



**GREATER TAMPA JUNIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION  
PLAYER'S HANDBOOK  
2017 - 2018**

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July 2, 2017

Dear Members,

On behalf of my fellow Board Members, it is with great pleasure that I welcome our players to the 40<sup>th</sup> season of GTJGA. Once again, we look forward to a year of great competition and camaraderie. Greater Tampa continues to provide a terrific opportunity to our young players to experience competition within our many Championship Golf Communities in the Tampa Bay area.

Our players not only learn to compete within GTJGA, but gain the courage to reach further and compete on the Florida Junior Tour, the Florida State Golf Association, the Hurricane Tour, the AJGA and possibly college. It's our mission to provide a competitive playing environment for these young people to prepare them for the bigger stage in golf and in life.

Special congratulations to our GTJGA Alumni who recently accepted college golf scholarships: Tyler Bray, Maryville College; Matthew Brown, University of South Florida; Estefania Guizar Diaz, Wingate University; Hannah Keller, Florida State University; Morgan Powers, King University and Matthew Zlotto, Springhill University. So proud of you all!!!

Sponsors make a huge difference!!! Over the past few years, we have made significant improvements to our website; we've partnered with BlueGolf, and invested in technology to help us provide an improved experience for our membership. In addition, we have a "Guardian Angel" Sponsorship and want to thank those who have responded. If you are interested in being a "Guardian Angel", Event Sponsor, or even our Annual Title Sponsor, please don't hesitate to speak with any Board Member or Penny Gallagly, our Executive Secretary. Every sponsor no matter how big or how small makes a difference in what we provide for our players.

Lastly, I want to thank all those volunteers who assist throughout the season. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated! Thank you for being part of our GTJGA family!  
I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Sincerely,

James Kyle, PGA  
President  
GTJGA Board of Directors



## **INTRODUCTION**

**Our Mission.** The mission of the Greater Tampa Junior Golf Association (“GTJGA”) is to encourage the development of Bay Area competitive junior golfers by providing an environment in which:

1. The junior golfer may learn the rules, etiquette, and gain experience by participating in competitive 9 hole tournament play; and,
2. May apply that knowledge and experience by participating in the highly competitive 18-hole tournament play in preparation for advanced competitive golf opportunities.

**What do we do?** The GTJGA conducts approximately 10 stroke-play tournaments during the traditional school year for juniors age 5 through 18 on a monthly basis (August-May). The GTJGA also conducts a match-play tournament for players in the 13-15 and 16-18 divisions.

**When are the tournaments held?** Our tournaments are scheduled on school holidays, Saturday or Sunday. ALWAYS CHECK YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL CALENDAR. The schedule is posted on our website, [www.gtjga.com](http://www.gtjga.com).

**What does it cost?** The annual membership fee is \$50 per child per season (\$25 for each additional family member). The season runs July 2 through June 30. Membership fees are not pro-rated. Tournament fees are \$38 per 18 hole event (\$33.00 second family member; \$28.00 each additional member) and \$25.00 per 9 hole event (\$20.00 second family member; \$15.00 each additional member). All entries and fees must be received by the specified deadline, typically 5 days prior to the event date. There will be a \$15.00 late fee after tournament registration deadlines. If payment of membership dues and/or tournament entry fees will result in a financial hardship, said fees may upon written request to the Board, may possibly be reduced. The member is responsible for any bank charges attributed to returned checks. All delinquent accounts must be settled in full in order to be accepted into future events.

**Refund Policy.** Requests for refunds prior to the registration closing date will be honored minus a \$5.00 administrative fee. There are **NO REFUNDS** in the event of withdrawal after registration has closed or in the case of a weather cancellation.

