

---

2023

EBG MEMBERS HANDBOOK

---



**EAST BAY GOLFERS**

JANUARY 2023

# EBG Members Handbook

# EBG Members Handbook

## Contents

No table of contents entries found.

# EBG Members Handbook

**Introduction:** EBG Handbook is a reference document that provides guidelines on a number of important topics. It is compiled and updated each year by a collaborative effort of Executive Committee, Tournament Committee and Handicap Committee. The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a reference for EBG members when questions come up on topics such as membership, tournaments, scoring, players ranking, prizes, scores posting, local golf rules and golf etiquettes.

## 1. Membership Guidelines:

When individuals request to join EBG they go through an eligibility analysis. The Executive Committee does the vetting process taking into account things like level of interest, knowledge and passion for golf, commitment to playing 10 or more tournaments in a year, geographical barriers to active participation in tournaments, current handicap and interest in improving it.

EBG is a family and has group activities involving significant others and children several times during the year thus club chemistry, like-mindedness and inclusiveness is taken into account. After the Executive Committee deems an individual eligible, they are offered one of two pathways: a courtesy membership so broader EBG membership gets an opportunity to play and get to know them, or a regular membership if they are known to the greater EBG membership socially or through playing in other golf clubs in the Bay Area circuit.

- a. **Regular Members** – EBG was founded on and remains to this date grounded on the principles of friendship. EBG membership comes with certain privileges as well as responsibilities. It is incumbent on all EBG members to participate in club meetings, provide candid feedback, respect difference of opinion and maintain a level of professionalism among a group of friends. Below are some of the EBG regular membership requirements:
  - i. Each member must pay annual membership dues which includes their NCGA membership fee. This also applies to all those who may have membership in more than one golf club i.e., there is no discount for more than one club membership.
  - ii. New NCGA members will pay an additional initiation fee charged by NCGA.
  - iii. New and existing members, who join/rejoin EBG between January 1 and June 30, will pay the full membership dues. Those joining between July 1 and December 31 will pay half of the annual dues. In either case, members will pay full amount of NCGA membership and initiation fees as they are not prorated by NCGA.
  - iv. Regular members are expected to play golf in EBG sponsored tournaments and outings on regular basis. If due to health, job, business, family or any other reason, regular attendance is not possible, members have a choice to leave the club and not pay annual dues. Regular members have the privilege to return anytime they feel ready without any additional review and approval process.
  - v. EBG acknowledges that some regular members have membership in more than one golf club. They are free to play from any club they wish even if it means playing against EBG in inter-club tournaments. We are sure that smart ones will pick the winning side i.e., EBG.

