



KENTUCKY GOLF ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES 2024

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ABOUT THE KENTUCKY GOLF ASSOCIATION

The Kentucky Golf Association (KGA) was founded in 1911. Today, the KGA is recognized by the USGA as an Allied Golf Association and the governing body for amateur golf in the Commonwealth. The KGA provides many services that include conducting numerous state-wide tournaments for women and men along with various qualifiers for USGA Championships, providing assistance with the World Handicap System and overseeing course ratings to ensure USGA guidelines are followed. The KGA is a founding member of Golf House Kentucky (GHK) in 2006, which is the umbrella organization that manages Kentucky's Family of Golf Organizations, which also consists of the Kentucky PGA Section and the Kentucky Golf Foundation (Kentucky PGA Junior Tour, Youth on Course and PGA HOPE). In 2019, the KGA absorbed the Kentucky Women's State Golf Association, which was founded in 1922.

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR 2024 SEASON

New Tournament Software: The KGA has switched to Golf Genius as our tournament management and registration software.

Am Series #1 at Traditions GC Format: The format has been changed from individual stroke play to an individual stableford format for all divisions.

Women's State Am Format:

Open Division:

- Day 1
 - 18-holes of stroke play. At the conclusion of play, brackets will be determined as follows.
 - The top-16 finishers will be put into the Championship Bracket
 - The next 16 (places 17-32) will be put into a Consolation Bracket
- Day 2
 - Morning: Round of 16 matches for Championship and Consolation brackets
 - Afternoon: Round of 8 matches for Championship and Consolation brackets
- Day 3
 - Morning: Round of 4 for Championship and Consolation brackets
 - Afternoon: Final matches for Championship and Consolation brackets

Mid-Am & Senior Divisions: Will be match play only. Brackets and seeding will be determined based on Handicap Index.

NOTE: there must be a minimum of 8 players to have a bracket.

- Day 1
 - Opening round matches Mid-Am and Senior brackets
- Day 2
 - Round of 4 for the Championship brackets for Mid-Am and Senior
 - Round of 4 for the Consolation brackets for Mid-Am and Senior
- Day 3
 - Final match for the Championship brackets for Mid-Am and Senior
 - Final match for Consolation brackets for Mid-Am and Senior

Men's State Mid-Am Format: This event will now be 54-holes (36-18) for the Mid-Am division. The Senior, Masters and Legends divisions will remain at 36-holes (18-18). ***NOTE: there must be at least 6 players registered in a division, otherwise they will be combined.***

Women's Team Championship: This is a new event for 2024. The format is two-person teams and there will be a different format every nine holes. Day 1- Front 9: Shamble, Back 9: Scramble. Day 2- Front 9: Best Ball, Back 9: Combined Aggregate Score. ***NOTE: a team's division will be based on the age of the youngest partner.***

Maximum # of Events: For the Senior, Masters and Legends divisions, the KGA board has implemented a maximum number of events that can count towards the POY race. In 2024, the maximum number of events will be eight (8) for Senior and Masters divisions and six (6) for the Legends division. This means players can still play in as many tournaments as they want, however, only their best 8 (Senior & Masters) and best 6 (Legends) finishes will count towards the POY points race.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration Steps:

- **GHIN Handicap-** Activate your GHIN handicap for the current season.
- **Golf Genius Account-** Login to your Golf Genius account. If you do not have a Golf Genius account, you will need to create one.
 - *Please note that this is not the same as your BlueGolf login from 2022-23. You will need to use the login info from 2017-2021 if you had a Golf Genius account then.*
 - *If you are a Junior Tour player, you will use the same email and password from your Junior Account to login to the KGA.*
- **Join the Player's Program-** Once you are logged in or have created your account, you will need to join the Player's Program **(except women)**, which is a one-time fee of \$20.
- **Register for Tournaments-** Once all of the above steps have been completed, you may begin registering for tournaments.

TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY

Kentucky Men's State Amateur, Women's State Amateur and Women's Senior State Amateur: An applicant must be a resident of Kentucky, or a member in good standing with the host club for at least one calendar year prior to the event and possess a current KGA handicap.

Definition of Kentucky Resident: Is a person who maintains his/her legal place of residence in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To establish residency for the purpose of KGA eligibility, an applicant **MUST meet one of the criteria listed below in subsections 1-4:**

1. Is a person who meets one of the criteria in paragraphs (a)-(d):
 - a. Has resided in Kentucky for thirty (30) consecutive days immediately preceding the date of the entry deadline of the event; **OR**
 - b. Holds a Kentucky Driver's License; **OR**
 - c. Is registered to vote in Kentucky; **OR**
 - d. Owns property in Kentucky; **OR**
2. Is a student who physically attended a high school or college in Kentucky at any time during the four months before the date of the entry deadline; **OR**
3. Is a student who graduated from a Kentucky high school and who attends an out-of-state college, but remains a legal dependent of a parent or guardian who meets the Kentucky residency requirement; **OR**
4. Is a member of the military who is based in Kentucky on active duty as of the date of the entry deadline.

