

**Bay Cities 2019 Rules and Regulations
(Re-codified on November 8, 2018)**

Rule 1. USGA Rules Apply:

Both the spirit and the letter of the USGA Rules & Decisions (“USGA Rules”) shall apply to all matches conducted by League teams, except as otherwise provided herein or by local club rules. Particular emphasis is directed to USGA’s Rules, Section 1 - “Etiquette; Behavior on the Course.”

Rule 2. Participating Clubs and Divisional Alignment

Prior to the start of the regular season, the Board shall determine the number of divisions and the teams that will participate within each division. The Board can re-arrange and modify the participating teams in each division, utilizing criteria, including but not limited to, the needs of the League, traditional rivalries, travel distances, member requests, and division balance. The six current divisions are: East, North, Southwest, West, Southeast, and Northeast divisions. The divisions and match schedules for the upcoming season shall be distributed to the Coaches at the annual Spring Kickoff Meeting.

Rule 3. Junior Player Eligibility

a. **Age:** Junior golf players are eligible to play and participate in the league matches provided that they have not yet reached his or her 21st birthday on or before January 1st of the BCL season for such year. The League does not have a minimum age restriction; each member club shall be allowed to determine whether its own junior players are of appropriate age to compete without additional adult supervision.

b. **Co-Ed:** Junior golf team play is open to both boys and girls, without limitation.

c. **Affinity to a Member of the Club:**

The League recognizes two types of junior eligibility for players as “Bona fide” or “Other” as defined below. The purpose of this distinction is to ensure that each member club’s junior golf team for any given match has the minimum number of Bona fide players in the scoring matches.

1. “***Bona fide***” junior members may participate, without limitation as to numbers, and are defined as:

- a. The son or daughter of bona fide, dues-paying golf or social member of the member club; or
- b. Grandchildren of bona fide, dues-paying golf or social member of the member club wherein the grandchild has the same privileges of junior

membership to use the club facilities as would a son or daughter of a bona fide, dues-paying member.

- c. Special junior memberships provided to boys or girls whose parents or grandparents ARE NOT bona fide, dues-paying golf or social members of the member club, but have been granted a special junior membership (Junior, Junior Non-Proprietary, Junior Merit, etc.) whereby they:
 1. Pay dues monthly or annually;
 2. Have an account number, and are billed by the club monthly for dues and use of the club amenities (e.g., pool, gym, food and beverage, etc.); and
 3. Have golf privileges to use the club on a year-round basis
2. “*Other*” junior members are defined as:
 - a. Any other non-member juniors who are invited to play on a team during the BCL season who are otherwise not Bona fide junior members.

d. **Maximum Number of “Other” Players:**

The total number of all “Other” players that can compete for points in any of the eight scoring positions during a team’s match shall not exceed six (5) players. The competition committee will review this rule each year before the start of season play to see if modification or revision is necessary.

e. **No Switching Teams:**

A player may only be listed on one teams' roster per season. A player cannot "float" from one team to another during any given season, but can, after that season is over, switch to another team for the ensuing season. If it is determined that a player has played on more than one team during the season, such play shall be disqualified from all matches played during the season which may impact the results of the matches previously played at the discretion of the League.

f. **Hardship Exemptions:**

Any member club may request a hardship exemption from the eligibility rules for good cause (which should include statements from the Club president and head professional as to the nature of the hardship and what actions will be taken to resolve such hardship) which shall be reviewed by the Competition and Rules Committee for a determination. An example of an exemption which may be considered is in the case of a member club that is not private (i.e. resort, public) such that the club itself does not have Bona fide members as described above.

g. **Junior Team Rosters:**

A list of the names and membership status (i.e., bona fide or Other) of all juniors golfers competing for the member club must be submitted to the League's office for posting on the League's website before that team's first division match of the season, and in no event later than June 15th of each year or such other date as determined by the President or rules committee.

h. **Player's Eligibility to Play in the Playoffs:**

To be able to compete for their team during the playoff matches, junior golfers (Bona fide as well as "Other") must have participated in at least two (2) of their team's practice and/or divisional matches during the season, as evidenced by previously submitted score sheets of all such qualifying matches. Please note that a player only needs to participate in two matches, and not necessarily be part of the 8 players on the scoring team). Participation in practice matches with other member clubs will count towards the participation requirement as well as team practice matches that are conducted in lieu of a division match due to forfeiture by an opposing team.

