



# 2025 RLGA Handbook

First, let's introduce you to the 2025 RLGA Board Members, Standing Committee Chairpersons and Members Assigned to a Committee. We are all here to help make your experience rewarding and fun and to answer any questions you may have.

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Next, let's go over some important information to help you move forward with your RLGA membership.

## How do I sign up for tee times?

We have dedicated Ladies Club tee times on most Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday mornings throughout the year. The process to sign up depends on when you want to play.

**Saturday and Sunday Tee Times: Call the Pro Shop at 253-854-3673, option 2 by Wednesday at noon to sign up.** Just indicate that you are with the Ladies Club and which day you would like to play, and you will be placed into a grouping.

**Wednesday Tee Times:**

*During the winter months (roughly November-March), call the Pro Shop to sign up.*

*From April through November (watch for an email for exact start and stop dates), follow this process:*

1. Add your name to the sign-up sheets located on the back counter in the Pro Shop. There is one sheet per date and you can place your name by any available tee time.
2. The deadline to sign up is by 3pm on the prior Sunday. If you are unable to get to the course to sign up, email Kris Immordino ([kimmor1@comcast.net](mailto:kimmor1@comcast.net)) and she will add you to the list.
3. Kris will email a final list of players and tee times by Tuesday afternoon.
4. Once the line-up has been sent, it is the member's responsibility to contact other members if you need to swap your tee time with someone else. Please do not call Kris.

*IMPORTANT: If you are unable to play, please call the Riverbend Pro Shop at 253-854-3673, Option 2, to cancel. This courtesy helps us rearrange groupings, if needed.*

### **What is a GHIN number and why do I need one?**

A GHIN (Golf Handicap Information Network) number is issued by the USGA and is necessary in order to establish and maintain a handicap index. The USGA maintains the handicap system and it is designed to make the game of golf equitable and fun regardless of skill level, especially when playing in competitions or tournaments. To participate in RLGA competitions, tournaments, and the player recognition program, you need a handicap.

### **How do I find out what my handicap is?**

First, download the USGA GHIN app and create an account. Then, after each round, post your score into the app (except for tournaments - it will be done for you) and the system does the rest! *We highly recommend using the "post hole-by-hole" option as it automatically adjusts your gross score per hole, whenever applicable.*

If you are new to posting scores, your handicap index will be established after you have posted a minimum of 54 holes. When posting scores, it is assumed that you followed the rules of golf and that your score was attested by another player. Our handicap chair, Lori Deglow, can help you with any questions.

### **What is a "course handicap" and when do I use it?**

Based on your handicap index, the USGA GHIN app can calculate what your handicap is at any given course, depending on its course rating, slope rating, par and which tees you play from. Women most commonly play from the green tees at Riverbend. *You will need to know your course handicap at Riverbend while participating in our bi-monthly competitions and our player recognition program.*

Members' course handicaps will be posted on a clipboard in the back of the Pro Shop for your reference, or can find it in the USGA GHIN app. Your course handicap will change as your handicap index changes so it's best to confirm your course handicap on a regular basis. *When recording your handicap on your scorecard to obtain your net score, use your course handicap.*

### **How do I access the benefits of my RLGA membership?**

Your "Benefits Card" will be ready for pick-up 7-10 days after you submit your application. Please ask for it at the Riverbend Golf Complex Pro Shop. The "Benefits Card" will entitle you to:

- 1 Free 18-hole round of golf at Riverbend Golf Course
- 1 Pay for 9 holes get 18 holes
- 1 Free 18-hole Power Cart
- 5 Free small buckets of range balls at the Driving Range
- 10% Discount at the Merchandise Center

In addition to these benefits, your membership entitles you to:

- Membership in WA Golf which includes GHIN (Golf Handicap and Information Network")
- Membership in Pacific Northwest Golf Association (PNGA)
- A subscription to Pacific Northwest Golfer Magazine
- Twice-monthly competitions with pay-outs to placing winners (at no additional cost to participate).
- The opportunity to play competitive golf in a friendly, non-threatening environment in our monthly tournaments.
- The opportunity to play in Greater Seattle Women's Public Golf Association (GSWPGA), Washington State Women's Public Links Association (WSWPLA) and Tacoma Women's Golf Association (TWGA) monthly tournaments at member courses throughout the Greater Puget Sound area and Washington State.
- The opportunity to play in our premier event of the year, the RLGA Club Championship, which includes a great tee prize, hosted lunch and prizes to the winners.

