



**Melbourne Men's Golf Association
By-Laws, Rules, Definitions
(REV 12/19/2020)**

ARTICLE I NAME

The group's name shall be Melbourne Men's Golf Association.

ARTICLE II OBJECT

The object of this Association shall be to promote sportsmanship, fellowship and competition in golf among its members; to sponsor team play and to hold tournaments and such other events as the board of directors shall determine.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section-1 Active membership in this association shall be open to all amateur men golfers, age 50 or over, provided they can pay annual association dues, payable by the end of February each year.

Section-2 Prospective members must present a Florida driver's license or a photo id at the time of applying for membership to this association.

Section-3 All prospective members must be capable of playing three full rounds of golf (sanctioned by the MMGA) from 1 January to 1 September inclusive.

ARTICLE IV OBLIGATION AND DISCIPLINE

Section-1 Refusal or negligence on the part of any member of this association, to comply with USGA tournament or other local rules, shall result in disqualification from the current event.

Section-2 All disputes in any association match shall be decided according to USGA or local rules covering the event. If there is any question or dispute of the golf rules or how a golf stroke should be played do not attempt to settle it on the golf course. Play a second ball and bring up the question with the rules committee immediately after the match. All information concerning any disputes, shall be forwarded to the rules committee for adjudication, and final decision.

Section-3 Any member being considered for expulsion from the association for cause may request a review by a four-member committee appointed by the president. Such a

committee will consist of three persons from the executive committee and one person from the general membership. The committee will then make a recommendation to the executive committee for consideration. The Executive committee's decision will apply. Should expulsion follow, the member will need executive committee permission to reapply for membership. Dues previously paid by any member being expelled are not refundable and become the property of the association.

Section-4 At all meetings of this association, the President, or Vice President in his absence, shall be responsible for the conduct, control and actions of all members in attendance at the meeting. In any instance, when the presiding officer determines that any member present is out of order or conducting himself in a manner unbecoming a gentleman and a golfer, the presiding officer shall warn the offending member two times to control himself. If, after two warnings the problem continues, then the presiding officer shall request the offending party to leave the meeting. If the offending party refuses to leave and gives the presiding officer any trouble, then this shall be determined to be sufficient grounds for expulsion from the association by a majority vote of the members present.

Section-5 A member, to hold membership status from year to year must play in at least fifteen Wednesday play dates each fiscal year or lose membership rights. Sickness or Family Duties may be used as an excuse, upon review, by the executive committee.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

The officers to be elected by majority vote of the members in this association are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall have full authority to fill vacancies in office which might occur during their term.

ARTICLE VI FINANCES

Section-1 The amount of annual dues shall be determined by majority vote of the association members.

Section-2 Dues for this association are due and payable by the end of February of each year. There is no grace period. Any member's dues not paid by this date may be dropped from the rolls of the association.

Section-3 All entry fees for tournaments must be paid prior to the cutoff date. Members cannot participate in the event if fees are not paid.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section-1 This association shall have three (3) general meetings each year. The date, time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the executive board and will be posted on the association bulletin board and web page two weeks in advance of the meeting. The day to day business of this association shall be run by the executive board consisting of the elected officers, the immediate past president, and current appointed chairmen of the following committees: Tournament, Handicap and Membership.

Section-2 Special meetings may be called at any time by the president.

Section-3 A notice of special meetings shall be posted on the Association Bulletin Board and web page, for at least two weeks, before said meeting is to be held. No other business shall be conducted by any special meeting except the subject which the meeting was called.

Section-4 During any meeting debate, the member present, shall be limited to two responses with a duration two minutes for each response.

Section-5 There will be absolutely no proxy voting in this association. Members must be present at the meeting to vote on any subject.

Section-6 Twenty-Five percent of the paid membership of this association shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must be present, at any meeting, before any association business may be conducted.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

Section-1 These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of those members present at any meeting, provided a written notice of the proposed amendments shall have been posted on the association bulletin board and web page at least ten days before voting on the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE IX DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section-1 PRESIDENT

(a) The president shall preside at all meetings of the association.

(b) The president shall appoint committees and the chairman of each, as he deems necessary, for the operation of this association. He shall act as ex-officio member of each committee.

(c) The president shall review and if appropriate, approve expenditures for the association before any payments are made. Charitable donations of over one hundred dollars must be approved by a general membership vote.

(d) The president shall review all decisions made by any committee and prudently handle all problems that may come to his attention.

Section-2 VICE PRESIDENT

(a) The Vice president shall, in the absence of the President, preside at all meetings and perform all of the duties of the president.

(b) The Vice President shall assist the President in all of his duties concerning events sponsored by the association.

Section-3 SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of meetings of the association, keep a roll of the membership and all other duties as assigned to him by the President.