Rule 4. Scheduling of Matches

Each team will play every other team within its division in a home and away match during the season unless not possible due to an odd number of teams in the division or in the event of a forfeited match.

One or more exhibition or practice matches may be played between teams from different divisions, or if the League is notified prior to the match that a match is a "practice" match, with teams within a team's division. Coaches may arrange for these matches directly with other coaches at either at the Spring Meeting or at such other time is convenient for the coaches.

The six divisional winners and two at large teams from the six divisions will play in the league playoff matches. The two at large teams will be selected by their team record and average number of points during the season in division matches, if necessary, to break a tie. If one or more of the matches are forfeited, the forfeited match will count in overall record but will be excluded from the computation of average points during the season. If there is still a tie using the above formula, the winner of the division or at large selections will be determined by coin toss.

Rule 5. Determination of Playoff Participants and League Champion

a. **Playoff Team Selection:**

1. Each division champion and each at large selection will play in the League's opening round of playoff matches. A total of eight teams, comprised of the winning teams from each division and two at large selections will

compete in the league playoffs.

b. **Hosting of Playoff Matches and Seeding**

1. The teams with the 1st through 4th place finishes in overall league play based on record (and average number of points per match throughout the season if necessary to break a tie) will each have the privilege of hosting their first round in the playoffs.
2. The teams with the 5th through 8th place finishes in overall league play based on record (and average number of points throughout the season if necessary to break a tie) will be seeded against teams whereby the fifth place team will play the fourth place team, sixth place team will play the third place team, seventh place team will play the second place team, and the eighth place team will play the first place team.

c. **Other Seeding Ties:**

Should there be a tie in the divisional point averages in determining the rank of “seeding,” the winner of any head-to-head match shall be seeded above the loser of that match. If that does resolve the seeding, then the point averages from all matches played that year will determine the seeding. If that does not resolve the seeding, the seeding team will be determined by a flip of a coin.

d. **Play-off Match Tie-Breaker Protocol:**

If a playoff match initially results in a point total tie, the winner of the match will be determined on the basis of the better point score using all of the two-man best ball scores. If that method should also result in a tie, the winner will then be determined by comparing the individual match’s best ball points, starting with the #1 match, until the tie is first broken.

e. **Championship Matches:**

The championship matches will be a home and home event preferably on the Saturday and Sunday of one weekend, whichever is agreed upon by the coaches of these teams.

f. **Championship Tie:**

If, at the conclusion of the Championship matches, the total points results in tie after normal play, no tie breaker protocol will be utilized. Both teams will be declared the League Co-Champions.

g. **League Trophy:**

The League's "Perpetual Championship Trophy" is to be presented to the League Champion as soon as possible upon completion of the final championship winner's match, preferably at the conclusion of the League Championship. The trophy is to be returned to the League prior to the Championship Match for such year so it may be presented to the new League Champion at the Championship Match. A permanent award shall also be given to the League Champion, as well as the division champions, which is theirs to keep.

h. **Unable to Compete in Playoffs:**

In the unfortunate event that a team that has qualified for the playoffs, but is unable to field a team of at least six (but preferably eight) junior golfers, then the second place team from their division will have the option to take a spot in the playoffs. If the second place team is unable to do so, then the third place team may do so, and so on. Likewise if an at large selection is unable to field a team than the at large selection shall be determined in a similar manner. If it is a division winner that cannot compete, then the division runner-up will move into that seeded (hosting team) spot, and the third place winner in that division will take over the 2nd place's spot.

Play-off eligible teams must confirm their ability to participate in the Playoffs within 48 hours of notification of eligibility (e.g., not later than end of day Monday following the last match of the season). If they cannot, then next eligible team replaces them in the play-offs. The potential replacement teams should be on notice following the final match. Losing teams in the quarter final matches should play each other in consolation matches the same weekend as the semi-final matches.

i. **Golf Course Availability:**

If a course scheduling conflict develops whereby a playoff team cannot be the host of their playoff match, it is in the spirit of the League that the match be played, if possible, at the other team's home course, or with such other arrangements as approved by the League.

j. **Additional Post Season Play:**

Losing teams in the quarter final matches may, but are not required to, play each other in consolation matches the same weekend as are the semi-final matches.

Rule 6. Team Size

A predetermined squad of eight (8) junior golfers shall constitute the point scoring team. The traveling team shall generally be limited to 12 junior golfers plus 2 adult golfers). By prior arrangement with the host club, the visiting team may take as many players as are welcomed and can be accommodated by the home team.

