

Yuengling Golf Society  
Founded 2002

**Rules and Organization of The Society**

**Section 1: General Organization**

To guard the tradition and integrity of the game of golf, The Yuengling Golf Society (YGS) adheres to the rules of the USGA ([www.usga.org/playing/rules/rules.asp](http://www.usga.org/playing/rules/rules.asp)). To facilitate fair play and to promote healthy, competitive camaraderie amongst its members at large, the Society votes on exceptions to the USGA rules and establishes its own guidelines for scoring, penalties, and standards of play. These are normally instituted by a majority vote of members (in good standing) present at the AGM (Annual General Meeting, traditionally held in February following the close of the regular season).

There are five Executive Committee (EC) roles within the YGS, these are: The President, Minister of Standards, Decency and Ethics, VP of Events, Treasurer, and Secretary of Handicaps and Scores. All roles are voted on at each AGM and occupants must gain majority vote to be elected or re-elected to a position. Additionally, EC status can only be achieved by unanimous vote of existing the EC members. There is an additional member of the Society - The Commissioner. The Commissioner shall always be The Commissioner, but shall have no active vote on the EC unless it is proclaimed otherwise.

Should the need arise, the EC may call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to institute rule changes or to make decisions on matters of controversy outside the scope of the USGA rules or the Rules of the Society listed herein. EGM's can only be scheduled by virtue of a majority vote of the EC of the Yuengling Golf Society. In such cases, a unanimous vote EC must be cast to effect a change or levy a charge.

To be an eligible member, a player must submit 10 cards (or the sanctioned Handicap system's minimum) to establish a handicap as determined by the USGA system. All potential members will be sanctioned at the AGM; however, in special cases (approved by the EC) a Society member may nominate a player to be "voted in" anytime during the year but not between July 1 and October 31 of the regular season.

Membership can only be taken away by majority vote at the AGM. Valid reasons for removal of membership are failure to play adequate number of games (10 per season), poor etiquette, slow play, or inadequate consumption.

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## Section 2: Standard Rules:

The Society's primary competition plays by an Order of Merit (OOM) system adopted from vintage European influences. During the regular season of play (April 1 through October 31) tour events are held in which members may accrue OOM points toward the coveted heritage of the appointment of the Green Jacket.

3. Each event, with the exception of Majors or Classics events (see below), is held from Monday until the following Sunday on the course designated for that week's event. A qualifying round for a Society tour event must consist of no fewer than 2 officially sanctioned Society members playing together in the same group. A member may play as many qualifying rounds during an event as he wishes. It is the responsibility of each player to enter each score into the sanctioned handicapping system (remembering ESC) and report his best qualifying score for the event to the Secretary of Handicaps and Scores by the Monday following the close of an event. The Society forbids "sandbagging" and will penalize a player 1 OM point for each violation of non-entry. OOM Scoring is as follows and is based on net score, taking into account an established valid handicap with course corrections based on par rating and slope:

4 OM points for a win

3 OM points for second place

2 OM points for third place

1 OM point for showing up at a tour event

In the event of a tie for first place, all members shooting the winning score will be given 4 points, no points are awarded for second (nor third should there be a three way tie for first), 2 points for third (or none if there is a three way tie for first), 1 for showing.

In the event of a tie for second place, 4 points for the win, 3 points for each member scoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> place score, no points for third, 1 for showing.

In the event of a tie for third place, 4 points for the win, 3 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 2 points for each player tied for third, 1 for showing.

**Classics** are normally scheduled once per month. Unlike a normal event held over the course of a week, a Classic is held as a one-day only event. OOM points scores are doubled for a Classic.

4. In the event of bad weather or unplanned events where an event or qualifying round is abandoned, tour events will qualify for OM points if 14 holes of golf are completed. The Secretary of Handicaps and Scores will compute a prorated 18 hole score for each player.
5. Arranging tour events is the responsibility of the tour members. 5 hours notice by email or telephone must be made to ensure all members are notified of an impending

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event. In the case of limited available tee times, selection of players is strictly on a first come/first served basis.

6. If a player has notified fellow players of his intent to show at a qualifying round or an event, either verbally or by email, he must show or cancel 24 hours prior to the event. If notification of cancellation is not received within 24 hrs, then a 1 point OM penalty will be levied. In the case where a “no show” causes the nullification of that round or tour event (i.e. less than 2 players), then a 2 point OOM penalty will be levied. The point of the Society is to play golf – Herculean efforts should be made to prevent the loss of a qualifying round or tour event.
7. Prior to an event, arrangements should be made for provisions of the game – namely beverages. It is mandatory that consumption take place, at minimum, on the 2nd and 11th holes of play. Consumption must be complete before entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> tee boxes, respectively. The beverage of choice is, of course, Yuengling Lager (or tasty equivalent). It is the responsibility of each player to make sure that provisions are available prior to play.
8. Funding in the form of annual dues is levied yearly at the AGM. The funds should be directed to the Treasurer. The YGS is a not-for-profit organization and these contributions will be used at the discretion of the EC for supporting the activities and trophies of the Society.
9. Players are allowed to bring their cell phones to tour events, however ringers must remain in the silent / vibrate mode. Should a player wish to make a call, it must be completed during the time it takes to walk from one hole to another. Should a player feel the compunction to talk on the phone, the player must remain 30 yards from the other players. The only excused exceptions are family emergencies (this is not a normal call from the wife). If a cell phone ringer is heard, the guilty member will be deducted 1 OOM point, no exceptions.