All Other KGA Events: Are open to residents and nonresidents.

- **Women's Events:** Women's Stroke Play and Women's Team Championship.
- **Men's Events:** Am Series, Men's Mid-Am Championship, Men's Team Championship, Men's Senior State Amateur, Men's Senior Team Championship

Nonresident Requirements:

1. Be a dues paying member of a private, semi-private, or public KGA member club and hold an active KGA handicap from that club at the time of entry; **OR**
2. Be a dues paying member of the Kentucky EClub or the online USGA/KGA member club and hold an active KGA handicap from that club at the time of entry
 - a. NOTE: A KGA "Member Club" is a club in the state of Kentucky that partners with the KGA to sell USGA issued handicap memberships.

Verification:

1. As a part of the application process, an applicant shall attest on the application that he/she meets either the residency requirements or the nonresident requirements listed above.
2. The KGA has the right, at any time, to request documentation from an applicant verifying that claimed status.
3. Any falsification or misrepresentation of the facts pertaining to the applicant's eligibility may result in that person being treated as if they had not entered the competition, pursuant to rule 20.2f, stripped of any prize or title, and that person being declared ineligible to participate in any future KGA events.

DEADLINES & REFUND POLICIES

Deadlines: All tournament deadlines will be at 11:59pm EST, SEVEN (7) days prior to the event, unless otherwise noted on the Tournament Information Page

Late Entries: Are not accepted after the entry deadline has closed.

Waiting List: If a tournament reaches its maximum capacity before the tournament deadline, a waiting list will be established. Should a spot come open in the event, the next player off the waiting list will be added to the event. If a player does not get into the field from the waitlist, there will be no charge.

Refund Policy: A refund will be granted to participants in the following way.

- Before Entry Deadline- participant will receive a full refund, minus a \$5 cancellation fee.
- After the entry deadline and at least 48 hours prior to Round 1- will receive a full refund, minus a \$25 cancellation fee.
- After the entry deadline and less than 48 hours prior to Round 1- will result in a forfeit of the entire entry fee.

NOTE: In the event of an extreme circumstance, after the entry deadline, resulting in the participant not being able to compete in the tournament, please contact the Director of Amateur Competitions ASAP. Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis. A full or partial refund may be available.

Withdrawals: Participants MUST notify the staff in advance if they need to withdraw from an event. Failure to properly withdraw from a tournament and/or not showing up will forfeit the entry fee and will be considered a "No Show". Any subsequent violation of this policy may result in suspension from KGA events.

No Show/No Card Policy: Any player that accumulates two or more No Shows, No Cards, or a combination of the two, may result in the player being removed from their next scheduled event, without a refund and/or suspension from the KGA.

Weather Situations: Weather shortened tournaments will be handled on a case-by-case basis and may or may not result in a partial refund.

Agreement Statement: By submission of any entry application, the player agrees to the tournament regulations set forth by the KGA. The player agrees that there are certain risks inherent in the game of golf and accepts personal and sole liability for all such risks. The player agrees that this entry application is subject to rejection at any time. The reason for rejections may include unbecoming conduct. The player agrees that the responsibility for ensuring this application is received by the KGA no later than the date and time specified is the player's alone and that this entry application will be automatically rejected if received by the KGA after such date and time. The player agrees that the risk of delay or error in transmission lies solely with him/her and that the KGA has no liability with respect to such delay or error and the consequences there from, including rejection of this entry application. The player also affirms, by submission of the entry application, that they meet all eligibility requirements.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Spirit of the Game: Golf is played, for the most part, without the immediate supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the rules. All players are to conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

Golf is a sport that is about family. The atmosphere surrounding the competition must be such that it is comfortable, safe and inoffensive to the host club, all competitors and spectators of all ages.

Warning: The authority of the Rules Committee to disqualify a player is not limited to the list of misconducts identified in this code. In the event of an egregious violation of any provision of this code, the Committee may impose a penalty of disqualification upon a first offense. Violation of this code should be reported to the Committee either through the rules telephone hotline or by directly communicating with a rules official. A player witnessing a potential violation should not attempt to deal with that potential violation individually.