### **What is a "Riverbend Account?"**

Any competition or tournament winnings will be deposited under your name in an account at the Riverbend Pro Shop. These funds are referred to as "book money." You may use book money towards greens fees, tournament fees, next year's membership fee, or merchandise.

### **Why do I need to designate which tees I will play from? What if I don't know?**

Recently the RLGA membership adopted a resolution allowing players to play from their tee box of choice for competitions. This accommodates folks who prefer to play from shorter or longer tees than the standard Green tees for ladies' play. We need to keep a record of your tee box choice in order to score competitions accurately. The vast majority of members play from the Green tees, so if you are not sure which to choose, indicate Green tees for now. The bylaws allow for one change of tee designation during the competition season. If you do not make a selection, we will default you to the Green tees.

## When are competitions and how do I participate?

In conjunction with any round you play with another RLGA member, you may optionally participate in our bi-weekly competitions that run from March 1st through September 30th. It's a fun and friendly competition with payouts for gross and net score winners and places. (That means you could win regardless of your skill level!) All payouts are deposited to your account at the Pro Shop. There is no additional cost to participate.

Competitions change on the 1st and 16th of each month. Examples of a competition are "Long and Lovely" (add scores for the 9 longest holes) and "Blind 9" (committee draws 9 holes after the competition ends and adds scores for those holes). With some exceptions, the Committee Chair does all the math, so you just need to record your score and submit a valid scorecard.

To participate:

- Prior to your tee time, sign-up on the Competition sheet on the back counter of the Pro Shop and indicate your tee designation.
- Read the description of the Competition to know whether you need to keep track of anything other than your gross score per hole
- Determine among your grouping who is participating and who will record the official scorecard. The official scorecard must:
  - Legibly list each player's first and last name
  - Record the correct date and course handicap for each player
  - Have Scorer and Attestor signatures
- Place the official scorecard in the RLGA slot in the Pro Shop
- You may enter a competition up to two times during a 2-week cycle

Competition results are announced by email every two weeks and posted to our website. Please contact our Competitions Chair, Jeannie Walker, with any questions.

## When are tournaments and how do I participate?

Tournaments are scheduled about once a month from February through October and they are open to all RLGA members with a handicap. The entry fee is \$25.00 + plus green fees for all tournaments except our Club Championship - a two-day event held in August. You may not sign up for competition when playing in a tournament. All entrants play from the same tees as designated by the Tournament Chair.

The 2025 Tournament Schedule is:

Saturday, February 15	3 Clubs and a Putter
Saturday, March 15	Purple Tees
Saturday, April 19	6/6/6 Partner Event
Saturday, May 10	Mix It Up
Saturday, June 14	Member Social - Scramble
Wednesday, June 25	Welcome a Friend
Saturday, July 26	July Jam Stableford
Saturday Aug 16	Chapman
<b>Sat &amp; Sun September 6<sup>th</sup> – 7th</b>	<b>Club Championship</b>
<b>Saturday, October 4th</b>	<b>TBD</b>

Club Championship: To qualify for the Club Championship you must play in at least four (4) RLGA events between the end of last year's Club Championship and this year's Championship (competitions, tournaments or a combination of both).

If you are nervous about competing in a tournament, don't be! We have players new to the game, and players with handicaps ranging from 40+ to single digits. Tournament play is for everyone and a lot of fun!

The schedule and entry forms are on the Ladies Club page at [www.riverbendgolfcomplex.com](http://www.riverbendgolfcomplex.com). Feel free to contact our Tournament Chair, Stephanie Ticknor, with any questions.

### **What is "TEAM Competition?"**

The Riverbend Ladies Club is part of the Greater Seattle Women's Public Golf Association, (GSWPGA). The association consists of nine clubs, seven of which compete in match play team competitions throughout the season. Each club is represented by six players. *This is a fun way to play in friendly competition, meet other ladies, build camaraderie and play other courses in the area.*

If you are interested in playing on TEAM please contact the Team Captain, Sheila Locke.

