

# **DAVIS SENIOR MEN'S GOLF CLUB**

## **By-Laws and Club Policies**

**Article I – Name:** The name of the club shall be Davis Senior Men's Golf Club.

**Article II – Purpose and Membership:** The Davis Senior Men's Golf Club formed to promote golf and to provide friendly competitions for men aged fifty (50) and older. The Club hosts tournaments every Thursday morning and on the second Tuesday of every month throughout the year.

**Article III – Board of Directors:** The powers and management of the Club, except as otherwise provided in these by-laws, shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of three (3) members who shall be members of the Club for at least 10 months. The Board shall govern for the benefit of the membership.

**Article IV – Election of Directors:** Directors are elected for two-year terms; two in odd years, and one in even years.

1. **Election of Directors** will be held October 15 through 30 by written ballot.
2. A notice will be posted by September 15 on the Senior Club Bulletin Board that nominations for the Board of Directors will be accepted until October 10. A Senior Member may self-nominate.
3. Nominees will be placed on the ballot.
4. Members must be nominated and placed on the official ballot to be elected to the Board of Directors. Write-in votes are not allowed in Board elections.
5. In elections where the number of nominees is fewer than the number of Board vacancies, the elected Board will select members to serve on the Board to fill the vacant positions if the Club has fewer than three elected board members.
6. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting held the second Thursday in November.
7. New board members will take office on November 15.

#### **Article V – Duties of Board Members:**

1. The Board members duties shall be such as their titles would indicate, or such as may be assigned to them respectively from time to time. Specific Board Duties as identified in A-C are meant to serve as guidelines for tasks that are accomplished by the Board Members.
  - a. President – Preside at all meetings of the Senior Club and the Board, and exercise general supervision over the business of the Club. Score tournaments and post results.
  - b. Vice President/Handicap Director – Assume duties of President when absent or otherwise unable to perform those duties. Maintain Club handicap records and apply the Club's handicap policies.
  - c. Treasurer/Secretary – Account and maintain records for all financial matters of the Club. Take minutes of Board and Club meetings, post monthly tournament schedules, periodically provide members with rules sheets, and serve as backup for scoring tournaments.

#### **Article VI – Meetings of the Club and Board:**

1. The Club annual meeting is held on the Second Thursday in November. The annual meeting will include reports from the President and provide a forum for the membership to be heard on Club matters.
2. The Board of Directors will communicate monthly and meet as needed. The President may schedule special meetings, as needed.

#### **Article VII – Fees and Dues:**

Section 1: Annual Dues are \$10.00.

Section 2: The membership year is January 1 through December 31.

Section 3. A Dues increase requires a majority vote of the members voting: (1) by written ballot in an election or (2) during a duly noticed general membership meeting.

Section 4: A player is only eligible for tournament play with current annual dues paid.

Section 5: All members pay tournament fees. Tournament fees are \$3.00 per event, and \$8.00 for majors.

#### **Article VIII – Handicaps:** See handicap information in the Policy section.

**Article IX – Financial/Compensation:** The Board must approve all financial transactions. Club Funds will not be used to pay Club members a salary or stipend.

**Article X – Tournament Payouts:** The Club Board determines tournament payouts.

**Article XI – Amendments to the By-Laws:** Amendments to the By-Law must be approved by a majority vote of the members voting: (1) by written ballot in an election or (2) during a duly-noticed general membership meeting. Proposed amendments may be submitted by the Board or by a petition signed by fifteen (15) current members. The Board shall never set aside by-laws.

