



Tallwood Men's Club Tournament Guide

This Tournament Guide, updated February 2021, is published as a convenience for the Tallwood Men's Club membership to highlight and explain tournament requirements and events. Specific rules for individual events may differ slightly, so always check in the Pro Shop before teeing off.



A trophy symbol in front of a tournament description indicates that the event is a trophy ("major") tournament for which a trophy will be presented at the Fall Banquet.

General Tournament Guidelines

Participation Requirements:

The Tallwood Men's Club does not have a tournament participation requirement for Membership renewal. One tournament credit is earned for each date played as some Major events (Club Championship & Member/Member) do have tournament participation requirements. With the exception of early season tournaments, canceled before the first TMC official tournament, any event a member has signed up for, that is cancelled due to course conditions or inclement weather, will count towards tournament minimums.

Event	Member Status	Requirement
Club Championship	Returning member*	5 events from end of previous year's CC and the start for the event. CC rounds are not eligible.
Club Championship	New Members*	7 current year events by start of CC
Member-Member	New Members*	7 current year events by start of M/M event.
<input type="checkbox"/> New member as defined by Membership Guidelines		

Competition Rules

Unless otherwise noted by a local rule, the U.S.G.A. Rules of Golf govern all play. It is the player's responsibility to check the local rules before each event, as both rules and conditions of competition may occasionally change. Tournament rules and regulations will be posted in the Pro Shop prior to the start of the event. (An updated Local Rules Appendix is at the end of this guide)

For TMC events each player is responsible for the accuracy of his own score. A dated scorecard must be signed by the score keeper and attested by a 2nd member of the group and should be promptly handed into the Pro Shop. All scores will be posted by the Pro Shop staff using a computerized system (Golf Genius) to identify winners. This system also posts the player's score in the World Handicap System (formerly GHIN) program using the USGA Equitable Stroke Control method. The Pro Shop will post the results on the bulletin board and on the Tournament Results page of the TMC Website by Wednesday of the following week. Most major or special events will be entered as being "Competition-Scores", (ie: 'C' scores, formerly 'T' scores) pre-programmed into the computerized handicap system.



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Member Responsibility for posting World Handicap System scores

Other than event scores that are posted by the Pro Shop, members are required to follow the USGA guidelines for posting scores. Scores can be posted using the TMC computer in the Pro Shop, or on line using the following link:

<http://www.ghin.com/scorePosting.aspx> . You can also use the WHS/GHIN app on your phone.

Guidelines Reprinted from USGA Website:

Section 5

Acceptable Scores

Q. What scores are acceptable for posting purposes?

A. Almost all scores are acceptable because of the basic premise of the USGA Handicap System which states that every player will try to make the best score at each hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review. Therefore, all of the following are acceptable scores:

- When at least seven holes are played (7-12 holes are posted as a 9-hole score; 13 or more are posted as an 18-hole score)
- Scores on all courses with a valid Course Rating™ and Slope Rating®
- Scores in all forms of competition: match play, stroke play, and team competitions where each player play their own ball
- Scores made under [The Rules of Golf](#)
- Scores played under the local rule of “preferred lies”

Scores made in an area observing an active season. In Connecticut, April 1st thru November 15th.

For more specifics regarding posting a WHS (formerly GHIN) score, see the following at USGA website: [Decisions 5-1a/3 through 5-1a/5](#).

Player may not post a score when playing multiple balls during a practice session, getting a lesson, or playing alone.

4-1. Unfinished Holes and Conceded Strokes (USGA Website)

A player who starts, but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke must record for handicap purposes the most likely score. The most likely score may not exceed the player's Equitable Stroke Control limit, defined in Section 4-3.

This most likely score should be preceded by an "X."

Handicap Revisions

TMC uses the CSGA Handicap Service, which updates player handicaps on a daily basis. However, the Tallwood Mens Club will use handicaps posted every Wednesday on the TMC Bulletin Board, good for the next 7-days. The most current posted weekly handicap will be used for all events unless otherwise announced. If you play in a warmer climate after Nov 15th, you are required to post your scores on line.



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Tee Guidelines (Most Events)

Beginning in 2020 for Tallwood Mens Club events and tournaments; any player can play from any color tee, with the appropriate handicap adjustment. There is no longer a “handicap + age” calculation requirement.

