

Little John Golf League

www.littlejohngolfleague.com

2023-2024 Season

Little John Golf League is an established *golf club with no real-estate* comprised of Members who wish to play and promote the Game of Golf.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Little John Golf League is a Greater Houston area traveling golf tournament league. Regular tournament events are held on Sunday mornings and generally are scheduled for every other weekend. We play golf year-round with our season beginning in mid-October and ending with a season ending two day (one weekend) League Championship early the following October.

All events are individual net stroke play events using handicaps established within the GHIN handicapping system. Each event consists of two (2) flights split by low handicaps and higher handicaps. Each event has “closest to the pin” competitions on all par 3s and competition for “most birdies” on each 9 holes. At each event, an optional gross skins game is also available.

“By the Rules” – Little John Golf League play is conducted under the USGA Rules of Golf. There are no “mulligans” and there are no “gimme” putts, signing an incorrect scorecard CAN get a player DQ’d, failure to sign a scorecard will get a player DQ’d. It is the responsibility of each member to have a general knowledge of the Rules of Golf as set forward by the USGA. Further information about the Rules can be found in this document and on the internet at www.usga.org.

Can anyone join Little John Golf League?

You MUST know how to play golf. LJGL is really not for beginners who are just taking up golf. You must possess the ability to complete the play of every hole and be able to complete a full round of golf in a maximum of 5 hours? You MUST be able to do this. You do not have to be a low handicapper to join. The maximum handicap index for participation in LJGL will be 36. The golf courses expect us to be able to play at the pace prescribed by the course and 5 hours is the maximum amount of time we should ever be on the course.

You MUST have Amateur Status with the USGA. We welcome male or female who meet the 2 aforementioned criteria and who loves the game of golf. If a person seeking membership does not have an established USGA handicap, it only takes 3 rounds to establish an official USGA handicap. Members should enjoy playing under the pressure of a competitive net stroke play event conducted under the USGA Rules of Golf and the opportunity to meet and play golf with others who share their love for the game of golf.

An individual meeting the criteria above is welcome to check the league out without obligation to become a member by playing as a Guest in any regular league event at a reduced rate. Guests are not eligible for prizes.

Please note...throughout this document LJGL refers to Little John Golf League.

LEAGUE OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

President (832) 651-4000
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**RULES
COMMITTEE**

Jeff Green

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MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE and DUES INFORMATION

Potential members to Little John Golf League should possess a knowledge of the game of golf and a skill level that would allow them to fully complete all the holes on a golf course and be able to complete a full 18-hole round of golf in a maximum of 5 hours. Potential members must be of "amateur status", as defined by the USGA, and is required for eligibility to, (1) Participate for any regular tournament event competition prizes, including the League sponsored skins game, and (2) Participate in the "League Championship" tournament (other eligibility requirements exist).

DUES:

Membership dues are \$65.00 per League year, payable by the third (3) scheduled tournament or no later than forty five (45) days after playing your first round of the season with the Little John Golf League. See **DUES WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM ANY**

TOURNAMENT WINNINGS IN THE EVENT DUES FOR LEAGUE YEAR HAVE NOT BEEN PAID which supersedes this

section. **PRORATED DUES:** -Anyone joining the league when there are only 6 events remaining in the season will pay prorated amount for dues of \$10 and they cannot compete in the League Championship for that season.

GRACE PERIOD FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR THE PAYING OF ANNUAL DUES:

Little John Golf League realizes that a person may want to come out and participate in an event or two to see if they really like playing in the League. But, they may also want to be eligible to compete for any or all prize opportunities, depending upon their regular or Special Flight status. In order to afford this opportunity to such a person interested in joining Little John Golf League, a new member may elect to not pay their dues at the first event or the second event in which they participate. Before the new member can play in the 3rd event, they must pay in full their annual dues. See **DUES WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM ANY TOURNAMENT WINNINGS IN THE EVENT DUES FOR LEAGUE YEAR HAVE NOT BEEN PAID** which supersedes this section.

DUES WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM ANY TOURNAMENT WINNINGS IN THE EVENT DUES FOR LEAGUE YEAR HAVE NOT BEEN PAID:

If a player has not paid his or her dues for the league year but wins place money, birdie money, skins money, or closest to the pin money...the League will hold up to the amount of the unpaid annual dues from the player as partial or whole payment of the dues before the player is paid any tournament winnings.

GUESTS:

Membership in the league allows members to schedule and bring one or more guests to our tournaments. The guest will be charged \$3.00 over green fee, which will go to our League Championship tournament. The guest will NOT be allowed to play for closest the pin and birdie money. If, the guest wants to play for closest and birdie money they must join the league. Hopefully this will allow individuals to try out the league and they will join the league. Also, guests are NOT ALLOWED to participate in the skins game.

DEFINITION OF LEAGUE YEAR:

The "League Year" begins with the first tournament event following the end of year 2 day League Championship and ends at the completion of the new end of year 2 day League Championship. Generally October to October each year.

DRESS CODE:

Little John Golf League is a proper golf attire golf league.... No denim/blue jeans will be allowed. Only shirts with a collar are allowed and/or crew type golf shirts.

INCENTIVE TO BRING NEW MEMBERS INTO THE LEAGUE:

If a member brings in a person who joins the League, for the first time, the member will receive a \$10 incentive reduction in his/her next tournament entry fee once the new member has paid his/her full dues. If the person is coming into the League late in the season and is paying reduced dues, the member will not receive credit until the incoming person pays his full dues the next season. This same incentive is applicable if a member brings back a former member who has not belonged to the league for 2 full seasons and that former member joins again paying full dues.

HANDICAPS – LEAGUE and OFFICIAL USGA

Little John Golf League utilizes the GHIN handicapping system for members to set official USGA handicaps. The maximum handicap a member may have in any Little John event is 36. For each event, the Handicap Chairman, or his designee, will determine each player's handicap for the event based upon USGA/GHIN rules using his/her established handicap. If a member has both regular and tournament scores mixed into their GHIN handicap, the player will play to the lower of the two (tournament handicap vs. regular handicap) in Little John League events.