### **Senior Club Policies and Local Rules**

1. **The Club Board of Directors enacts Senior Club Policies.**
2. **Senior Club tournaments are scored** using the USGA Handicap Guidelines.
3. **Tournament payouts** will usually be based on NET Scores.
4. **Winter and Summer Rules** - The Senior Club plays summer rules approximately April through October. Summer rules allow players to mark, lift, clean, and place their golf ball, no nearer the hole, a scorecard length through the green. Winter rules allow players to mark, lift, clean, and place their golf ball, no nearer the hole, a full club length through the green. The Board will announce the specific dates.
5. **A senior club member may elect to play from either the White** or the Blue Tees, irrespective of age or handicap. Member handicaps will be calculated based on the tees played. See separate White vs. Blue Tee Procedures for more information.
6. **Free Drop Bushes** - If your ball rests in or near the 150 and 100-yard bushes or a staked tree or bush you may move the ball without a penalty. These distance markers are considered Immovable Obstructions. Players are entitled to relief for their stance and area of intended swing. Note that intervention of the tree/bush on the intended line of play does not entitle the player to relief.
7. **Lost Ball/Out-of-Bounds Local Rule per USGA.** If a ball might be lost outside a penalty area or be out of bounds, to save time, the player may play another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance. **You have 3 minutes to locate your ball.** When a provisional ball **has not** been played, issues with the pace of play can result in a player needing to walk back to the spot required to take stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is out of bounds or cannot be found. Therefore, the player **may** proceed as follows: For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief

by *dropping* a ball in a fairway area two club lengths from the edge of the fairway that is nearest the point where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the *course*, or last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.

8. **Penalty Areas (formerly known as “Water Hazards”)** The USGA Rules state that a penalty area is: “An area from which relief with one stroke penalty is allowed if the player’s ball comes to rest there.” The Davis Golf Course marks the penalty areas with red lines and/or red stakes. The following penalty area definition applies when red stakes are missing, or the red lines are not visible.

**Per the USGA:** “When the edge of a body of water is not defined by the Committee, the edge of that penalty area is defined by its natural boundaries (that is, where the ground slopes down to form the depression that can hold the water).”

9. **The Options Available for Penalty Areas.** **The Davis Senior Men’s Golf Club plays all Penalty Areas as “Red Penalty Areas.”** Five options are available when a player’s ball is in a Penalty Area.

- a. Play the ball as it lies (no additional penalty strokes taken).
- b. Take relief using stroke and distance by playing the ball from the original location. (One stroke penalty)
- c. Take relief using “back on the line relief” by indicating where the ball crossed into the penalty area and drawing a line from the hole through the point where the ball crossed the penalty area, no nearer the hole. (One stroke penalty.)
- d. Taking lateral relief by estimating where the ball entered the penalty area and taking two club lengths from that spot, no nearer the hole. (One stroke penalty.)
- e. Take relief using the Drop Area, when available. (One stroke penalty.)

10. **The following holes have Drop Areas:**

- a. **Hole 7 has two Drop Areas. As of June 19, 2023,** there is new a drop area behind the green. **If a player hits a shot in the water on the tee side of the water, the player must play from the tee side of the water and navigate the water again.** For a ball that last crossed the outer boundary of the Red Penalty Area (RPA) on the tee side of the lake, a player may use the Drop Zone directly in front of the teeing ground short of the RPA. For a ball that last crossed

the inner boundary of the RPA on the green side of the lake, a player may use the Drop Zone behind the green.

- b. **Hole 10:** For a ball in the Red Penalty Area (RPA) behind the green a player may use the Drop Zone behind and to the right of the green.
- c. **Hole 16:** For a ball in the RPA behind the green a player may use the Drop Zone directly behind the green.

**11. The area between Holes 13, 14, and 15** that is marked by red stakes is a Penalty Area.

**12. Relief from Fence between Hole #12 Green and #13 Tee Area**

**While playing Hole #12,** a player may take free relief when his ball lies on the Hole #13 side of the fence and the fence obstructs the line-of-sight access to the green. Free relief allows the player to **use the drop zone** located across the cart path, near the portable bathroom.

**While playing Hole #13,** a player may take free relief when his ball lies within two club lengths of the fence on Hole #12 side of the fence. The player has three options:

- a) Play the ball as it lies.
- b) Take obstruction relief if such relief applies.
- c) Use the nearest teeing area not nearer the hole on the 13th green.

**13. Ground Under Repair West of Hole 17** - The area south of the driving range, west of the 17th fairway/green, and north of the beginning of the 18th fairway that is used by the Golf Course maintenance staff to accumulate tree debris is considered “ground under repair” (GUR). If the ball is found in the GUR, the player has two options: play the ball as it lies or take relief at the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole. If the ball is lost with virtual certainty in the GUR, the player may take relief using the point where the ball is estimated to have last crossed into the GUR.