# EBG Members Handbook

- b. **Courtesy Members** –The objective is to allow each side to gauge likelihood of a long term successful and rewarding association. Guidelines for courtesy membership are listed below in order to set expectations and avoid confusion:
- i. In principle, EBG courtesy and regular membership is open to all eligible golfers irrespective of religion, national origin, ethnic background or any other criteria that is not against the law.
  - ii. Courtesy membership is meant for new incoming aspirants. Regular members, who do not renew their membership for any reason, will not be considered courtesy members if/when they wish to rejoin. Not all applicants can be considered a Courtesy Member.
  - iii. Courtesy members will be expected to join EBG for tournaments as well as casual rounds so that they become aware of level of golfing commitment required, the logistics around timing, location, courses, pace of play, golf etiquettes and scoring etc.
  - iv. Courtesy members will NOT be eligible to compete for positions, points or ranking in EBG tournaments.
  - v. Courtesy members will NOT have voting rights.
  - vi. Courtesy members will NOT be eligible to volunteer for any EBG committees.
  - vii. Courtesy members will NOT be charged annual EBG membership dues unless they become regular members.
  - viii. Courtesy members will be eligible to participate in inter-club tournaments on behalf of EBG.
  - ix. Courtesy members will be required to pay for all the tournaments and casual rounds that they attend as well as their shares of carpool, after game lunch/dinner, any social get together etc. or any other situation in which cost is being defrayed on all EBG members.
  - x. Courtesy members will be added to club's email distribution list and social media blogs i.e. currently WhatsApp groups called EBG, Weekday Golf, Weekend Golf and Everything Goes. They will have the option to opt out from any or all of these. They will be removed from email distribution and blogs if they do not convert into regular members.
  - xi. Courtesy members will be encouraged to establish a NCGA handicap index prior to joining EBG but there is no specific handicap index requirement for courtesy members. However, it is expected that courtesy members have played and mastered golf at least to a level where they can occasionally shoot below 100 when playing under rules of golf and in EBG tournaments.
  - xii. Courtesy members will be expected to send the scorecards of all rounds played to EC and/or Handicap Committee whether or not these rounds were played with EBG members.
  - xiii. To become an EBG member, courtesy member will need to be at least a 27.0 handicap index (in minimum 5 EBG tournaments) before being considered for full EBG membership. EC will directly or through its volunteer designates may solicit input from existing regular EBG members before making a final decision.
  - xiv. EC's decision to grant regular membership will be effective immediately. New members will be required to submit annual dues after which they will begin to enjoy voting rights and be able to compete in tournaments.
  - xv. EC's decision to decline regular membership will be communicated to the courtesy members with a reasonable explanation.
  - xvi. Declining regular membership is not a permanent disqualification of courtesy members. Aspirants will be eligible to apply again when they feel they are ready.

# EBG Members Handbook

2. **Tournaments:** Refer to the EBG events calendar on EBG website for a list of tournaments and formats.
  - a. **Handicaps:** Handicap Index capped at 36.0 (per USGA and EBG).
    - i. Every new member is encouraged to complete a minimum of 5 rounds before first tournament in calendar year to establish a NCGA handicap and to become eligible for EBG ranking system.
    - ii. Handicap for tournament will be used from within a week before the tournament date.
  - b. **Flights:** EBG tournaments will have two flights called Movers and Shakers.
  - c. **Tees:** EBG default tees will be WHITE tees.
    - i. Players in Movers flight ONLY will have the option to play from blue tees. Request for blue tees must be made at the time of registration.
  - d. **Scoring, Prizes and Year-End Ranking:**
    - i. All EBG stroke play tournaments will be scored based on USGA Net-to-Par calculation in which players' gross score is adjusted based on their course handicap and stroke allocation.
      - ii. Each Major tournament winner will be awarded a trophy. In addition to tournament winner, each winner of Closest to the Pin (CTP) and Longest Drive (LD) will be recognized.
    - iii. At year end, MVP and POY players will be awarded trophies.
  - e. **Posting Scores:** NCGA will be used for score posting & handicap calculations.
    - i. All scores posted in NCGA shall be according to the guidelines of the World Handicap System
    - ii. In NCGA, a player can post a 9-hole, 18-hole or incomplete round score according to the guidelines of the World Handicap System.
    - iii. Every EBG member is urged to post his score after each round. This will keep the handicaps updated, which are used for each tournament. GHIN mobile app for convenience.

## **General EBG Tournament Rules & Golf Etiquettes:**

3. **Ruling Decisions:**
  - a. It is the responsibility of all the players in their individual group to make sure rules are followed. If you don't know the rule, ask for help before taking the shot.
  - b. Also, if the playing partner advice was incorrect, player is still responsible for any penalty.
  - c. Any disputed scenario needs to be marked with an asterisk (\*) on the scorecard.
  - d. Requires two players to challenge a player regarding ball drop, etc.
  - e. After the round is completed, the process outlined below will be followed before the ruling is announced by the EBG Tournament Committee:
  - f. A discussion regarding the infraction will be discussed between the player(s) in question and the EBG Tournament Committee.
    - i. After understanding of the infraction, the EBG Tournament Committee will thoroughly review the scenario and the decision will be announced ASAP before the final result is published.
    - ii. All decisions by the EBG Tournament Committee will be final.