ESTABLISHING A LEAGUE HANDICAP

New member with a non-GHIN established, verifiable handicap:

A new member joining the league with an established, verifiable handicap may join as a full member and is eligible to play for the prizes to be awarded. The first round such a member plays will be played at his established handicap. After round one, the member will play to a handicap based upon the lowest score he has shot in a Little John's event up until the time his/her GHIN handicap is established.

New member with an established GHIN handicap:

Anyone joining the League with an established GHIN handicap can begin League play as a full member eligible to play for the prizes to be awarded as long as they bring their current GHIN handicap card with them at the time they join. Their current GHIN handicap will be combined with Little John Golf League for GHIN handicapping purposes.

New member who does not have an established handicap:

A new member joining the league who does not have an established, verifiable handicap is placed in a "special flight" and is eligible to play for the birdie and closest to the pin prizes but not the tournament net winner prizes. Three (3) scores are required from "special flight" members to establish a member handicap. Members who have completed the 3 rounds as Special Flight members will play subsequent rounds to a handicap based upon the lowest score they have shot up until the time his/her GHIN handicap is established.

MAINTAINING LEAGUE HANDICAPS:

League handicaps, prior to becoming official USGA handicaps are maintained by the Handicap Chairman.

ESTABLISHING AN OFFICIAL USGA HANDICAP:

Upon joining LJGL, a player's name will be submitted to GHIN by the Handicap Chairman. After the completion of 3 rounds of golf, a LJGL member will have an established handicap in accordance of USGA and the World Handicap System.

MAINTAINING USGA HANDICAPS:

The Handicap Chairman, or his designee, is responsible for uploading League tournament scores to GHIN. Members are also allowed to post non-League scores to their handicap. All LJGL event scores will be posted as "Tournament" scores for handicapping purposes.

HANDICAP RENEWAL EACH YEAR:

Anyone who was a member of Little John Golf League with an active GHIN handicap must pay their new season dues by February 1st of that season or no later than their 3rd tournament of the new season, whichever comes first or they will be inactivated (meaning they will not have an official USGA handicap via LJGL) from GHIN when GHIN renewal comes due around the end of February. If they re-join LJGL, GHIN will be reactivated.

NEW MEMBERS FAILING TO REPORT THEY HAVE AN ESTABLISHED HANDICAP ELSEWHERE:

Golf is an honourable game. Any new member joining Little John Golf League who has an established USGA handicap is expected to report the fact that they have an established handicap, what that handicap is, and what association the handicap is established with. Failure to do so can result in suspension or expulsion from Little John Golf League and forfeiture of dues.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Tournament Notification:

IT IS THE MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THE LEAGUE OF INTENT TO PLAY IN LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

EVENTS. Approximately 12 days prior to the next Little John Golf League tournament, members with email addresses will be notified via email requesting the member respond if they intend to play in the next tournament. If a member does not have email, it is their responsibility to notify one of the officers if they intend to play in the next upcoming event. From the email responses and the call-in responses, Little John gives the tournament course a head count for the coming event. The tournament course will adjust the number of tee times allowed Little John Golf League based upon the headcount given the course. Therefore, it is important for members who want to play in league events to confirm with a League officer their intent to play.

Tournament Pairings:

Tournament pairings are done mostly via the Blind Draw method for all non-2day event tournaments. League Officers and/or League Rules Committee members may be placed in specific groups. The results of the call-ins and the members who respond via email are used in preparing the Blind Draw. The pairing list will not be changed at the tournament unless there are no-shows and changes are necessary to balance out the pairings. See section HOW PAIRINGS FOR 2DAY EVENTS ARE DETERMINED. As a general rule of thumb, the first group of the day SHOULD NOT BE A THREESOME. Unless mandated by the golf course, no group should be a five-some.

Tournament day CHECK-IN:

All members are required to arrive for the tournament one (1) hour prior to the first tee time for Check-in. The Official Players Roster will be closed thirty (30) minutes prior to the first tee time. Players arriving after the Official Roster is closed, may not be allowed to play in the tournament and/or may not be allowed to compete for prizes.

Payment of tournament entry fee:

Members pay all events on the day of the event. In the case of the League Championship, the fee is paid on first day of the League Championship. Payment can be in cash or check. Sorry, the League is not equipped to take credit cards.

Tournament WAITING LIST:

Tournament courses do not give Little John Golf League an unlimited number of tee times. Once each course is given the headcount for the coming event, the course takes away any unnecessary tee times Little John had originally booked. Therefore, once the headcount is given to the course anyone requesting to play will be placed on a waiting list with no guarantee there will be an opening for him or her on the day of the event. The waiting list will be a first-call/first-serve basis without guarantees of getting to play. No-show spots on the day of the tournament can be filled with any members who are present at the course on the basis of position on the waiting list first, then first to arrive at the course and ask to play.

Tournament NO-SHOW policy:

Once the golf course has been given head count numbers for an event, any player who committed via email or verbally to play in a Little John tournament event and then is a NO-SHOW at the event will be required to pay the cart/green fee for that tournament before they can play in another League event, if the League is charged for no-shows on the day of the tournament. It is understandable that emergencies arise. However, emergency or not, if the League has to pay for the player as a no-show, the player must reimburse the league before the player can play in another League event. Calling to report that you will not be playing in the event after the headcount has been given to the course does not guarantee you will not be charged for being a no-show, if the League has to pay. In the event of multiple no-shows, the amount the League has to pay for any no-shows will be divided up equally between all of those who committed to play and then was a no-show.