**What are the age groups?** The date of each tournament is used to determine players' age group.

Boys: 8 & under (Caddie REQUIRED)	Girls: 8 & under (Caddie REQUIRED)
9-10 (Caddie REQUIRED)	9-10 (Caddie REQUIRED)
11-12	11-12
13-15	13-15
16-18	16-18

Players start in the age bracket based on their birth date. Players must remain in the division in which they start the season unless they move up based on performance (see “Move Up Policy”)

**What are the yardages?** Tees are not set until the tournament staff arrives on site. Tournament set up can change, including yardages, to offset inclement weather, course guidelines or other course conditions (i.e. wet course conditions). Typical yardages are as follows:



Boys: 8 & U, 9 hole GTJGA Orange tees; Par 3: 50+/- yards Par 4: 125 +/- Par 5: 250+/- (1,300 yds +/-)  
9-10, 9 hole GTJGA Pink tees; Par 3: 100+/- yds Par 4: 200+/- Par 5: 300+/- (1,800 yds +/-)  
11-12, 18 hole middle tees (5,800 yds +/-)  
13-18, 18 hole back tees (6,500 yds +/-)

Girls: 8 & U, 9 hole GTJGA Orange tees; Par 3: 50+/- yds Par 4: 125+/- Par 5: 250+/- (1,300 yds +/-)  
9-10, 9 hole "GTJGA pink" tees, Par 3: 100 yards Par 4: 200 Par 5: 300 (1,800 yds +/-)  
11-12, 18 hole forward tees; (5,200 yds +/-)  
13-18, 18 hole middle tees (5,800 yds +/-)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **GENERAL RULES and POLICIES**

1. Junior membership in this Association shall be open to boys and girls who are at least five (5) years of age at the time of the first tournament played by the junior and eighteen (18) years of age or younger on or before August 31 of that tournament year regardless of whether such individual has his/her 19th birthday during said tournament year, whose applications for such membership are accepted by the Board of Directors. Players must be enrolled and in good standing in a public or private school or registered in a home education program in the twelfth grade or lower, or shall have completed the school year as such a student if a tournament is held after the school year is completed.
2. USGA rules will govern all play except where it is necessary to apply local rules. Decisions of the members of the Rules Committee will be final in all matters concerning the interpretation and enforcement of the Rules of Golf and the tournament rules of the Greater Tampa Junior Golf Association.
3. Pairings are determined by a random draw.
4. Spectators are expected to adhere to the same policies as players.
5. All participants and spectators are required to wear appropriate golf attire at all times while at the facility. Cut-offs, blue jeans, tank tops, leggings, and "short" shorts/skirts/skort (more than 5" above the knee or less than 5" inseam) are not considered proper golf attire. Please use discretion. Boys must wear collared shirts tucked in at all times. Mock neck collars are allowed unless specifically restricted by the host course. Hats are to be worn forward and should be



removed when entering a building. Boys may not wear earrings. Proper attire is required in order to appropriately represent GTJGA. Tournament officials will enforce this rule. The tournament committee will review unusual hair or clothing styles.

**NOTE: A violation of the above rule could result in the player being disqualified and being asked to leave the course.**

6. Time of Starting: "Tee Starts" - USGA Rule 6-3 shall be in effect. "Shotgun Start" - Any player not registered at the tournament site 15 minutes prior to the announced tournament starting time may be assessed a 2-stroke penalty. Any player who has not completed registration at the tournament site by the announced starting time will be disqualified.
7. The player must register at each tournament at the registration area. No one may register for the player. Tee Start: Scorecards will be distributed at the starting tee. Shotgun Start: Scorecards will be distributed at registration. A player must not keep his own scorecard. Scorecards must be attested and signed before returning scorecard to the scoring Committee.
8. The use of caddies by tournament contestants is prohibited. Exceptions: 9 hole divisions only.
9. Players, 18 hole divisions only, must walk at all times during play of the stipulated round. Exception: When deemed necessary, a Rules Official or a member of the Committee may transport or request assistance in transporting players. Penalties for breach of transportation: refer to Appendix I of the USGA Rules of Golf. Players in the 9 hole division can be shuttled.
10. Pull carts are permitted unless prohibited by host facility.
11. Use of tobacco, drugs, alcoholic beverages, or betting by players or spectators during any tournament is strictly prohibited. Players violating this policy will be disqualified. Spectators may be asked to leave the facility. Use of cell phones for "routine" verbal communication is prohibited on the course.
12. A two-stroke penalty may be assessed against any player for use of profanity or throwing of golf equipment during any tournament. These actions may be grounds for disqualification from the tournament by the Tournament Committee. In the event of intentional damage to any part of the golf course, the player may be disqualified from the event and, at the discretion of the Board, may forfeit GTJGA membership.
13. If a player finds he cannot compete in an event for which he has registered, he must withdraw 24 hours prior to the event by contacting GTJGA. In the event of illness, call GTJGA prior to your tee time. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE GOLF COURSE. If you cannot compete and do not withdraw, you will be deemed a "no show" (NS) and the following action will be taken:
  - You will not be accepted to participate in the next event.
  - In the event of a second offense, either an unjustified withdraw, unjustified no-card or no-show (see #14 below), you will not be allowed to participate in any GTJGA event for the remainder of the year.
  - A "no-show" for Match Play will be disqualified from the Tournament of Champions.



