

# Shennecossett Women's Golf Association Handbook

## 2023



*Shennecossett was founded in 1898 as a four-hole golf course and was enlarged to 18 holes a few years later. In 1916 the famous golf course architect, Donald Ross, redesigned the course to his signature and challenging specifications.*

*New holes were created in 1997 with a land swap with Pfizer.*

*Shennecossett is a public municipal course located at 93 Plant Street, Groton, CT.*

## Table of Contents

### Welcome

- 2022 Club Champion and Medalist
- SWGA Executive Board
- 2023 SWGA Standing Committees
- Other

### SWGA Membership

- Levels of Membership
- Meetings

### Slack

### Bulletin Board

### Sunshine

### Rules of Golf

### Ladies Day

- 18 or 9 Holes
- Flights
- Day and Start Time
- Sign Up and Groupings
- Rain
- Scoring and Scorecards
- Posting Scores
- Chip-ins, Birdies, Closest the Pin on Par 3's
- Winnings

### Competitions, Events and Tournaments

- Ringers
- Major Tournaments
- Requirements
- Scoring and Scorecards

### Pace of Play

### Rules –USGA Reminders

- Ball Unplayable
- Common Rule Situations

### Rules –SWGA/Shennecossett Local Rules

### Grievances

### Appendix:

- Membership form
- 2023 SWGA Schedule
- Shennecossett Local Rules (card size)
- SWGA By-laws

## Welcome

Shennecossett Women's Golf Association (SWGA) is an active league of approximately 40 members who play to both enjoy and compete in the game of golf. SWGA is one of the most welcoming and active women's leagues in eastern Connecticut and western Rhode Island. SWGA By-laws, updated and approved in 2017, govern the organization, standards, and rules of the league. All members should have a copy of the SWGA By-laws. The SWGA Handbook is updated annually.

### 2022 Club Champion

Jessica Hewitt – 2022 Club Champion and Medalist

Kim Capizzano– 2022 Finalist

Barbara Gomes—2022 Flight A Champion

### 2021-2023 Executive Board

Marie Shaw	President
Marcia Peterson	Vice-President
Cathy Dow	Secretary
Kris Meaney	Treasurer
Margaret Hirsch	Past President
Jessica Hewitt	Tournament Chair
Cindy Lathrop	Handicap Chair
Dawn Barrasso	Charitable Events Chair

### 2023 Standing Committees

Committee	Chair
Tournament	Jessica Hewitt
Handicap	Cindy Lathrop
Social	Kris Meany
Ladies Day	Marcia Peterson
Member-Guest	TBD in Spring 2023
Grievance	Jessica Hewitt, Marcia Peterson, Marie Shaw
Greens/Golf Advisory Board	Marie Shaw
Charitable Events	Dawn Barrasso
Volunteer Coordination	Marie Shaw

### Other

Sunshine	Marie Shaw, Cindy Lathrop
----------	---------------------------

## SWGA Membership

SWGA welcomes both returning and new members. Memberships are for one year and must be renewed annually. SWGA members must also have current membership in the United States Golf Association Golf Handicap Information Network (USGA GHIN) which is included with the SWGA dues.

USGA GHIN (pronounced “jin”) is a handicapping computational service provided by the USGA through authorized associations and clubs. USGA GHIN keeps individuals handicap indexes current. Members have a unique GHIN Number ID to post game scores and access their current index online. To post scores members may download the GHIN app to their own phone or device. All members must post scores of all rounds of play in GHIN, regardless of the course in order to maintain an accurate handicap index. See <https://www.ghin.com/login>

GHIN Memberships are renewed annually. According to USGA, the handicap index is “a measurement of a player’s potential ability on a course of standard playing difficulty.” The golfer uses the handicap index to determine her/his handicap at a particular course, based on the difficulty of that course.

### Levels of Membership:

There are three levels of SWGA membership.

1. Full SWGA Membership:
  - a. Player must be a member of Shennecossett Golf Course.
  - b. The cost per person for a full SWGA membership for 2023 is **\$85.00**. This amount includes an official GHIN Membership with Handicap.
  - c. Full members are eligible to play in the weekly Ladies’ Day, the season-long Ringers tournament, as well as all tournaments: Opening Day Tournament, Four Ball Tournament, Handicap Tournament, and Senior Tournament (if age eligible), Club Championship, Member-Guest, President’s Cup and Closing Day Tournament.
2. Associate SWGA Membership:
  - a. Membership in the Shennecossett Golf Course is not required.
  - b. The cost per person for an associate SWGA member for 2023 is **\$75.00**. This amount includes an official USGA GHIN Membership with Handicap.
  - c. Associate members may only compete in the weekly Ladies’ Day competition, the season-long Ringer’s competition and the Opening and Closing Day Tournaments and the Member-Guest if invited by a full member.