General information about tournament schedule:

Little John Golf League event schedule is assembled as early in the league year as possible. The majority of the golf

courses allow tournament bookings by leagues and associations, such as Little John Golf League, well in advance of the date the event is to be played. In order to book courses the membership of Little John has indicated they would like to play, we must make these bookings well in advance. It should also be noted that the vast majority of the courses require a signed contract and deposit to hold the date open that we have requested from them. Additionally, from time to time, the same courses we have booked may run advertised specials that may well be lower in cost than the cost we have been quoted when we booked and signed the contractual agreement with the course. In the event this happens, Little John officers attempt to negotiate a new lower rate with the course, more in line with their offered special(s). In some cases we will be successful in getting a lower rate but in other cases we may not. Again, you must remember that generally we will have a rate we have agreed to in a contract negotiated and signed months earlier to reserve the date and time we wish to play.

Please refer to www.littlejohngolflleague.com for a full season schedule.

CONDUCT BEFORE/DURING/AFTER LEAGUE EVENTS

Members are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, proper and safe manner when they are on any property associated with the golf course where a LJGL event is being held. If a member has a problem or takes issue with anything that has been said or done by a staff member of the hosting golf course, that member is to bring this to the attention of one or more of the League officers as quickly as possible. Under no circumstances is the member to take action themselves without first consulting with a League officer. Under no circumstances should a LJGL member ever engage in conversation considered to be disrespectful, profane, vulgar, or argumentative with the course personnel. This includes, and is not solely limited to, the pro shop staff, grounds keepers, cart attendants, beverage cart attendants, snack bar/restaurant personnel or anyone else associated with the golf course. The League officer(s) shall determine if any action is to be taken by the League on behalf of that member.

If a situation has arisen that a member feels needs to be addressed back to the golf course facility once an event is over, that member is to consult with the League Officers and a course of action will be decided upon by the Officers of LJGL in conjunction with that member.

No member should ever take any actions independently that could result in LJGL not being welcomed back to a facility. If a member does take action, independent of the League, they are not to use the name LJGL, must not claim to represent LJGL, and shall not claim to speak on behalf of or for LJGL. Members who do not comply with this rule are subject to losing their playing privileges with LJGL for a period of time, up to and including total expulsion from the League, to be determined by vote of the LJGL officers.

Furthermore, LJGL holds events at many golf courses where residences can be found immediately adjacent to the golf course. Events are normally held on weekends and, as such, many times men, ladies, and children may be outside these residences. Each member of LJGL is expected to use language and a tone of voice that would not be considered disrespectful or vulgar around children. Shouting vulgarities loudly is simply not acceptable behaviour. Yes, it is golf on a golf course, but members are expected to be mindful of the surroundings. Members will be warned once. Instances occurring again can result in the loss of playing privileges with LJGL for a period of time to be determined by the officers of LJGL.

Each member must be aware, we are a GUEST, albeit a paying guest, at these facilities. For the most part, we are not doing the golf courses a favor by bringing our events to their facility. It is the golf course that is doing our League a favor by hosting our event. Most courses could just as easily utilize the tee times we reserve for their normal paying clientele.

See LJGL's Conditions of Competition which applies to all LJGL events.

LEAGUE EVENT – "Conditions of Competition"

All tournament play is conducted under the USGA Rules of Golf and under Local Rules of the course being played. As permitted by the USGA Rules of Golf "Committee Procedures" Little John Golf League may invoke "Local Rules" also that govern play.

A. PACE OF PLAY – Committee Procedure 8K-2:

Players are expected to be able to play the entire round in under 5 hours.

A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke. An additional 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will

be allowed for: a) The first player to play a stroke on a par 3 hole.

- a) The first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole.
- b) The first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole.
- c) The first player to play a stroke around the putting green.
- d) The first player to play a stroke on the putting green

The timing of a player's stroke will begin the player has had a reasonable opportunity to reach his ball, it is the player's turn to play and player can do so without interference or distraction.

Time spent determining yardages and club selection will count as part of the time taken from the allowance for the next stroke. On the putting green, time spent looking at the line from various angles will count as part of the time taken from the allowance for the next stroke. However, time spent to lift, clean and replace the ball on the putting green; repairing ball marks on line of putt and removing loose impediments shall not count towards the time allowance.

Each group is expected to keep up with the group ahead of them.

For any group who falls more than one full hole behind, every member of that group is subject to being penalized 1 stroke by the Tournament Committee.

For any group who falls more than two full holes behind, every member of that group is subject to being penalized 2 strokes or possible disqualification by the Tournament Committee.

A. **TEE BOXES:**

Determination of what tee boxes will be played at each course is made by the Handicap Chairman. In his absence, a member of the Rules Committee will establish which tees will be used. Such determination will be based upon several factors, including course length from each set of tee boxes, slope and course rating from each set of tee boxes, and equal fairness to all members playing in the event.

A. **DEFINITION OF SENIOR MEN MEMBERS:**

Men members who are 55 years of age and older are defined as Senior Men members for the purpose of determining which tee boxes Senior Men members may play from.

A. **TEE BOX DESIGNATION FOR SENIOR MEN:**

The Senior Men's tee boxes are defined as one set forward from the tee boxes designated as Regular Men's tee boxes in Item "A" above, in the Little John Rules and Information, unless that set of tee boxes are determined to be the Ladies Tee Boxes. In the event there is no Senior tee box or a tee box between the Regular Men's tees and the tee box the Ladies will be using, the Senior members will play from the Regular Men's tees and their handicap will not be adjusted.

A. **OPTION TO PLAY FROM REGULAR MEN'S TEE BOXES INSTEAD OF SENIOR MEN'S TEE BOXES OR LADIES TEE BOXES:**

Any player who is eligible to play from the Senior Men's tee boxes or the Ladies tee boxes may elect to play instead from the Regular Men's tee boxes. However, the player must make this election at the time they sign-in for the event and their handicap will be established at that time. Once a player makes the election to play from the Regular Men's tee boxes, their handicap has been computed, and the handicap split for flight purposes has been determined for the event, the player may not change their mind and decide to move up to their normal tee box. Players who play from any tee box other than the box their handicap indicates they are to play from shall incur the applicable penalties as set forward in the USGA Rules of Golf.