# EBG Members Handbook

- iii. Conflict of Interest applies. If any member of the EBG Tournament Committee is involved in the infraction, he cannot be involved in the ruling decision process, except for initial discussion in describing the infraction. Ruling will defer to EC in this case.
4. **Pace of Play (POP) Improvement – 2023:** EBG will be implementing the following things this year in an effort to improve POP:
- g. All players are expected to follow proper etiquette and adhere to the pace of play guidelines suggested by the golf course. The course marshal will enforce pace of play. It is urged not to argue with the marshal.
  - h. If the marshal, makes a player or player(s) pick up their ball and/or skip a hole or holes, the following EBG rule applies:
    - i. Time and course permitting, the players will be allowed to go back and re-play the hole(s) skipped, without incurring a penalty.
    - ii. In the event that the hole(s) cannot be replayed, or the player chooses not to do so, then:
      - 1. In stroke play, the player(s) will be given a gross Penta (+5 from par) for that hole. That means 8 on a par 3, 9 on par 4, and 10 on par 5.
      - 2. In match play, the hole is considered halved.
  - i. **Scorecard Improvements and Time tracking:** Our scorecards will now include start and end round time and provide guidance on how many mins per hole each foursome should take to keep pace of play. It's each individual's responsibility in the foursome to play ready golf and keep up pace. Course Marshals can make you skip holes if they feel the group is not keeping pace of play. We will keep track of foursome's time and gather this data over tournaments for this coming year.
    - i. **Max Scores for Holes:** In an effort to improve POP, we're also going to introduce gross Penta (+5 from par) for tournaments. That means 8 on a par 3, 9 on par 4, and 10 on par 5. If you have reached the max number of strokes, please pickup your ball and put that score
    - ii. **Out of Bounds:** Take advantage of Model Local Rule E-5: "Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds"
      - 1. When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance. For two-penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping another ball from the fairway from where the ball went Out of Bounds.
      - 2. If you hit a bad shot where you think Local Rule E-5 would not be beneficial for where your ball was potentially lost, be sure to hit a provisional ball instead straight away
  - iii. **Looking for lost Ball:** Please limit to looking for your ball to 2-3 mins max, take a lost ball penalty if you're sure your ball has gone in deep rough, or thick vegetation. Always remember if you find your ball in a very bad lie you might end up taking more shots to get into position rather than taking an unplayable (if you see your ball in a bad spot) or lost ball penalty
  - j. **General Tips (straight out of NCGA booklet), please review and follow:**
    - i. Play ready golf Calculate your distance while your partner is getting ready to hit.
    - ii. If your golf cart partner has to look for his ball, drop him first and then go hit your ball.
    - iii. Player who's searching for ball should take clubs and a ball before his playing partner leaves to hit his ball. This way, after 3 mins, player should be ready to hit the ball.
    - iv. Don't worry too much about order of play, if your fellow-competitor is still contemplating

# EBG Members Handbook

- his/her shot or has hit a shot where he/she is still away, offer to go ahead and play your next stroke if ready.
- v. Without distracting the player hitting his/her shot, use this time to take practice swings, make club selection, get yardages, determine wind direction, read putts, etc.
  - vi. If riding in a cart, have one player dropped off, so the driver can go to his/her ball.
  - vii. If walking, go directly to your ball unless you are in a fellow-competitor's line of play.
  - viii. Don't lose sight of the group in front of you, if you are unable to see the group in front of you on a par 4 or par 5, you are most likely out of position.
  - ix. Call ahead if ordering food between nines.
  - x. Don't chat with your fellow-competitors when a golf shot can be played.
  - xi. Maximum of 3 minutes to look for a lost ball as per USGA rules. Other players may assist in searching for the lost ball but shall NOT hurry the player with ball search.
  - xii. Play ready golf. Calculate your distance while your partner is getting ready to hit.
  - xiii. If your golf cart partner has to look for his ball, drop him first and then go hit your ball.
  - xiv. Player who's searching for ball should take clubs and a ball before his playing partner leaves to hit his ball.
  - xv. This way, after 3 mins, player should be ready to hit the ball.