Rule 7. Teeing Ground to Be Used

For the scoring team, play is from the Championship tees (usually “Blue” or “Black”) for the boys, and the girls shall play from a forward tee as shall be designated by the host’s Club Professional in fairness and in equity such that women’s course rating from such tees is as close to the boys course rating from the Championship tees used for the boys. Typically, this will be the next forward (or possibly two forward) tees from the boy’s tee. Once a host club designates the teeing ground to be used, it cannot vary the tee selection from match to match, but must remain consistent throughout the remainder of the season. Non-scoring players may use any teeing ground as designated by their coaches. Par for each hole played will be the same for boys and girls.

Rule 8. Use of Motorized Carts

All players on the scoring team must walk. However, a player may use a motorized cart due to a documented medical necessity. This does not preempt the rules of any of those Club’s whose policies may require all players to use carts. On steep or remote sections between teeing grounds, or for unusual weather conditions, a Club may allow and provide transportation to the junior players. Coaches may use carts.

Rule 9. Spectators, No Advice

Individual club policy on spectators shall be enforced. Each coach shall communicate to the opposing each with their club’s spectator policy. If spectators are allowed by the club, they must adhere to the host club rules regarding galleries. Spectators are to remain at least twenty-five yards away from the players. If advice is given by the spectator, loss of hole will be imposed on the junior receiving the advice. It is the responsibility of the visiting coach to obtain prior permission from the host club to allow spectators.

Rule 10. No Coaching or Caddies During Match

Coaching by the team’s coaches is NOT allowed during any League match. Coaching is defined as giving advice on golf swing, putting, or other mechanics related to the game. The coach can, however, offer motivational advice during play and check on status of matches. Caddies are also not allowed for a team member during a League match. Breach of this rule is loss of hole on the junior receiving the advice.

Rule 11. Ranking

Team Ladder: Team members are ranked according to ability and shall be placed in the line-up in such order. Each team coach shall maintain an objectively verifiable method of establishing and maintaining their team’s ladder. This method may take into account BCL match play, outside tournament play, team practice rounds, or other reasonable methods which aim to determine the team ladder heading into each match, which may vary throughout the season based on play of the individual team members. Violation of this rule, better known as "stacking the line-up," may result in disqualification of that team after discussing the match in question with the League and the individual coaches involved. The League will make the final determination

of whether or not a warning or disqualification is necessary, which decision shall be binding.

Rule 12. Scoring Procedures

Points are based on the play of eight players (the scoring team) per team. For each match, 36 total points must be awarded. Points are determined and scored as follows:

- a. **Scratch Play:** All individual and teams matches are played scratch (no use of handicaps).
- b. **Same Par for All:** Par for both the boys and girls will be the same.
- c. **Eight Individual Matches:** One point is awarded for each individual match play winner for the front nine, one point for each individual match play winner for the back nine, and one point for the winning player for the overall match for the 18 holes. Ties result in each player of an individual match receiving a half of a point for the front, back, and overall, respectively
- d. **Four Two-man Best Ball Matches:** One point is awarded for each two-person team best ball match play winner of the front nine, one point awarded for team best ball match play winner of the back nine, and one point is awarded for the team best ball match winner for the 18 holes. Ties result in each 2-player team receiving a half of a point for the front, back, and overall, respectively
- e. **Incomplete Match:** A player's contribution to the individual and team scoring effort shall be recorded even if he is not able to complete all of the 18 holes. In this case, only the player's scores for the holes played shall be taken into account.
- f. **Less Than Full Eight-Player Team:** A team that plays with less than eight players shall position them consecutively, starting with the number one position and then through as many positions as the players may fill.
- g. **Ties:** Individual Player & Best-Ball team ties represent one-half point awarded to each side.
- h. **Recording Scores After Each Hole:** To help prevent later disputes and to improve scorecard accuracy, the scorers in each foursome are required and instructed to ask each player his or her score immediately upon completion of each hole played, and record that score immediately on the official scorecards.
- i. **Determination of the Winning Team:** The team receiving the majority of the 36 total possible points is the winner of the match. If match results in an initial total points tie (18 to 18), the winner will be determined on the basis of the total points of the four best ball scores in the match. If the tie is still not broken, then by the first team's best ball points, then the second team's, and so on, until the tie is broken. If still not broken, then by using the first player's points, then second player's points, etc. until the tie is

ultimately broken.