A. **PLAY THE BALL AS IT LIES:**

Other than the exceptions noted herein, the ball shall be played as it lies (as you find it).

Exceptions:

- (a) If relief is granted in the Rules of Golf, you should proceed as indicated in the Rules of Golf. It is very important for members to be aware that the low handicap person, or any person in your group, is not deemed as being the Rules Official for your group. If you are unsure if you are entitled to relief, just because everyone in your group is either confused, not sure, or simply concurs with you that you should get relief (without first consulting the Rules of Golf), you need to be careful. If need be, play 2 balls and get a ruling after the round is over. Signing for an incorrect score after you have taken an illegal relief drop will get you DISQUALIFIED.
- (b) Relief is granted via any Local Rule in the LJGL Conditions of Competition.

A. **Little John Golf League – Local Rules as permitted by USGA Rules of Golf Committee Procedures:**

1. **CRACKS IN THE EARTH – Local Rule:**

Many courses we will play, especially in the hot dry summer months, have large cracks in the earth. If a player's ball comes to rest in, or upon, a crack in the earth and the ball is not in a penalty area, the player may take relief by dropping as close to the original spot but no closer to the hole which give relief from the ball being in a crack in the earth. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course general area. The ball must be found. It cannot be assumed the ball is in a crack.

1. **AERATION HOLES – Local Rule:**

A ball in the General Area that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course.

1. **LIFT, CLEAN AND REPLACE – Local Rule:**

In order for this local rule to be in effect for any LJGL event, the round must start this way. If the golf course has mandated Cart Path Only (CPO) prior to the commencement of the tournament and prior to the first group having teed off, "Lift, Clean and Replace general area except in Penalty areas" shall be in effect for the entire round, regardless of the status of CPO during the round.

If the round does not start out with this local rule in effect, it shall not be in effect even if CPO is mandated. Exception: A player may NOT take relief under this Rule if (a) it is clearly unreasonable for him to make a stroke because of interference by anything other than an abnormal ground condition or (b) interference by an abnormal ground condition would occur only through use of an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.

If the exception to this local rule criteria has not been met, the player is entitled to lift the ball, clean the ball, and put the ball back (Replace) as nearly as possible to where it originally lay. If the ball was embedded, the hole where the ball was embedded may be repaired before replacing (do not drop) the ball. REPLACE DOES NOT MEAN MOVE THE BALL A CLUB LENGTH OR SCORECARD LENGTH. The intent of this local rule is to prevent the player from having to hit a ball which has mud adhering to it, not to improve the lie of the ball. If the ball is in Casual Water, then the player should proceed under Rule 16 for a ball in an abnormal ground condition.

1. **PROVISIONAL BALL FOR A BALL THAT MAY BE IN A PENALTY AREA – Local Rule:**

In a situation where a ball may be in a penalty area of such character that, if the original ball is not found, it is known or virtually certain that it IS in the penalty area and trying to determine the fact that it is would unduly delay play, player may play a provisional ball under any options granted in Rule 17.

In order to invoke this Local Rule (Committee Procedure 8B-3), the following applies:

First, the player must announce to his/her playing partners the intent of playing a provisional ball prior to doing so.

If the original ball is found OUTSIDE the penalty area, the provisional ball is to be abandoned and play must continue with the original ball.

If the original ball is found in the penalty area, the player may either play the original ball as it lies or continue play with the ball played provisionally under Rule 17.

If the original ball is not found or identified within the three-minute search period, the player must continue with the ball played provisionally.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE: Two Strokes

1. **MARGINS OF A Penalty Area NOT MARKED – Local Rule:**

Not all courses are marked to USGA guidelines. In the absence of stakes or painted lines defining the margins of a penalty area, (1) The margin is defined to be the natural limits of the penalty area, i.e. where the ground breaks down to form the depression containing the water. (2) The penalty area is to be played as a Lateral penalty area.

1. **AREAS OF GOLF COURSE NOT MOWN NOR MAINTAINED – Local Rule:**

According to USGA Rules of Golf Committee Procedures, LJGL deems that any area of the golf course, not otherwise marked nor deemed to be out of bounds, that is not mown or maintained will be played as a lateral penalty area.

We play golf courses that have high natural/native grass areas that the golf course does not mow or

maintain. We also play golf courses where there are dense woods, marshy areas, deep underbrush, and such alongside the fairways and sometimes between fairways that are not mown or maintained by the golf course but are inside the boundary lines of the golf course. Thus, any areas within the boundaries of the golf course (not OB), that are not mown nor maintained are to be played as a Red Staked Penalty Area (Lateral penalty area), unless there are other stakes or margin lines indicating otherwise.

1. **RELIEF FROM LATERAL PENALTY AREA ON OPPOSITE OF PENALTY AREA– Local Rule:**
Per Committee Procedure 8E, player make take relief for a ball that is lying in or on a lateral penalty area on the opposite side of the penalty area at a point which is equidistant to the pin from the point of entry into the penalty area.

1. **BUNKERS – HOW TO PROCEED IF YOU BALL LIES IN A BUNKER – Local Rule:**
If you ball lies in a bunker, you may lift your ball, rake the bunker and replace your ball without penalty.

1. **HOG/PIG DAMAGE – Local Rule:**
In the general area, areas of damage caused by “hogs/pigs” are to be treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under rule 16.1b. .

