalty for doing so (See Rule 14-1b), the score would not have been played under the Rules of Golf and therefore would not be acceptable for handicap purposes.

### **20. Failure to post scores**

Members are required to post all postable rounds immediately at the conclusion of the round played. In the event a round is not posted within 48 hours, the Handicap Committee may post a penalty score to the member's scoring record.

### **21. Knowledge of the Rules of Golf**

Each member is required to attend a seminar on the Rules of Golf once during each 4 year cycle for which the Rules of Golf is published. The Club provides such seminars on occasion, or you may attend a rules seminar hosted by another club, the Colorado Golf Association or the USGA.

### **22. Music**

From Rule 4.3.a.4 – “Listening to audio or watching video on matters unrelated to the competition being played (such as a news report or background music). But in doing so, consideration should be shown to others (see Rule 1.2). Not Allowed - Listening to music or other audio to eliminate distractions or to help with swing tempo, or viewing video showing play of the player or other players during the competition that helps the player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play during the round.”

## CommonGround Men's Golf Club Policies and Procedures Guide

Players wishing to play music over a speaker during the round should ask permission from the group. If anyone objects then music should not be played. If the group approves the playing of music, the volume should be set to be heard by the golfer or group when near the speaker, but should not be loud enough to be heard by other groups on other holes on the course."

Playing music over a speaker is allowed. Using headphones, either in-ear or over-ear, is prohibited.

### **23. Miscellaneous**

The policies and regulations of the CommonGround Men's Golf Club are subject to revision.

All players in CommonGround Men's Golf Club tournaments are deemed to be familiar with these policies and regulations, as well as the USGA® Rules of Golf and agree to abide by them. Failure to comply with the aforementioned policies and regulations could result in tournament penalties, tournament disqualification, suspension or expulsion from the CommonGround Men's Golf Club.

## **Tournament Policies**

### **1. Tournament Registration**

Only CommonGround Men's Golf Club members may participate in CommonGround Men's Golf Club tournaments, except for the Member/Guest Tournament.

Members register online at the CommonGround Men's Golf Club Tournament Portal within Golf Genius. Events have a limitation on the number of entries, and each event will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Members are encouraged not to wait until the entry deadline, which is typically on Friday of the week prior to the tournament, as any event may sell-out well in advance.

### **2. Payment Policy**

Tournament entry fees should be made by credit card at the time of tournament registration. All members including discount card holders and CG Pass holders will deal with greens fees at the course the day of the tournament. Skins buy-in, when applicable, is paid in cash at the course the day of the event, upon check-in.

### **3. Cancellations and No Shows**

If a player registers for a tournament and withdraws at any point prior to the end of the tournament, the member may be subject to forfeiture of greens fees and entry fees. A refund or credit for a future event in the same season may be offered if cancellation is received before tee times are published. If cancellation is received after tee times are published, a refund or credit is typically not offered, except in unusual circumstances or medical emergencies. If a refund is issued, a fee will be deducted to cover transaction and time costs. For most events the fee is \$5.

### **4. Tournament Handicaps**

Rule 7 of the USGA Handicap Manual enables the handicap committee to reduce a player's handicap for Men's Club tournament events if it deems a player's performance continues to exceed his potential ability. Several methodologies exist for this purpose. The member will be notified of any adjustments made by the Board.

### **5. Starting Times**

Tournaments will typically use sequential starting times with rare shotgun starts. Pairings will be emailed to all participants and are available on the CommonGround Men's Golf Club Tournament Portal website prior to the event. Pairings are subject to change prior to the event. If an individual starting time has been changed, the Tournament Director will notify individuals impacted by the change in advance.

### **6. Check-In and Starting**

Players should check in on site at least 30 minutes prior to the assigned starting times and be at the starting tee box at least 10 minutes prior to their assigned starting time.

## CommonGround Men's Golf Club Policies and Procedures Guide

If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Otherwise, the penalty is disqualification.

### **7. Tees**

Tee boxes are subject to change from event to event. Recent changes allowing "hybrid" sets of tees allow The Committee to use different sets of tees from event to event. Tee assignments are included with the information published to event participants.

### **8. Scorekeeping and Scorecards**

Players must exchange their scorecards with another player in the group. A separate area (tear-off strip at the bottom of card) is sometimes provided to allow each player to keep his own score. Each player and marker must sign the scorecard in the designated area on the card attesting that each hole gross score is correct. Each player must sign his card and each "marker" must sign his card as well. In a team event, only one member is required to sign for the team

Immediately upon conclusion of the tournament round, all players from each group should proceed to the pro shop, or other designated collection area, to submit the signed scorecards. At that time, players may bring up any rulings to the tournament committee.

Each player is responsible for the accuracy of his gross score on each hole of his scorecard even though a fellow competitor will be marking the scores on each hole. Players, though, are only responsible for the score on each hole and not the total score. If a player signs for an incorrect scorecard with a lower score on a hole than they actually shot, that player will be disqualified per rule 3-3b.