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**Section 3: Rules of Play:**

1. Tossing of the tee determines the order on the first tee. For the season opener, it is the privilege of the defending champion to have the honor of the first tee.
2. Normal play order is used but Ready golf shall be used in the case of slow play.
3. All balls must be played where they lay in accordance with USGA provisions or in accordance with local conditions of play (e.g. Winter rules, environmental hazards).
4. All USGA rules for Stroke and distance penalties for OB or lost balls, lateral hazards, obstructions, etc. are enforced. There may be rare cases where a provisional ball is not played because the players in a group believe the ball to be in bounds or findable. Upon searching for the ball, it is declared lost. The player must return to the spot where the original ball was played and take a one stroke penalty. However, if the conditions on the course prevent the practicality of returning to the original spot (e.g. extremely crowded course), then the player may drop the ball as close to the position of the lost ball as can be determined (but in bounds) and take a two stroke penalty. For example, Paul (no Paul in particular) hits a drive from the tee box which he and the other players believe to be in play and findable. "It opens up over there." After advancing toward the green and looking for the ball for 5 min., it is declared lost. Paul starts to walk back to the tee box to hit his next shot (which would be his third stroke with the one stroke penalty) when the marshal roars up in his cart and tells him to move on. Paul must drop a ball "over there" and continue play. He is now hitting his dropped ball as his fourth stroke for the hole.
5. The player must hole all putts for par or better. For attempts at scores greater than par, gimmies may be granted by the other players in the group. Gimmies must be within the length of a normal putter grip (a belly putter is not normal). There is no begging for gimmies. In many instances, players will simultaneously be playing both match play (Champions League) and for the OOM. In match play a player may normally concede the hole or an opponent may declare a putt "good". However, such practices may not supercede the rules for playing OOM. All players must play the hole to normal completion of stroke play for the OOM.
6. Once a player reaches a score of 10 on a hole, that is the score recorded on the card. The player should then pick up his ball and consul his spirits with his favorite provision. Similar to 3.5, if the players are also playing match play and both players reach a score of 10, then the hole is not halved. Play must continue past ten strokes until one of them wins the hole or it is halved under normal play. A score of 10 is still entered for OOM and shall be adjusted by ESC for establishing handicaps.
7. Proper golfing attire required – no denim or t-shirts (penalty 1 OM point).

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**Section 4 – Skins**

1. A skins match is normally played during a tour event. Participation is voluntary but high handicappers should be enticed to play by giving them strokes. In the case of multiple groups playing on the same course at the same time, a blind skins game between all players is customary. \$0.50 /skin is the suggested wager.
2. In addition to hole skins, \$0.50 skins also apply to greenies (par three closest to the hole and on the green); sandies (up and down from the sand); and birdies. A player becomes ineligible for a greenie if they fail to par or better the hole. In the event of a greenie not being taken, it will carry forward to the next Par 3.
3. Eagles count as double birdies.
4. All wagers must be paid at the conclusion of the event.

**Section 5 – Competitions**

1. There are multiple competitions played throughout the season, of which three count as Yuengling Majors;
  - a. Order of Merit
  - b. Open Day
  - c. Yuengling Masters
2. The Order of Merit table is based on highest points NOT the highest average points per game. Remember – the essence of the tour is to play as much golf as humanly possible.
3. The Open Day is awarded to the lowest gross score. The exception to this rule is for the defending champion, the handicap of the defending champion is added to their gross score. No OOM points are awarded at the Open.
4. The Masters is the YGS away-day competition. The Masters is normally associated with Stoudts. It is a two-day, three round event. The three net scores are added and the award is given to the lowest total net score upon the completion of the event. The Masters is scored as a Classic for OOM points.
5. Additional Competitions that do not qualify as Majors but are recognized by the YGS are the Pro-Am, Pink Jacket, MVP, and Rookie of the Year.
6. Pro-Am is a two-player team best ball event, lowest gross team score is the winner, and handicaps are not applied. No OOM points are awarded.

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7. Pink Jacket is awarded to the full member (meaning 10 rounds are completed in a season) scoring the lowest number of Order of Merit points.
8. MVP is voted on by full members at each AGM and is awarded to the player who has made the most significant contribution to the society for that season, both on and off the golf course.
9. Rookie of the Year is voted on by the EC at each AGM and is awarded to the new member that has made the most significant impact to the YGS.

**Section 6 – Champions League**

1. The Champions League is a playoff style competition in match play format traditionally organized by the S of H and S.
2. YGS members are divided into qualifying groups at the start of the season. These groups are fairly and randomly arranged with a mix of the highest, lowest and average handicappers.
3. In the first part of the competition, each member of a qualifying group plays every other member of the group. Points are awarded as follows: One point for a victory, one-half point for a tie (no playoffs for halving) and zero for a loss.
4. The top two players from each qualifying group advance to the single elimination Champions League bracket play. Sudden death playoffs are in effect in this part of the competition.
5. All matches in all phases of the Champions League are played with consideration of valid handicaps. Before play begins, the number of strokes given to the higher handicapper is computed by taking 75% of the difference of the two players handicaps. Numbers with residual decimals 0.5 or greater are rounded up to the next nearest stroke; those less than 0.5 are rounded down.

***Let it be written.***

***MSDE***