All players must declare their tee color choice for the day to the pro shop before beginning the round. Handicaps of members playing from the white or gold tees will be adjusted downward in accordance with USGA Rules based on the Slope and Index differential. The TMC scorecard also contains a place to indicate the tee color played that day.

Per USGA Guidelines and TMC rules for 2021 and beyond, members playing from the forward tees are only eligible for net prizes. In the case of a 2-Man event, both players must compete from the blue tees to compete for gross, otherwise all white/gold/mixed tee 2-man teams will only be eligible for net prizes.

The “Golfer of the Year’ (ie:GOTY) points process has been updated and well documented for 2021. For details, please see the document “GOTY-points-analysis-2021-01-29”.

Anyone entered in the Ringers tournament and who plays at least one tournament from the white or gold tees will receive an adjusted handicap at the end of the year when net prizes are being awarded and will be ineligible for gross prizes.

Play-offs:

The Club Championship flight winners, when tied, will compete in a four-hole aggregate play-off (followed by sudden death if necessary) immediately following the completion of regulation play.

For the two Social Events that award Trophies; (Member/Guest and 2-Ball Open), the USGA method of matching cards will be used to determine the Trophy winners.

For all other Trophy Events, including Club Championship runners-up, all members will be expected to compete in a Sudden Death Playoff within a reasonable time after the event.

Tournament Cancellation Policy:

All TMC Members with a tournament tee time are expected to start play on time unless poor conditions and/or weather causes a cancellation of the tournament. A delay in play, whether beginning the tournament or during the course of play, is inherent to tournament play and members are bound to continue play when the delay is lifted. A delay in play is a joint decision between the TMC Tournament Director or his designated representative, TCC management, and the club professional. The same parties will also decide on whether the tournament will be cancelled.



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At the cancellation of a tournament, the results will be official if all members have completed nine holes. If not, the tournament is cancelled as non-official, tournament fees are refunded, members receive credit for a tournament played, and rain checks will be issued in accordance with TCC policy. If a delay is predicted to last or actually lasts more than 90 minutes, the tournament will be cancelled and results will be scored as described above.

Standard TMC Events

Individual Gross & Net by Flight

Each player plays his own ball throughout. Player must hole-out on every hole. Scorecards must have a score on every hole. The scorekeeper and player are not responsible for the math on the card as all individual hole scores will be entered into Golf Genius. Signed and attested score cards are to be turned into the Pro Shop promptly. Flight ranges are determined by trying to balance the flights as evenly as possible based on member participation. Blue tee players will play for gross and net, white/gold tee players will play for net only.

2-Man Best Ball

Two players comprise a team. Each player plays his own ball throughout the round. Team score is the best (lowest) individual gross and net score on each hole. If one or both partners do not play from the blue tees, they are playing for net prizes only.

4-Man Scramble, (Spring Classic)

Four players of different handicap skills comprise a team. On every hole, each member of the team hits a tee shot from his designated tee color. One tee shot is selected by the team, and regular scramble tournament rules apply. Team score is the gross on each hole. On occasion, there are minimum requirements for using each team member's tee shot a certain number of times (ie. each player must be used a minimum of two times). Specific rules for scramble events will be announced as well as either being posted in the Pro Shop or on a published Rule Sheet.

4-Man Shamble, (Fall Classic)

Four players of different handicap skills comprise a team. On every hole, each member of the team hits a tee shot from his designated tee color. The team then selects one of the tee shots from which all are to continue play. All members of the team then play their own ball from that position until that ball is holed out. Team score is the best (lowest) individual gross and net on each hole. Sometimes there are minimum requirements for using each team member's tee shot a certain number of times (ie. each must be used a minimum of two times). Specific rules for Shamble events will be announced as well as either being posted in the Pro Shop or on a published Rule Sheet.



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Ringers Tournament

This is a season long event that begins the Sunday following the Spring Classic and runs until the Sunday before the Fall Classic. It costs \$10 to enter and after the season has started interested parties can still enter by registering in the Pro Shop. All entrants will have a page in the Ringers book with their name on it, and their tee color choice. After each tournament players should check their page to see if they have improved their best gross score of the season on any hole. If so, the new gross score should be entered in the appropriate box/column and attested by another member of the foursome. At the end of the season, the lowest scores for all 18 holes are tallied, and prizes are awarded for both low gross & net in the blue tee flight, and net only in the white/gold tee flight..