1. **OUT OF BOUNDS or LOST BALL– Local Rule:**
When a player’s ball has not been found and is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds or lost, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance.
For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):
Two Estimated Reference Points:
 - a. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:
 - Last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.
 - a. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point.
Size of relief area based on these reference points: Anywhere between
 - A line from the hole through the ball reference point (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and
 - A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line).Limits on Location of Relief Area:
 - Must be in the general area, and
 - Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

1. **RELIEF FROM IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN – Local Rule:**
Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1,
In addition, if a ball lies off the putting green, but not in a penalty area and an immovable obstruction on or within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows:
The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the *hole*, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a *penalty area* or on a *putting green*. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.
Relief under this Rule is also available if the player's ball lies on the *putting green* and an immovable *obstruction* within two club lengths of the *putting green* interferes on his *line of putt*. The player may take relief as follows:
The ball must be lifted and placed at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the *hole*, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a *penalty area*. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

- A. **PRACTICE PUTTING ON GREEN AFTER COMPLETION OF PLAY OF A HOLE:**
LJGL has the right under USGA Rules of Golf Committee Procedures to restrict practice putting on a green by a

player after the player has completed the hole. LJGL elects not to impose this restriction as a local rule. However, we strongly urge players not to do this. And, if a player does practice putting on the green just completed and the result is undue delay of the round or is preventing the group behind from hitting their shots, he can be penalized under Rule 1.2. As a rule of thumb...just don't do it.

A. **CHANGING BALLS DURING THE PLAY OF A HOLE:**

Although the One Ball Rule is not in effect for LJGL events, players are not permitted to change balls during the course of play of individual holes, unless the original ball is lost or becomes unfit for play. See Rule 4.2. The penalty for changing balls during the play of the hole unless permitted is 2 strokes. Rule 14.2 does allow when dropping in a relief area the option of changing balls.

A. **CLEANING YOUR BALL:**

Other than the exceptions noted herein, generally a ball may be cleaned anytime it can legally be lifted, i.e. from the putting surface, removal from casual water, removal from a drainage ditch, etc. Exceptions where a ball CANNOT be cleaned when legally lifted can be found in Rule 14.2c...(a) To determine if ball is unfit for play; (b) For identification, in which case ball may be cleaned only to the extent necessary for identification; or (c) Because ball is interfering with or assisting play of another player (d) to see if it lies in a condition in which relief is allowed.

A. **PUTTS:**

"NO GIMME'S"...each player must complete the hole by putting their ball into the hole. Picking the ball up or failure to hole out shall result in either penalty stroke(s) or disqualification as stipulated in the Rules of Golf.

A. **OUT OF BOUNDS MARKERS, POSTS, AND FENCES – YOU DO NOT GET RELIEF:**

The Rules of Golf do not grant relief from anything that denotes OUT OF BOUNDS (OB). This includes property fences, fences separating residential property from golf course property, OB stakes, or any other item that denotes OB. Player may elect to take relief under the unplayable ball rule but such action will result in a penalty situation.

A. **BALL DROP AREA / ABSENCE OF A BALL DROP AREA:**

If a ball drop area is available to you, you may use it or replay from where the original shot was played. HOWEVER, in the absence of a BALL DROP AREA designated and marked by the Golf Course or an area designated by the League Tournament Committee, you, and other members of your group, may not deem that a hole should have a ball drop area and simply drop your ball somewhere that provides a safer next shot. This constitutes playing from the wrong place and most probably will get a player DQ'd along with the members of that group for agreeing to waive the rules or for attesting an incorrect score card. **OVERLOOKING A PENALTY INCURRED BY SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR GROUP OR RECORDING AN INCORRECT SCORE FOR THE PLAYER CAN RESULT IN YOUR OWN DISQUALIFICATION:**

Each player has a responsibility to "protect the field" and if you know a person has violated a rule, you must call it. Players do not have the right to waive the rules, agree to waive the rules, or simply ignore that someone has broken a rule. Signing a player's scorecard as the "scorer", also known as "marker", and knowing that you have not added penalty strokes to the player's score can get you DQ'd also.

Each player should be aware of the following 2 situations. These are taken directly from the USGA Rules of Golf decisions....

Rule 3.3b(1)/1 – Marker Should Be Disqualified if He or She Knowingly Certifies a Wrong Score For Another Player

If a marker, who is a player, knowingly certifies a wrong score for a hole (including a hole score that does not include a penalty that the marker knew the player received on that hole), the marker should be disqualified under Rule 1.2a (Serious Misconduct).

A. **LOCAL RULES PARTICULAR TO THE COURSE BEING PLAYED:**

Little John Golf League may establish "Local Rules" particular to a given golf course. These "Local Rules" will be posted on the Little John website and members shall be notified of those Local Rules at the event prior to play. If there are Local Rules for a course, a copy of the Local Rules in affect for the tournament to be played will be available for review at the Sign-in table

A. **FLIGHTS AND HOW FLIGHTS ARE DETERMINED FOR THE EVENT:**

League events will be divided into 2 flights for purposes of determining winners. The determining of flights will not be done whereby a predetermined group of handicaps constitutes each flight. Flights will be determined at each event and it will be based upon the number of players and their handicap index. The number of players in the event (excluding Special Flight players and guests) will be divided by 2. One half of the players should be in the A flight and one half in the B flight. There should never be more than one player more in either flight.

A. **OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT SCORECARDS:**

USGA rules will apply. However due to the severity revolving around inaccuracy of scorecards and the penalties resulting from inaccurate scorecards, the following information is provided. It is intended to answer questions as to League Rules established about scorecards and penalties resulting from inaccurate scorecards. This information is based upon USGA Rules of Golf Committee Procedures and USGA Rules of Golf Rule 3.3