14. For an unjustified no card (NC) (i.e., no score card turned in) or unjustified withdraw (WD), players may be disciplined in the same manner as no shows (NS) (see #13). An example of an unjustified withdraw would be a player who does not finish their round because they are “playing poorly”.
15. Tournament contestants and spectators are reminded that they are the guests of the host club and exemplary conduct is expected. Any report of misconduct may be grounds for disqualification from the tournament by the Tournament Committee and will be reported to the Board of Directors. Please do not litter!
16. The number of winners eligible for awards within each age group will be determined by the Tournament Committee.
17. Rain-Out Policy: Tournament results within each age group will be based on only those holes completed by all players within the respective age group, with the following minimum hole requirements for trophies to be awarded:
  - Age brackets playing 9 holes must complete at least 6 holes.
  - Age brackets playing 18 holes must complete at least 9 holes.
18. Determination Of Winners And Places In GTJGA Events: In the event of ties; the first place winner within each age group will be determined by a hole-by-hole playoff. When a playoff is not possible for first place, or for determining second and third places, the USGA method of "matching scorecards" will be used to determine the placing of players: For 18 hole events, ties will be broken on the basis of the best score for the holes 10-18. If the tying players have the same score for the last 9 holes, determine the place based upon the last 6 holes (holes 13-18), last 3 holes (holes 16-18) and finally the 18th hole. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken by lot. For 9 holes events, ties will be broken on the basis of the best score for the last 6 holes. If the tying players have the same score for the last 6 holes, determine the place based upon the last 3 holes, and finally the last hole. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken by lot.
19. Weather Related Termination Of An Event: If the termination of an event is necessary due to weather the following procedure is implemented to determine a winner:
  - One-Tee Start for 18 hole event: The winner will be determined on the basis of the first 9 holes completed by all players in their respective age group. When all players in the age group have not completed the same 9 holes, there will not be a tournament winner in that age group.
  - Two-Tee Start or Shotgun Start for 18-hole event: The winner will be determined on the basis of the first 9 holes completed by all players in their respective age group. When all players in the age group have not completed the same 9 holes, there will not be a tournament winner in that age group.
  - One-Tee Start for 9-hole event: The winner shall be determined on the basis of the first 5 holes completed by all players in their respective age group. When all players in an age group have not completed the same 5 holes, there will not be a tournament winner in that age group.



- Two-Tee or Shotgun Start for 9-hole event: The winner will be determined on the basis of the first 5 holes completed by all players in their respective age group. When all players in an age group have not completed the same 5 holes, there will not be a tournament winner in that age group
20. Decisions of the Committee will be final in all matters concerning the tournament rules and policies of the Greater Tampa Junior Golf Association.
  21. Lightning policy (USGA Rule 6-8): **All players are responsible for determining danger from lightning. At any point if you feel threatened by lightning, you should immediately head for safety.** You are not required to wait for play to be suspended by the Committee. In the event that play is suspended by the Committee for a "**dangerous situation**" (one prolonged siren or air-horn note), **ALL PLAY SHALL IMMEDIATELY STOP.** You do NOT have the option of completing the hole.
  22. Metal or traditionally designed spikes PROHIBITED. Penalty - disqualification.
  23. Distance *ONLY* measuring devices PERMITTED.

