



Revised 12/31/2023.

With the infusion of new members into our club each year as well as modifications to the club's operating parameters, it is important that members understand the club's general operating routine regarding tournaments: pairings, sign-ups, payments, fees, guests, and the skins game. Additionally, Match Play – Club Championship, the Memorial Cup, the hole-in-one insurance fund, which tees to play during events, tournament flights and the three-day family fun outing will be briefly discussed near the end of this document.

Please note that this update is being issued while the COVID – 19 Pandemic is still here. That being said, many of our operational parameters are modified event by event as restrictions and rules change. In normal golf circumstances walkers are not allowed in tournaments at most courses. During the period when the COVID pandemic was in control many courses eliminated having modified shotgun starts and now as controls have lessened, we see that many courses still want to stay with tee time starts only.

TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS

TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS: The primary objectives of the Pinseekers' Golf Club (as stated in the By-Laws) are to promote the game of golf and to stimulate closer fellowship among all members of the club. One way of accomplishing these objectives is to encourage members to play with as many other members as possible during the year. In addition to stimulating fellowship, playing with different people helps to improve knowledge of the rules and promotes the game of golf. For these reasons, the Board of Directors have unanimously agreed to a pairing's guideline, which is referred to as "**The Twosome Rule.**" This is not a new rule, but a reiteration of a long-standing guideline.

"The Twosome Rule": The Tournament Director will try to pair people with different members at each tournament. Requests to play with specific individuals will continue to be limited to two players. If you request a specific pairing, please limit it to one player. This will help to promote the club's objectives. If you carpool, reasonable attempts will be made to schedule you in consecutive, or nearly consecutive, start times. And, of course, if you bring a guest or guests, you will be paired together.

The Board of Directors is confident that most of you will welcome the opportunity to demonstrate your golfing prowess (and joke telling ability) to members who have not yet had the pleasure of your company.

SIGN-UPS FOR TOURNAMENTS: Signups and inclusion in tournaments are accepted by signing up on our website at <https://pinseekersgolfclub.com/> (*the preferred method*), email, phone, or personal contact with the Tournament Director. Regular tee time tournaments will be limited to 44 participants to allow for a timely completion of the event. The only limitations and restrictions on modified tee time starts or shotgun tournaments will be those set by the courses.

Please understand that mailing in a check for a tournament may not get you a slot in the tournament. If it fills up before your check is received and you have not previously provided notification of your intent to play you will be assigned to the Alternates List. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you give advance notification via web site sign up or e-mail to reserve your reservation.

An "Alternates List" is maintained to allow players to replace others who have changes in plans or emergencies after signing up. You will be informed if you are on the "Alternates List" for a tournament and given the opportunity to play if a slot opens.

TOURNAMENT FEES: Our fees for tournament participation are made up of the following components: Course green fees, cart fees, prize fund fees, and administrative expenses and other fees as deemed necessary to maintain a breakeven position on a tournament-by-tournament basis. (Example: Course fee \$30 + cart fee \$15 + Prize Fund \$5 + Admin \$2 + other fees established by the Tournament Director. The total of all of these represents our participation fee as shown on our Tournament Schedule.)

- 1. Course Fees:** Are those fees which the individual course charges our club to play. This fee generally includes green and cart fees and sometimes includes range ball fees, lunch credits, or required pro-shop expenditures.
- 2. Prize Fund Fees:** This amount is \$5 per tournament per player. This fee funds the clubs' tournament points, low gross, closest to the pin and birdie or better payouts to players. All these payouts are generally distributed to the members at the end of the year. Tournament points are awarded for tournament performance based upon the number of participants in each tournament. The number of places earning points and the number of points awarded are based upon a matrix formulated by the Tournament Director prior to the beginning of each campaign. Additionally, the club pays closest to the pin honorariums on Par 3's in most tournaments (limited to five per tournament), and we also payout a nominal amount for Birdies or better in our tournaments. There is also a payout for low gross.
- 3. Club Administrative Fee:** This fee amounts to \$2 per round and are included to cover club operating costs and non-tournament specific expenses.
- 4. Other Fees:** Those fees deemed necessary for a specific event as determined by the Tournament Director and/or the Board of Directors.

PAYMENT FOR TOURNAMENT FEES: The club does not utilize any E-payment options (i.e., Venmo, Zelle, PayPal). We, as a club, operate on a cash basis, i.e., checks are preferred. The club must pay the individual golf courses a guaranteed fee around our sign-up cutoff date. **This makes it imperative that your payments are made on time.** Please have your payments for tournament fees made by the “fees due deadline date” shown on the Pinseekers’ website Tournament Page. If you must cancel your participation after you have paid, the following are our refund/credit guidelines.

If you cancel a tournament prior to the sign-up cutoff date, you will receive full credit to your Pinseekers’ account for the fees paid. If you cancel after the sign-up cutoff date, we will credit you the course fees as long as we either replace you with an alternate player or are not charged for your tee time by the course. If you do not show up for a tournament nor provide notice of such, there will be no refunds or credit of your fees paid. If you have not paid your fees and cancel after our guaranteed date, you will be required to pay the appropriate fee to continue to play in our events.

GUESTS: Guests are allowed and welcomed twice a year without joining the club, on a space available basis. Guests pay the same fees as members, but do NOT participate in the Tournament Points process, including Low Gross, Low Net and Birdie or Better payouts. Guests are participants in the closest to the pin awards and may play the skins game if they have an established (USGA/NCGA) verifiable handicap index.