- a. **EACH PLAYER MUST HAVE AN OFFICIAL SCORECARD.**
- b. **YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO KEEP YOUR OWN SCORE ON YOUR OFFICIAL SCORECARD.**
- c. **YOUR MARKER, AKA SCORER, MUST SIGN YOUR OFFICIAL SCORECARD AND SO MUST YOU.**
- d. **WHEN IS A PLAYER'S CARD OFFICIALLY RETURNED (TURNED-IN)?**
WHEN THE CARD IS GIVEN TO ONE OF THE TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DURING THE SCORING PROCESS WITH 2 SIGNATURES ON THE CARD. For this reason, the League cautions the players not to sign their scorecard unless they are sure it is totally correct. Please note, since we do not have a "scoring tent" situation, once the card is turned in...it is official, regardless of whether the player is still in the area or not as all the players typically are still there. USGA Rules of Golf Committee Procedures allows LJGL to establish this condition.
- e. **TO WHOM SHOULD THE OFFICIAL SCORECARDS BE TURNED IN?**
TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR, or his designee.
- f. **CAN SOMEONE ELSE TURN IN A PLAYER'S OFFICIAL SCORECARD?**
YES. For this reason, the League once again cautions players not to sign their card unless they have verified that the scores are correct hole by hole.
- g. **ONCE A SCORECARD HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY TURNED IN, UNDER THE DEFINITION ABOVE FOR OFFICIALLY TURNED IN, CAN THE SCORECARD BE ALTERED BY THE PLAYER?**
NO
- h. **WHAT HAPPENS IF A SCORE *HIGHER* THAN THE SCORE ACTUALLY MADE ON ONE OR MORE HOLES IS WRITTEN INCORRECTLY ON THE OFFICIAL SCORECARD AND IS NOT CORRECTED BEFORE THE PLAYER SIGNS AND RETURNS THE SCORECARD?**
THE INCORRECT SCORE WILL STAND FOR THAT HOLE OR HOLES. (See USGA Rule 3.3).
- i. **WHAT HAPPENS IF A SCORE *LOWER* THAN THE SCORE ACTUALLY MADE ON ONE OR MORE HOLES IS WRITTEN INCORRECTLY ON THE OFFICIAL SCORECARD AND IS NOT CORRECTED BEFORE THE PLAYER SIGNS AND RETURNS THE SCORECARD?**
PLAYER IS DISQUALIFIED (See USGA Rule 3.3).
- j. **IF A PLAYER IS DISQUALIFIED FOR TURNING IN AN INCORRECT SCORECARD, IS HE DISQUALIFIED FROM ALL FACET OF THE COMPETITION?**
NO, while he is disqualified from the Net Competition, he is still eligible for the Birdie and Closest to the Pin competitions.
IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE PLAYER TO ASSURE THAT HE HAS A TOTAL SCORE ON HIS SCORECARD. WITHOUT A TOTAL SCORE, THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE HAS NOTHING TO VALIDATE THE HOLE BY HOLE SCORES TOTALS TO. NOT EVERYONE WRITES LEGIBLY.
- k. **WHAT SHOULD THE PLAYER DO IF HE IS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH A SCORE OR SCORES RECORDED ON THE OFFICIAL SCORECARD BY HIS/HER MARKER?**
Most importantly – the PLAYER should not sign the scorecard. The situation should be brought to the attention of the League Officers in the presence of the Marker and as many members of the Player's group as possible. The League Officers are the Tournament Committee and will offer a decision. Only after a decision is reached should the player sign the official scorecard.

A. **NUMBER OF NET PLACE WINNERS PER FLIGHT:**

For all regular tournament events, other than the League Championship, payout will be for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in 2 flights as per the "REGULAR EVENT PAYOUT SCHEDULE" included in this document. Exceptions to this

rule are as follows.

For the League Championship, the number of places paid shall be no less than 3 per flight but may include the entire field.

A. **TIE OF NET SCORE:**

In the event of a tie for one, or more, of the places being paid, the flight place winners will be determined by a “net score” scorecard playoff starting with the #1 handicap hole until the tie is broken. In the event the tournament is held on a course that has multiple 9’s resulting in a number one handicap hole for each 9, the handicap hole number will be determined using the table found below.

League Championship:

In the League Championship, “net score” scorecard playoffs will be used to determine the winner for each Flight place winner. Scorecard playoff will determine the winners for the remaining Flight place positions. Scorecard playoff for the League Championship will begin on the #1 handicap hole of the course played the first day. In the event the tournament is held on a course that has multiple 9’s resulting in a number one handicap hole for each 9, the handicap hole number will be determined using the table found below.

<i>Front 9 handicap hole</i>	Tournament handicap hole	Back 9 handicap hole	Tournament handicap hole
<i>1</i>	1	1	2
<i>2</i>	3	2	4
<i>3</i>	5	3	6
<i>4</i>	7	4	8
<i>5</i>	9	5	10
<i>6</i>	11	6	12
<i>7</i>	13	7	14
<i>8</i>	15	8	16
<i>9</i>	17	9	18

A. **AWARDING OF PRIZES:**

At the close of every tournament, the prize’s won will be awarded, and the books will be closed on that tournament event. If a player has any issue with the awarding of the prizes for that event, any such issue is to be cleared at the event. Once the prizes are awarded and participants have left the golf course, the books on that event are closed and all decisions made are final. The exception to this rule is the League Championship. Due to the fact that the field will get prizes, we will hold the books open on the League Championship for 2 weeks, thus time does not permit the books to be closed on this event before leaving the golf course.

A. **RULE QUESTIONS OR DISPUTES:**

Rules Committee and the use of the current USGA Rules of Golf handbook will settle all rules questions or disputes. In the event a rules situation occurs during the course of play and the player is unsure how to proceed or there is a disagreement between the player and his fellow competitors, the player should play a second ball, record score made on both balls, DO NOT sign or attest the scorecard. Once play is completed, the player and his group of fellow competitors shall present the situation to the Rules Committee who will make the final determination as to the proper score to record. Then the scorecard can be signed and attested

ADDITIONAL LITTLE JOHN GOLF LEAGUE INFORMATION AND RULES

1: TOURNAMENT FEE FOR SPECIAL FLIGHT PLAYERS

Players who participate in Little John one-day events in the Special Flight category will pay a fee for the event reduced by \$15.

2: LEAGUE SPONSORED OPTIONAL GROSS/NET SKINS GAME

The League sponsors an optional skins game. It is a combination Gross and Net skins game. The cost to enter the skins game competition is \$20 which gets divided evenly (\$10 each) into the Gross pot and the Net pot. The skins game is not open to guests who have not committed to join the League. It is straight skins competition where the winner of each hole is the person with the lowest score (gross in the Gross game and Net in the Net game) on that hole who is participating in the skin game. There are no carry-overs. Skins pot is divided by the number of holes won to determine the dollar amount won for each skin won.