## k. Sample scorecard attached:

03/18/2023  
 Start Round Time: 8:00 AM  
 10th Hole Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_

EBG #3: Masters - Major  
 Yocha-De-He Golf Club at Cache Creek  
 BlueGolf

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total	PH	NET
YARDS	441	478	419	141	377	493	142	262	356	3109	472	378	394	200	370	360	153	460	414	3201	6310		
PAR	4	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	36	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	36	72		
Handicap	5	7	1	15	13	3	11	17	9	Local Time	6	14	16	10	8	12	18	4	2		Local Time		
Pace of Play	0:15	0:30	0:45	1:00	1:15	1:30	1:45	2:00	2:15		2:30	2:45	3:00	3:15	3:30	3:45	4:00	4:15	4:30				
Jawad Tareen																						23	

Online Scorer: Jawad Tareen  
 Paper Scorer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 End Round Time: \_\_\_\_\_

BGID Codes: Jawad Tareen PXDKD3

## 5. Disqualifications:

- l. Score Posting: If an incorrect score is submitted after the tournament round, it will result in a disqualification.
- m. Picking up the ball before putting it out on a hole (except when applying Rule 6.c or when gimmies are allowed) or not completing the round will result in disqualification.



# EBG Members Handbook

6. **Scorekeeping:** EC has established guidelines for scoring in EBG tournaments as follows:
  - n. If an incorrect score is submitted officially after the tournament round, it will result in a disqualification.
  - o. Designated official scorers will be assigned for both paper and electronic live leaderboard.
    - i. Designated scorer is NOT responsible for anything other than writing scores.
  - p. **Paper scorecards is official.** A score after each hole must be communicated to the paper scorecard keeper. If paper scorecard is not submitted after round, group will be disqualified per NCGA/USGA guidelines.
  - q. Official winner will be announced per paper scorecard. Once paper scorecard is submitted, cannot be reversed and/or scores cannot be changed. Incorrect paper scorecard submission penalty will be applied per USGA/NCGA/EBG.
  - r. Electronic Live Leaderboard: Use BlueGolf Scorecard app to enter the scores.
    - i. During rounds, no member outside of the foursome is allowed to remind other groups to enter scores into electronic leaderboard.
    - ii. Reach out to EC and/or TC if training is required on how to enter scores using electronic score leaderboard.
  - s. If a player thinks that another player has not counted the strokes correctly, that player can be asked again for a recount. If there's a controversy, put an asterisk (\*) next to the hole/score for discussion after the round with the EBG Rules Committee.
7. **Golf Etiquette:**
  - t. Please avoid any disruption to other players in your team or other groups during tournaments.
  - u. Any type of coaching or rushing the player to play the next shot is NOT allowed. Please be courteous towards other players.
  - v. If there are issues, please note and bring it to EBG Tournament Committee at the end of the tournament.
  - w. After a foursome has completed their round, they should exit the green area and not disturb the next foursome. Any discussions can be taken to the clubhouse area.
8. **Clubs:**
  - x. There can be a maximum of 14 clubs in a golf bag during ALL EBG tournaments.
  - y. The putter is considered one of the clubs.
  - z. Any player can request the other player at any time to count their clubs.
  - aa. If there are more than 14 clubs, 2 stroke penalty applies to the total score.
9. **GPS/Range Finders:** GPS/Range Finders are allowed on the course during all EBG rounds per USGA guidelines.
10. **Tie-Breaker process:** Applicable only to ALL EBG stroke play tournaments.
  - bb. USGA Tie breaker will be used in Blue Golf to determine positions for all stroke play tournaments.
11. **USGA RULES:** EBG players are responsible for learning and knowing the USGA rules.