## **SPECTATOR GUIDELINES**

The GTJGA will strictly enforce spectator rules in conjunction with the GTJGA tournaments. These spectator rules are consistent with those of the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA), the Florida Junior Tour (FJT) and other national junior tours and tournaments. Because the GTJGA is a "learning platform" for this arena, enforcement is consistent with these national and state organizations.

*Parents and other interested persons are encouraged to be spectators. Upon the request of the Rules Committee, or any member thereof, the Board of Directors shall have the right to indefinitely suspend any parent or other spectator for any violation of the Association's Spectator Rules or for any unsportsmanlike behavior or other conduct which, in the opinion of the Board, is inconsistent with the Association's purposes or is intended to interfere with the operation of the Association and its committees*

### **General Spectator Policies**

NOTE: Cell phones (on vibrate only) should not be used for "routine" verbal communications on the course.

1. A player may not receive any advice from any spectator(s). It is the player's responsibility to make sure spectators do not cause the player a violation. A few examples are:
  - Verbal communication with the player (see exceptions below under #2).
  - Hand signals to the player, including gestures to influence player decisions.
  - Providing players with written material.
  - Positioning yourself to assist the player with aim and/or alignment.



**NOTE: If a violation of the above occurs, the appropriate penalty under the rules of golf will be applied to the player.**

2. Spectators who need to talk with player(s) i.e. for health reasons, sunscreen, water, etc. must do so in front of other spectators and/or other players. Spectators are permitted to carry food, drinks, medicine and rain equipment. **Conversations with players shall not occur during play of the hole. Conversation with players during play of the hole or without other spectators or players being present will be deemed “giving advice”. The player may be subject to a 2 stroke penalty.**
3. **If possible, spectators must stay a minimum of 25 yards from the players.**
4. **Do not lag behind the players and stay off the fairway**, as this often prevents the next group from being able to hit their shots. Ideally, the **spectators should be in front of their group, observe from the cart path or “rough”**, move forward to the green when all shots have been completed, and **observe the putting green from a reasonable distance that will not interfere with the players.**

Exceptions: (a) Players in 9 hole divisions MUST have ONLY one caddie at a time.  
(b) All others are considered spectators and are subject to the spectator policy.

5. **Spectators should NEVER be on the putting green.**
6. Spectators are encouraged to be in front of their group and may assist in searching for lost balls. Do not search while in a cart – get out of the cart and search on foot.

#### **Spectator Golf Cart Rules (when use of carts is permitted)**

1. Spectator carts MUST stay on cart path or in the rough – NOT IN A FAIRWAY.
2. Carts may only move forward on the golf course (from tee to green) – NOT BACKWARDS ON THE COURSE - except in case of a course evacuation.
3. Carts may not move while players are playing a stroke.
4. **Only 2 people (adults) per cart are allowed except during a course evacuation.**
5. Spectator cart shuttling is prohibited in the 18 hole divisions; however, spectator carts shall be used to assist with a course evacuation of players and spectators or any other time when requested by the Committee.

**NOTE: A violation of the above rules could result in the elimination of cart usage by the spectator.**

#### **Spectator Dress Code**

To be allowed on the course as a spectator, you MUST be attired in accordance with the GTJGA dress code. This is the same dress code required of our players. Appropriate golf attire must be worn - tailored slacks or shorts, collared shirts for men tucked in at all times.





Examples of INAPPROPRIATE Attire:

Blue jeans, bike shorts, leggings, tank tops, tee shirts, midriff tops, halter tops, sports bras, short shorts or skirts (more than 5" above knee or less than 5" inseam), hats worn backwards and earrings for males.