**14. Tree Roots – Free Relief** - In recent years, drought conditions have caused tree roots to seek water above the ground surface on the Davis Golf Course. The exposed tree roots cause “abnormal course conditions” and present the potential for injury to golfers. Exposed tree roots are treated as ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under USGA [Rule 16.1b](#).

Ball may be moved without penalty when the exposed tree roots interfere with the lie of the ball, the area of intended swing, and/or the player's stance. Relief from the tree root area allows the player one club length from the tree root area, no nearer the hole.

15. **Senior Club players must play the tournament that is scheduled** on the tournament schedule. Members who choose not to play the scheduled tournament should not pay the \$3.00 entry fee. Exceptions to this policy apply as follows:
  - a) A player without a partner in a 2-Man Scramble/Shamble event has the option of playing Individual Medal. A group with three players must pair two of the players and play the scramble/shamble format and the third player will play Individual Medal.
  - b) Blind draws are not made for 4-Man tournaments and 2-Man Scramble/Shamble tournaments.
  - c) Blind draws are made for singles in 2-man Better Ball and 2-man Total Net tournaments. Therefore, players do not have the option of playing individual medal when these tournaments are scheduled. A group with three players must pair two of the players and play the 2-Man format and the third player will receive a Blind Draw.
16. **Slow Play** - Senior Club Groups are expected to **stay in contact** with the group in front of them. Groups finishing **one hole or more behind** are subject to penalty. The first slow play infraction will result in a two-stroke penalty for each member of the group. Continuing infractions may result in the foursome receiving **a later tee time**.
  - **Definition of stay in contact:** By the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, a team must begin teeing off no later than when the group in front of them is on the green
  - **Definition of one hole or more:** By the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, a team has not teed off before the group in front of them has left the green
17. **Annual Dues Collection** – The Senior Golf Club Board will begin collecting Annual Dues on November 1st for the next calendar year. Dues will be delinquent on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Seniors not renewing by paying their dues will be removed from the member rolls and will not be eligible for Senior Tournament play. New members who pay their dues on or after November 1 will be paid up through the next calendar year.
18. Except for local rules and Senior Club policies, USGA Rules apply.

## **19. Board Member Tee Time Option**

Newly Elected Board Members may elect to choose any Tee Time for the Duration of their Board Service

- They may do this only once during their two-year tenure of service
- They must elect a tee time between their election and January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year
- These tee times will be subject to the Slow Play Policy
- This Policy will be Implemented November 2025

## **20. Maximum Score of Double Par Policy:**

Maximum Score of Double Par will be followed. Under this USGA policy (USGA Policy 21.2: Maximum Score) the following occurs

- A player who does not hole out under the Rules for any reason gets the Maximum score for the hole. (Double Par)
- To help pace of play, players are encouraged to stop playing a hole when their score has reached the maximum. (Double Par)
- The hole is completed when the player holes out, chooses not to do so, or when their score has reached the maximum. (Double Par)

Definition of double par is two times the par or that hole. Maximum Score for

Par 3 is a 6

Par 4 is an 8

Par 5 is a 10

## **Handicap Policy**

The Senior Club handicap policy aligns with guidelines prescribed in the NCGA Handicap Manual as follows:

- Current members: the lowest three of the last ten scores will be used to calculate current handicap. Handicaps will be updated on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- New members with an established NCGA handicap will play the first three rounds at 90% of the NCGA handicap. New members without an NCGA handicap will play their first three tournaments as a zero handicap.
- The following table will be used to create a Senior Golf Club handicap for seniors with and without an NCGA handicap.

Number of Acceptable Scores	Lowest Differentials to Be Used
3 to 6	1
7 or 8	2
9 or 10	3

- Only members with an established handicap (10 or more scores) are eligible to play in major tournaments.

The Board reserves the right to take further action on handicap adjustments.

**Bylaws Revised 2024**

**Policies Updated 2025**