



Bensalem Golf Association

2019 Constitution and Bylaws

Article I - Mission Statement/ Purpose

The Bensalem Golf Association (BGA) was established in 2002 and was designed to bring people of the club together in an organized manner while continuing the growth of the social community of the club. The BGA provides golfers the chance of all ages, gender, and skill level to participate in social and competitive golf. The BGA will be governed by a Committee made up of members of the BGA. The Committee will conduct club activities and competitions with the assistance from the Professional Staff.

Article II - Membership

1. Membership shall not have a minimum number of members and is open to all persons.
2. Membership confers no voice in the operation of the course, clubhouse nor any other facility of the course.
3. Members of the BGA shall not commit any acts which The Committee or golf course management deems unacceptable of club membership. If a member refuses or neglects to comply with the rules and regulations adopted by The Committee or course management, the member shall be subject to disciplinary action not limited to suspension or expulsion.
4. The BGA shall have no voting members and all the business affairs of the BGA shall be conducted by The Committee.
5. All BGA policies, procedures, membership dues and tournament fees shall be established by The Committee and may be changed from time to time as deemed necessary.

Membership shall be available to all individuals. Classes of membership are the following:

1. Gold Member - Eligible for all tournaments and EOY Banquet/ Gift

2. Silver Member - Eligible for all tournaments.
3. Junior Member (All persons under the age of 21 before April 1st of each calendar year). - Eligible for all tournaments.

Membership entitles each member to the following privileges:

1. Members may make a tee time two weeks in advance.
2. Members receive 10% off most merchandise in the golf shop, with additional discounts on rounds of golf.
3. Members are eligible to compete in all BGA events. These events include GAP Team(s), Friday Night League, All weekend tournaments, BGA Cup, and Club Championship.
4. Gold Members only are entitled to the BGA End of the Year Banquet/ Gift.
5. All members receive a GHIN handicap with the USGA.

Article III - BGA Committee

1. The Committee shall have a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Handicap Chairperson. Only one person is eligible for each position. If necessary and voted by The Committee, additional committee members may be added.
2. The Director of Golf at Bensalem Township Country Club shall be an advisor to The Committee, or a member(s) of his staff which he assigns to take his position.
3. Committee members are volunteers who are voted by BGA members at the beginning of each season. There are no term limits as to how many times the same person can run for a position.
4. Should a BGA member wish to have a Committee Member removed over a serious matter, the member shall notify The Committee, who will call the remaining members of The Committee. The member who called for the vote and The Committee Member in question shall have the opportunity to speak to the remaining Committee members. All remaining Committee members must be in favor in order to dismiss the Committee member in question from The Committee.
5. Committee meetings shall be scheduled as necessary. Any BGA member may attend a Committee meeting, but do not have any voting privileges at the meetings.
6. The Committee may alter or amend bylaws or repeal and adapt new bylaws by a majority vote.

Article IV - Financials

1. A bank account in the name of the BGA will be kept to hold all funds for the BGA.
2. Banking and financial records will be kept by the Treasurer and are available for review per request.

Article V - GAP Team

GAP Teams: Playing for the GAP Team is based upon handicap. GAP Matches are a great way to play other clubs in the area and socialize with their members.

1. The Golf Shop will be responsible for the line-ups and the placing of players home or away. The Golf Shop will also pick an away captain to represent the club and help with anything asked by The Golf Shop.
2. To be eligible to participate in GAP Team Matches, you must be a fully paid member of the BGA before GAP matches begin, have been a BGA member for at least one year, and have played in at least two weekend tournaments, or two of the following combinations of events:
 - a. Four Friday Night Scrambles.
 - b. Club Championship *or* BGA Cup - do not have to qualify for a flight, but must not Withdraw or be Disqualified in the qualifying round.
 - c. Weekend Tournament.
3. BGA Members are representatives of Bensalem Township Country Club. Any BGA Member showing poor behavior/sportsmanship may be suspended from any GAP team matches.
4. All GAP matches shall be posted by members as *Tournament Scores*.

Article VI -Tournaments

Member Tournaments: Include Weekend 18 Hole events, Friday Night League, Club Championship, BGA Cup, and special events sanctioned by the BGA.

1. To be eligible to participate in any event you must be a fully paid member of the BGA, unless announced by The Committee that guests are allowed.
2. Depending on the tournament, a percentage of a player's handicap will be used for all tournaments with net scores.