j. **No Match Shall End in a Tie.** Ties must be broken using the procedures listed in “i” above.

k. **Determining of the Division Champion:** The team with the best won/lost percentage of all of the matches played against other teams within their division is that division’s champion. No match shall end in a tie. If two or more teams tie for the best won/lost percentage, the tied team(s) winning the head-to-head matches shall be the division winner. If that fails to break the tie, then the tied team that has the highest average t points in all matches during the season shall be the division champion.

l. **Effect of a Forfeit:** Forfeits shall be counted in the overall “won - loss” records of the respective teams, but the match points shall not be used to compute “average points per divisional match” which is one of the tie-breakers for determine a division’s champion.

Rule 13. Spring Kickoff Meeting

a. **Kickoff Meeting:** Each season begins with the MANDATORY “kick- off” meeting which is held in the spring of each year (usually in April). At this meeting, the League will provide the team match schedules for each division, any proposed rule changes, financial reports, issues from the floor, informational packets, team gifts, awarding of trophies and plaques, and such other matters as comes before the League. A golf tournament comprised of the various club’s Junior Golf Coaches, their assistant coach, and League officials shall follow or precede the Spring Meeting.

The Host Club will provide complimentary tee times. The League will reimburse the Host Club for food and refreshments. The Host Club may provide golf carts or the participants may be charged for carts, at the discretion of the Host Club.

b. **Sites:** The list of the hosting clubs is to be rotated between Member Clubs.

c. **Required Attendance:** Attendance by each member club’s Junior Golf Coach, Co-Coach, or Club Professional at this meeting is mandatory.

d. **Notices:** The BCL President shall notify the coach of each member club via email of the date and time of the Spring Kick-Off Meeting at least eight weeks prior to such meeting. The coach of each member club shall be responsible for notifying his/her co-coach or club professional.

Rule 14. Responsibilities of Member Clubs and Their Junior Golf Chairman

a. **Team Coach:** Each member club will have a person designated, identified and on file with the League as that club’s BCL coach. The BCL coach will be the direct interface between the League and the Member Club and its Bay Cities Junior golf team.

Responsibilities and functions of the Member Club and the BCL Coach are as follows:

b. Dues and Expenses:

1. Each member club shall pay annual Dues in the amount of \$525 per year, payable before the Spring Meeting of each year. Dues are used to cover administrative costs of the League, including the spring meeting costs, awards, accounting, and related expenses. In addition, the Dues are used to purchase and distribute to each member club eight dozen BCL logo golf balls as long as the team has paid its dues in a timely manner prior to the Spring Meeting. Dues may be revised by the League as necessary each year to ensure financial stability.
2. The host club, at its expense, is to provide a lunch for the visiting team and coaches and to provide golf carts for the Coach and co-coach chaperons.
3. Each participating club shall purchase, at a minimum, team shirts for each team member of the club. These shirts should be ordered at least two months prior to the start of each season to ensure they are received in time for league play. Each club may make its own decision of whether the club pays for the shirts or they are charged to the team members.

c. BCL Coaching Duties and Functions

1. **Reserve Tee Times:** The BCL Coach shall make all necessary arrangements for home matches with their club manager, club professional, food and beverage department and/or pro shop, as applicable.
2. **Pre-Match phone calls, email communication or text with Opposing Coach:** The BCL Coach shall contact the visiting coach to confirm the start time for lunch and the first match as well as dress code. The visiting coach shall notify the host club no later than three days before the match with an estimate of how many players and coaches will be participating so that the host club can arrange for lunches with their respective food and beverage operations how many meals to arrange for the match and what time you expect to arrive.
3. **Supervision:** The BCL Coach or coaches will be present at all times during Bay CL matches and assure their teams adhere to all host club rules during such matches.
4. **Objective & Consistent Basis of Ranking:** The Coach is responsible for maintaining a consistent form of ranking the juniors on their team which is based upon golfing ability which should take into account scores in BCL matches, practices, and other outside tournaments, if any and be prepared to share with opposing BCL coaches if requested by such coach.
5. **Submit Official Score sheet** The winning team coach shall email the Official Score Sheet which has been agreed to by both BCL coaches to the League Offices soon

as possible after each match but in no event later than Sunday by 5 pm the following the match. Only digital copies (preferably a pdf, Excel or emailed or texted picture of the scoresheet) will be accepted by the League Office. The digital scoresheets should be sent to glynnf@aol.com, the current representative of the League who will post the scores and update league standings on the Bay City League website. Failure to deliver the results by that time may result in home team's forfeiture of the match. Playoff Matches results must be communicated to the League immediately upon conclusion of the Match, preferably via email or text prior to leaving the course

6. **Arrange a Match for the visiting Coaches:** To arrange a foursome for the visiting Junior Golf Coach and his/her assistant. We recommend that the coaches tee-off in the middle of the match, using golf carts, so that they are available to the players for rulings or emergencies.

