

## 2021 MGA 9 RULES & GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. The **501-915-0408 answering device is for MGA9 use only. For Wild Bunch call the designated person on the web site to play or cancel.**

2. **Computer Contact:** [www.hsvmens9hole.com](http://www.hsvmens9hole.com). The MGA9 web site is used for tee times/pairings, weekly scores, sign up, league general information, membership application, rules, rosters, and play schedule for the MGA 9 and Wild Bunch.

3. **Dual Membership:** The Constitution of the Hot Springs Village Men's Nine Hole Golf Association allows for dual membership with the HSV Eighteen Hole Men's Golf Association.

#### 4. **SIGN UP:**

a. Sign up online at [www.hsvmens9hole.com](http://www.hsvmens9hole.com) (Follow the instructions under "Men's 9 Hole Signups"). Signups are open through Sunday 5 PM of the week before a play date for MGA9 and Sunday 5PM of the week before a play date for Wild Bunch. Exception: Winter Wild Bunch plays on Wednesday and Friday with the closeout Sunday.

b. Tee times and pairings will be posted online at [www.hsvmens9hole.com](http://www.hsvmens9hole.com) (Click on "Pairing Sheet".)

c. If you wish to play and didn't get signed up call the answering device for the MGA9. If you signed up and wish to cancel call the answering device. Either way follow the instructions on the answering device. If you need to cancel late – call the course to cancel in order to maintain your right to reserve a tee time.

### II. RULES:

1. Except as noted in the following, current USGA rules apply to all play.

2. Play **READY GOLF** from tee through green. If you are ready and someone is not in the way, **HIT! NO MULLIGANS ARE ALLOWED**. All putts of 18 inches or less from the hole are "gimmies." If within 18 inches, **DO NOT PUTT**, pick up and **COUNT THAT AS ONE STROKE**. NOTE: 18 inches does not mean "inside the leather."

3. Allow **TWO MINUTES** to look for a lost ball. If lost, play a new ball from the fairway as near as possible to where the original ball was last seen, but no closer to the hole. Take a one-stroke penalty.

4. **OUT OF BOUNDS**--take a one stroke penalty and play a new ball from the fairway nearest to where the first went out of bounds, but no closer to the hole.

5. **WINTER RULES** apply at all times. A ball may be moved up to one club length to

improve your lie through the green without penalty. A ball in an unmarked hazard (i.e., a temporary drainage ditch, ground under repair or standing water, etc.) may be moved one club length from the hazard without penalty, but no closer to the hole. A ball in a marked hazard (creek, pond, lake, ditch) may be moved up to two club lengths from the hazard boundary (staked line), but no closer to the hole, take a one stroke penalty. A ball resting in rocks may be moved to the nearest grass not nearer the hole with no penalty.

6. **SAND BUNKERS:** Players **MAY** choose to lift the ball from a sand bunker and place it two club lengths outside the bunker, **NOT NEARER TO THE HOLE**, at any time without a penalty stroke. Any strokes taken in the bunker prior to this removal must be counted.

7. Play the forward tees (gold) on all courses, unless advised otherwise by the MGA 9 starter.

8. On a closed hole, take a bogey and proceed to the next hole. On any temporary green, if the ball is inside the sprayed circle, you may pick it up and take two (2) strokes (for the putts). If the ball is within 18 inches, it is a “gimmie”, pick up and take one (1) stroke. (Note: If you elect to putt inside the circle and miss, then pick up--you must take a stroke for the putt and two strokes for the pickup, i.e., two strokes are not the maximum you can take inside the circle. If you elect to putt, you are on your own.)

9. The **MAXIMUM** number of strokes allowed per hole, in individual play, will be listed on the scorecard, by flight (A-B-C-D). If you reach the limit, **PICK UP!**

10. The captain should keep the scorecard and maintain the pace of play. One other player will verify the accuracy of the scores per hole and total(s). No player should be awarded more strokes than listed for him on the scorecard. The scorecard is to be signed by the captain, attested by a team member and turned in at the clubhouse (In the scorecard box at the starter’s table.). Write names on the scorecards on the same line as the score for each player.

11. In a **FOUR (4)-man** scramble, you must use each player’s tee shot twice in the first eight holes. A player, whose drive has been used twice, will not drive again (except on par 3’s for closest to the pin prize). On the tee shot, the person whose drive is selected will not be eligible to hit the second shot. All players will be eligible to hit third and subsequent shots. All players will be permitted to putt on each hole. All players may hit a “drive” on the ninth hole and the captain will select the drive to be used.

12. In a **THREE (3)-man** scramble, use each player’s tee shot three times. All players hit all shots including putts. Once a player has hit his three tee shots, that player should not tee off again, except on par 3’s for closest to the pin prize. A three-man scramble will have 4 putts with the captain designating who will be the fourth putter on each hole.

13. There will be no two-man scrambles. The starter will take a player from another team.

14.

a. Players will pay green fees at the pro shop and check in with the league starter at least 30 minutes before his scheduled tee time. Players who have not checked in

30 minutes before assigned tee times may be replaced by substitutes. However, any member who has signed up to play in a tournament and arrived for his assigned tee time but has been replaced will play at his assigned tee time. The other player will return to the starter table for reassignment.

b. No one may play as a member and be eligible for prize money until he has paid his dues. Non-members may play with MGA9 no more than twice during a season.