Trophy Events

Winners of each of the following Tournament events receive trophies at the end of the season, usually at the Awards Banquet. There are also runners-up trophies awarded for the Pro's Trophy, Governor's Cup, and Club Championship flights.

Note: The awarding of Golfer of the Year (ie: GOTY) points is documented in detail in a different document, titled "GOTY-points-analysis-2021-01-29".



Memorial Day Tournament, (GOTY points awarded)

Trophies are awarded to the Low Gross (blue tee only) and Low Net winners in this 1-day stroke play, 18-hole event. Traditionally this is held on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Scores from this event are posted in WHS as "Competition" scores.



Phil Daly President's Cup, (GOTY points awarded)

Trophies are awarded to the Low Gross (blue tee only) and Low Net winners in this 1-day stroke play, 18-hole event. Traditionally this is held in mid to late September. Scores from this event are posted in WHS as "Competition" scores.



Pro's Trophy, (GOTY points awarded)

There are two qualifying dates for this event that are held in April or May. Members may only try to qualify once. Players must declare their desire to attempt to qualify before their round. The low 31 net scores, plus the defending champion, qualify for individual match play using 100% Handicap difference of Handicap Course Rating, not GHIN Index. This is a season-long event which the Tournament Committee oversees. There are specific deadlines by which each of the five rounds must be completed. Scores from Pro's Trophy matches should be entered as "Competition" scores for handicap purposes.



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Governor's Cup, (GOTY points awarded)

This is a two-man team match play event using 80% Handicap off of the player with the lowest handicap using the USGA calculation method. It also is a season-long event which the Tournament Committee oversees. There are specific deadlines by which each of the five rounds must be completed. A sign-up sheet limited to the first 32 2-man teams will be posted in the clubhouse on the day of the first official TMC event.



Two-Ball BBQ Open (Rib Open)

This is the second of two "Member-Guest" or "Member-Member" type of event. This is not a true "Open" as each team must have at least one Tallwood Men's Club member. This is a two-man better ball event with Gross & Net (blue tee), and Net Only from all other tee color combinations, no Callaway. There is a traditional "Rib Barbeque" that is served in the Tallwood Pavilion or event tent. This event allows members to bring guests to the event to participate, however, they must have a valid WHS handicap to participate for 2-man prizes. The Two-Ball Open is usually scheduled for mid-August. No GOTY points.



Tournament of Champions, (GOTY points awarded)

Each individual Gross or Net flight winner of all identified G/N tournaments from the middle of April until the end of September for which the field size is deemed adequate will qualify for this invitational tournament. These pre-designated qualifying tournaments are marked as "ToC" on the TMC Tournament Card. This event is usually scheduled for mid-October.



Seniors Tournament

This is a 36-hole individual medal play tournament. Eligible participants must be 55 years of age by the first round of the event. If either day is cancelled due to weather, this tournament will be official as an 18-hole event. Gross winner must have played from the blue tees. No GOTY points.



Super Seniors Tournament

This is an 18-hole individual medal play tournament. Eligible participants must be 62 years of age by the event. Gross winner must have played from the blue tees. No GOTY points.



Club Championship, (GOTY points awarded)

This is a 72-hole individual, flighted medal play tournament. The greater of the (i) low 8 scores plus ties or (ii) players within 10 strokes of their flight leader, after 2 rounds (36 holes) qualify for rounds 3 & 4. If either of the first two rounds is rained out, the tournament is reduced to 54 holes and the greater of (i) the low 8 scores plus ties or (ii) players within 7 strokes of their flight leader after 1 round (18 holes) qualify for rounds 2 & 3. Eligibility for new TMC members is seven (7) current year tournaments prior to the first round of the CC event. Eligibility for renewal TMC members is 5 events between the end of the previous year's CC, and the start of the current year Club Championship.. This tournament requires play on Saturday and Sunday on two consecutive weekends. Championship Flight is Gross scoring (blue tees only); and Flights A, B and C, are net scoring only. There are Club Champions awarded in four flights: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight and C Flight.