3. Men will play the white tees in all tournaments, Seniors (if eligible) may play from the gold tees, and all Ladies will play from the red tees. Championship Flight in Club Championship will play from the blue tees.
4. To be eligible for the gold tees, you must be over 65 years old with a course handicap of 15 or higher (established from the white tees). Any person over 70 years old may play the Gold tees regardless of handicap.
5. BGA members who are non-amateurs (professionals) are allowed to participate in weekend events and the Friday night league, but are not allowed to compete in the Club Championship, BGA Cup, or GAP matches.
6. All members are eligible to compete in 2 separate flights for the club championship, as long as each flight is played from a different tee box and you meet the eligibility requirements. For example, a person may qualify for the 2nd Flight and Championship Flight, since one is played from the white tees, and the other is played from the blue tees. The maximum number of flights a person may compete in is two.
7. Club Championship rounds must be completed by scheduled dates. Conflicts between opponents or failure to play matches by the scheduled dates will be brought to the attention of The Committee. Playing in two flights is not an excuse to miss the deadline dates. A personal injury/problem is not an excuse to miss the deadline date or allow for extra time. The Committee may force a scheduled date for matches if opponents cannot settle on a date to play.
8. BGA Cup rounds must be completed by scheduled dates. Conflicts between opponents or failure to play matches by the scheduled dates will be brought to the attention of The Committee. A personal injury/problem is not an excuse to miss the deadline date or allow for extra time. No substitution of partners will be allowed if a person is unable to play. The Committee may force a scheduled date for matches if opponents cannot settle on a date to play. Note: Players allowed to play a match without their partner, but may not substitute another person to take their spot.
9. Members who have not established a handicap may participate in the Friday night league and Weekend Tournaments. If they do not have an established handicap, they may only compete in the Championship Flight for the Club Championship. An established handicap is required to enter sub-championship flight divisions or net divisions.
10. All winners and payouts will be determined by The Committee.

Handicap requirements: Each BGA member is given an official USGA Handicap through the GHIN system.

1. All members are required to post *all* scores, unless the format of the round restricts players from posting.
2. If there is reason to believe that BGA members are not posting scores, it will be brought up to The Committee for further review, which may lead to the reduction in strokes given for future tournaments as the penalty.
3. The USGA Handicap System rules specify that a player's course handicap is computed based on the slope and rating of the tee being played. Additionally, it is required that Section 3-5 is applied so that proper adjustments can be made to account for the difference in course ratings on the different tees being played. This rule will be in effect for all weekend tournaments and will be adjusted from the white tees.

a. How it works:

- i. Player A is a male senior player who is playing in a Better Ball tournament (100% handicapped) and he has a 9.1 Handicap Index. This means his Course Handicap is as follows:

White Tees: 10

Gold Tees: 9

- ii. If Player A decides to play the White tees in this tournament, his handicap will be a 10, and he will receive 10 strokes in this event.
- iii. If Player A decides to play the Gold tees in this tournament, his handicap will be a 9, but we need to include the reduction based on Rule 3-5. To figure this out, you subtract the Gold Tee Course Rating from the White Tee Course Rating.

White Tees CR	68.7
Gold Tees CR	65.7
Course Adjustment	3.0

- iv. Player A will now make the 3-5, by subtracting the adjustment from his Gold Tee Handicap: Gold Tee Handicap - Course Adjustment = Strokes received.

So, 9 (Gold Tee) - 3 (Adjustment) = 6 (Strokes Received)

Player A will receive 6 strokes in this event.

Hole-In-One Club: Optional for BGA Members

The BGA Committee organizes a hole-in-one contest for all BGA members. Any member who wishes to participate must pay \$10. If a person who records an ace during a weekend tournament, Friday league night, or Club Championship/BGA Cup qualifying round or match, that person will receive the pot. If no one accomplishes this at the end of the season, The Committee will randomly draw names at the end of the year banquet for the pot.

Madison Cup:

The Madison Cup is a season long event where players accumulate points based on participation and performance in all BGA events. The person with the most points at the end of the season is our Madison Cup Champion. The point system for each event is as follows:

Friday Night Scramble	
Participation	2 points
Winner	2 points
Play 75% of all FNS Bonus	10 points
Play 100% of all FNS Bonus	20 points

BGA Tournaments	
Participation	5 points
Winners	
1st Place	3 points
2nd Place	2 points
3rd Place	1 Point
Play All Tournaments Bonus	15 points

Club Championship	
Participation	10 points
Qualified (1 flight max)	3 points
Flight Winner	5 points
2nd Place Winner	2 points

BGA Cup	
Participation	10 points
Qualified	3 points
Winner	5 Points
2nd Place Winner	2 Points

Tournament Formats

The Committee decides on the tournament formats in the beginning of each season. The Committee may add any tournaments or change any events i.e. adding string rule, etc.

Stableford: Players will play their own ball into the hole and will be rewarded points based off of their net score for each hole. Committee will decide each season if there are 2 person or 4 person teams. Blind draw of partners is an option as well. 100% Handicap.

