

By-Laws of the Ashrose Golf Club 2024-2025

I) By-Laws

1) These by-laws shall be reviewed every two (2) years to incorporate changes and additions approved by the membership. In addition to placing these By-Laws on the website, one printed copy will be kept by the Club Secretary.

2) To change these by-laws, 2/3 majority vote of the members present is required and must be done at a general meeting. All members must be notified in writing or by electronic mail at least two weeks prior to the vote.

3) To waive a by-law, a 2/3 majority vote of the members present is required at a general meeting. Any by-law waiver applies to that particular meeting only. A member is counted as “present” if physically or virtually attending the meeting.

II) Board of Governors

1) The purpose of the Board of Governors is to govern the club's business functions and to propose golf and social activities to the membership.

2) The Board of Governors shall consist of nine (9) club members:
a) four officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Vice President shall act as Golf Director.
b) Three Board members appointed by the President are the Website Chairman, Handicap Chairman, and Tournament Chairman.

c) Members-at-large: 3 voted in by the membership but may include one position occupied by the immediate past president if able and willing to serve. If an officer or appointee takes on multiple roles the members at large will be adjusted accordingly.

3) Officers and Board members are elected for a one-year term. Any officer unable to complete his term will be replaced by another board member except that the President will be replaced by the Vice President. Any other board member unable to complete his term will be replaced by a Presidential appointment, subject to the approval of the Board.

4) Removal of an officer or board member from the Board of Governors requires a 2/3 majority vote of the membership. *Reasons for removal must be distributed to the entire membership at least two weeks prior to the vote. Voting can be done in writing, by email or at the meeting when the vote is taken.*

III) ELECTIONS

1) Elections will be held at the October general meeting by the members present.

2) All nominations must be made at the September general meeting. Nominations need not be seconded by a member and accepted by the nominee to be valid.

3) A nominee must be in the club for six (6) months prior to the elections.

4) The four (4) officers will be elected by a plurality vote. In the case of a tie, a second ballot will be cast to break the tie. Anyone

nominated for an office but not elected will be automatically nominated for a member-at-large position.

5) The members-at-large will be elected from a single ballot, whereby each member votes for the nominees. The highest vote recipients are elected; in case of a tie for last, a second vote will be cast to resolve the tie. Any improperly cast ballot is invalid in its entirety.

6) All new officers will assume their new positions at the next board meeting. The out-going Treasurer will serve until the end of the calendar year to have an orderly transition between the newly elected Treasurer and the out-going Treasurer.

IV) MEMBERSHIP

1) Membership is limited to forty-eight (48) active members at least twenty-one (21) years of age. Active members are voting members and may hold elective offices. There are two (2) categories of active members, regular and associate, differing in that regular members compete in match play while associates do not. A club member must state his intention to change his membership category by advising an officer at or prior to the March general meeting.

2) Anyone desiring to apply for membership in the Ashrose Golf Club must submit to the Treasurer a check for \$10.00 (non-refundable application fee) made payable to the Ashrose Golf Club. This application fee must be accompanied by an application form giving his name, address, telephone number, date of birth, sponsor's name, email address (if available), and handicap (see

section VIII). All applications will be chronologically placed on a waiting list according to the date the Treasurer receives the application form and fee.

3) Each prospective new member must be unanimously approved for membership by all members present at a general meeting. This prospective new member must be present at either the February or March general meeting. Any prospective new member who declines his membership acceptance vote for two (2) consecutive years will be dropped from the list.

4) Membership numbers are assigned to each club member in ascending order based upon chronological order of entry into the club. This membership number will be utilized to resolve any issues based on seniority, i.e., the lower number has preference. A member who has been out of the club for two (2) consecutive years will have their seniority number reset. An addendum to these by-laws will record all members and their membership numbers. This list is the responsibility of the Treasurer.

5) Dues are determined annually by the Board with the approval of the membership at the November general meeting. Returning members must pay their annual dues by the February general meeting. Failing to do this, a returning member may be reinstated if dues plus a \$10.00 late fee are submitted to the Treasurer on or before March 1. After March 1, a member delinquent in payment of his dues may seek re-admission to the club by remitting his dues plus a \$10.00 initiation fee to the Treasurer no later than the March general meeting. Any member so seeking readmission must be voted in pursuant to the standard

procedure prescribed in Section IV, paragraph 3. If a member seeking re-admission is not accepted, only his dues will be refunded.

6) Membership can be revoked for cause. Prior notice of any proposed revocation, stating reasons, must be distributed to *the entire membership either by email or in writing at least two weeks prior to the vote. Any revocation action must be approved by a ¾ majority vote of the membership, either by email or present at the general meeting considering revocation.* Anyone whose membership has been revoked must be notified by letter and his seniority lost.

7) Members must participate in at least (8) scheduled calendar club golf events to remain as a member for the following year. This requirement is waived if the total membership is less than the 48-member maximum. These (8) dates can be medal, match or open play dates, or any combination thereof. A match played on the same day as a medal play date is considered only one event.

