South Lake Men's Golf League Rules Effective January 1, 2025

Dues are $60.00 annually. Dues are due on or before the first date of play of New Year. A late dues payment of $10.00, total $60.00, can be made on or before second week of play in January of the New Year. This is the last date for dues payment, and members who have unpaid dues will forfeit their league membership.

ALL MEMBERS will be required to contribute to the weekly prize fund. New handicapping rules increase the maximum handicap to 54 which will enable everyone to qualify for prize money.

A hole in one fund is available for those who wish to participate. Voluntary contribution to the fund is a one-time fee of $5.00. The fund will be paid to the first player to make a hole in one – if more than one player makes a hole in one in the same week of play, the fund will be split evenly among them. The fund will then be replenished by a new round of voluntary contributions of $5.00.

The league plays every Thursday morning, normally at 8:00am or 8:30am, with a shotgun start.

Each member has a responsibility to inform the League Coordinators of his intention to play the following week. A player's list will be emailed to all SLMGL members by Friday evening of each week. The list will be comprised of all active SLMGL players, less those who have informed us previously that they will be unable to play that particular week, or golfers who have notified us that they are out indefinitely until they submit a request to play. It is each player's responsibility to check the proposed list, and to correct it if there is an error. The only acceptable method for notification is by email so that all three coordinators receive notification and can triple check a player's status. To update your playing status send an email to: slmglplayerstatus@googlegroups.com. A link to that email is provided each week on the proposed player's list email from the League Coordinators.

There may be limits to players at some courses. The current rule is if you played the previous week you have priority. After that, the first to notify us that they are playing have priority. Those notifying us after the limit is reached will go on a

standby list. Guests will be added if space is available after all members are accommodated.

Deadline for notification of playing status is Sunday at 9:00 pm. **No players will be added to the roster after the cutoff Sunday evening, and all players on the roster are expected to make every effort to play absent an illness, injury, or other emergency!**

The completed roster is sent to players and the course on Monday or early Tuesday. Any players on the roster cancelling after the roster is sent to the course may be required to pay your green fees if the league is charged by the course for your no show.

You are required to notify the League Coordinators if you are going to be absent for any reason as soon as you determine that you will not play. The League Coordinators need notice to keep track of who plays, and we need to notify the course and your playing partners of your absence. If payment is required by the course, you will be apprised by the League Coordinators how to pay, and you will be suspended from play until payment arrangements have been completed.

South Lake Men's League has been criticized by many of the golf courses that we schedule for our slow pace of play. This makes us less desirable to book by the golf courses, creates problems for many members of the league who have afternoon and evening plans, and generally detracts from a good playing experience. The following rules address speed of play issues:

> All scorecards must be delivered to the league volunteer collecting scorecards at or before 5 hours after we leave the clubhouse to go to our hole assignments. If a group's scorecard is not received before the 5-hour time limit, the scores of the group may not be recorded and the group will forfeit any individual prize winnings. Scorecards must include the player's first name and last initial, and they must be legible.
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> Time to search for a lost ball is 3 minutes. This conforms to the new USGA rules.
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> Ball hawking is **not permitted.** Ball hawking is defined as searching for golf balls, other than your own, which will result in slow play. It is permissible to pick up a ball in plain sight or that you come across during the

3 minute window for searching for your lost ball. It is not permissible to hunt for balls, to use ball retrievers to seek balls that are not your own in hazards, etc. When picking up “found balls” you must ensure that it is not a ball that is currently in play by another player, perhaps on a parallel fairway or a similar situation.

Groups must allow SLMGL groups to “play through” when there is a hole open in front of them. The terms "play through" and "playing through" refer to the act of a faster group of golfers on a golf course being invited or allowed to pass a slower group - for the faster group to get ahead of the slower group. As we are playing as a league, you should not allow non SLMGL players to play through, you should speed up play!

At all times, SLMGL players are expected to play “ready golf”. Ready Golf includes, but is not limited to:

- Play as soon as it is safe to do so
- First to the tee goes first
- Let the shorter hitters tee off first
- Hit your ball before helping search for one
- Putt when you’re ready – keep putting until you are in the hole when possible
- Mark your card at the next tee

Should a group fall behind the pace of play of the group in front of them, they are REQUIRED to allow groups of South Lake Men’s Golf League members to play through.

Groups playing at a faster pace then a group in front of them should not hesitate to respectfully request to play through the slower group.

General on course playing rules: All USGA rules apply unless an exception is noted.

1. All local course rules apply.

2. All USGA conforming GPS and rangefinders are allowed.

3. League plays from the tees indicated before play.

4. No Mulligans.

5. Play "Ready Golf".

6. The time allowed to search for a lost ball is 3 minutes.

7. Ball hawking is not permitted. Ball hawking is defined as searching for golf balls, other than your own, which will in any manner slow play.

8. Allow SLMGL players to play through if there is an opening in front of your group.

9. Out-of-bounds, lost balls, or unplayable balls are played as a lateral hazard. Drop ball within two (2) club-lengths of the point where the ball went out-of-bounds, was lost, or is unplayable, but no closer to the hole. Penalty – one stroke

10. Moving ball

- You may roll the ball in the fairway or the rough, no more than six (6) inches and no closer to the hole, to avoid

having to hit out of a divot, etc. You may not move the ball from the rough to the fairway, or out of a bunker.

• You may clean mud or any other foreign substance on a ball or lift a plugged ball in any fairway. Lift, clean, and replace, without penalty.

• You may move ball from water in a bunker and place it in a playable spot in the bunker.

• You may lift, smooth, and replace a ball that is in a footprint or similar situation in a bunker.

• You may take relief from roots that will interfere with the path of your club head. A player may lift, clean, and drop your ball within 1 club length from the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole.

11. Maximum strokes on a hole is double par. Once you reach that maximum, you must pick up and prepare to move to the next whole.

12. Putts must go into the cup – you may not extend "gimmies".

13. The Player handicap index will be determined using the USGA handicap system, with the exception that only three games must be played to establish a handicap index. All handicaps will be adjusted after each round.

14. Cancellation of a round due to weather or any other reason will be determined by the League Coordinators. If the round is

cancelled, the League Coordinators will determine prize money payouts under the following criteria:

- If more than 1/2 of the players of a flight have finished the round, that flight will receive payout for place and skins as normal. Players who do not finish are eligible for skins on the holes they finished.
- If less than 1/2 of the players of a flight have finished the round, that flight is considered cancelled and there will be no distribution of prize money. Entry fees for each player will carry forward to the next play date.