- **Language:** Use of profanity is not in the spirit of the game and is not acceptable.
- **Damage to Course or Equipment:** Willful and unnecessary damage to the course or course equipment, whether out of anger or not
 - The Committee reserves the right to either implement the General Penalty or to Disqualify the player based on their review of the offense.
- **Club Throwing:** Throwing clubs (not an underhand toss back to the bag or out of a bunker) or other objects out of anger. NOTE: If the club/object thrown out of anger injures anyone or if it is intentionally thrown at anyone, even if they were missed, the penalty is Disqualification.
 - 1st Offense- Warning
 - 2nd Offense- 1 penalty stroke
 - 3rd Offense- General Penalty
 - 4th Offense- Disqualification
- **Player Interaction:** If a player continues to willfully distract other players after they have been told their actions are distracting and were requested to stop the activity. Any verbal outburst at another player or person is a violation of this code.
 - 1st Offense- Warning
 - 2nd Offense- 1 Penalty Stroke
 - 3rd Offense- General Penalty
 - 4th Offense- Disqualification
- **Interference:** If a player willfully interferes with another player's rights under the rules.
 - 1st Offense- Warning
 - 2nd Offense- 1 penalty stroke
 - 3rd Offense- General Penalty
 - 4th Offense- Disqualification
- **Player Behavior:** If a player's behavior appears to be a risk to themselves or others on the course, or if it appears his/her abilities are diminished such that their play will detract from the quality of the competition, the Committee may request the player to withdraw from the competition, or the Committee may disqualify the player.

More examples of misconduct may be found under the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf 1.2a/1 Interpretations. These lists are not all inclusive of misconduct for which the Committee can disqualify a player.

The KGA reserves the right to refuse entry into any number of future competitions by any player that has been disqualified for violation of this Code of Conduct.

Dress Code: Players are expected to maintain an appropriate appearance as dictated by the KGA and the host facility. Amateurs may wear any appropriate style of shorts unless such attire is prohibited by the host facility. If the Rules Committee deems the attire or personal appearance of an amateur player during a KGA tournament to be inappropriate, the committee has the power to act in the matter. The general procedure will be to request that player make the appropriate changes to comply with the dress code. If the request goes unheeded, the player will be subject to disqualification from the event and exclusion from future KGA tournaments.

Policy on Slow Play: Slow play is detrimental to the game. For this reason and in the interest of making the game as enjoyable as possible for all, the pace of play will be monitored at KGA tournaments. Players in KGA tournaments are responsible for knowing the pace of play guidelines in effect at each competition.

Playing Music on Phones, Speakers or Using Headphones or Earbuds: Is **NOT** permitted for players or caddies during play of a tournament round.

TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

Rules of Play: The 2023 USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all play. The Kentucky Golf Association Local Rules & Terms of the Competition (Hard Card) will be handed out to the players at each tournament prior to play, along with the Notice to Players.

Distance Measuring Devices: Players and caddies are permitted to use devices to obtain yardage information. These devices include laser range finders, GPS watches, mobile apps, etc.

Caddie Guidelines: Caddies are permitted at all KGA tournaments.

Use of Push/Pull Carts: Manual and remote-controlled push/pull carts are permitted at all KGA tournaments.

Motorized Carts: Players and/or their caddie may ride in a cart at all KGA tournaments.

PACE OF PLAY POLICY

Rule 5.6b states in part, players must play without delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines the Committee may establish and thereafter prescribes penalties for slow play.

Time Par: A time par is set for each course. See official scorecard for each individual hole time par.

Group Out of Position:

- **First Group:** The first group is out of position if at any time during the round the group is behind the prescribed schedule as detailed on the Notice to Players and/or official scorecard.
- **Following Groups:** A following group is **out of position** if it is;
 - Taking more than the allotted time to play; **AND**
 - More than 14 minutes behind the preceding group
- **Resuming Play:** A group is out of position when play is discontinued is out of position when play is resumed.

Notification/Timing:

(Statement: "Your group is out of position"): When a group becomes out of position, all players in the group shall be notified by a designated rules official they are out of position and subject to timing.

Teeing Area/General Area: The timing of a player's stroke will begin when he/she has had reasonable opportunity to reach his/her ball, it is his/her turn to play and he/she can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage counts as time taken for the stroke.

On the Putting Green: Timing of a player's stroke will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace his/her ball, repair damage on his/her line of putt and remove loose impediments and movable obstructions on his/her line of putt. Time spent looking at the line of putt from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke. An extra 10 seconds for a total of 50 seconds will be allowed for the **first player** to play a stroke from the teeing ground, a second shot on a par-4 or par-5, a third stroke on a par-5, a stroke around the putting green or a stroke on the putting green.

A player who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke will be informed by the rules official as soon as practicable.

Pace of Play Penalties: The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any player in a group being timed who takes more than the allotted time to play a stroke after timing of the player's stroke begins.

- 1st Bad Time- Warning
- 2nd Bad Time- 1 Stroke Penalty
- 3rd Bad Time- Additional 1 Stroke Penalty
- 4th Bad Time- Disqualification

NOTE: If a group being timed regains its proper position, any previous "bad timings" will be carried over for the remainder of the round should that group require additional monitoring.