**NOTE: A violation of the above rules could result in the spectator being asked to leave the course.**

### **PLAYING BRACKETS – “MOVE-UP” POLICY**

Players start in the age bracket based on their birth date. If a player has earned the right to play in an older age group the previous year, the player may elect to begin the new season in that older division. However, a player who elects to move up at the beginning of the year (or his first tournament) may not move down in age division for the remainder of the year, including the Tournament of Champions. Players wishing to elect this option must state their intentions on the application. A player in the older age of the age bracket who won his division in the previous year's Tournament of Champions may elect to move up. If a player at the top age of the bracket (ex. 10 year old in 9-10 bracket) wins once, he is moved up to play in the next age bracket. Players at the younger ages in the bracket, (ex., 9 year olds), need two wins to move up to the next bracket. Once a player has moved up, if he fails to place 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> in two consecutive tournaments, he may return to his previous bracket at the player's request. If a player does place 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>, the player must remain in the higher division. Options to move back down in monthly tournaments must be clearly noted on the Tournament Application. No changes will be allowed on the day of a tournament. For the Tournament of Champions, the player must compete in his current age division unless he chooses to move up again to a higher age bracket for which he has qualified at any time during the current season. He may not play in a younger division even if he qualified in that division prior to his birthday.

A player who wins twice in the higher age bracket can choose between moving up one more bracket, or remaining in the current bracket (i.e., an 9 year old who wins twice in the 11-12 division may elect to move to the 13-15 division). All rules apply to the division being played - not the age of the participant.

A player who does not wish to move up as required to the higher age division after winning may remain in the lower division, **HOWEVER, he must play in the next two tournaments as a marker and his score will not be posted or considered for awards. Following those two tournaments, he may have his score posted and may resume his role of competitor.**

Players in the 8 & under divisions are not required to be subject to the move up policy. Players may petition the Board for move up into the 9-12 division. The Board would consider the policy and the player's scores. Typically, the Board would allow a player posting scores of bogey golf or less to move up. The Board reserves the right to move up a player of exceptional playing ability, i.e., playing consistently at less than bogey golf, based on the above policy.

### **Developmental Series**

All membership applications for players 10 and younger will be reviewed. In the interest of providing a positive learning experience, if a player does not possess sufficient playing ability to compete in the main events, they will be placed in the Developmental Series.



Sufficient playing ability is represented by a scoring average of less than 55 on a regulation par 36 (or 35) 9-hole course. If the applicant can provide a verifiable tournament scoring average of less than 55, they will be placed in the main events. Players with a scoring average above 55 or no tournament experience must enter the Developmental Series tournaments.

If at any point the scoring average of a player in the main events rises to 55 or greater, they will be placed in the Developmental Series for their following tournaments until their scoring average drops to below 55. Players in the Developmental Series can move into the main events by improving their scoring average to below 55.

Players in the Developmental Series are not eligible for the Tournament of Champions.

Developmental Series age groups are as follows:

- 9 & over boys (GTJGA pink tees)
- 9 & over girls (GTJGA pink tees)
- 8 & under coed (GTJGA orange tees)

Players in the developmental series are allowed to have one (1) caddie. Caddies must follow all rules and guidelines for caddies and will be subject to the same disciplinary actions as outlined in the Player's Handbook. Parents/caddies should work together to show good sportsmanship and show their players how to accept winning and losing. The emphasis is on fun and gaining tournament experience.

The following modifications have been made to the USGA Rules of Golf for all Development Series Divisions:

1. Players may ride in carts from green to tee, but must walk during the play of the hole. Caddies may put their player's bag on the back of a cart.
2. All whiffs count but accidental touching or moving of the ball does not.
3. The player should be responsible for filling out their scorecard to prepare for playing in main events and in more advanced junior golf, but caddies should verify the completion of scorecards and accuracy of the scores.
4. In the interest of pace of play and to avoid a frustrating experience, the maximum strokes to reach the green are as follows: ("double par")
  - Par 3 – 6 strokes
  - Par 4 – 8 strokes
  - Par 5 – 10 strokesIn order to allow the player to complete play of the hole and to avoid future rules infractions (i.e., not holing out), after reaching the maximum total strokes, the ball should be placed on the front of the green and played out, with all putts contributing to the final score on the hole.
5. The player may ground his/her club in the bunker. The player is permitted a maximum of two (2) strokes to get out of the bunker. After the two (2) strokes, if the ball is still in the bunker, the player should drop the ball outside of the bunker, without penalty, no closer to the hole.