THE SKINS GAME: The skins game is a standalone element of each tournament. All tournament participants can opt in or opt out of the skins game. A decision on opting in must be made prior to the tournament. The skins game is contested by all of those opting in for a given tournament. The fee for the skins game is \$10 per tournament and is not included in the regular tournament participation fee. This is a net score per hole, skins game at 50% of a player’s course handicap, not to exceed one (1) stroke per hole. To win a skin, a player’s net score must beat all other players’ net scores on a single hole. The skins game will be played in flights if the tournament is in flights. Half strokes will be considered. As such, a player, whose course handicap is 15 strokes would get 7 1/2 strokes, thereby receiving 1/2 stroke on the 8th most difficult hole on the Scorecard.

OFFICIAL SCORER: An official scorer for each foursome will be appointed on the pairings sheet. The official scorer will be responsible for keeping the final scorecard and making sure it is provided to the Tournament Director for the recording of the final results. The scorecard should be hand delivered to the Tournament Director or if not available emailed to dmcc2675@aol.com or a photo texted to (925) 519-8653. Please indicate the tees played. If not hand delivered, please keep the final scorecard until the results are issued.

FINAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS: Tournament results will be disseminated to the club members via e-mail and be posted to the Pinseekers' website. The results will generally be available the day following the tournament. Any temporary scoresheets maintained on the course on the day of the tournament are subject to change upon final review by the Tournament Director. Final results will show the tournament results for all participants as well as tournament points earned, skins and closest to the pin winners.

MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP: The Club's match play tournament event, "Match Play Championship," which runs over the course of the year, determines the club Match Play Champion for the year. This tournament is run by a volunteer club coordinator each year. The cutoff for signing up for the yearly match play event is approximately March 1st. Interested members should contact the designated coordinator for more information and to get a copy of the rules or you can visit our website. There is a nominal fee to participate in this event. Each member will be responsible for their own green and cart fees. Dan Jones is the current coordinator of the event. Please contact Dan for the rules and other information @ Danjones68118@gmail.com and/or visit the Pinseekers' website.

MEMORIAL CUP PLAY: The club has a best ball partner event entitled "The Memorial Cup." Play starts around March 1st and runs through November yearly. The event is currently coordinated by Elizabeth (Liz) Riddle @ Lizgolf52@gmail.com. Please contact Liz for the rules and other information and/or visit the Pinseekers' website. There is a nominal fee to participate in this event over and above the green fees for matches played for this event.

WHICH TEES TO PLAY: The club generally allows each individual player to select his or her tee to play from in most tournaments. **Check the pairings sheet, if a handicap is shown for a specific tee for an individual, that individual may elect to play from that tee.** If a player plays from a tee for which no handicap is shown on the pairings sheet, the player will be disqualified from tournament point's distribution for that event. **The scorecard is not the determining factor, the pairings sheet is.** All course handicaps are calculated based upon the USGA formulas. General guidelines for determining which tees may be played (as determined by the Tournament Director) are as follows: Various tees may be allowed for both men and women; Men will be allowed to play from designated tees of 5,600 yards +/- or greater; and Ladies will be allowed to play from designated tees of 5,200 yards +/- or greater.

The following exceptions apply:

1. Tournaments where a specific set of tees are designated based on evaluation of the course and its relative difficulty.
2. Tournaments where tees outside of the general parameters are authorized based on evaluation of the course and its ratings.
3. The Match Play-Club Championship event may require specific tees to be played. Please refer to the rules for this event.
4. The Memorial Cup alternate shot play may require all players to play from a specific set of tees. Please refer to the rules for this event.

WE AS A CLUB PROMOTE THE USGA'S "PLAY IT FORWARD AGENDA" AND STRONGLY SUGGEST THE USE OF FORWARD TEES BY MID TO HIGH HANDICAP PLAYERS.

TOURNAMENT FLIGHTS: Starting mid 2015 the Board of Director decided to operate tournaments with greater than 44 players in two flights. Players will be placed into flights based on the NCGA/USGA index. The players will be evenly split into flights with guests playing in the same flight as their member sponsor. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for determining and making any necessary adjustments. Points available for distribution based upon results will be based on the number of players in each flight. The skins game will be played in flights in events where flights are used. Closest to the pin awards will be awarded across the board without flight parameters. Only one Low Gross winner will be awarded regardless of which flight he or she plays in.

PACE OF PLAY: Section 16J of the Club's By-Laws states (in part): "The club objective is for all players to complete their tournament round in 4-1/2 hours or less." This policy addresses the issue of slow play by establishing a maximum time allowable for a group to finish its round behind the preceding group, and imposing a penalty if that time is exceeded. If a Timing Marker is not available, either the Tournament Director, Pace of Play Coordinator, or Handicap Director will determine the stroke(s) penalty to be applied. See the By-Laws and/or the Website for detailed rules.

HOLE-IN-ONE INSURANCE: The club is self-insured and as such, provides a \$500 payout to club members scoring a hole in one in a club sponsored tournament, excluding Match Play and Memorial Cup play matches.

FAMILY FUN: The Club has a three-day family outing normally held between the end of May and the end of October. Depending upon the location and the date, there may be cocktail parties/dinners or other events associated with the outing. Complete information is provided each year well in advance of the event and posted on the website under the Tournament Tab.

ANNUAL DINNER / BUSINESS MEETING: The club holds its Annual Meeting and Dinner in early December of each year. All members attending will be entered in a drawing for numerous prizes. Additionally, Points money, Closest to the Pin and Birdie or Better payouts will be delivered to those in attendance. Members are encouraged to bring partners, significant others, or spouses to the event. The cost is born by the members with some contribution by the club.