

The Eldorado Country Club (ECC) Senior Men's Golf Association (SMGA) is a group of golf members, age 50 and up, that love the game of golf and meet weekly for competitive play days and other arranged events.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### GOVERNANCE

Section 1 The leadership of the SMGA consists of three officer positions, as follows:

President	Elected for a period of two years by a majority of the membership present at the relevant annual SMGA Championship awards luncheon held in September.
Vice President	Elected as above
Treasurer	Elected as above

In order to promote stability and benefit from the experience of prior service, the normal progression of offices will be from Treasurer to Vice President and then from Vice President to President, each serving for a two year period. If any officer resigns or is otherwise unable to complete his term, the remaining officers will each move up to the next position in the progression and a new Treasurer will be elected to fill the unexpired term of the departing officer. The overall two year rotation will be preserved with all term of office expirations occurring at the calendar year-end of odd numbered years. These officer positions shall be confirmed by a vote of the majority of members present at the SMGA Championship awards luncheon held in September of the voting year, except in the event of a mid-term officer departure. In that event, a special election will be called to elect a new Treasurer within 30 days of notification by the officer of his intent to resign. The election shall be by simple majority of those present on the announced play day voting date. A minimum of one week's notice for any vote must be given by email.

Section 2. The Board

The three officers named above constitute the board of the SMGA. By at least a two-thirds vote, the board sets the membership dues and may alter or suspend these by-laws. Such action shall be supported by email notification to the general membership within one calendar week of the action and ratified by a majority of those attending members on a normal play day called for as the voting date. The voting date shall be set within two weeks of the date of the email notification of the action.

Section 3. Duties of Officers:

The President shall function as the primary decision maker and arbiter in the normal course of day-to-day decision making. The President shall also serve as the SMGA's representative on ECC's Board of Governors (BOG). In the event the President does not wish to be a BOG member he may select another representative. Upon such occurrence, the SMGA Board of Governors representative shall share fully the nature and content of all BOG meetings with the President and work closely with him to ensure that the interests of the SMGA are best served.

The Vice President shall be responsible for arranging, scheduling and coordinating all competitions between ECC's SMGA and other similar organizations in the North Texas area. He shall also work with the President on all other SMGA play, as needed.

The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of the SMGA as needed receiving all funds from dues or other sources and publish a summary of the association's financial position and expenditures by major category once per quarter. This obligation may be met by posting the summary on the men's locker room bulletin board or via email distribution.

## ARTICLE II

### MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any ECC senior golf member (age 50+) in good standing with the club is eligible to become a member of the SMGA by fully completing a membership registration card and paying the annual dues as set by the board. After completion of these obligations, the member will then be placed on the email list which is the sole method of official communication for the SMGA. Notification of the interclub schedule, other planned activities and any other information for the group are provided in this manner. Any senior who wishes to be a member of the SMGA but does not have email must find a cooperative fellow member who will keep him informed as necessary. The officers of the SMGA are not responsible for any form of notice or communication other than by email to the official list compiled from the membership registration cards.

Section 2. The status of "**Member**" of the SMGA is achieved by completion of each of four actions:

1. Filling out the membership registration card, including a valid email address.
2. Paying the annual dues amount determined by the board.
3. Establishing a valid handicap through the GHIN system, and
4. Playing a minimum of eight regular play days with the group within the first rolling twelve months of eligibility

Individuals who have accomplished the first two, but may not as yet have an established handicap or played the requisite number of play days are considered "Associate Members" until validating their membership status through participation. An associate member may participate in regular Tuesday play days with a handicap "assigned" by the pro shop until his handicap is calculable with the approval of the President. Once a valid handicap has been established, Associate Members may play in all tournaments except the SMGA Championship, but cannot vote on issues put forward by the Board to the the general membership until meeting the participation requirement. To be eligible to play in the SMGA Championship and The Tin Cup you must be a full Member.

Once established, membership status is retained so long as:

1. the requisite minimum 8 play days are played on a rolling twelve month basis,
2. the annual dues are paid,
3. a valid handicap is maintained on the GHIN system,
4. golf membership is maintained in good standing with ECC, and
5. membership has not been revoked by the President for cause.

Section 3. Non-member guests may attend and participate in one non-tournament play day by paying the requisite day money, but thereafter must "join" to enjoy any further participation. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the President.

Section 4. Any golfer whose SMGA membership has been revoked by the President may appeal the action to the full Board. Any golfer whose membership has been revoked may not participate in any SMGA sponsored activities.

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## ARTICLE III

### RULES FOR COMPETITION

Section 1. SMGA play days are on Tuesdays throughout the year. During daylight savings time play begins at 8:30am with a mandatory call or check-in 30 minutes prior. During regular CST (winter), play begins at 9am with the same 30 minute mandatory prior call/check-in. Call-ins are taken by the pro shop at 972-529-2770.

#### Section 2. SPECIAL SMGA RULES OF PLAY

The Rules of Golf from the United States Golf Association (USGA) shall apply to all SMGA play days and events, except as noted below or announced otherwise for the specific day of play. All members should both observe and remind playing partners to follow these rules in order to ensure equal playing conditions for all players.