8) Any former member who resigned from the Club as a member in good standing can return to play golf with the club as a guest. He must inform the Golf Director of his intention to play in the same manner as regular members. Guests are not eligible to compete for prizes or awards, except at the Banquet. If the guest removes his intention to play after the field has been set or fails to show for the play date, he will be fined according to current rules governing late removals and “no shows.” The guest of a member will be responsible for paying any fines and must adhere to the same rules as a member.

9) A member will receive a \$10.00 (deducted from the next season's dues) for sponsoring a new member into the Club as a "thank you."

VI) MEETINGS

1) Regular general meetings will be held the third Saturday of February, March, April, September, October, and November. The President may, with the approval of the Board of Governors, change the date of general meetings. Prior written notice of meeting locations and times will be made known via letter, electronic mail or golf calendar.

2) There must be a Board meeting prior to every general meeting. There must be at least five (5) board members present to conduct a Board meeting. A special board meeting can be held with less than five members present but no voting matters may be considered.

3) At least 1/3 of the active club members must be present to conduct a general meeting. Proxies are not permitted to conduct normal business. All voting matters are determined by a majority vote of active members present unless specifically noted otherwise in these by-laws.

VI) TREASURY

1) The Treasurer is responsible for keeping up-to-date written records of all club finances, a chronological list of applicants and a membership list including seniority in the Club. The Treasurers report shall include the current Retained Earnings as of the report date.

2) All bills and invoices must be paid by an Ashrose check or by electronic payment (debit card). Swapping or shifting financial obligations between the Club and its members is not permitted.

3) There must be a balance of at least \$500.00 in the Treasury going into each year in addition to any financial obligations due for payment.

4) The President will appoint a three-man committee to audit the Treasurer's books at the close of the year.

5) As part of the official Treasurer's duties, it is incumbent for that individual to file a personal property return annually as required by the State of Maryland.

VII) BUDGET

1) A preliminary budget covering projected income and expenses and establishing dues for the upcoming year will be presented by the Board to the membership at the November general meeting. Passage by a majority of the membership is required.

2) The budget will accurately reflect all expected club expenses to include starting times, prize money, golf balls, meeting expenses, social gatherings, trophies, and miscellaneous items, etc. Nest and flight winners as established under written rules provided by the Tournament Chairman and approved by the membership shall receive cash awards established in the annual budget. The Club Champion will receive the winner's trophy and a one-time credit for full payment of his club dues. The runner-up will receive a one-time credit for one-half of his club dues.

3) Income to balance the budget will come solely from membership dues, application fees, fines, and bank account interest. There will not be any special assessments or other fundraising activities.

4) The final budget will be presented at the April meeting once the exact number of Club members is known. If the actual number differs from the budget estimate, then club benefits will be increased or decreased accordingly.

VII HANDICAPS

1) Member handicaps are the sole responsibility of the Handicap Chairman and are set initially for all members at the March general meeting. All handicaps will be subject to revision weekly from the first day of April through October. Handicaps will be based on all scores posted at any Ashrose scheduled calendar event in accordance with USGA rules.

2) The method of calculating member handicaps will be kept in writing and made available to the membership. No changes to the handicap format will be permitted during the on-going golf season (April through October).

3) A Handicap Index will be issued to a player after five 18-hole scores are submitted and a revision takes place. Scores can be made up of any combination of 9-hole and 18-hole scores. This requirement may be met by a) playing five dates with the Club as a guest, b) having 5 valid scorecards from recent play, or c) having an established handicap from a previous club. If none of these standards can be met by the March general meeting, the new

member will enter the Club as an “Associate Member.” A new associate member will not be allowed to compete in medal play, etc. until five (5) score cards have been recorded from play within or outside the Club.

IX GOLF ACTIVITIES

1) The Board will have responsibility for establishing the type, location, number and dates of Club golf activities, subject to approval of the membership at the February meeting.

2) The Tournament Chairman appointed by the president will present a golf calendar of events which will be printed and distributed to all club members prior to the March general meeting. Any tournament or event involving club sponsored prizes or awards (cash or otherwise) will be duly noted.

3) The Golf Director or his designee shall have complete control over the conduct of all calendar golf events after approval of the golf schedule. The Golf Director shall submit in writing his proposed golf play procedures to the membership for their approval prior to the start of the scheduled golf dates. The Golf Director is responsible for the inclement weather policy. (See addendum A #11.)

4) If the Club should sponsor an away trip, it will be arranged by a committee appointed by the President. The Board may promote any type of golf activity deemed beneficial to the Club and make details known to the membership the newsletter or calendar.

5) In the event the season is interrupted by an unforeseen occurrence, e.g. natural disaster or man-made, the Board will have

the authority to adjust the approved schedule and golf activities for the remainder of the season. Changes will be Board-approved by simple majority vote. Voting shall be done in person or via email by all current Board members prior to acceptance. Revisions will not need approval by the general membership.

X) ASHROSE GOLF RULES

1) Rules governing play for the Club will be set only with membership approval and listed in an addendum to these by-laws.