3: INSUFFICIENT FUNDS CHECK(S) FROM LEAGUE MEMBERS/GUESTS

In the event a League member or guest gives to Little John Golf League a check in payment of any dues or fees and that check is returned by the bank for insufficient funds, the member or guest will not be allowed to play in any further League events until he/she pays the League, in full, the amount of the check plus any bank charges associated with the returned check.

4: ELIGIBILITY FOR END OF THE YEAR 2-DAY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

There are 3 requirements for eligibility to play for place prizes in the League Championship. First, the member must have an established official USGA handicap. Second, the member must have paid his/her full \$65 dues. Third, the member must have played in at least 10 of the events in the season between the event where he/she joined/renewed their membership in the league and the League Championship. If an individual joins LJGL and pays \$65 dues with 10 remaining.

Little John events remaining	Player must play
10	8
9	7
8	6
Less than 8	6
Less than 6	Cannot Compete

5: LIMITED PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Anyone who has not fulfilled all the requirements to play in the 2-day League Championship, OR an individual without an established handicap may still play in a limited capacity. He or she can play in the League Championship as a "Guest" and is not eligible to compete for any of the prizes.

6: HOLE-IN-ONE DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY

A player carding a Hole-In-One during a Little John tournament round will be awarded a lump sum payment of \$200 as part of the normal prize payout process.

7: HOW PAIRINGS FOR 2DAY EVENTS ARE DETERMINED

First Day:

First day of a 2 day event, pairings are via Blind Draw (see Tournament Pairing section for exceptions).

Second Day:

For the second day, pairings will be done in reverse with the leaders of each flight tee off in the last group of the day.

The final pairing should consist of the 1st and 2nd place players of flight A and the 1st and 2nd place players of flight B. The next to last pairing should consist of the 3rd and 4th place players of flight A and the 3rd and 4th place players of flight B. Similar pairings will be made up until all players have been placed in a pairing. Anyone who is playing in the event who does not qualify to be one of the net place winners shall be placed in the first tee time of

the day. Determining of position is by net score for day one. In the event of net score ties on day one, later tee pairings will be made first upon lower of the gross scores for those tied and the by scorecard playoff (only if gross scores were tied also.

8: **UNCLAIMED PRIZE MONEY**

All prize money is expected to be claimed by the end of the annual MLC. Any money not claimed for the year before this date will be forfeited to LJGL treasury.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LITTLE JOHN LEAGUE OFFICER TERM, ELECTION, PERKS & INFORMATION, DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

WHO ARE THE OFFICERS OF LITTLE JOHN GOLF LEAGUE?

Please refer to page 1 of this document

WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF TERM FOR EACH OFFICE?

All officer terms are one year.

ARE THERE “TERM LIMITS” FOR THE OFFICERS?

Not at this time.

HOW ARE OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR ELECTION/RE-ELECTION?

A nominating committee puts together a list of names for each office prior to the League Championship. Nominations for each office are also taken from the floor during the election process.

HOW ARE LEAGUE OFFICERS ELECTED?

By a vote of the membership in attendance on the final day of the League Championship.

WHAT ARE THE OFFICES WITHIN LJGL?

President, VP, Secretary/Treasurer, Handicap Chairman, Tournament Coordinator. All of these have voting rights.

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH OFFICER?

President – Officiates over all officer meetings; sends out email reminders to members and potential new members prior to each event; signs up members from their emails if the member does not sign up themselves for events; research avenues to solicit new members; using available golf member websites, contacts potential new members with information about LJGL; stays in contact with former members to encourage them to return to League; contacts current members who have not played with LJGL in several weeks; responsible for obtaining awards for League Championship; maintains and updates LJGL Rules and Information document as required.

Vice President – Responsibilities include: building the season event schedule; negotiates course rates (to include cart/green fee/ range balls) and books all tournament events; keeps website updated for all upcoming events including rates to charge; at least 4 weeks prior to each event shall contact the course to verify nothing has changed and our booking is still valid; notifies the course the week of our tournament what our headcount for the event will be; handles all “at course” issues that may arise related to rate, time of start, type of start, or any other issues that pertain to what was negotiated with the course at the time of booking; selects the nominating committee (2 members) who will nominate new officers for following season.

Secretary/Treasurer – Collects monies at tournament events; responsible for having cash on hand to perform the payout at tournament events; responsible for the payout of all monies at tournament events; responsible for payout monies for members who have left the course prior to event payout; responsible for accuracy of LJGL bank account and all banking activities; keeps website updated with financial information; pays all outstanding bills; determines the amount of place money payout for the League Championship event; determines the amount of payout for any special competitions held at any event; reviews all booking contracts. Responsible for providing an income statement for each event within 2 weeks of that event closing.

Handicap Chairman – Responsible for maintaining course/slope rating for all golf courses to be played during season on website; determines what tee boxes to use for each event; responsible for all communication with GHIN handicapping system including setting up of new members within GHIN; responsible for accuracy of handicaps used at each event.

Tournament Coordinator – Responsible for set up of the pairings for each tournament event; responsible for printing scorecards for each tournament event; maintains the proximity markers and tape measures used with the proximity markers; passes out the scorecards at each event once the player has paid his/her fees.

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – this is a non-voting position. It is intended as a training position when the Secretary/Treasurer has indicated they will not serve as an officer in the future. It is not mandatory that this position be filled.

If an officer cannot attend a tournament event, it is up to that officer to make sure that his/her responsibilities are covered leading up that League event and at the actual event.

DO THE OFFICERS PAY TOURNAMENT FEES FOR EACH EVENT?

Yes, officers pay the same entry fee as do regular members at each event.

WHAT INCENTIVE IS THERE TO BECOME AN OFFICER OF LJGL?