However, please inform the player that this is only a GTJGA procedure for this division. Then, inform the player the proper procedure under the Rules of Golf.

- 6. After hitting two (2) shots into a water hazard or lateral water hazard, the player may drop the ball either (a) for a water hazard (yellow line) on the green-side of the hazard or (b) for a lateral hazard (red line) in a position where the hazard is not in line of flight. ALL PENALTY STROKES COUNT.

**NOTE: When a player uses any of these procedures, the total score on that hole must be circled.**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

In addition to qualifying for the TOC by placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd, players in all age divisions will also have the opportunity to accumulate points during the season. All players who accumulate 10 or more points during the season will qualify for the TOC. Points will be awarded as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> - qualified	4 <sup>th</sup> - 7 points	7 <sup>th</sup> - 4 points	9 <sup>th</sup> - 2 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> - qualified	5 <sup>th</sup> - 6 points	8 <sup>th</sup> - 3 points	10 <sup>th</sup> - 1 point
3 <sup>rd</sup> - qualified	6 <sup>th</sup> - 5 points		

Please note that points will only be awarded to those finishing in the top half of the field. For example, if the age division has 12 players than points will be award to only the top six players. Should the top half the field consist of more than 10 players those players finishing below 10th place will receive one point.

The Harris Armstrong Memorial Match Play Champion and Runner Up will automatically qualify for the TOC. Additional points may be awarded to match play participants on a scale to be published prior to the event. In the event that this event is played after the TOC, qualification and additional points will be awarded in the upcoming membership/tournament season.

Invitations for the TOC will be mailed out in early April to those players already qualifying for the TOC. Players that qualify for the TOC after this date will have their invitation mailed to them the week after the event at which they qualified.

**YEAR END AWARDS**

Players in the 13-15 and 16-18 divisions are eligible for the following awards:

Player of the Year: Awarded to one boy and one girl, the Player of the Year is determined by a points system. Points are earned during regular season play in the following manner: Results for 13-15 and 16-18 divisions for each tournament are combined. The player with the overall low score is awarded 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest score is awarded 3 points and the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest score is awarded 1 point. In the event of ties, players with like scores would be awarded equal points. In addition, the match play champion will be awarded 5 points, and the match play runner-up will be awarded 3 points.



Medalist: Awarded to one boy and one girl, the player with the single lowest score during regular season events will be honored as medalist.

Overall Champion: Awarded to one boy and one girl participating in the Tournament of Champions; players in the 13-15 and 16-18 divisions will have scores combined. The player with lowest 2 day total score will be the Overall Champion and will be awarded possession of the travelling trophy for one year.

Harris Armstrong Memorial Match Play Champion: Awarded to the boy and girl winners of Match Play, the Champion will be awarded possession of the travelling trophy for one year.

### **FJT – STEP EXEMPTIONS**

GTJGA is associated with the Florida Junior Tour's STEP Program. One FJT exemption will be awarded to the Boys 16-18, Boys 13-15 and overall Girls 13-18 winner of each regular season tournament. If either Boys division falls below 5 players, one FJT exemption will be awarded to the overall winner of the combined groups. Additional exemptions are awarded to TOC and Match Play winners. Please note that FJT exemptions are not "free entries" and do not guarantee acceptance into an FJT event. For complete details, players should refer to the FJT website ([www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org)).

### **RULES FOR ADVANCED TEE PLAYERS**

For the **9 hole divisions**, the emphasis is on fun and learning the rules and etiquette of golf. Parents/caddies should work together to show good sportsmanship and show their players how to accept winning and losing.

1. Players may not ride in carts during play from tee to green; however, to speed play, **players may ride from green to tee.**
2. Whiffs count but accidental touching or moving of ball does not.
3. The caddie may keep score for the player - **check scores with other caddies after each hole.** A **PLAYERS** must review their scores prior to returning to the Scoring Committee. There must be a minimum of two signatures or initials – competitor's and marker's – on the player's scorecard.