XI) OTHER ACTIVITIES

1) There shall be one social function each year, paid for in part by the Club for members. Golf trophies, prize monies, and other awards shall be presented at this function.

2) There shall be a "Hole-in-One" fund established to benefit any Club member who scores an "ACE" during an Ashrose calendar golf event (Saturdays only). If more than one member has a hole-in-one, they will "split the pot" at year end. Each year \$50.00 will be added to the fund until it is won. At that time a new fund will be begin at \$200.00.

***** End of By-Laws *****

BY-LAW ADDENDUM A: ASHROSE GOLF CLUB RULES OF PLAY

USGA rules shall govern play except for the following:

1) A ball lying in one's own "fairway" may be lifted and cleaned, without penalty, and placed within six (6) inches of where it originally lay, not nearer the hole, so as to preserve as nearly as possible the stance required to play from the original lie. Definition of "fairway" to be determined by the foursome.

2) A footprint or other natural indentation in a sand trap may be smoothen out and the ball replaced. "Unnatural indentation" to be judged by the foursome.

3) Out of Bounds and Lost Ball penalties are "stroke and distance." If a player hits a shot which is believed to be lost or out-of-bounds, he shall hit a "provisional ball" from the same spot or tee. Ashrose golf club has adopted USGA Rule E-5: A player, under two stroke penalty, allows the player to drop in a large area between the point where the ball is estimated to have come to rest or gone out of bounds and the edge of the fairway of the hole being played that is not nearer the hole. This Local Rule cannot be used for an unplayable ball, or for a ball that is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area. If a provisional ball is played and neither the original ball nor the provisional ball can be found, then the local Rule may be applied for the provisional ball that cannot be found. Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was *lost or out-of-bounds* is no longer in play and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time.

4) An unplayable lie can be declared anywhere on the golf course at any time, except in a water hazard. An unplayable lie can even be declared in a bunker, allowing a player to take a drop inside the bunker for a one-stroke penalty or take the ball outside the bunker for a two-stroke penalty.

5) If a player has not found his ball after a three-minute (3) search, the ball shall be deemed lost, and the player shall proceed under USGA Local Rule E-5 described above.

6) When on the green, if the path of the ball to the hole is obstructed by an unnatural defect, the ball (no nearer the hole) the minimum distance to either side to avoid the obstruction. Movement requires agreement of the foursome.

7) The highest score allowed to be recorded for a whole shall be DOUBLE PAR PLUS 1 STROKE. The only exception will be in the event a match dictates otherwise, as determined by the player's opponent.

8) Members are allowed to play from the senior (forward) tees provided they meet either of the following qualifications: a. Any member at least 70 years of age prior to April 1st, b. Any member who is at least 58 years old prior to April 1st and meets the rule of 90, i.e. the members age plus his handicap must be 90 or higher. Once the qualification is met, the members decision to play from the senior tee is voluntary. Once the member has accepted senior

status it cannot be revoked even though the member may fail the qualification in future years. Members whose eightieth birthday falls anytime within the calendar year may request moving to the next tees forward of the tees designated for seniors to begin the season and continue for the duration of that season. If a golf course has tees forward of the traditional “senior” tees (usually red), e.g. Pine Ridge, members age eighty (80) may choose to play from the forward tee but with the handicap determined for the traditional senior tee.

9) USGA 10-2 Order of play during stroke play is waived for “Ready Golf.” Ready Golf means that after player with the honors starts the hole, the player farthest from the hole should be **READY TO HIT, club in hand, ball lined up**. If the player isn’t ready, only then should someone else hit first.

10) Inclement Weather Policy: The Golf Director (GD) has the authority to cancel or reschedule a scheduled event based upon inclement weather. The Golf Director can make this decision before or on the day of the event. This decision will be announced via email. Anyone not having email access should be in contact with members who do have email access. The Golf Director shall declare if no-show fines will be applied or waived when the decision is made to play. The no-show player is responsible for any fines imposed by the Course scheduled in addition to club-imposed fines.

If a member decides they do not want to play because of the potential situation, they should contact the Golf Director as soon as possible so he can adjust pairings. If four or more members decide

to play it will be considered a sanctioned event and only the closest to the pin and hole in one award will apply.

11) Cancellation of Sign-up. A member may cancel their participation in an event without penalty if the cancellation is made on or before the Saturday one week (or three weeks) before the event, depending on the required advance sign-up.

1. Members may cancel on-line via the MY Bookings page up until the cut-off date. If the Cancel link is not available, the cut-off date has passed.

2. Members may cancel by contacting the GD up until the cut-off date.

3. Members cancelling after the cut-off date and initial pairings published must notify the GD by email as soon as possible and will be fined \$10.

4. If a no-show player does not notify others of their intent not to play, they will be charged \$25.00 in addition to any course obligations should the club be charged for the open tee time.

BY-LAW ADDENDUM “B” ASHROSE SENIORITY LIST

The Ashrose Seniority List is kept in a separate document.

BY-LAW ADDENDUM “C” ASHROSE RULES FOR EMAIL

The email distribution list is for club business only.

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