

The **South West Golf Association (SWGA)** came into being the Spring of 2018, but its roots came from a golfing organization over 30 years old. The original golf association was an internal company sports organization that out-grew the boundaries that the O&M corporation were placing upon it. SWGA split from the business sports program to keep SWGA heading towards continued healthy growth and expanding golfing opportunities for its members.

The association currently operates two separate leagues (Par3 & 9-hole) and hosts a variety of tournaments throughout the season (April to September). Though originally organized as a women's league, SWGA is now a Co-Ed league where both men and women are welcome to join. The matches are normally played after working hours during the week, while most tournaments are played on weekends.

- **9-Hole League:** League matches are played over nine holes, on any mutually agreed upon course. The playing format is Modified 4-ball Stroke Play, where two-member teams combine their total score for a team score, adjusted for handicap, hole by hole.
- **Par 3 League:** The playing format is the same as for the 9-Hole League, and matches are played on the Los Altos Executive course.
- **Tournaments** are run by both leagues. Tournament committee generally subsidize a portion of the prize money and prizes are awarded to most participants. The formats of the tournaments are determined by the individual tournament organizers & may vary from following USGA rules to FUN play. The two leagues usually host a tournament or play date once per month during the season.

Handicaps for 9-Hole play are maintained by the USGA GHIN program. A player may obtain or transfer their handicap to SWGA if desired. Par 3 handicaps are internally calculated by the SWGA for use in league & tournament play. Par 3 handicaps use the same calculation formulas as the USGA via a local spreadsheet.

- USGA GHIN handicaps require a minimum of six 9-hole or three 18-hole scores to establish a temporary handicap for league play. Cost is \$30/year to Sun Country Amateur Golf Association (SCAGA).
- Par 3 handicaps require a minimum of 3-scores to establish a handicap in time for league play.

Team Captain's communicate with the league directors and each other to arrange matches and manage team playing opportunities. A team must consist of at least two players. Past teams have had as many as six, but three or four players are more common. Substitute players may be used if necessary & available. Occasionally, replacements for lost members may join after the season has started.

Each team will play a match with every other team in the league. Therefore, the length of the schedule varies depending on the number of teams per season. A Most Improved Player will be recognized and awarded for each league at the EOY Banquet, along with other notable teams and individuals. Prizes again vary with the size of the league.

Mentorship – SWGA sponsors numerous learning events over the season especially focused on rules, etiquette, playing tips, and sometimes offering opportunities for professional lessons. The Par 3 league is an especially good league for beginning golfers where more experienced golf players are paired with beginners to act as mentors, as needed.

Although the SWGA adheres to the USGA rules, it is also a recreational league. Allowances for less experienced players are expected, thus are intended to be used as “teaching moments” from our more experienced members.

If interested in joining this golf association or have other questions, please contact the 2020 SWGA President, [Amanda Sullivan-Small](mailto:Amanda.Sullivan-Small) or any board members (<https://swgagolforg.wordpress.com/>)