

How to Run a Golf League

Running a Golf League

Joining a golf league is a great way to make sure you get out of the house and hit the links every week. But what about running a golf league? How are they set up, what kind of formats can you play, how much work is it, and what about weekly contests?

Starting your Golf League

To start your league you'll have to gather a number of players, and contact Mount Si golf course to see what days and time slots they have available and what rates might be. Mount Si Golf course does have specials for league play, either with green's fees or perhaps food or drink specials if you socialize at the course after play. Choose a person to be your Secretary and we can help your secretary with questions they might have.

Most golf leagues are based on a set schedule that the league plays each week at the same time. They reserve a block of time from the golf course, have a set roster of players, have a standard format and scoring rules, a set length usually between 12 and 24 weeks or sometimes more. So leagues have competition and have a champion at the end of the year and some leagues just play without competition. Dues for the year are usually paid ahead of time to your League Secretary. Most leagues are 9 holes since most take place after normal work hours, but 18 hole leagues are available as well.

Collect from your players up front and pay the course in one payment each week, this way you might qualify for group discounts!

The Players

A golf league consists of a set roster of regular players, typically 16-24, but I've seen some leagues with as many as 60 or more players. Each player has a handicap which can be decided on by the league committee/secretary. Schedules of who will play against one another each week. Ideally you want to spread out the competitions so that everyone plays against everyone else an equal number of times, or at least as close as possible. There are league tracking systems that takes the drudgery out of creating a schedule. Enter your players, set up your teams, and click one button to create the schedule for the year. Golf genius is one of them. Also a no competition (just play) leagues are fun too!

League Format

There are endless formats that you can set up for your golf league, but I'll talk about the more common formats. Golf League genius guide will support individual play and 2-person teams. With individual play, you play against another player each week for points.

If your league is 14 weeks or more, I recommend breaking the league into 2 halves. At the end of each half, the points the player or team has accumulated are reset to zero. This allows players who are at the bottom of the standings at the end of the first half to have a chance in the second half. This keeps everyone interested in the league throughout the season. After you have your two half winners, they would play a championship match at the end of the season to determine the league champion.

Again, there are many choices for formats for your league play that you can choose from. You can change it every week or do season long structured play.

Some leagues just like to have a just play social structure. You play with others in your group each week with no competition.

Handicaps

Let's face it, we're not all scratch golfers. The beauty of golf is that different skill levels can compete against each other using a handicap. A handicap tries to level the playing field by awarding strokes to players based on past performance.

There are an infinite ways to calculate handicaps, but with my experience, joining the USGA is the best. Also, determine a good range of settings for the typical league that makes it fair to everyone. The basic formula is to take a rolling average of the player's scores compared to par. There are additional options that you can institute, such as "Equitable Stroke Control" which limit how many strokes a player can take on a hole to prevent them from artificially increasing their handicap, called "Sandbagging".

Another way is to will take the last 6 scores to use in their/your handicap calculation. Many times a percentage is taken of that average, such as 90%, when calculating the player's handicap. This gives a slight advantage to the better players, and gives an incentive for a player to improve.

Also, the cost of joining the USGA is an option. This is the best and fair system for everyone.

League Secretary Duties

The League Secretary is the person who pretty much does the footwork for the League. You can have other officers as well if you wish. The Secretary sets up the seasons Dates, Tee Times, Rates for the League with the Mount Si golf course coordinator. Also, sets up formats either structured or not. Golf Genius system can help with that if you wish to use it. The Mount Si golf course coordinator can offer you possible discounts for your league, depending on dates, number of players and time of day you might desire for your league play. Possible restaurant discounts are also available depending on group size.

The most important part is to have FUN. Leagues are a great way to socialize with other golfers, co workers, family members or friends.