3. USGA GHIN Handicap Membership:
  - a. Membership in the Shennecossett Golf Course is not required.
  - b. The cost per person for a GHIN Handicap is **\$45.00**
  - c. Members at this level are ineligible to participate in SWGA events and tournaments with the exception of Member-Guest if invited by a full member.

After May 1, 2023, new members of the Shennecossett Golf Course who wish to become members of the SWGA and compete but do not have a current established handicap, must:

- ✚ apply for an official USGA GHIN handicap;
- ✚ play five 18-hole rounds at any USGA approved golf course and post scores in GHIN;

### **Meetings:**

The annual spring meeting shall be held in March/April and the annual fall meeting shall be held in September/October at a time and place determined by the Board. All members will be notified by email. Special meetings of SWGA shall be called by the President upon request of the Board.

### **Slack**

The SWGA uses an online communications platform called Slack. A Slack Handbook is available for assisting those who are not familiar with Slack or just need a review. New members will be given access to the SWGA Slack account. Shared Slack folders or “channels” have specific topics. There are “channels” for Ladies’ Day sign-up, tournament information, etc. The “general channel” is used for communications among members, such as finding others to play with on non-league days, announcements, and so forth.

### **Bulletin Board**

There is a bulletin board in the pro shop for posting SWGA news items.

### **Sunshine**

SWGA has a Sunshine Committee who, on behalf of the membership, recognizes with cards significant events such as the passing of a family member, illness, etc. Members are encouraged to share with the Sunshine Committee when they know of a need or concern.

### **Rules of Golf**

The USGA Official Rules of Golf shall govern all play (except for Local Rules). Any questions related to rules, USGA or Local, should be directed to the Tournament Committee or the Pro. If they do not have an answer, they will help you find it. Any deviations from the Rules of Golf, due to extreme weather or other course conditions, will be determined by the Tournament Committee.

## Ladies Day

Ladies' Day competitions are open to Full and Associate members of the SWGA. Ladies' Day competitions are weekly games played during the annual league season. Players sign-up for and compete in one Ladies' Day competition per week either on Tuesday or on the preceding weekend. If a player signs up for weekend play, then she cannot compete on Tuesday (but can still play on Tuesday for fun), and vice versa. If playing the weekly league competition on the preceding Saturday or Sunday, players must declare prior to the start of the game that it is the Ladies' Day competition and must play with at least one other SWGA member who attests to the score and signs the scorecard. All Ladies' Day competitions are played from the green tees unless otherwise announced. Full SWGA and Associate SWGA members have the option on Ladies Day of either 9-hole or 18-hole play.

### 18 or 9 Holes:

While we are one SWGA league, we acknowledge that some ladies prefer the option of 9 holes instead of the full 18. In order to accommodate this need and maintain flexibility, each week members will have the option to play 18 or 9 holes in Ladies Day competition. Tuesday (or preceding Saturday or Sunday) Ladies' Day competition.

Weekend 9-Hole players will play holes #10 through #18 for scoring purposes. This may be subject to change by the Pro.

### Flights:

Once the field has been determined for any given event, it is broken down into flights according to handicap for the purpose of scoring and payouts. To designate a flight for a given round of golf, the SWGA requires a minimum of six (6) 18-hole players using full handicap or a minimum of three (3) 9-hole players at half handicap. If the minimum number of players is not available, there is not a flight. Members playing in a specific Ladies' Day competition (whether on the weekend or on Tuesday) are placed into appropriate flights weekly, based upon their handicap. Winnings are awarded each week as follows: gross and net for each 18-hole flight; and net only for each 9-hole flight. Flights and their members may change from week to week.

### Day and Start Time:

Members have the option to play Ladies Day on preceding Saturday, Sunday or Tuesday morning during the SWGA league season. Players must declare they are playing their weekly game prior to the start and must play in the presence of another SWGA member who signs their attestation on the scorecard. Saturday or Sunday players are responsible for making their own tee times. If Ladies' Day Tuesday falls on a major holiday, then a designated date will be announced.

