

Local VGA Rules, Policies & Clarifications for VGA Events



1. Competition Policy: Only VGA members are allowed to participate in prize money in the low net and skins competition. Only members who have an established handicap can participate in the low-net competition. All members and guests will participate in the closest to the pin (CTP) contest on all par three holes.

2. VGA Guest Policy: Guests are prohibited from signing up for an event 7 days prior to the event. The guest fee is \$5.00.

3. Tee Policy: Men are allowed to play from any men's rated tee and women are allowed to play from any woman's rated tee. However, if any player uses the tee box two or more in front of the base tees, that player is not qualified for birdies, eagles, double eagles, hole-in-one or CTPs. The player is eligible for low net score prize money.

4. 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 prizemoney 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. The prize money collected for scoring birdies or better, for being closest to the pin on Par 3s, or for any purpose other than winning the overall event shall be paid to individuals of those items whether or not the round is completed.

5. Prize Money Policy: At the discretion of the VGA Board, the maximum time prize funds are held by an event director will be 30 days. After the 30-day period, the uncollected prize money may be deposited into the VGA Treasury.

6 (Revised as of 7/16/25 per VGA Board unanimous vote). Hole-in-One Award: The player(s) will receive the pro-rata share of the annual hole-in-one pot generated from membership dues. If no one makes a hole-in-one over a fiscal year period (January 1st to December 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 to the player(s) equally at the end of the fiscal year. Any player making a hole-in-one, will receive \$100 from the VGA and the VGA will pay a maximum of \$100 for beverages after the event of that hole-in-one. **Starting**

January 1, 2026, the VGA will stop paying \$100.00 for a hole-in-one in favor of the \$5.00 allocation from membership dues.

7. VGA operates its business on a fiscal year basis beginning January 1st and ending December 31st.

8. Scorecard playoffs will be done per the USGA recommendations, detailed in "The USGA Handicap System" and done automatically by Golf Genius.

9. Check-In Time Limit Rule: The event coordinator will provide a time for check-in and if a player is late, the event coordinator will have the option to not accept a player's entry fee and that player may not be eligible for prize money. The check-in time will be sent to all players participating in the tournament on the pairing sheet via email.

10. No-Show Policy: After the event coordinator submits the final tee sheet to the golf course and if the VGA is charged the green fee for a player(s) that cancels or does not show up, that player(s) will be responsible for reimbursing the VGA the green fee amount for the tournament he or she misses. That player(s) will not be allowed to participate in future VGA events until the player(s) has reimbursed the VGA. **THIS IS A NO EXCEPTION POLICY.**

11. USGA's Stroke and Distance: If a player's ball is hit out of bounds or lost, a player may invoke the local rule known as the E-5 rule. Drop a ball two club lengths in the fairway, no closer to the hole, from the point the player believes the ball was lost. The player must take a two-stroke penalty. If you have hit a provisional ball, you may not use this rule on the original ball. You may use the rule on your provisional ball if it is lost or out of bounds. You may not use this rule if 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.

12. The Desert Rule: The board voted to reinstate the VGA Desert rule starting January 1st, 2020. Revisited and clarified as of the Committee meeting on 4/19/2023.

Desert Rule: The Desert Rule (now interpreted as a red-lined penalty area) is a local VGA club rule to speed up play with a one-stroke penalty and will be designated by the tournament director prior to time of play based on the following requirements:

1. If a player hits a ball in the desert, the ball **must cross grass**.

2. The ball does **not** have to be found but must be in-bounds. If the ball is determined to be out-of-bounds by the player and the foursome, then the player has two options: a. Invoke the E-5 Rule with a 2-stroke penalty or b. Re-Tee with a 1-stroke penalty (hitting 3 off the tee).

3. If the ball is determined to be in-bounds, then the player has three options: a. Play with the ball where it lies. b. Drop the ball in the grass at the approximate location where it crossed the grass no closer to the hole. c. Drop the ball 2 club-lengths from where the ball came to rest, no closer to the hole. A one-shot penalty is invoked.