Double Eagle	5 points
Eagle	4 points
Birdie	3 points
Par	2 points
Bogey	1 point
Double Bogey or Worse	0 points

Tie Breaker - Back Nine score, Holes 13-18 score, Holes 16-18 score, Hole 18 score, split.

Six-Six-Six: Three different formats are played every six holes. Each team will be comprised of an A, B, C, and D player. 90% Handicap.

First 6 holes - Individual stroke play. Best 3 of 4 net scores are used.

Second 6 holes - Modified Scramble. Best 3 of 4 net scores are used

Third 6 holes - Scramble. Gross score for the team is used.

Tie Breaker - First 12 holes score, First 6 holes score, First 3 holes score, Hole 16 score, split.

Better Ball of Partners: Two person teams. Teams are placed into flights. If a team has a player with a handicap of 10 or less, they are automatically placed in the first flight. Best net score is used for each team. 90% Handicap.

Tie Breaker - Back Nine score, Holes 13-18 score, Holes 16-18 score, Hole 18 score, split.

Modified Scramble: Four person teams. Each person hits a tee shot. The team will select the best drive, and each person will play his/her own ball into the hole. Best 3 of 4 net scores are used. 90% Handicap. Minimum drives may or may not be applied.

Tie Breaker - Back Nine score, Holes 13-18 score, Holes 16-18 score, Hole 18 score, split.

Individual Better Ball (Blind Draw): Option to pick your own foursome to play with. Each person will play his/her ball into hole. After the round, each person will be assigned a random partner, and the best net score will be used for each team. 90% Handicap.

Tie Breaker - Back Nine score, Holes 13-18 score, Holes 16-18 score, Hole 18 score, split.

Two Person Scramble: Players may choose their own partners. Each player hits a tee shot. Teams select the best shot, and continue this process until the ball is holed. All teams will be placed into flights. If a team has a player with a handicap of 10 or less, that team will be placed in the first flight. Team handicap will be determined by USGA recommended formula:

$$\text{Team handicap} = \text{A Player Hdcp} * 35\% + \text{B Player Hdcp} * 15\%$$

Tie Breaker - Back Nine score, Holes 13-18 score, Holes 16-18 score, Hole 18 score, split.

Four Person Scramble: Each player will receive an A, B, C, and D player. Each player hits a tee shot. Teams select the best shot, and continue this process until the ball is holed. Team handicap will be determined by USGA recommended formula:

$$\text{Team Handicap} = (20\%*A) + (15\%*B) + (10\%*C) + (5\%*D)$$

Chapman Alternate Shot: Two person teams. Player A and B each hit a tee shot. Player A and B switch balls, and hit their second shot. The team will then select the best ball to play, and alternate shots into the hole. Team handicap will be determined by USGA recommended formula:

$$\text{Team Handicap} = 60\% (A) + 40\% (B)$$

Easy As 1,2,3: Four person teams. Each player will play his or her own ball. On all par 5's, the one best net score will count for the team score. On all par 4's, the two best net scores will count for the team score. On all par 3's, the three best net scores will count for the team score. 100% Handicap.

Friday Night Scramble: Nine-hole scramble. Each player will receive an A, B, C, and D player. Low gross score determines the winner.

Tie Breaker - First hole score, Second hole score, Third hole score, etc.

Club Championship: Qualifying round(s) is individual stroke play. Players will announce to the golf staff which flight they want to qualify for before they begin their qualifying round. The flight(s) you are eligible to qualify is based on your lowest index from the last 12 months. If handicapped, matches will be played using the player's current handicap. The top 16 qualifying scores from each flight will be placed into a bracket, and those players will play individual match play until a champion is crowned. The Men's Club Champion from the previous year is exempt from qualifying. Only the Senior, Super Senior, and Ladies flights will be 100% handicapped, strokes fall off the low handicap.

Tie Breaker (Qualifying) - Back Nine score, Holes 13-18 score, Holes 16-18 score, Hole 18 score, Coin flip.

Tie Breaker (Match Play) - Sudden death playoff beginning on the first hole. If a match is handicapped, strokes are given on the same holes as the original match.

BGA Cup: Format is a two-person better ball of partners. Teams will be able to qualify anytime before a selected date by The Committee. Teams will have to qualify with at least one other BGA member in order for their score to count. After the qualifying date has passed, the top 16 qualifying teams will be placed into a match play bracket. Qualifying rounds will be based on player's lowest index in the past 12 months. All teams qualifying for the match play bracket will use their current handicap index, with Rule 3-5 in effect. 90% Handicap, strokes fall off the low handicap of the group.

Tie Breaker (Qualifying) - Back Nine score, Holes 13-18 score, Holes 16-18 score, Hole 18 score, Coin flip.

Tie Breaker (Match Play) - Sudden death playoff beginning on the first hole. If a match is handicapped, strokes are given on the same holes as the original match.