



Rules, Policies & Clarifications Governing VGA Events

1. The VGA Board requires that only VGA members with established handicaps may participate in pots and/or prize money. Guests are welcome to play but are only eligible to win CLOSEST TO THE PIN (CTP) money on Par 3 holes at a fee of \$1.00.

2. **New Members Policy:** New members who have not established an official handicap, can participate in the birdie and Closest to the Pin (CTP) pots, but not the tournament prize pot. Non-members may not get into the prize pot or birdie pot, but are automatically entered into the CTP pot with their \$1.00 entry fee.

3. **VGA GUEST POLICY CLARIFIED:** The VGA guest policy has been questioned regarding how many times a VGA guest is allowed to participate in VGA events before being required to join. The VGA Board voted unanimously to allow guests to play up to three times per calendar year. Special exemptions have been granted for relatives of members who are “winter visitors”. If there are any questions regarding this policy please feel free to contact any Board Member for clarification.

4a. **Tee Placements @ a VGA Event:** Male players may use any tees that are USGA rated for men. Women players may use any tees that are USGA rated for women. Failure to do so will lead to disqualification. Furthermore, the board has decided to set a minimum standard tee being the closest to 6,000 yards + or - as a base tee for all VGA tournaments. If the course slope is 125 or higher, the player may move up one additional rated Men's tee. A member can go back as far as permissible with their handicap revised accordingly. If a member decides to play a forward tee in front of the standard tee, the member may not enter the cash prize pot. The member will automatically be entered into the CTP only.

4b. **Multiple Women's Tees:** Women's tee to be the tees closest to 5,000 yards.

5. **Prize Money Distribution Policy for a Sanctioned VGA Event Due to Inclement Weather Policy:** An official event is any scheduled round of golf sponsored by The Valley Golfers Association played to completion of 18 holes by 50% or more of the VGA member participants in the event. All prize money collected prior to the event shall be disbursed to member participants who win the event by virtue of their low scores over all 18 holes regardless of the weather conditions or

other circumstances which may prevent or hinder other member participants from completing the round. Pot money collected for scoring birdies or better, or for being closest to the pin on Par 3s, or for any purpose other than winning the overall event shall be paid to individual winners of those items whether or not the winners actually complete the round.

6. Prize Money Policy: The maximum time prize funds are held by a tournament director won by a player will be 30 days. After the 30-day period the uncollected prize money will be deposited into the VGA Treasury.

7. Hole in One Awards: Anyone making a hole in one will receive \$100 from the VGA plus the VGA will pay a maximum of \$100 for beverages after the tournament to be paid immediately. In addition, player(s) will also receive the pro-rata share of the annual hole-in-one pot from membership dues. If no one makes a hole-in-one over a fiscal year period (November 1st to October 31st), the unclaimed monies will carry over to the next fiscal year, and so on until a hole-in-one is made. Member payouts will be distributed at the annual banquet held annually in November.

8. VGA operates its business on a fiscal year basis beginning November 1st and ending October 31st.

9. Scorecard playoffs will be done per the USGA recommendations, detailed in "The USGA Handicap System".

10. The Half-Hour Check-In Rule: You must check-in at least one half hour before the event's first tee time. Event coordinator will have the option to except or not except a player's prize money with less than 30 minutes prior to the first tee time and that player may not be eligible for prize money.

11. No Show Policy: If a player does not cancel 48 hours in advance of the scheduled event, after signing up to play in a VGA event, that player will be responsible for paying the greens fee if the golf club for that event charges the VGA. No exceptions. This policy preserves our reputation and ability to continue playing at all courses throughout the Valley.

12. USGA's Stroke and Distance - [New Local Rule view video click here](#): If a player's ball is hit out of bounds or lost, drop a ball two club lengths in the fairway from the point the player believes the ball was lost. The drop is not supposed to be any closer to the hole. The player must take a two-stroke penalty. You may not use this rule if you have hit a provisional ball, unless your provisional ball is also lost or out of bounds, or your ball is lost in a penalty area (formerly known as a hazard). The rule has been recommended by the USGA and R&A to speed-up play. For more information, refer to this video. [View Lost or OB ball Stoke & Distance Video click here](#). Rev: 3/5/2019. *The Desert Rule has been abolished by the VGA as a local rule.*

13. Local Rule Recommended by the USGA - Rule 21-2 and adopted by VGA: A player's score for each hole is capped at a maximum of 10 strokes without disqualification. A player who does not complete a hole (referred to as picking up) is not disqualified, but gets the maximum score of 10 for the hole. Rev: 3/5/2019

14. **Clarifications of the X-Out Policy:** (a) if a player Xs out, the player is not eliminated from all prize funds, only the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prize money. (b) If a player Xs out, the USGA recommends inputting a score that he/she thinks they would make on that hole. If the player doesn't input a score, the player will receive a score of par plus handicap stroke. The Board recommends that players always post a score for each hole and to not leave any score blank. (c) Addition to the X-Out Rule: Members and guests must play at least 13 holes in order to qualify for C-T-P or Birdie prize money. The X-out may occur on the first hole or 13th hole, but the player must play and score a minimum of 13 holes to be eligible for CTP and/or Birdie prize money.

15. Range finders and GPS devices are authorized for use in any VGA event.

16. The VGA Board adopted a local rule allowing the replacement of the ball in play with a clean **"putting ball"** upon reaching the green.

17. **"DESERT CLUB" REJECTED BY VGA BOARD:** If you have an opinion regarding this matter, let one of the VGA Board Members know your thoughts.