Section-4 TREASURER

The Treasurer shall collect all money due / payable to the association, deposit all money in the name of and to the credit of the association, present a report of all spending and collections at each meeting of the association and countersign, in conjunction with the president, Vice President or Secretary, all checks written on the account of the association.

ARTICLE X ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section-1 The annual election of officers for this association shall be held at the general meeting in December each year. The time and place for the meeting and election shall be determined by the executive committee. A notice shall be posted on the association Bulletin Board and web page, two weeks in advance of this meeting.

Section-2 The outgoing President shall appoint a nominating committee at least four weeks before the annual election. Their duties shall be to present at least one nominee for each of the elected offices.

Section-3 Any member wishing to serve as an officer in this association should submit his name to the nominating committee at least three weeks before the annual election. There will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor at this meeting. However, all nominations, either from the floor or from the nominating committee, must have previous consent from the nominee that he will serve if elected.

Section-4 Only active paid up members of the association shall be eligible to vote at the annual election.

Section-5 Newly elected officers shall assume their duties on January 1st each year.

ARTICLE XI HANDICAPS

Section-1 This association shall not allow a golfer permanent membership unless such golfer has and maintains a true handicap of thirty-four (34) or less. Handicaps will be adjusted each month.

Section-2 All new members of this association shall turn in three (3) attested scores to establish a handicap. The rounds, consisting of eighteen holes, must have been played on the Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course or other courses from the white tees. All attested score cards must have two signatures to be used for handicap purposes.

Section-3 After a handicap has been established, the handicaps will be computed monthly, using only MMGA scores. The USGA Golf Handicapping System will be used.

Section-4 All members of the association must turn in at least three attested score cards from Wednesday play during the current year to be eligible for any tournament held by this association.

ARTICLE XII COLLECTION TABLE DUTY

Section-1(a) All active and Alternate Members are eligible for and must perform Collection Table Duty when assigned. Assignments will be posted on the Bulletin Board and web page at Approximately one(1) month before the scheduled duty.

Anyone who fails to perform the scheduled duty, without properly being relieved of such, will be rescheduled at the discretion of the Table Duty Administrator. If you cannot serve when scheduled you must get a substitute and notify the Table Duty Administrator at least two (2) weeks in advance of the scheduled date.

If you cannot find someone on the list to swap with, then you must notify the Table Duty Administrator at least two (2) weeks in advance of the schedule date. He will find a replacement for you.

(b) All Elected Officers and Support Staff and members 80 or over in age are exempt from this duty.

ARTICLE XIII GENERAL COURSE RULES

The following rules have been adopted by the Rules and Executive committees and approved by the MMGA membership.

SECTION-1 MMGA LOCAL RULES

APPROVAL FOR DROP OR RELIEF In all cases where a player wishes to take relief or a penalty drop, the group (foursome) must approve of that relief and the proper drop area.

BUILDINGS The ball may be dropped one club length from any building no nearer the hole with no penalty, but does not include line of flight (See USGA Rule 16)

DELAYING PACE OF PLAY Each group must stay in pace with the group in front of them. If the group falls behind by two holes or more and the group behind them is waiting, they must stand aside and let the group behind play through. Failure to do so will be brought to the committee and may result in moving their tee time. (Replaces stroke penalties under USGA Rule 5-6a)

DISPUTES Please refer to above Article IV section 2. If a ruling, for example regarding relief, cannot be determined on the course, a second ball should be played. Bring up the question with the rules committee immediately after the match (MMGA Article IV Section 2) (See USGA Rule 20)

DRIVING RANGE AND SCREENS - The screen around the driving range is out of bounds. There is no free relief. If the screen interferes with the player's swing or stance the ball may be played as it lies (no penalty) or dropped as an unplayable lie (one stroke penalty). (See USGA Rule 18)

FOOTPRINT/DIVOT IN BUNKER If left by another player and not your own, the ball may be placed after raking the bunker. This does not include a fried egg. (No penalty) (Local MMGA Rule)

PALM FRONDS - May be moved anywhere on the course with no penalty as a loose impediment. (See USGA Rule 15)

PALM TREES ARE PENALTY AREAS - A ball lost in a palm tree is considered in a Penalty Area and need not be found. Drop within two-club lengths from the base of the tree no closer to the hole. (Penalty one-stroke). (See USGA Rule 17.1(c))

PLAY BALL AS IT LIES - Everywhere on the course under USGA Rule #1. However, a local MMGA exception allows you to roll your ball 3 to 4 inches in your own fairway only. (Local MMGA exception to USGA Rule 1)

PROVISIONAL BALL - The MMGA highly recommends that you play a provisional ball whenever your original ball is thought to be out of bounds or lost. The USGA does not allow a provisional, if the original ball is thought to be in a Penalty Area. (See USGA Rule 18.3(c)) Local Exceptions: On holes #4 and #9, in order to speed up play, a player may hit a provisional ball if he is not sure if his ball went into the canal. If he finds his ball over or on the bank and is playable, it is the ball in play (no penalty). If his ball is not found or is unplayable, then the provisional ball is in play with the normal stroke penalty.