### **Tell me about your Player Recognition Program**

To recognize members' achievements throughout the season, we strongly encourage everyone to participate in our Player Recognition Program. The achievements recognized and their awards are:

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Award</u></b>
First time broke 100, 90, 80, 70	Pin
Personal Best Score	Noted in Player Recognition Monthly Report
Lowest Avg. Net Score for the year	Prize money into Riverbend account
Most Chip-Ins for the year	Prize money into Riverbend account
Most Birdies for the year	Prize money into Riverbend account
Most Improved Golfer	Prize money into Riverbend account and name engraved on RLGA perpetual plaque
Most Rounds Played for the year	Prize money into Riverbend account
Birdie, Eagle, or Chip-in	One pin per year, if requested
Hole-in-One	Receive a pin for each HIO at Riverbend

To participate, pick up a Pink Card at the back counter of the Pro Shop before each round played with at least one other eligible RLGA member and complete one card per grouping. Please record each player's first and last name, their gross score, their course handicap, net score, and note any other achievements. One scorer and one attestor signature are required.

You don't have to shoot a birdie, eagle, or chip-in to participate! Results are distributed by email monthly and awards are presented at the end-of-year party.

## Posting Scores

This note is to ensure everyone (whether new or long-time member) knows the League rules for posting all your golf rounds into the USGA GHIN system, especially concerning weekly competition.

**Even if you submit a scorecard to be considered for the weekly competition, you must still post your overall round into GHIN**

To with any questions or misunderstandings, we will return to a practice of verifying that any score submitted for weekly competition has been posted in GHIN, and notify player to help with any questions on getting the score posted.

### **A couple general reminders on Posting Golf scores:**

- All rounds played must be posted, including all social & completion rounds played at any golf course, and 9-hole rounds.
- **The Exceptions for when scores would not be posted include:**
  - When a Tournament Director specifically notes on the Tournament entry that your scores will be entered by Tournament Director(s) on your behalf When not fully playing own ball (Scrambles)
  - Limited club competition (3 clubs & a putter)
  - When having a playing lesson,
  - When playing without anyone else
  - When the minimum number of holes are not completed due to circumstances such as darkness, inclement weather, or match play
    - *See 2024 changes noted below when 10-17 holes are played and for 9-hole rounds*
- In Washington State, active handicap season when scores must be posted continues through **November 14th, 2025**.

### **Some reference information:**

Your posted score needs to be adjusted per USGA rules

- Go to [GHIN.com](https://www.ghin.com) to post or download the USGA GHIN App to your phone
- Your adjusted score reflects revising downward any individual hole score to a maximum of Net Double Bogey based on your current Course handicap
- **It is strongly recommended to post your score using the "hole by hole" option to take advantage of the automated adjustment process**
- All you need to do is enter your actual score for each hole, and any needed hole score adjustments are automatically made for you!!

### **Changes made in 2024:**

**#1: Treatment of 9-hole rounds:**

- Prior to January 2024, one 9-hole score must be combined with another to create an 18-hole Score Differential™ before it could be counted for handicap purposes.
- Now, when a player posts a 9-hole score, the WHS will automatically calculate an 18-hole Score Differential for the round, based on the player's 9-hole Score Differential and expected Score Differential based on their current Handicap Index®, allowing the 9-hole round to be considered in the player's Handicap Index calculation right away.
- As part of this change, golfers are required to play all 9 holes with a valid 9-hole Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™ instead of the previous minimum of 7 holes.

[2024-treatment-of-9-hole-scores-FAQ.html](#)

**#2: Treatment for when an 18-hole round is not fully completed (or now if played 10-17 holes)**

- Prior to January 2024, when 10 to 13 holes were played, scores made on holes 10 through 13 were disregarded and a 9-hole score was posted. When 14-17 holes were played, net par was used for the remaining holes to allow an 18-hole score to be posted.
- Now, when a player with a Handicap Index® plays 10-17 holes, a Score Differential™ is created based on the holes played, and the player's expected Score Differential for the number of remaining holes not played is added to that value to produce an 18-hole Score Differential.
- To facilitate this change, when a player plays between 10-17 holes, they are required to post their scores hole-by-hole so the appropriate Score Differential can be calculated from the holes that were played to combine with the expected score for the holes not played.

[10-17-hole-scores-FAQs.html](#)