

The Yuengling Golf Society  
Founded 2002

# Rules and Organization

July 2010

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**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 six Executive Committee (EC) roles within the YGS, these are: The President, The Commissioner, The Minister of Standards, Decency and Ethics, The VP of Events, The Treasurer, and The Secretary of Handicaps and Scores. All roles (except The President) are voted on at each AGM and occupants must gain majority vote to be elected or re-elected to a position. The President is a two year term with a one term limit. It also voted on at the AGM and must gain majority vote to be elected to the position. Additionally, EC status of any other role that may be created can only be achieved by unanimous vote of the existing EC members.

Should the need arise, the EC may call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to introduce 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.

**Section 2: Membership**

An official call for new members from the members at large will occur each year at least 30 days prior to the AGM. There are three classifications for membership: 1) Full member 2) Associate member, and Country member.

The members at large to consider when sponsoring a new member, and when putting the person forth should indicate which classification the person is to be considered for:

- 1) Full membership: This designation is typically reserved for an individual who has previously golfed in several YGS events and/or with several YGS members in the past. This person should attend the AGM and would need to supply a bio prior to the meeting (via PowerPoint) and the sponsor would need to put them forth for full membership which will be voted at the AGM. Members should not put forth for full membership any person who is not well known to a large portion of the membership at large.

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- 2) 2) Associate membership: This category is for golfers who have not previously had the opportunity to golf with a representative number of members. These candidates should also attend the AGM as a future prospect so they can be introduced to the tour (Any bio on them would be limited to a one page teaser slide). They would need to indicate a commitment to play the number of games and become a full member of the tour, however a formal vote on that would only occur after having played a minimum of 4 regular events on tour, and one classic. This vote can take place at any time during a season or at the following AGM.

An Associate member will have access to the event schedule and the tee time sheet and can join any game as any other member could. An Associate member will not have the ability to post OOM points, or to win an event, and playing in a twosome solely with that member would not allow for an "event" to take place. If the associate member is then voted in later, they would be awarded show points for each event attended up to the date of full membership, and would be eligible for rookie of the year.

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. However, any full member who does not fulfill the annual requirement of 10 tour rounds in any year will be relegated to associate status in the following year. The member will have the right to appeal the relegation to the EC in the event of "extenuating circumstances" which can only be overturned by a majority vote of the EC. In any year after relegation, a player may petition the membership to return to full member status after fulfilling the 10 round requirement.

An annual membership fee of \$50.00 must be paid by all full and associate members. This fee is subject to change at any time by unanimous vote of the EC. If any member fails to pay the annual membership fee by the last event of the year, that member will be ineligible for full membership the following year. The member will have the right to appeal the relegation to the EC in the event of "extenuating circumstances" which can only be overturned by a majority vote of the EC. In any year after relegation, a player may petition the membership to return to full member status after paying the past due and current year membership fee.

A Country member is an individual who was once a Full member, but has moved out of the immediate area. Country members are not required to pay annual dues, can not win a competition, but are invited to play in tour events whenever they are back in town. Twosomes that consist of a full member and a country member will not be considered a qualifying round.

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**Section 3: Standard Rules:**

3. 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.
  
4. 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. In the event of a 3 day weekend where the holiday falls on the Monday (Memorial Day, Labor Day), a regular event shall carry over into the holiday Monday. A qualifying round for a Society tour event must consist of no fewer than 2 officially sanctioned FULL 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 on the tee time worksheet 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, points will be awarded as follows: 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.

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**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.

5. 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.

5.1 Arranging tour events and tee times is the responsibility of the tour members. Foursomes (occasionally twosomes or threesomes) must be reserved via the tee time worksheet on the YGS website. In the case of limited available tee times, selection of players is strictly on a first come/first served basis.

5.2 If a player has notified fellow players of his intent to show at a qualifying round or an event, either verbally, on the tee time sheet, 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.

5.3 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. Typically, consumption should 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.

6. Funding in the form of annual dues is levied yearly at the AGM. The annual dues are currently \$50 per member, but may change if voted upon by the membership at the AGM. All members (Full and Associate) must pay the annual dues. 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.
7. 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 4: 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 lie 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 12 inches (the length of a paint stir stick or 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 (YGS Match Play Championship) 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 console himself with his favorite provision. Similar to 3.5, if the players are also playing match play and both players reach a score of 10, 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 5: 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 6: Competitions**

1. There are multiple competitions played throughout the season, of which four count as Yuengling Majors. A "Grand Slam" occurs if all four competitions are one by the same member.
  - a. Order of Merit
  - b. Open Day
  - c. Yuengling Masters
  - d. YGS Matchplay Championship
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. The OOM winner is presented "The Green Jacket". The winner owns it for one year and must present it to the following year's winner.
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. The Open Day is an OOM Classic. As such OOM points are awarded at the Open for the lowest net scores among YGS members using the 8-6-4-2 Classic point system.
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

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Masters is scored as a regular event for OOM points using the total net scores over the 3 rounds.

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. All YGS full members will be awarded 2 show points for attending this important recruiting event. The “Clark Williard Memorial Trophy” is awarded to the winners who own it for one year but must present it to the following year’s winners.
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. The winner owns it for one year and must present it to the following year’s winner.
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.
10. It is the responsibility of the winner of each “trophy” to arrange for the appropriate engraving or patch.

**Section 7: YGS Match Play Championship**

1. The YGS Match Play Championship 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 three players from each qualifying group advance to the single elimination bracket play. Sudden death playoffs are in effect in this part of the competition.
5. All matches in all phases of the YGS Match Play Championship are played with consideration of valid handicaps. Before play begins, the number of strokes

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given to the higher handicapper is computed by taking 100% of the difference of the two players' course handicaps. Strokes are to be taken on each hole starting from hardest to easiest until the number of holes matching the number of strokes given is reached. In the case of a greater than 18 stroke allowance 2 strokes are to be given at each of the hardest holes. For example, if 20 strokes are given 2 strokes are given at the 2 hardest holes (holes rated handicap 1 and 2).

6. The winner of the YGS Matchplay Championship is awarded "The Denim Jacket". The winner owns it for one year and must present it to the following year's winner.

*Let it be written.*

*MSDE*