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Special Events

Spring Classic (Social Event)

This is a 4-Man Scramble event: A, B, C, D. It is a Shotgun start and members of each group tee off from tee boxes assigned by their handicap range. Gift cards and Pro-Shop credit are awarded to winning teams of this initial Social golfing event of the season. This event is one in which you typically get to meet and golf with members outside your normal foursomes. No GOTY points.

Scotch Ball I and II (Social Event)

This is a male/female mixed pairs event with members bringing a guest. The member hits his drive from his TMC chosen color tee, and his female partner hits her drive from the red tees. For the second shot, the partners exchange balls (man hits from where woman's drive landed and the woman hits from where the man's drive landed.) The team then chooses one ball and hits alternate shots until the ball is holed out. There are generally 9 and 18-hole flights. The golf is followed by a dinner at the pavilion (or very rarely at another venue). No GOTY points.

Parent-Child (Social Event)

This pairs event is intended to bring different generations of family together as a team; whether it's father and son/daughter, son and father/mother, or any relatively close family member, as in nieces/nephews, uncles/aunts, or in-laws. The member hits his drive from his designated TMC tee (blue or white) and his partner hits from the appropriate tee for that player. Next, the partners exchange balls and hit a second shot. The team then chooses one ball and hits alternate shots until the ball is holed out. There are 4-, 9- and 18-hole flights. The golf is followed by a cook-out at the pavilion. No GOTY points.

Mother's Day (Tournament Event)

This is a Low Gross (blue tee only) and Low Net tournament individual tournament. Because prizes are for restaurant credit rather than Pro Shop credit, it is an entry fee tournament. GOTY points are available.

Memorial Day Remembrance (Tournament Event)

To honor our Veterans, and our past TMC members who have passed away, this event will feature a special tribute. Members are encouraged to participate by making a donation to the designated charity, (currently Folds of Honor) on the 10th tee. Donators will be given a flag to place next to their tee shot. By the end of the weekend, the 10th fairway defines this special tribute to these members. GOTY points are available.

Father's Day (Tournament Event)

This is a Low Gross (blue tee only) and Low Net tournament individual tournament. Because prizes are for restaurant credit rather than Pro Shop credit, it is an entry fee tournament. GOTY points are available.



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Member/Guest (Social Event)

This is the premier event of the season, 2-man best ball, requiring an additional entry fee. This event showcases our club to the guest of our members. The Member-Guest is usually scheduled for mid-June. It will be followed by an Awards Dinner, usually at a local restaurant. On Friday prior to the event there is a Pre-Member-Guest golf tournament practice round, and at 5:00 PM a putting contest and cook-out. No GOTY points.



Member/Member (Tournament Event)

This is a 36 hole, (18 Saturday, 18 Sunday), 2-man best ball tournament. Eligibility for new TMC members is seven (7) current tournaments prior to the first round of this event. On the Friday prior to the event, there will be a Pairings Auction (and Calcutta) held at the Tallwood Pavilion. Gross (blue tee only), and Net for all other tee color combinations. GOTY points are available.

Match Play I & Match Play II (Tournament Events)

These are 2-man team match play events. Teams are grouped into flights determined by total combined team handicap. MPI has five nine-hole matches, three on Saturday and two on Sunday with all matches being played as scratch, except the last flight. MPII is a modified version with 32 teams and 18 holes each day. Partners handicaps must be within five strokes (lower handicap plus five for the higher handicap player). The Match Play events are usually planned for early May and late September. GOTY points are available.



Fall Classic (Social Event)

This is a 4-Man Shamble event: A, B, C, D. It is a Shotgun start and members of each group tee off from tee boxes assigned by their handicap range. Gift cards and Pro-Shop credit are awarded to winning teams of this final golfing Social event of the season. This event is one in which you typically get to meet and golf with members outside your normal foursomes. No GOTY points.



Most Improved Golfer

Participation in seven (7) Men's Club Tournaments is required in order to be considered for the Most Improved Golfer. First year TMC members are not eligible for this award. Calculation is done within the WHS/GHIN handicapping software. The winner of this award is presented with a trophy at the season-ending Awards Banquet.

Nick Pahoulis Golfer of the Year (GOTY)

There are points awarded towards the Golfer of the Year (GOTY) for several of the trophy and special events detailed above. This prestigious award is presented to the golfer who earns the most total points during the golfing season. There is a trophy presentation at the end of the year. Please see the document titled "GOTY-points-analysis-2021-01-29" for all details.