ROOTS RELIEF If a tree interferes with a player's swing he may play it as it lies or take an unplayable lie (one-stroke penalty). However, if only a root interferes, free relief may be taken within one club-length, no nearer the hole. (No penalty)

ROUND COMPLETED A player must complete 18 holes or be disqualified and a score of 71 will be assigned for the handicap. Emergency conditions accepted but must be marked on the card. (Local MMGA Rule)

SEASHELLS RELIEF You must either play the ball as it lies or take a drop at the nearest point of relief within one club length no nearer the hole. No penalty. (MMGA Local Rule)

TRACTOR RUT - A ball coming to rest in a deep heavy equipment tire rut such as made by a tractor (not a tire mark) may provide free relief under the USGA rules. (USGA Rule 16.1 Abnormal Conditions)

SECTION-2 SPECIFIC USGA RULES AS APPLIED TO MMGA

The following USGA rules apply and need to be considered when applying to our course conditions.

ANT HILL - Relief will be taken from an active ant hill anywhere on the course. The ball must be dropped in the nearest point of relief. If in a Penalty Area or a Bunker it must remain in the Penalty Area or Bunker. (No penalty) (See USGA Decision 1-4/10)

BALL ASSISTING PLAYER - A ball on the green must be marked and lifted so it does not either assist or interfere with another player's stroke. If the players agree to leave the ball to help one of you and the player makes a stroke, both players will receive the General Penalty. (2 strokes) (See USGA Rule 15-3a)

BALL HOLED OUT - If a player hits the ball away after missing a putt, the ball is not holed-out. It must be replaced with a one-stroke penalty and then it must be holed-out or the player will be disqualified. (See USGA Rule 3.3c)

BALL IDENTIFICATION A player should put an identifying mark on the ball. A ball that cannot be identified is deemed a wrong ball and the ball is considered lost. (See USGA Rule 6-3a)

BALL IMBEDDED - A ball embedded in its own pitch mark in the General Area (not in a Penalty Area or Bunker) may be lifted, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the original spot where it lay. On the green, the ball may be placed (No penalty) (See USGA Rule 16.3)

BALL SAME BALL RULE - A player must use the same ball from the tee to the hole unless the original was lost or was damaged or relief was taken under USGA rules. (See USGA Rule 15-1)

BRIDGES and their braces are considered Penalty Areas and no relief is allowed for stance or swing. Play the ball as it lies or take an unplayable lie with the normal stroke penalty. (See USGA definition of a Penalty Area)

DRAINAGE DITCHES and culverts will be treated as Penalty Areas. (USGA definition of Penalty Area).

EQUIPMENT? All players must use conforming equipment and are limited to 14 clubs. Damaged clubs can no longer be replaced under 2019 USGA Rules unless damaged by another player or outside influence. (See USGA Rule 4)

GENERAL PENALTY this term refers to a two-stroke penalty.

LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS may be moved anywhere on the course under 2019 rules. The ball may be marked, the impediment removed and the ball placed back in the same location without penalty anywhere on the course (See USGA Rule 15.1a)

LOST BALL - If a player has hit a provisional ball it must be played if the original is lost outside an abnormal condition. If a provisional was not played, the MMGA discourages going back and urges the use of the 2019 USGA Rule. The ball may then be dropped anywhere along a line from the loss point to a point on the fairway plus two club-lengths no nearer the hole. (Penalty - 2 strokes) (See 2019 USGA Rule 18-2a)

OUT OF BOUNDS - If a player has hit a provisional ball it must be played, if the original is out of bounds. If a provisional was not played, the MMGA discourages going back and urges the use of the 2019 USGA Rule. The ball may then be dropped anywhere along a line from where it crossed the out of bounds to a point on the fairway plus two club-lengths no near the hole. (Penalty - 2 strokes) (See 2019 USGA Rule 18-2a)

PRACTICE You may practice putting or chipping on or near the putting green of the hole you just completed or any practice green, or on the teeing area of your next hole. But such practice strokes must not be made from any bunker and must not delay play. (See USGA Rules 5-5 & 5-6a)

RELIEF FROM DAMAGED GREEN - Under 2019 USGA Rules all repairs on the green are allowed within time and reason. If unrepairable damage has occurred whether by man or nature the ball may be moved to the nearest point of relief no nearer the hole. You must be actually on the green for this relief. (USGA Rule 16.1(a)-1)

TEMPORARY WATER Formerly called "Casual Water" - Any temporary accumulation of water on the surface of the ground (such as puddles from rain or irrigation or an overflow from a body of water) that is not in a penalty area, and can be seen before or after you take a stance (without pressing down excessively with your feet). (USGA Definition)

ARTICLE XIV COURSE RULES FOR M.M.G.A.

