



## 2023 Men's League Spring Letter

Happy Spring Men!

I want to first start out and thank John McCrea for stepping up years ago and taking over our men's league. I know what kind of commitment and time it takes to make things successful, so Thank you John! I have some big shoes to fill, but I am up to the challenge.

**Now onto 2023**...We are making few changes going forward. Our biggest change will be the use of handicaps. With the revision of handicap calculations by the USGA and the RA, back in January of 2019, we should be able to move forward using handicaps in our events, fairly. Secondly, we will have a different handicap game every week. So, when you go to sign up, please sign up for one week at a time.

**League Dues**: League dues will be the \$80 for 2023. This DOES include a WSGA handicap. However, if you already have a USGA handicap established through GHIN, your league dues will be \$55. On our membership form, there is a place for you to put your GHIN number. Handicaps are updated every 24 hours, so each week, your handicap could change. (Most likely just a little) League dues will pay for dinners and prizes. ALL league due money that is collected is paid back out in these two entities. Entry fee each week will be \$5 per player. \$1.00 will be saved for the end of the season event, \$4.00 will be paid out each week in pro shop credit.

**Golf and Cart Rates**: As always, players that decide to pay weekly for their golf/cart, will receive 20% off our base rates depending on the time of year. When we hit summer rates, our base rate will be \$88 for golf/cart + tax. You will get 20% off that, making it \$70.40 + tax. We do sell season pass's and 10-play cards. Our season pass rates are on the website. Get your calculator and figure out if that would be the best value. The 10-play cards get you 25% off the base rate, just so you know!

**Payouts**: Every week, we will payout the top 33% of the field. For example: If we are playing an individual event and we have 40 players, we will pay out the top 13 players. As we have multi player events, such as 2 player and 4 players, obviously, the amount of payouts won't go as deep.

**The second event** of the season will be an individual stroke play event. This event will NOT use handicaps as it is designed for those who do not have an established handicap to get a round into the system. This event will be a "gross" score event. I will flight this event by score and payout 1<sup>st</sup> and maybe 2<sup>nd</sup> in each flight, depending on the amount of players. For those who do not have a handicap and are in the process of establishing one, you MUST, MUST have at least 5 scores in by June 5<sup>th</sup>. So that means you need to get out and play outside our league. If that is not reasonable, if you played at anytime during the winter and have the scorecards, we can use those. But preferred is for you to get the rounds in once we open. One more thing on handicaps...when you go play on your own, you need to let us know what tees you played and the date you played it.

**Our league championship** will be on the last Wednesday in August. We will play an individual stroke play event, placing you in flights based on your handicaps. You will be playing against only those in your flight. The overall winner of our league will be our lowest NET score. Usually, you would take the lowest gross score, but I want to give everyone a chance to be that winner. We will also have a super fun putting contest before you head out for play. There will be a nice prize for this, so I recommend you get there early and participate. Dinner will follow the event. If we have the prime rib dinner this year, I just want you to know, the payouts will be less. The cost of meat is high, as you all know.

**New for 2023!** Happy Hours!! You will see on our league schedule some happy hour days. These days will give you a discount on drinks and the league will provide some snacks. Snacks will mostly be chips, nuts, etc, but once in a while I may have some dips or cheese and sausage plates. If you would like to bring a snack on those days to share, we invite you. Our ladies league does this and it works out great.

**And finally, some simple rules:** USGA rules will cover most of our play. However, we have a few local rules that we will use for our leagues.

- You may play the ball up in your own fairway, down everywhere else.
- The woods on the left side of the golf course, every hole, is considered a lateral hazard. This means you may drop a ball approximately where it went in, 2 club lengths, with a one stroke penalty
- The woods on the right side on holes 12-15 are not lateral hazards. If you hit into these woods, and can not find it, you may drop a ball approximately where it went in, with a 2 stroke penalty. No need to hit a provisional.
- The only out of bounds is the parking lot on #18. You must re-tee hitting 3. So if you think it went into the parking lot, please hit a provisional.
- All putts must be holed. No gimmies.
- Pace of play will be monitored. Our goal is to play in 4 hours. Please do not let big "gaps" form. Usually you play better if you don't over think it!!!
- All league scores will be entered for handicap purposes. When scoring your cards, you need to put your "**GROSS SCORE**" per hole. I will adjust for the net scores.

So, there you go! I think I've covered everything, but obviously, things will come up as we move forward. If you know anyone that wants to join our league, and they join, you will receive a free greens fee to be used as you see fit. That's a \$66 (summer rate) value!

Any questions, send me an email ([mosborne@troutlakegolf.com](mailto:mosborne@troutlakegolf.com)) or give me a call.

I'm looking forward to our league! My goal will be to have the results out Wednesday evening or by noon Thursday following our event.

Good Golfing,

Mike