4. If the ball does not cross grass off the tee and does not reach the fairway, then the Desert Rule cannot be invoked and USGA rules apply as follows: a. Player finds the ball in the desert area and plays it as it lies without penalty. b. The player finds the ball and determines it is unplayable. The player may drop the ball 2 club lengths from the point of the found ball, no closer to the hole with a 1-stroke penalty. c. If the player does not find the ball, the player can re-tee the ball with a 1-stroke penalty (hitting 3 off the tee).

13. Ten-Shot Rule: The 10-shot rule has been eliminated. As a result, all players must finish each hole and record their score or be disqualified.

14. Clarifications of the X-Out Policy: (a) if a player X's out, then the player is not eliminated from the low net competition prize money only. (b) If a player X's out, the USGA recommends inputting a score that he/she thinks they would make on that hole. If the player does not input a score, the player will receive a score of pars plus handicap stroke. The score is for handicap purposes only. (c) 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: All devices are authorized for use in any VGA event.

16. Same Ball Rule: You must use the same ball you started the hole with. You may lift and clean it after reaching the green per USGA rules.

17. Desert Club Rule: The Board voted to allow members to carry a fifteenth club in their bag, designated as a "rock club" to be exclusively used as a rock club. The club must be a numbered iron and easily differentiated from the players' regular set of clubs.

18a. Ground Under Repair Rule - Fairway: When a ball lands in a dirt patch, not declared as "ground under repair," in a fairway only, then the ball may be dropped into the grass on that fairway no closer to the hole with consensus or agreement from the other players in the foursome. This rule does not apply to a ball coming to rest in a divot or in another fairway.

18b. Ground Under Repair Rule - Bunker: A player is entitled to move a ball in the bunker if: 1. The bunker is not maintained by the golf course. 2. If the bunker has not been raked properly during the round. 3. If there is temporary water in the bunker. If any of these circumstances occur, the player may pick up the ball, clean it, and rake the bunker in the area where the ball came to rest and replace it in the same spot. The player's foursome must unanimously approve the request.

19. Eliminated in Favor of Item 3 above.

20. A minimum number of players for a single flight is 19 or less. Two flights are required with 20 players or more.

21. An official VGA event is 10 players or more.

22. Club Championship Rules: Net 2-day tournament. Two flights - A & B as determined in Golf Genius by handicap. A player must have 10 rounds played and logged prior to entry. If a player has not met this minimum, the player is ineligible to participate, but always eligible for the day money events. On July 24, 2024, the board also approved that a \$50.00 prize will be awarded to the low gross player of the two-day event. All members are eligible to participate.

23. If prize money is not claimed by the player in 30 days and after all attempts to contact the player have been met within a reasonable timeframe by the VGA, then at the discretion of the board, the prize money may be deposited into the VGA Treasury.

24. If a player does not show-up to an event with cash, that player is not entered into the event.

25. VGA Prizes and Awards:

a. Big Dog Points pays \$525 for 6 places for both Wednesday and Saturday as follows:

1st @ \$150

2nd @ \$125

3rd @ \$100

4th @ \$75

5th @ \$50

6th @ \$25

b. Most Improved Golfer (Most handicap differential for the year) @ \$100

c. Low Net Score for the Year @ \$100

d. Club Championship pays 10 places for both A & B flights. Prize money varies based on funds in the Treasury. See Rule 22 above.

e. The Tournament Players Open (TPO) pays 10 places for both A & B flights. Prize money varies based on funds in the Treasury.

f. Hole-in-One: Members pay, as part of their dues, \$5.00 that goes into a separate pot and is paid-out annually if a player(s) makes a hole-in-one. If no player makes a hole-in-one for the year, the pot is carried over until the next year. The prize fund is paid at the end of the year and a new pot is established.

g. Eagle: Pays \$25.00 to the player ASAP by the Treasurer from the VGA Treasury.

h. Double Eagle: Pays \$250.00 to the player ASAP by the Treasurer from the VGA Treasury.

i. Ringer Tournament: \$250 for Wednesday and \$250 Saturday broken as follows:

1st @ \$125

2nd @ \$75

3rd @ \$50

j. Par 3 pay-outs. *If a par-3 is not won by any player, then the monies generated for par 3 will be distributed equally to those hit in regulation. If for example only 3 of 4 par 3s are won, then total par-3 prize money will be allocated to 3 of the 4 par 3s. In other words, all prize money generated for par 3s will be paid in that tournament.*