If there are scoring disputes in a round, protest should be lodged when turning in scorecard. Each player should be available for a reasonable amount of time afterward to answer questions by the Tournament Committee in the event that a ruling is required. Competition in each flight is deemed to have closed, and results finalized, when winners are announced by email following conclusion of each event.

Posting of scores to GHIN: For handicap purposes, the CGMGC will post all applicable tournament scores to the GHIN Handicap service. In match play and four-ball events, players are required to return a scorecard with actual or most likely scores for holes played when a stroke or hole is conceded, or when a player picks up. Men's Club members are responsible for posting their own match play and four-ball scores.

### **9. Distance Measuring Devices**

Distance measuring devices are allowed at all tournaments as long as the device does not measure slope, grade or wind.

## **10. Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

Cell Phones may be used only if doing so does not delay or disrupt play. Cell phones must be on silent at all times. In the spirit of competition, cell phone usage during competition is discouraged. A player should be respectful of fellow competitors. The device should only be used to make phone calls in emergency situations.

## **11. Guest Policy**

Guests are encouraged to play in the CommonGround Men's Golf Club annual Member/Guest tournament.

## **12. Club Championship**

The CommonGround Men's Golf Club Annual Club Championship is a two day event held toward the end of the season. Participants must have played in three Men's Club Tournaments in the current season to be eligible to play in The Club Championship. Format is 36 holes of individual stroke play. Players may opt-in to the Championship Flight. This flight is played at scratch with results determined by gross scores. Winner of the Championship Flight is recognized as Club Champion. Results of all other flights are determined by net scores.

## **13. Other items:**

Unless otherwise notified, the 14-Club rule is in effect for all of our events.

Unless otherwise notified, the one-ball rule is NOT in effect for any of our events.

Unless otherwise notified, a closest to the pin contest and Hole In One on a Par 3 hole is for a player's first tee shots ending up on the surface of green. Strokes made provisionally or after a penalty has been imposed are not eligible.

## **14. Local rule in effect regarding the penalty area to the left of CommonGround Hole #5.**

The local rule that was in place involving playing a ball provisionally for a ball in the penalty area left of #5 is no longer in effect.

## **15. Drop Zones (DZ)**

We use Dropping Zones as additional alternative to the normal relief procedures for a ball in a penalty area in three specific areas.

- On Hole #5, a DZ will be marked by maintenance staff and is provided on the left side just past the pot bunker. If not marked, one of your playing partners should be consulted on where to drop of you choose to use the DZ. The DZ is only for balls in the penalty area to the left. It is not an available option for balls lost to the right between holes #5 and #13.

## CommonGround Men's Golf Club Policies and Procedures Guide

- On Hole #6 and Hole #12, Drop Zones will be marked by maintenance staff. If there are no marked DZ's, you may use the red tee markers as a DZ.

### **16. Local rule in effect regarding sprinkler heads near putting greens or other immovable obstructions close to putting green. (From USGA Rules of Golf effective January 2019, Model Local Rules, F-5)**

“Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1.

The player also has these extra options to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play:

Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

- On the line of play, and is:
  - Within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
  - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.”

### **17. Local Rule for lost ball not in a penalty area (From USGA Rules of Golf effective January 2019, Model Local Rules, E-5)**

The Club does not use this local rule for our competitive events.

CommonGround Men’s Golf Club Policies and Procedures Guide

**18. Contact Information:** The CommonGround Men’s Golf Club plays our events at CommonGround Golf Course, 10300 E. Golfer’s Way, Aurora, CO 80010. The phone number is (303) 340-1520. The General Manager is Dave Troyer, [dtroyer@commongroundgc.com](mailto:dtroyer@commongroundgc.com)

For most club business, e-mail is the preferred communication method. We use the following e-mail address, monitored by one or more Board members: [mensclub@commongroundgc.com](mailto:mensclub@commongroundgc.com).

The CommonGround Men’s Golf Club Board of Directors oversees tournaments, rules, handicap administration and finances for the CommonGround Men’s Golf Club. Board members for the current season include:

President	Mike Mounts	<a href="mailto:mikemounts@msn.com">mikemounts@msn.com</a>
Treasurer / Handicap Chair	Andy Harwood	<a href="mailto:andyharwood@earthlink.net">andyharwood@earthlink.net</a>
	Dennis Cammack	<a href="mailto:swcapital@comcast.net">swcapital@comcast.net</a>
	Tristan Sanders	<a href="mailto:tristan.j.sanders@gmail.com">tristan.j.sanders@gmail.com</a>
	Jay Hanses	<a href="mailto:jayhanses@mac.com">jayhanses@mac.com</a>

Find us on the web by linking to us through the golf course’s website, [www.commongroundgc.com](http://www.commongroundgc.com)

*The most current version of the handbook can be found on The Club’s “Club Info” section of our Golf Genius Portal. The electronic version online shall override and supersede any printed form of the document*

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