As an incentive to get members to serve in League Officer Positions, the League offers the following incentive. If an officer holds a position for 10 months during any given League season, his/her dues will be waived by the League for the following season. An officer has the right to refuse the waiver of his/her dues and pay their own dues.

REGULAR EVENT PAYOUT SCHEDULE

Number of Players	\$15	Total for payout	"A" FLIGHT			"B" FLIGHT			Total of Payout	Diff caused by rounding
			1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd		
42	\$15	\$630	\$183	\$91	\$41	\$183	\$91	\$41	\$630	\$0
41	\$15	\$615	\$178	\$89	\$40	\$178	\$89	\$40	\$614	-\$1
40	\$15	\$600	\$174	\$87	\$39	\$174	\$87	\$39	\$600	\$0
39	\$15	\$585	\$170	\$85	\$38	\$170	\$85	\$38	\$586	\$1
38	\$15	\$570	\$165	\$83	\$37	\$165	\$83	\$37	\$570	\$0
37	\$15	\$555	\$161	\$80	\$36	\$161	\$80	\$36	\$554	-\$1
36	\$15	\$540	\$157	\$78	\$35	\$157	\$78	\$35	\$540	\$0
35	\$15	\$525	\$152	\$76	\$34	\$152	\$76	\$34	\$524	-\$1
34	\$15	\$510	\$148	\$74	\$33	\$148	\$74	\$33	\$510	\$0
33	\$15	\$495	\$144	\$72	\$32	\$144	\$72	\$32	\$496	\$1
32	\$15	\$480	\$139	\$70	\$31	\$139	\$70	\$31	\$480	\$0
31	\$15	\$465	\$135	\$67	\$30	\$135	\$67	\$30	\$464	-\$1
30	\$15	\$450	\$131	\$65	\$29	\$131	\$65	\$29	\$450	\$0
29	\$15	\$435	\$126	\$63	\$28	\$126	\$63	\$28	\$434	-\$1
28	\$15	\$420	\$122	\$61	\$27	\$122	\$61	\$27	\$420	\$0
27	\$15	\$405	\$117	\$59	\$26	\$117	\$59	\$26	\$404	-\$1
26	\$15	\$390	\$113	\$57	\$25	\$113	\$57	\$25	\$390	\$0

25	\$15	\$375	\$109	\$54	\$24	\$109	\$54	\$24	\$374	-\$1
24	\$15	\$360	\$104	\$52	\$24 *	\$104	\$52	\$24 *	\$360	\$0
23	\$15	\$345	\$100	\$50	\$22	\$100	\$50	\$22	\$344	-\$1
22	\$15	\$330	\$96	\$48	\$21	\$96	\$48	\$21	\$330	\$0
21	\$15	\$315	\$91	\$46	\$20	\$91	\$46	\$20	\$314	-\$1
20	\$15	\$300	\$87	\$44	\$19 *	\$87	\$44	\$19 *	\$300	\$0
19	\$15	\$285	\$83	\$41	\$19	\$83	\$41	\$19	\$286	\$1
18	\$15	\$270	\$78	\$39	\$18	\$78	\$39	\$18	\$270	\$0
17	\$15	\$255	\$74	\$37	\$17	\$74	\$37	\$17	\$256	\$1
16	\$15	\$240	\$70	\$35	\$15 *	\$70	\$35	\$15 *	\$240	\$0
15	\$15	\$225	\$65	\$33	\$15	\$65	\$33	\$15	\$226	\$1
14	\$15	\$210	\$61	\$30	\$14	\$61	\$30	\$14	\$210	\$0
13	\$15	\$195	\$57	\$28	\$13	\$57	\$28	\$13	\$196	\$1
12	\$15	\$180	\$52	\$26	\$12	\$52	\$26	\$12	\$180	\$0
10	\$15	\$150	\$44	\$22	\$9 *	\$44	\$22	\$9 *	\$150	\$0

TOURNAMENT FEE EXPLAINED

Regular members pay a tournament fee which consists of green fee/cart fee/range balls (if included)/entry fee. The skins game is not included and is optional.

We pay the course weekend green fee rate which is going to be higher than a weekday green fee and typically the only break we get on the courses fee is going to be free range balls...not a reduced price on green fees. We round up what we pay the course to the nearest \$5. So, for example, if the course charges us \$62.75...we round up to \$65. The entry fee is \$25. So, if the rounded up green fee is \$65 then the tournament fee would be \$90, \$65 + \$25.

HOW THE ENTRY FEE IS DISPERSED FOR ALL REGULAR EVENTS (NOT THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP)

\$25 is the entry fee.

\$15 is for **PLACE MONEY (1ST 2ND 3RD)** payout. This is explained in the **REGULAR EVENT PAYOUT SCHEDULE** found in this document.

\$1 of entry fee is for **MOST BIRDIES FRONT 9**.

\$1 of entry fee is for **MOST BIRDIES BACK 9**.

\$1 of entry fee is for **CLOSEST TO THE PIN** on each par 3. If 4 par 3s, then the amount is \$4. If 5 par 3s, then amount is \$5

The remainder of the entry fee goes into the pool which is paid out at the League Championship (LC)

Thus, if there are 4 par 3s then the amount of the entry fee paid out is \$15+\$1+\$1+\$4 or \$21 with \$4 going to the LC pool.

If there are 5 par 3s then the amount of the entry fee paid out is \$15+\$1+\$1+\$5 or \$22 with \$3 going to the LC pool.

Please note, as explained in the REGULAR EVENT PAYOUT SCHEDULE, depending upon rounding, we may end up with a negative \$1 or overage of \$1 from the total payout. This means at any event, from the payout, we may have \$1 more added to the LC pool or \$1 being used from the LC pool to even out the payout.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY FOR THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP PAYOUT COME FROM

The money that is paid out at the League Championship is from the following...

- Dues
- Rounding up of green fee/cart fee/range balls
- \$3 or \$4 from each player's regular event entry fee, depending upon number of par 3s.
- \$1 from every player's regular event entry fee if no one hits a par 3.