**18-holes:** The reserved shotgun tee time for 18-hole players is **8:00 a.m.** on Tuesday. Ladies playing 18 holes are asked to please **arrive by 7:30 a.m.** and be ready to play by **7:45 a.m.**

**9-holes:** The reserved tee time is **10 a.m.** Ladies should be ready to play **by 9:45 a.m.** The pro assigns the starting hole that is typically hole #10. This may be subject to change by the Pro.

The designated start times are intended to permit 18-hole and 9-hole members to finish their rounds at approximately the same time, thus encouraging all members to join together for lunch.

### **Sign Up and Groupings:**

The chairperson of the Ladies Day standing committee facilitates groupings and hole assignments each week as players arrive. Groups change from week-to-week.

Members who wish to play on Ladies' Day must sign up in Slack by Sunday to indicate their commitment to play the following Tuesday, and whether they are signing up for 18-holes or 9-hole play. Saturday or Sunday players must list the date they are competing in Slack. It is assumed that players who do not sign up in Slack, are not intending to play.

The channel that serves as the Ladies' Day weekly sign-up sheet also has a column for members to indicate if they are walking or riding that week. The chair may use this information at her discretion to determine weekly groups.

### **Rain:**

Assume Ladies Day will occur if there is light or intermittent rain. However, if it is determined weather is severe, Ladies Day could be cancelled or postponed. It is up to the golfer to check Slack and/or call the **Pro Shop at 860-448-1867** for an announcement about any cancellation or postponement. A decision will be made by 6:45 a.m. and posted on Slack. If Tuesday play is cancelled, members can set up their own 4-somes and tee times and play on Thursday.

### **Scoring and Scorecards:**

To maintain an efficient flow of play, gross scores are recorded with a maximum gross score of 10 on any hole while competing in the weekly Ladies' Day excluding tournaments.

Each group of four players should keep a minimum of 2 scorecards. Both cards should be signed and attested. One scorecard is the official card that is immediately placed after play in the scorecard box located in the Pro Shop in front of the SWGA bulletin board. The other scorecard should be kept as back-up.

### **Posting Scores:**

All members must post scores of all rounds of play in GHIN, regardless of the course in order to maintain an accurate handicap index using their own computing or smartphone device.

There is an exception for golfers who are no longer permitted to post scores from rounds played in Connecticut and surrounding states when out of season. The posting season for

Connecticut closed on November 14, 2022 and reopened on April 1, 2023. Scores for rounds played in areas which are in active seasons MUST be posted. A schedule of the score posting season, by state, is available from the [USGA](#).

### **Chip-ins, Birdies, Closest to the Pin on Par 3's**

Indicate on the attested scorecard the name of the player and the hole for any chip-ins, birdies on any hole, or closest to the pin (on Par 3's only), obtained while competing in the weekly Ladies' Day.

Closest to the pin on par 3's—the players measure from the edge of the cup to where the ball from the drive lay. Check Slack channel "Closest to the Pin" and record your name, hole, and measurement in the Slack channel if your drive ranks closest for the specific hole. Winners are announced at the end of season.

### **Winnings:**

Ladies Day winnings accumulate over the league season and will be determined at the end of the season.

## **Competitions, Events, and Tournaments**

There are five types of competitions:

1. Opening Day and the Closing Day events.
2. Ladies Day
3. Ringers
4. Member/Guest
5. Major Tournaments

### **Ringers:**

The Ringers Tournament is open to all SWGA members and runs all season long. Rounds must be played with and attested by another SWGA player. Ringers are the total of the best scores on each of the 18 holes. Winners are determined at the end of the season. See 2023 SWGA Tournament Overview for specific format. Any round a member plays on the Shennecossett course with another SWGA member can be used toward your ringer score.

### **Major Tournaments:**

Opening Day Tournament, Four Ball Tournament, Handicap Tournament, Senior Tournament (if age eligible), Club Championship, Member-Guest, President's Cup and Closing Day Tournament. A full listing and explanation of each tournament for 2023 is found in the Appendix. SWGA full members are encouraged to participate both for the competition and the fun.

**Note:** *A player cannot play a match play and score play events at the same time, e.g., Four-Ball and Presidents Cup cannot be played at the same time.*



## **Requirements**

All SWGA major tournaments, or flights within a tournament, must have a minimum of 6 (six) competing members to be a valid competition. To be included in a competition, you must sign in before playing your round with the designated person; have a marker who is an SWGA member keep your score, and turn in a scorecard that is signed and dated by the marker and player.

The maximum allowable Handicap Index is 40.4 (43 Home Course Handicap) for the 2023 tournaments sponsored by the SWGA, unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Committee. If your index is higher, you may still compete but you will only be able to use 43 for your handicap.