**Maximum total strokes per hole to reach green:** ("double par")

- Par 3 - 6 strokes
- Par 4 - 8 strokes
- Par 5 - 10 strokes

After reaching the maximum total strokes on a hole, a ball may be placed on the front of the green and Played thereby allowing the player to complete play of the hole.

**NOTE: When a player uses this GTJGA procedure, the total score on that hole must be circled.**

**Ball in Bunker:** Player may ground his/her club in the bunker. The player is permitted a **maximum of two (2) strokes** to get out of the bunker. **After the two (2) strokes**, if the ball is still in the bunker, drop



the ball outside of the bunker, without penalty, no nearer the hole. However, please inform the player that the above is only a GTJGA procedure for advanced tee players. Then, please inform the player the proper/correct procedure under the Rules of Golf.

**NOTE: When a Player uses this GTJGA “bunker” procedure, the total score on that hole must be circled.**

**Water Hazards:** After hitting two shots into a water hazard, the player may drop on the “green-side” of the water hazard. i.e. - If the first shot is hit into the water hazard, a ball is dropped on the “hazard-side” adding a penalty stroke. The player will be hitting his/her third shot. If the third shot is hit into the water hazard, the ball is then dropped on the “green-side” adding a penalty stroke. The player will be hitting their fifth shot.

**NOTE: When a player uses this GTJGA “Water Hazard” procedure, the total score on that hole must be circled.**

**Lateral Water Hazards and Out of Bounds:** Play by the USGA Rules of Golf.

### **GTJGA CADDIE POLICIES**

GTJGA feels that the participation of caddies in its Boys and Girls 9 hole divisions will help young golfers learn to apply the etiquette and basic rules of the game while helping the youngest of our participants learn about competitive play in preparation to become "independent" golfers.

It is important that the **caddies understand their position as role models not only for their own player, but for all of the players in these groups.**

Caddie Roles and Responsibilities:

1. The primary role for the caddies of our young golfers is to:
  - a. Carry the competitor’s clubs,
  - b. Assist with club selection and yardage determination while maintaining the pace of play,
  - c. Teach basic etiquette (i.e., being quiet during another players swing, not walking in another player’s line of putt, exemplifying good sportsmanship).
2. **It Is NOT the role of the caddie to act as a rules official for his or any other player.** When in doubt as to potential rule or procedure, play should continue under USGA Rule 3-3 “Doubt as to Procedure” and obtain a ruling from a rules official when next practical. This will keep the pace of play moving appropriately.
3. The player is ultimately responsible for their score and should be the one recording scores on the official scorecard. Caddies may assist this procedure by assuring that the proper score is written legibly.
4. **IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO USE TOURNAMENT PLAY AS A “LESSON SESSION” THE CADDIE MUST NOT WORK ON SWING MECHANICS or OVER-COACH THE JUNIOR DURING THE COMPETITIVE ROUND.**



**The Board reserves the right to suspend a caddie for violation of the above policies.**

### **GTJGA PACE OF PLAY POLICY**

Rule 6-7 states, in part: "The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with the pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the Committee," and thereafter prescribes penalties for slow play. In order to prevent any such penalty, we suggest that you review carefully the following guidelines.

**Allotted Time:** Matches/groups will be required to play at no more than the allotted time published for the event. The allotted time for each course will be determined prior to each event and posted in a prominent location at the tournament site.

**Definition Of "Out Of Position":** The first match/ group(s) to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the match/group is behind their allotted time. Any following group will be considered out of position if it **(a)** is taking more than the allotted time to play **and (b)** reaches the teeing ground of a par-3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee; reaches the teeing ground of a par-4 and the putting green is clear; or reaches the teeing ground of a par-5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a match/group to be out of position.

**Match/Group Notification:** Matches/groups WILL BE NOTIFIED when they are out of position prior to being timed.

**Timing:** A match/group may be monitored or timed for compliance with this pace of play guideline if it is "out of position." When a match/group is "out of position", a player in the match/group is expected to play any stroke within 40 seconds.

