



## 2023 MGA 18 TOURNAMENT RULES

USGA RULES APPLY TO ALL PLAY, EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS

### TEES:

All play is from the MGA Tees, except for those electing the Gold Tee Option. Your assigned tee will be indicated on the tournament scorecard.

### SCORECARDS:

After completion of your round please turn your official scorecard in to the Golf Shop as soon as possible after the completion of play. **All scores will be posted to GHIN via Golf Genius.**

### RULES:

Rules of Golf & Heritage Ranch Local Rules will prevail.

- 1) 14 Club Rule is in effect.
- 2) The ball will be played down unless changed for a specific tournament based on course conditions. How the ball will be played will be announced when pairings are distributed.
- 3) All putts must be holed.
- 4) There is no maximum score per hole, except for Quota Tournaments the maximum score is gross triple bogie.
- 5) Sand put down by Golf Course Maintenance in the General Area is an Abnormal Ground Condition (Ground Under Repair). Free relief finding the nearest point, no closer to the hole, and dropping within 2 club lengths.
- 6) The embedded ball rule is in effect in the "General Area" of the golf course. If the ball embeds in its own pitch mark, you may lift, clean and drop the ball as near as possible to its original position, no closer to the hole. No Penalty.
- 7) The **general area** includes everywhere on the course except bunkers, penalty areas, and the teeing area and putting green of the hole you are playing. Outside out of bounds markers is not part of the course.
- 8) **Bunkers:** If your ball comes to rest in footprint or divot the following procedure should be followed:
  - i. You may lift and smooth the sand with your foot or rake and place the ball within one **GRIP** length no closer to the hole. **You cannot build a tee the sand must be flat.**
  - ii. You **cannot** lift and place every ball that ends up in the bunker only if you are in a footprint or divot.
  - iii. If you hit the ball into the bunker and it is in its own ball mark such as a fried egg or plugged lie you **cannot** improve your lie.
  - iv. You **cannot move** the ball away from the lip of the bunker.
  - v. To avoid making huge footprints in the bunkers please enter the bunkers from the lowest side.
  - vi. After you hit out of the bunker, please rake the bunker.
  - vii. When you exit the bunker, please knock the sand off your shoes to avoid tracking sand onto the green.
- 9) 7<sup>th</sup> hole hitting mats – If a player's ball comes to rest on one of the two forward mats on the right side of fairway it may be dropped no closer to the hole or played on mat as it lies. Also, if the ball is not on the mat but the mat interferes with the swing the ball may be dropped with no penalty.

In the event of a dispute regarding a ruling, please play a second ball and resolve the issue with the professional staff after the round.

### DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES:

The USGA permits the use of Distance Measuring Devices for tournament play. However, the rules of golf do not allow for devices that measure slope and adjust the distance for the slope. In most cases the devices that measure slope allow the user to turn off the slope for tournament play.

The MGA 18 Tournament Committee is implementing a local MGA rule which will allow for the use of the slope function on distance measuring devices during MGA Tournament play.

### TIES:

Ties will be settled by a scorecard playoff using the back 9 total, then the last 6 holes total, then the last 3 holes total and finally the 18<sup>th</sup> hole score. If still tied, we will do the same progression on the front 9.



## HERITAGE RANCH LOCAL RULES

1. White Stakes, all property fences and the inside edge of public roadways define Out of Bounds.
2. Red Stakes and lines define Penalty Areas.
3. The area left of the green on Hole #4 is marked with Red Stakes and there is also a property fence further beyond the Red Stakes. Even if the ball crosses the fence it will be considered to be in the Penalty Area incurring a one stroke penalty.
4. The Embedded ball Rule is in effect in the entire General Area of the golf course, including grass cut at higher than fairway length. If your golf ball embeds in its own pitch mark, you may lift, clean and drop the ball, or a substituted ball, with one club length of the original position, no closer to the hole. No Penalty. (*Exception: When interference by anything other than being embedded makes the stroke clearly unreasonable, for example, when the player is unable to make a stroke because the ball lies in a bush.*)
5. If there is a sprinkler head or control box that is within 2 club lengths of the actual surface of the putting green AND your golf ball is within 2 club lengths of that object AND that object may interfere with the line of your putt or chip AND you are not in a Penalty Area or Bunker, then you MAY take Free Relief. Measure 2 club lengths to either side of the golf ball, no closer to the hole and drop within that 2 club lengths.
6. When a player's golf ball is lost outside a Penalty Area or Out of Bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under the Stroke and Distance Penalty. For a penalty of 2 strokes, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or a substituted ball in this relief area:
  - a. Estimate where the original ball is, or where it crossed into the Out of Bounds. (**Ball Reference Point**).
  - b. Find the point on the nearest edge of the fairway that is the same distance from the flagstick as the Ball Reference Point (**Fairway Reference Point**).
  - c. Place a marker in the fairway within 2 club lengths of the **Fairway Reference Point**, no closer to the hole. You may drop the ball anywhere between this marker and the Ball Reference Point, no closer to the hole.
  - d. If a player plays a Provisional Ball and the original ball is Out of Bounds or lost, the Provisional Ball becomes the **Ball in Play**. The player may no longer apply this rule to the original ball. The player may use this option to take relief for the Provisional Ball, now the **Ball in Play**, that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be Out of Bounds.