

Carmichael Golf Club FAQ Sheet

December 2010

It has been close to 5 years since we provided a FAQ sheet concerning the Carmichael Golf Club (CGC) policies and guidelines. With 16 new members for 2011 to date, we thought this would be an appropriate time to update our FAQ sheet.

The line we try to walk is between competition (prizes for flights at events, year long statistical categories by flights) and the companionship and good spirit of a core playing group of 40-50 people that have played golf together for many years now. We try to keep the prizes to a minimal level to maintain some sanity – good natured ‘smack talk’ instead of a win at all costs, I’ll take you down anyway I can mentality. We know that can be a fine line, as each individual’s competitiveness can end up straying beyond what golf is truly about (the challenge within) to what most of us know and deal with in our day to day lives.

The following general topics (with specific Q&A’s within each topic) are covered below:

1. Communications leading up to an event
2. Payments
3. Day of Play
4. Posting Scores
5. CGC Year Long Statistical Categories

1. Communications leading up to an event

Q. How are CGC members notified of upcoming events?

A. Email is our primary form of communication of upcoming events. An email notification of an upcoming event, and a request for an email response of intent to play, will generally be the first notice. Within a week of the required deadline for providing a course the final head count of players for an event, a second email – listing those who have expressed an intent to play up to that point in time, will follow as a second notice.

1. Communications leading up to an event (continued)

Q. Can I still play in an event if I don't respond to the initial event requests?

A. That is dependent on the availability of spots for an event. In most cases, it is difficult to get additional starting times after providing a course a final player count for an event (generally required 1 to 2 weeks prior to an event). In some cases, the number of players committed to an event does not fill complete foursomes, so individual spots may be available up to the day of the event. If interested in or available to play in an event after the entry deadlines, you should contact Alan Rankin (contact information at the bottom of this FAQ sheet).

Q. How do I find out my tee time for an event?

A. Between Monday and Wednesday of the week of the event (example – event is Saturday the 10th, so between Monday the 5th and Wednesday the 7th) the starting time sheet will be entered on the website (www.carmichaelgolfclub.com). On the main page of the website, in the box on the right hand side where the event is listed with entry forms, the time shown will have an underline (link) – click on this link to go to the starting times. If you are unable to access this link, you then need to contact Alan or Debbie (contact information at the bottom of this FAQ sheet). We will only call members with starting times who do not have an active email address with the Club.

Q. What is the CGC's cancellation policy for an event?

A. Prior to 72 hours leading up to an event, cancellations will be refunded or applied to a future event. Within the last 72 hours, the member who cancels is responsible for finding a replacement if the CGC does not have a waiting list of players to fill an available spot. If the course requires payment for a cancelled and unfilled spot within the last 72 hours, the cancelled members' original entry payment will be used to cover this cost. If the course does not require payment for a cancelled and unfilled spot within the last 72 hours, entry will be either returned to the member or applied to a future event if requested by the member.

In certain events, some courses will have stricter guidelines on payment requirements. We will make every effort to inform members in advance if stricter requirements will be in effect for a particular event.

1. Communications leading up to an event (continued)

Q. What is the CGC's rainout policy for an event?

A. Golf courses, in scheduling tournament events, are providing their course to your group for a specified period of time (for weekend events, generally during peak times of the day). On potentially inclement weather days, our tournament is likely their major revenue source for that day. Almost all tournament contracts leave the decision on rainouts to the course – so except for the worst of weather conditions, expect the course to delay a final decision right up until the first scheduled tee time.

On the worst of weather days (especially where potentially hazardous weather is predicted), we will make every effort to get a confirmation of cancellation before players head out to the course on the day of the event. In most cases, however, you will need to come to the course and be prepared to play golf in less than ideal conditions.

If the course will not cancel a tournament on the day of the event, the course will likely also have the final say on whether they will charge for the full number of players committed – or if they will give some leeway in the event of players who choose not to play.

Financially, we will only charge members for costs we are charged by the course. Members need to understand, however, that many of these decisions are made by the course, not by the CGC.

2. Payments

Q. When should payments be made for an upcoming event?

A. Payments should be received prior to the day of an event. Almost all tournament contracts require final player count amounts to be paid prior to the day of the event – and while currently most courses will allow final payment on the day of the event, a handful of courses do require prior payment. Even if the CGC does not deposit personal checks until after an event, we should have the security of having payments in hand to make prior payments, if necessary.

Q. How are payments for events handled?

A. Checks are cashed after an event is completed – our experiences with cashing checks prior to the event have not gone smoothly when rainouts or cancellations occur. In cases where a refund is appropriate (rainout or cancellation where payment is not required to the course played), checks will either be returned to the member – or, at the request of the member, can be applied to a future event.

2. Payments (continued)

Q. Is a credit card or electronic funds transfer option for making payments available?

A. No, not at this time.

Q. Can I pay for entries or skins on the day of the event?

A. We will accommodate these payments occasionally, especially when a late entry makes receiving a payment in the mail in time for the event problematic. However, please consider two things when making this a more common practice – 1) payments are not cashed until after the event, there is no really good reason (saving the price of a stamp IS NOT a good reason) not to pay in advance, and 2) Alan is also there on the day of the event to play golf. Every occurrence of him collecting or paying out money prior to the round is taking away from his time to prepare for his round of golf. A little courtesy in this would be greatly appreciated!!