15. A league handicap is established for a new member by playing a minimum of three (3) individual league rounds in one season unless he has an established GHIN handicap with at least three recent rounds played on a Hot Springs Village course. Returning member's handicaps will be based on a previous year's league handicap. MGA 9 handicaps and Wild Bunch handicaps are found in the column to the left under the section entitled DIRECTORIES.

16.

a. A member without an individual handicap will NOT be eligible to compete in scheduled scramble events and will be assigned No Handicap (NH) to participate in the individual events. All members must submit at least three (3) individual league scores during the season to retain their individual handicap for the current year.

b. A new member who has a current GHIN handicap and has a minimum of three rounds played on a Hot Springs Village course is entitled to full membership in the MGA 9 and can begin play after his playing handicap has been revised to conform to the MGA 9 handicap standard by using no less than three and no more than 6 recent rounds of HSV golf scores.

c. New members without a current GHIN handicap and returning members who did not meet the required minimum three (3) individual scores the previous season, who play three or more rounds alongside the Wild Bunch as non-qualifying players between November and March will qualify for MGA 9 weekly tournament play, may play in league scrambles, and may begin competition with the Wild Bunch upon completion of their three (3) qualifying rounds. Their official handicap entry into the MGA 9 Handicap and Wild Bunch Directories reflects their eligibility.

d. Normally, individual handicaps will be updated after each week of individual play. The exception to this procedure is that a new member without a GHIN handicap or returning member with less than three (3) qualifying rounds, will have their handicap established after they complete three qualifying rounds. The Wild Bunch/MGA9 scorer will turn in the scorecard for each qualifying member to the Computer Coordinator. The computer coordinator will update the appropriate documents/records/handicap directories upon receipt of the appropriate scorecards.

17. A member must have established a league handicap to be eligible for weekly individual prize money and the individual league flight championships. The only exception will be the weekly "closest to the pin" competition in which case all participants are eligible for prize money. A scheduled play date will be considered complete when 50% or more of the scheduled players, on the day of play, finish playing and those players finishing will be considered eligible for prizes.

18. In the event of inclement weather that could cause the course to be closed, players should check with the pro shop on the day of play to ascertain if play will be permitted. If the course is closed, that week's tournament will be cancelled. If the course is open and play is permitted, that week's tournament will be held. If 50%, or more, of the scheduled players have completed play, that play date will be considered a valid tournament. (The 50% or more figure is based on the number of golfers scheduled on the amended pairing sheet which the starter presents to the pro shop)

19. Each year two play dates are set-aside for the "Club Champions Tournament". Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each flight (A-B-C-D) and a member must play in at least six (6) individual tournaments during the calendar year to be eligible for a flight Championship. All members may play; however, one must be signed up and play in BOTH tournaments to be eligible for a prize.

20. Special Consideration for "Cart Path Only" designation. Regardless of season, the local course may designate the entire course or a specific hole as "cart path only." On any hole designated "cart path only" and the player's ball lies on any area through the green, the player may lift and clean his ball without penalty. He may return the ball to either a mat or tee. The replaced ball must be as near as possible to where the ball originally lay. Note: when using this local rule, the player may not move the ball up to one club length to improve the lie.

### **III. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **1. CAPTAINS.**

a. Selection of captains each week is rotated by handicap flights (A-B-C-D). The "schedule of play" includes which flight is captain for each play date.

b. Generally, the captain will call the members of his group and determine whether they will or will not play. The captain will advise each member to be in the clubhouse at least 30 minutes before the scheduled tee time. However, it is always the individual golfer's responsible to follow the rules and notify the Starter and/or course that they will not be playing.

c. When the captain initially prepares the scorecard, he must list the players in his group by their LAST NAME and in the same sequence used on the white sticker attached to the scorecard.

d. Captains will total individual scores, date and sign the scorecard; a team member will then verify and sign the scorecard. Please Do NOT calculate the NET score (total score less handicap).

e. Captains will also help with pace of play. He will advise all team members to play ready golf.

#### **2. STARTER/SCORER**

a. The Starter/Scorer (hereafter referred to as “Starter”) will be the primary starter per play date. Between the time the pairing sheet is posted and the play date, anyone wishing to add or cancel in that tournament should call the League Answering Device. The Starter will coordinate all deletions and additions to the pairings and will notify the affected players, and the pro shop for that tournament of the changes.

b. Refer to the instructions/schedule provided prior to your scheduled duty by the Tournament Director. If you have any questions, call the Tournament Director.

c. Assigned starters should call and trade dates with another starter if he is unable to be the starter on his scheduled date. He should then call the Tournament Director and advise him of the change.

### **3. Scoring Responsibilities**

a. Winners and scores in each flight will be posted on [www.mens9hole.com](http://www.mens9hole.com), following the Friday play date. To accomplish this, the Starter or Tournament Director is responsible for getting the proper information to the computer coordinator in a timely manner. (Normally, within three (3) hours of the final score card being turned in.)

b. The assigned Starter will collect the close to the pin markers and signs, all scorecards, check each for arithmetic errors and deliver the cards, close to the pin markers and the bag per instructions in the bag.

The 2021 MGA Rules & General Instructions were updated, modified and corrected by Board action on April 6, 2021. This document is now considered to be the current rules of the MGA9 Golf League until it is updated or modified by Board action and/or membership action posted to the MGA 9 web site.