## **Scoring and Scorecards**

To maintain an efficient flow of play, the Max 10 format of play will be in place for Ladies' Day games - the maximum gross score recorded on any hole will be 10 for all players. For any of the Club's major tournaments (Handicap Tournament, Four Ball Tournament, Senior Club Championship, Club Championship Qualifying, Club Championship and President's Cup), or any events where the format is match play, there will be no maximum number of strokes per hole.

Scorecards must be accurately dated, signed by the player and attested by an SWGA member. . Check the 2023 SWGA Tournament Overview document in the Appendix for any specific instructions on scorecards for specific events.

## **Pace of Play**

1. Play ready golf.
2. If there is an open hole in front of you, then your group is likely behind.
3. While not always possible, try to aim to be on the last hole for 18 close to four hours and for 9 close to two hours.

## **Rules –USGA Reminders**

### **Ball Unplayable:**

The player may determine her ball to be unplayable at any place on the course except when the ball is in a penalty area. The player is the sole judge as to whether the ball is unplayable.

Rule of Thumb: When taking relief and there is no penalty involved, it is one club length. When taking relief and there is a penalty involved, it is two club lengths.

## Common Rule Situations

Common Rules Situations		Options	Procedures and Penalties
1	Out of Bounds (White Stakes)	C	A Two strokes – Stroke Play
2	Lost Ball (5 minutes to search)	C	B Loss of Hole – Match Play
3	Unplayable Lie	C D F	C One stroke and replay from where last ball was hit
4	In Water Hazard (Yellow Stakes)	C F I	D One stroke and drop within two club lengths, not nearer the hole
5	In Lateral Water Hazard (Red Stakes)	C E F G I	E One stroke and drop within two club lengths of where the ball last crossed the hazard margin (not nearer the hole)
6	In Ground Under Repair	H I	F One stroke and drop as far back as desired on line from hole through where the ball lay or last crossed the hazard margin
7	Ground Club or Move Loose Impediment in Hazard	A or B	G One stroke and drop within two club-lengths from point on opposite margin equidistant from hole
8	Artificial Obstruction Interferes with Lie, Stance or Swing (nets, cart path)	H I	H Drop within one club-length of nearest point of relief (no penalty)
9	Ball Strikes Self or Own Equipment	K	I Play as it lies (no penalty)
10	Ball Strikes Competitor or Their Equipment in Stroke Play	J	J Putting Green: Cancel & replay stroke
11	Hitting Wrong Ball	A or B	K One stroke and play as it lies
12	Giving or Asking Advice	A or B	

### Play the Ball Down

It has been decided by the Handicap Committee that during all SWGA events, Ladies Day through tournaments, we will play the ball down. There will no longer be preferred lies in the fairways. Effective immediately. Dated: April 29, 2022

## Rules –SWGA /Shennecossett Local Rules

USGA rules apply except as modified by local rules.

1. Hole 1 --Ball in the road on Hole 1 – Re-tee or drop on the other side of the road – **One Stroke Penalty.**
2. Hole 1 – Free relief from net if ball is in bounds. Not sure – play a provisional ball. One club length from nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole.
3. Hole 2 – Railroad tracks. If the ball comes to rest inside orange markers, take free relief, dropping as far back as you'd like on a line between where the ball was found (or is believed by all players to have come to rest) and the hole.
4. Hole 3 – Free relief from inside net – One club length from nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole.
5. Hole 8 – If the ball comes to rest on the right side of the fairway and your club will impact a rock during the swing, the player is entitled to free relief within one club length.
6. Hole 11 – On the approach shot to the green, if there is a possibility your ball has gone out of bounds beyond the green, play a provisional ball before moving towards the green.
7. Hole 15 – If a player's ball enters the Penalty Area to the left of the green, a player may drop the ball following the rules laid out on the next page, or go to the area left of the cart path, in front of the penalty area and drop a ball there.
8. Flower beds are played as ground under repair.
9. Stones may be removed from sand traps.
10. Green topped red stakes mark environmentally sensitive areas and should not be entered.
11. Ball moving after address – if it is certain the player did not cause the ball to move (i.e., the wind did it), there is no penalty and the ball is **played from its new position.**

## Grievances

The Grievance Committee consisting of the President, Vice-President and Tournament Chair shall settle all grievances.

### Appendix:

Membership form  
2023 SWGA Ladies Day and Season Calendar  
SWGA By-laws