Any appeal of a pace of play penalty must be referred to the designated Tournament Director of the event immediately upon completion of the round and their decision is final.

Rulings or Other Incidents: If a ruling of some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lost its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

Pace of Play Success Strategies: The only time an official should talk to the players about their pace is when they become out of position.

- Officials ***should inform a group*** they are out of position when they are leaving the teeing area.
- Officials ***should notify a group*** that is behind a slow group if the slow group has significantly picked up the pace. This should be done out of courtesy and not done in a manner that the group would interpret as they are in jeopardy of being out of position.
- Officials ***should never tell players*** to pick it up or anything similar, this does not work and only irritates the players.
- Officials ***should never tell a group*** how many minutes they have to complete a hole unless a player specifically asks for this information.
- When a group is out of position, the ***official should monitor*** the group and try to determine what the pace issue is with the group.

SPECTATOR POLICIES

Spectators are encouraged to attend all KGA events. They must be courteous to all competitors and abide by all rules put in place by the KGA and the host facility. It is the player's responsibility to keep spectators away.

Advice: Rule 10.2a

Rulings: Only designated rules officials from the KGA will give rulings to the players at the request of the individual.

Distance from Players: Spectators should remain on the cart paths, when available. In absence of cart paths, spectators should walk in the rough and stay off all teeing grounds, fairways, and putting greens and remain at least 30 feet from players at all times.

Mobile Devices: It is requested that all spectators have their mobile devices turned to silent mode or turned off. If you must make a call, please be courteous to the players.

Forecaddie/Spotting Balls: Spectators are encouraged to be ahead of the group, without being in the line of play to the best of their abilities, to spot golf balls for the group. Spectators may also assist with the search for a player's ball.

Spectator Carts: Will ***NOT*** be permitted (including personal carts) at KGA tournaments unless special circumstances allow. Any questions regarding availability for a tournament, please contact the Director of Amateur Competitions.

DIVISIONS & APPROXIMATE YARDAGES

Women's Tournaments:

Divisions at each:

- **Women's Stroke Play:** Open (any age), Senior (55-64), Super-Senior (65+)
- **Women's State Am:** Open (any age), Mid-Am (25+), Senior (55-64), Super-Senior (65+)
- **Women's Senior State Am:** Freshman (55-59), Sophomore (60-64), Junior (65-69), Senior (70-74), Super-Senior (75+)
- **Women's Team Championship:** Open (any age), Senior (55-64), Super-Senior (65+)

Approximate Yardages: NOTE: Yardages are subject to change based on weather conditions, course conditions, course difficulty, course par (70-71-72-73) and at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

- **Open Division:** 5,500-6,000
- **Senior Division:** 5,000-5,500
- **Super-Senior Division:** 4,500-5,000

Men's Tournaments:

Divisions at each:

- **Am Series:** Open (any age), Senior (50-59), Masters (60-69), Legends (70+)
- **Men's Senior Team Championship:** Senior (50-59), Masters (60-69), Legends (70+)
- **Men's State Am & Qualifiers:** Open to all ages. No divisions.
- **Men's Team Championship:** Open (any age), Senior (50-59), Masters (60-69), Legends (70+)
- **Men's Match Play:** Open (any age), Senior (50-59), Masters (60-69), Legends (70+)
- **Men's Senior State Am:** Senior (50-59), Masters (60-69), Legends (70+)
- **Men's State Mid-Am:** Mid-Am (25+), Senior (50-59), Masters (60-69), Legends (70+)

Approximate Yardages: NOTE: Yardages are subject to change based on weather conditions, course conditions, course difficulty, course par (70-71-72-73) and at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

- **Open Division:** 6,600+
- **Senior Division:** 6,200-6,500
- **Masters Division:** 5,900-6,100
- **Legends Division:** 5,600-5,800

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are handicaps used?

- The KGA utilizes both gross and net scores in various tournaments. This means that handicaps are used to calculate the results of the net division.

How do I register for the KY Men's State Open, Women's State Open & Men's Senior State Open?

- All registrations for the State Open's, including the qualifiers for the Men's State Open, are handled by the Kentucky PGA Section. You can [click HERE](#) to view the KPGA schedule and register.

Can I make a tee time, group or paring request?

- We do not take group or paring requests for tournaments. However, you may request an "early starting time" or a "late starting time" and the KGA will do its best to honor your request, but there are no guarantees.

I signed up for a tournament. How do I know I'm in the field?

- Once you've completed the registration and payment process, you will receive an automated confirmation e-mail that you are entered in the event. You can also check the participants list by visiting the tournament information page where a list of players in the field will be displayed.