Q. How are prize payouts handled from an event?

A. Prize payouts are made in announcements at the course after scoring is completed after each event (except on multiple day ‘away’ trips, where payments are not made until after the trip). For members who win cash or gift certificates, but who have left prior to the prize payouts, we will maintain a listing of payouts not made and attempt to pay these out prior to the next event the member participates in. Mailings of payout winnings not received at an event will generally only happen twice a year – following our away trip and at the end of the year. We have found that many small amount checks written throughout the year don’t get cashed and clog up our check balances of the CGC checking account.

Q. How is the hole-in-one pot funded, and paid out?

A. The hole-in-one pot was funded initially from the Club’s general fund, at the agreed upon payout amount of \$1,000. When a hole-in-one is made, the fund reverts to \$500 – then re-generates back up to a capped amount of \$1,000 at a \$1 increment per player for each subsequent event. Therefore, if a hole-in-one is made while the pot is in the process of re-generating from \$500 to \$1,000, that hole-in-one would be worth what the pot is at entering that specific tournament, and then revert back to \$500 to start re-generating at the next event. We offer the payout in a lump sum or covering dues for subsequent years – amazingly, all 3 hole-in-ones in Club history have taken the lump sum payment!!

2. Payments (continued)

Q. How is the in-the-leather pot funded, and paid out?

A. The in-the-leather (in-the-leather is a tee shot, most likely on a par 3, that ends up within 25” of the hole (the distance of the putter head to the beginning of the leather grip) pot was funded initially from the Club’s general fund, at the agreed upon payout amount of \$50 for the shot, and an additional \$25 if the putt is made. We are able to maintain this fund at the constant dollar amount level described above.

3. Day of Play

Q. How are tees played determined for CGC events?

A. We are not a single-digit handicap dominated tournament group, and are much more committed to pace of play issues and enjoyment for our members - so we gravitate towards the base sets of tee options (generally 6,000-6,200 yards for Men, up to 5,400 for Women), based on the choices available at each course. However, we also utilize the handicap options provided by NCGA for playing from separate sets of tees – so will on occasion play different flights from different sets of tees on a particular day/course. The make up of the group (handicap range and number of players within each range) on a particular day will play a part in the sets of tees played for a particular event.

Q. How are flights determined for CGC events?

A. The make up of the group (handicap range and number of players within each range) on a particular day will play a major part in the number of flights for a particular event. The general goal is to have somewhere between 3 to 5 flights, with each flight having between 7 to 11 players – with as narrow a handicap range within the flight as possible. Having a similar number of players in each flight on a particular day is also considered (but not as strictly), to allow for some flexibility as needed (specifically related to tees being played, and adjusted handicaps between Men and Women from different tees, with different slopes/course ratings).

Q. How are handicaps determined for CGC events?

A. Per recommendations from NCGA, the CGC maintains each member’s index in CGC events only. For each CGC event, we take the member’s latest NCGA index and their index for CGC events only, and apply the lower of the 2 indexes for that particular event. Adjustments are made for members with fewer than 20 scores (either on their NCGA index or their CGC event index).

3. Day of Play (continued)

Q. Why are there not Women's flights?

A. In the early years of the CGC, the Women members were quite adamant that they did not want separate flights from the Men – they wanted to compete equally with the Men based on handicaps. With all the efforts made by the USGA and the NCGA to accurately capture handicaps via indexes, course rating and slopes from various tees, we have remained a strong proponent of playing together as a group – letting the distinctions being by handicap flights, not gender.

Q. How are skins determined?

A. At each event, within each flight, \$ 5 from every member who wishes to participate is put into a pool. Net scores are used for each hole for all members who pay into the pool – the number of holes won outright are divided by the pool to determine the skins payout for that flight for that event. Skins are paid out at a \$ 5 minimum per skin (a pool above that divides out to less than \$ 5 per skin is increased to \$ 5 per skin – and pools that average out to more than \$ 5 per skin are rounded to the nearest dollar). Skins are not determined by a carryover of holes between each winning hole.

4. Posting Scores

Q. Posting of CGC tournament scores?

A. The CGC Handicap Chairman posts CGC member scores from CGC events. They are posted as 'Away' scores, not 'Tournament' scores. Non-CGC members of NCGA need to post their own scores at CGC events. The goal is to have all CGC events posted before the next NCGA handicap reporting period (done the 1st and 15th of every month).

Q. Posting of regular golf scores?

A. If possible, scores should always be posted at the handicap computer located at each course. If you are unable to post at the golf course, CGC members are supposed to have access to the electronic posting capability provided through the NCGA website. If you find you are unable to post through this method, you can provide Alan (via email, at rankingolf@comcast.net) with the information for that day's round (day, course, tees played, equitable adjusted score) and he can post the score directly to NCGA.

5. CGC Year Long Statistical Categories

Q. What are the statistical categories?

A. There are 6 categories. One, Most Improved Golfer, is determined by a member's NCGA index over a 2 year period. The other 5 categories are based on CGC events during a particular year. These categories are 1) Golfer of the Year, 2) Adjusted Net Average, 3) Putting Average, 4) Greens In Regulation Average, and 5) Putts on Greens In Regulation Average.

Q. How are flights determined for year long statistical categories?

A. Based on the number of members in the CGC in a particular year, with each flight having between 15 to 20 members – the July 1 indexes are listed in numerical order and separated with an equal number of members in each flight (the First Flight being the lowest indexes, then Second Flight, etc.).

Q. Why did I get disqualified for a year end award?

A. Four of the categories are average based, and can be manipulated by not completing a CGC round. Therefore, not completing a CGC round started will disqualify a member from the average based awards. We do not differentiate between a round not completed due to physical injury vs. mental injury.

CGC website: www.carmichaelgolfclub.com

Alan/Deb home telephone (916-386-8132) and email (rankingolf@comcast.net)