1. The fourteen club rule is in effect for all "First Tuesday" and other Tin Cup qualifying rounds, but waived for normal play days unless announced otherwise.
2. Bad weather. In normal times and good weather the ball will be played down. If conditions require "lift, clean and place" as the rule for the day, then the placement of the ball shall be within one club length of the original position of the ball. After placement, the ball must remain in "like conditions"... rough to rough, fairway to fairway, etc... nor can you move a ball from the fringe to the putting surface. If the ball is in a marked hazard, you cannot move or touch the ball, ground the club, improve your lie or disturb any living bush or plant except as you swing at the ball.
3. Bunker Play:
  - a) Play the ball as it lies under normal dry conditions.
  - b) If bunkers are in poor shape, an announcement will be made prior to starting play with instructions.
  - c) If a bunker is more than 50% water and a dry area cannot be found, drop the ball in front of the bunker without penalty. Before lifting, agreement from those in your group must be obtained. The bunker must be between the player and the green.
  - d) If the ball rests in water and the bunker has areas of dry sand, the ball should be lifted, dry sand raked and the ball replaced. Before lifting agreement from those in your group must be obtained. No Penalty.
4. Scoring. You must record a complete score on each hole. Prior to completion of the hole, if your realistically achievable net score will equal or exceed the USGA Equitable Stroke Control score for your handicap you may pick up and record that score (ESC + handicap strokes), unless other instructions are given applicable to that day's play.
5. Out of bounds or lost ball. If you have any reason to expect that your ball may be lost or out of bounds, a "provisional" ball should be hit. If you fail to do so and the ball is lost or out of bounds, determine the approximate spot it crossed the boundary or disappeared and drop the ball anywhere within two club lengths or back along the line of sight from that spot to the hole. Penalty: 2 strokes.
6. Lateral Water Hazard. Drop a ball two club lengths back from the boundary of the hazard where the shot entered or anywhere back along the line of sight from that point to the hole. The ball may be dropped in a designated drop area when provided. Penalty: 1 stroke.
7. Any player whose age and handicap totals 90 or higher has the option to play from either the forward players course or the forward (green) tees. The chosen option must be declared prior to check-in and the appropriate handicap for the tees played must be used.
8. Putts. "Gimme" putts are allowed only within the 18" marker placed on the putter. Anyone wishing to take a "gimme" must measure it using the 18" marker put there during an SMGA "marking day" or use a fellow players marked club. No estimates are permitted.
9. Scorecards. All scorecards must be dated and signed by the scorekeeper.

### Section 3. PREVENTION of SLOW PLAY

An 18 hole round at Eldorado should not exceed 4 ¼ hours for a foursome. Excessively slow rounds are a discourtesy to all the players behind the offending groups and can back up the golf course for the remainder of the day. Slow play causes ill will within and toward our association; and tends to reduce participation and membership. With the goal of providing an enjoyable round free of unnecessary delay, the following procedure will be used. The assistant pro for the day's play shall record the playing groups on the posterboard in order of starting holes, e.g., 1A, 1B, 18A, 18B, 17, 16, 15A, etc. The time of scorecard turn in for each group will be noted on the posterboard. Therefore you should turn your score card in before taking your clubs to your car. **Any group with a gap of more than 20 minutes behind the group ahead shall be considered out of position and a slow play group. Players who are consistently slow will be placed at the end of the field on play days. A target completion time is within 4 hours for threesomes and 4 hours and 20 minutes for foursomes.** Golf is the only sport where there are no referees to call a penalty or foul. Golf is a game of personal integrity where we enforce the rules of golf ourselves. We should all be able to tell each other when we need to play faster and catch up with the group in front of us and we all should all be enough of a gentleman to accept such a reminder. Slow play is not a matter of handicap or age, it is a behavior. Example: if each member of a foursome were to waste just 30 seconds on each hole adding 2 minutes to the completion of the hole, by the end of the round you will have added 36 minutes to the completion of the round!

#### Best Practices for Avoiding Slow Play

1. Normal play day games will be in threesomes whenever possible. Odd count participants in twosomes will go off first.
2. Play "ready" golf. Do not wait for a player to rake a sand trap or who is otherwise not ready to play...go ahead and hit.
3. Do not sit in the cart at the tee waiting your turn. All ~~four~~ players should get out, be on the tee and be ready to hit without delay.
4. Dispense with "honors", unless your group is caught up and has time to honor.
5. Don't take multiple practice swings, one is sufficient.
6. When a ball is lost, everyone in the group should help find it. After 3 minutes of searching, drop another ball and hit.
7. Do not ball hawk.
8. Do not hold up play by telling jokes/stories when it is your turn to hit.
9. Take your range finding device and all the clubs you might need to your ball's location... particularly when play is cart path only. **Do not look over the shot, take a distance reading and then return for a club.**
10. After hitting, take your club(s), range finder, head covers, etc. get in the cart and drive to the next shot,...then put these items back in the bag or cart while waiting your turn.
11. When sharing a cart, drop your passenger at his ball, go play your shot then return to pick up the riding partner.
12. Park the cart towards the back of the green. When you walk from the green, the foursome behind can hit sooner than if your cart was in front.
13. On the green, be ready when it's your turn. Read your putt while others are putting.
14. When one hole behind, each player should putt out without remarking their ball between each putt.
15. No practice putting after the hole is completed. Immediately proceed to the next tee box.
16. Score your card on the next tee, not back at the green causing the group behind to wait longer.

**Slow play is not a matter of high handicap or low, but rather the failure to follow best practices. While you have no obligation to follow these recommendations, if you do everyone benefits.**