Rule 16. Time for League Matches

All League Divisional Matches are to be held on Saturdays at the following approximate times.

Arrival:	at approximately 12:00 p.m.
Lunch Service:	12:00 – 12:30
Match Play:	Preferably first match to start at 1:00 p.m. Later tee times are to be avoided where possible due to the travel times for visiting teams to return to their home clubs.

Rule 17. Local Rules

Local Rules: When visiting another club, the “Away” team are guests and must abide by the Home club’s rules including appropriate dress code and any course management policies please check with the host’s Junior Golf Coach or Head Professional prior to the scheduled match so as to determine if there are other variations which will apply.

Rule 18. Season of Play

The League’s junior golf season will be from May 15th through August 15th of each year.

Rule 19. Before Starting Match Play

Announcements: Prior to teeing off at each match, it is strongly recommended that the Host Junior Golf Coach or the Host Club’s Golf Professional assemble all participants and announce the following:

1) **Match Play:** This matches will be conducted using match play rules - one point for the front nine, one point for the back nine, and one point for the eighteen. Plus a two-man best ball match for similar points

2) **Individual Scores:** Individual scores from the matches are used, among other factors, to determine the ranking on each on team's ladders. Each player's ball should, therefore, be played out, or scores posted using the applicable USGA Rules. If a player is conceded the hole, the score posted for that hole should accurately represent the number of strokes the player would have most likely taken.

3) **Summer Rules:** Summer rules apply unless local conditions do not permit in accordance with USGA rules of golf in effect for such year.t

4) **Local and Course Rules:** Announce any special or local rules that apply as well as course policies regarding course etiquette, including replacing/sanding divots, repairing ball marks, and reminding players to conduct themselves appropriately during the match.

5) **Two Completed Scorecards:** A minimum of two complete scorecards for the foursome must be kept; one by each club; agreed upon, signed and turned in to the scorers at the end of play to record individual and team best ball matches.

6) **Disputes - When They Must Be Resolved:** Any scoring disputes must be resolved between the players involved. The foursome involved must **NOT** leave the scoring area until the matter is resolved. If unable to resolve the dispute then and there, a ruling should be requested from the Host Club's Professional or agreement of the coaches. If not resolved there, then submitted to the Competition Committee for its consideration and ruling.

7) **Competition Committee Ruling:** If any matter is still in dispute, the Junior Golf Chairman, or his or her designate, shall immediately forward all applicable details in writing to the Chairman of the League's Competition Committee, which Committee shall decide the dispute within 48 hours and pursuant to Committee rules and procedures. The decision of the Competition Committee shall then be final.

8) **Measuring Devices Allowed:** Measuring devices, such as laser and GPS, conforming to USGA rules are permitted as long as such devices measure distance only. To help with the pace of play, players will share distance information upon request.

Rule 20. Discipline Rules

Proper Decorum: The League's Competition Committee, in conjunction with the League's Member Clubs, shall establish such reasonable rules and penalties as deemed necessary concerning inappropriate behavior during League events and involving junior members, their coaches, and/or their spectators. It will be the goal of this section that each junior golfer and their respective coaches will, at all times, conduct themselves in the manner and fashion consistent with the highest traditions, honor, and respect for the game of golf, the host club and club members, and for their respective opponents.

Vulgarism, loud or violent behavior, use of alcohol or marijuana, "trash talk," failure to abide by the host club's rules, throwing clubs, cheating, disrespectful and/or unsportsmanlike

behavior may result in discipline ranging from loss of hole, loss of individual match, loss of the team match, suspension, or expulsion from team play, as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the coach, the Club, and if not satisfactorily resolved at those levels, by the League office.

Attest: Mark Briggs, Jeff Maxoutopoulos and Glynn P. Falcon
League President, Board Member, and Secretary

November 8, 2018