NOTE: A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke. An extra 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for:

- (a) The first player to play a stroke from the teeing ground.
- (b) The first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole.
- (c) The first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole.
- (d) The first player to play a stroke around the putting green.
- (e) The first player to play a stroke on the putting green.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when he has had a reasonable opportunity to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.



**NOTE:** The Committee reserves the right, at any time, to time a match/group when the Committee deems it necessary. Players should also be aware that the Committee may assess a “bad time” to a player in a match/group which is out of position if the player makes no effort to help his match/group get back in position. An example of this would be a player who unduly delays play between shots.

**Concerned Players And Appeals:** A player concerned about slow players in a group should first remind that player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may, before or after penalties are assessed, request an Official to monitor the group.

**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 a player’s stroke begins:

**Stoke Play:** First bad timing – Warning; a second bad timing – one penalty stroke; a third ball timing – two penalty strokes; a fourth bad timing – disqualification.

**Match Play:** First bad timing – warning; a second bad timing – loss of hole; a third bad timing – warning; a fourth bad timing – disqualification.

NOTE: If the match/group in question regains its proper position, any previous timing of more than the allotted time will be carried over for the remainder of that round in the event that match/group requires additional monitoring.

**Rulings Or Other Incidents:** If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes a match/group in question to lose its position, that match/group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

## **LOCAL RULES AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION**

The current USGA Rules of Golf govern play. See applicable Notice to Players and GTJGA Policies for additional Local Rules and Conditions. Complete text of Rules and Appendix I may be found in the current “Rules of Golf.” Disregard Local Rules printed on club scorecards and/or posted at the course. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: Match play -- Loss of hole; Stroke play -- Two strokes.

### **Out of Bounds:**

- a) Defined by inside points, at ground level, of white stakes, lines, and perimeter fence posts.
- b) When the inside edge of a paved road or curb defines out of bounds, a ball that is on or beyond the road or curb is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the golf course.

**Water Hazards And Lateral Water Hazards:** When a water hazard or a lateral water hazard is bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

**Ground Under Repair:** Defined by white lines and/or signs. Other areas of ground under repair, even when not marked, include:

- a) French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like)



- b) Fire ant hills (Note: For a player whose ball is in a water hazard and is affected by a fire ant hill, see Decision 1-4/10)

**Sod Seams:** Through the green, sod seams (not the sod itself) are deemed to be ground under repair, and relief is available under Rule 25-1 if the ball lies in or touches a sod seam or a sod seam interferes with the area of intended swing. All seams within the sodded area are considered the same seam.

**Obstructions And Integral Parts Of The Course:**

- a) White lined areas tying into obstructions are part of the obstruction.
- b) When located within hazards, artificial walls and pilings are integral parts of the course unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Players.
- c) When closely attached to trees, wrappings, electrical wire, and cables are integral parts of the course

**Loose Impediments:** Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments

**Spike Policy:** The use of traditional metal spikes is PROHIBITED. Penalty for Breach: Disqualification

**Distance Measuring Devices allowed (distance only).**

**Match Play** – At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round – Two holes.

**Embedded Ball Through The Green:** Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**Turf Plugs:** On putting greens, turf plugs have the same status as old hole plugs and may be repaired under Rule 16-1c.

**List Of Conforming Driver Heads:** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**List Of Conforming Golf Balls:** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**Pace Of Play:** The GTJGA “TIMING” Policy is in effect.

**Suspension Of Play Due To A Dangerous Situation:** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open.

**Signals For Suspension Of Play:**

- a) Suspension for a dangerous situation: One prolonged siren or air-horn note.
- b) All other types of suspension: Three consecutive air-horn notes.
- c) Resumption of play: Two air-horn notes.





**Official Event:** In all GTJGA tournaments, an official event may be constituted by reverting to the results of an earlier round (eighteen holes) or for one-day events, players in their respective division having completed the same holes may constitute an official event.

**Close Of Competition:** The competition is deemed to have closed when the winner has been announced, or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.