Adopted by the executive committee

SECTION-1 INDIVIDUAL HOLE AREAS DEFINED

This section explains the areas where rulings will apply for each hole. Please note that all High Grass on the course is considered a Penalty Area. All lost balls in Palm Trees are Penalty Areas. Seashells are a free lift. See each of those definitions for details.

Notable conditions found on each hole are as follows:

Hole #1. Out of bounds is on the left in the maintenance area as is the driving range on the right side. Seashells are on the right side along the fairway.

Hole #2. Penalty Areas are the drainage ditch to the far left side of the green and the water over the green.

Hole #3. Out of bounds is over the fence to the right. The drainage ditch on the right side is a Penalty Area.

Hole #4. Water is on the right and along the right side of the fairway as well as in front of the green. If your Tee Shot enters the canal, your drop area is behind the canal. If your second or subsequent shot enters the canal, to speed up play, you must use the drop area across the canal.

Hole #5. Water is in front of the tee and along the far left side. A designated drop area is to the right of the red tees.

Hole #6. The only water is on the very far left side.

Hole #7. Water is on the left side.

Hole #8. Penalty areas include the water on the left side and along the right side in the culvert including over the fence. Over the fence is not considered out of bounds on this hole. The only out of bounds on number 8 is over the sidewalk behind the green. Special note: A drop from the seashells is the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole which may take you backward (away from the green).

Hole #9. The sidewalk that runs along the right side is out of bounds. The parking lot and the cart shed on the right are also out of bounds. The road that crosses the fairway is a free lift. If so, the ball must be dropped on the tee side of the road. The canal that crosses the fairway is a Penalty Area. If your Tee Shot enters the canal, your drop area is behind the canal. If your second or subsequent shot enters the canal, to speed up play, you must use the drop area across the canal.

Hole #10. The driving range is out of bounds. Water is along the right side. Note: Hitting range balls back into the range with the club you are about to use is illegal. (Breach of rule - two-stroke penalty)

Hole #11. Water is on the right and the far left of the fairway. Note: The water on the left often exceeds its original bounds. This extended area then becomes 'Casual Water' by definition.

Hole #12. Water is along the left side, high grass may come into play through the fairway and along the left side. There is also water to the right of the green.

Hole #13. Water is to the far right. The driving range (left) is out of bounds. You may not move or take free relief from an out of bounds fence. There are also seashells to the far left of the green.

Hole #14. All balls hit in the water on the right must be played from the drop area in front of the red tee box. Beware of high grass left by the green.

Hole #15. Water is between the tee box and green. The drop area is located to the right of the cart path. There are also seashells to the right of the cart path and green.

Hole #16. Ball outside the golf course on the left side is not out of bounds, it is played as a Penalty Area. The drainage ditch long right is a Penalty Area.

Hole #17. Out of bounds is on the left. Water is along the right side. Water is also left before the green.

Hole #18. Out of bounds is on the left and over the sidewalk behind the green. Water is on the right.

SECTION-2 TEE LOCATIONS

A Players and B Players will tee off from the white tees.

C Players will tee off from the red tees.

SECTION-3 CLOSEST-TO-THE-PINS

a) The first foursome will place the Closest-To-The-Pin markers at all par 3s. b) The last foursome will retrieve the Closest-To-The-Pin markers at all par 3s and return them to the clubhouse. The Closest-To-The-Pin markers for A, B and C Flights will be combined.

ARTICLE XV MMGA DEFINITIONS

DOUBLE PAR - All players will pick up upon reaching double par for each hole.

Example: On a par 3 a double par is a score of 6.

GENERAL AREA The area that covers all of the course except: (1) the teeing area you are playing from, (2) penalty areas, (3) bunkers and (4) the putting green you are playing to.

HIGH GRASS The high uncut areas of the course are Penalty Areas.

LINE OF SIGHT Free relief is only given for temporary obstructions. No relief is given for obstructions that are normally part of the course.

PENALTY AREAS - Penalty Areas are water, palm trees and high grass. Water (penalty areas) not defined by stakes or red markings will be judged by the high water mark or high bank. Please note: Water overflowing outside the normal hazard is casual water. (USGA Abnormal Ground Condition)

ARTICLE XVI - WEDNESDAY TOURNAMENT TEE TIME RULES

- a) Any Tee Time Change Requests must be presented to the President and/or Vice President no later than 24 hours before the Wednesday Tournament.
- b) All players must keep their Assigned Tee Times. No players will be allowed to start before their assigned tee times without permission from the President or Vice President.
- c) Any player that shows up late for their assigned Wednesday Tee Time will be disqualified from participating in that day's tournament.