

ESQUIRE GOLF CLUB CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

JANUARY 2024 REVISION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this golf club, inaugurated in 1961 shall be “THE ESQUIRE GOLF CLUB,” referred to hereinafter in this document as “THE CLUB.” Historical note: the club’s name was chosen because the Esquire Club Restaurant, (Clove Road and Delafield Avenue), acted as a sponsor and paid for all trophies during the initial years.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

First: To bring together a group of golfers willing to support the club, the main purpose for which shall be to stimulate interest and provide a desirable venue for Saturday morning golf.

Second: To promote and foster among the club members a closer bond and fraternity for their joint and mutual benefit, primarily a dependable Saturday morning “Game” and to promote and conserve the best interests and true spirit of the game as embodied in its rules and ancient and honorable traditions.

Third: To provide opportunities for competition in such a manner as to stimulate and maintain interest for all levels of golfers in the club. Important to this purpose is frequent use of a team “Game,” allowing golfers of varying abilities to compete by playing together as a team, and at the same time, allowing the less accomplished golfer to learn from, and aspire to, the prowess of the more accomplished golfer.

Fourth: To provide a uniform system of handicapping as set forth in the USGA handicap system, therefore issuing USGA handicaps and/or USGA handicap indexes to the club’s members.

Fifth: To provide an authoritative body to govern and conduct club competitions and affairs.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Committee (Rev. 01/24)

A membership committee shall be formed consisting of the five (5) board members. The chairman shall be appointed by the Board. The membership committee shall be responsible for enforcing the by-laws regarding membership and for any other membership-related questions or situations which it may deem require a decision.

Section 2. Maximum Membership (Rev. 01/12)

There shall be a maximum of seventy-five (75) members. However former members shall be allowed to rejoin the club even if application is made after membership has rested the maximum.

Section 3. AGE

Membership shall be available to those 18 years of age or older.

Junior memberships shall be available to those 16-17 years of age. These members shall not count towards the 75 man roster.

Section 4. Non-Transferable

Memberships in the club are individual and non-transferable.

Section 5. Requirements

Only golfers with a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with the club during its scheduled rounds may be members and receive USGA handicaps and/or USGA handicap indexes from the club.

The minimum requirement of participation to remain a member in good standing is twenty-five (20%) of the scheduled rounds. The membership committee shall warn members who are obviously delinquent in their responsibility to participate and, by majority vote, can expel or suspend a member who, after being warned, cannot or will not resume participation to at least the minimum required level. Delinquent members shall not be eligible to join the club in the following year unless this proscription is specifically waived, for example, the 75-member quota has not been satisfied, in view of mitigating circumstances, by majority vote of the membership. Members shall also be expected to attend club meetings.

Section 6. Tournament Eligibility

Only members in good standing shall be eligible to participate in club tournaments or trips and share in the prizes thereof. For tournament eligibility purposes, "members in good standing" shall, at a minimum, require paid-up dues and participate in at least twenty-five (20%) percent of the current year's scheduled rounds prior to the tournament. These tournament requirements shall be in force whether or not the member has been previously warned regarding delinquency in dues or participation.

Section 7. Course Affiliation

While, for all intents and purposes, LaTourette Golf course is our "HOME" course, membership confers to no special privileges in connection with LaTourette or any other golf course.

Section 8. Duration

Memberships in the club are for one (1) year only, with all memberships expiring at midnight of the day before the first scheduled event of the year, usually but not limited to the first round of the year.

Section 9. New Members

Each candidate for membership shall be sponsored and seconded by members in good standing. The sponsor shall propose the candidate to the membership. The membership committee shall then invite the prospective member to play two (2) of the scheduled rounds with the club and give him a copy of the by-laws. After completion of these two rounds, the membership shall, expeditiously, decide upon acceptance of the proposed member using the following criteria as a guide:

- A.** The proposed member must have demonstrated the capability of scoring below **95** on a consistent basis and **MUST SCORE BELOW 95** in at least one (1) of the two rounds played.
- B.** Members who played with the proposed member shall be questioned regarding the proposed member's demeanor, golf etiquette, courtesy, speed of play, attention of course responsibilities (replacement of divots, fixing ball marks, etc.), knowledge of, and respect for, the game of golf and general acceptability as a fellow member.
- C.** The proposed member must commit to participating as a playing member of the club within the provisions of these by-laws. The membership shall then vote, and upon a 2/3 majority vote, grant approval of the proposed member, (a disqualified proposed member may not be proposed again in the same calendar year but may be again proposed for membership in the following years subject to the procedure described herein). The membership committee shall then promptly notify the sponsors and proposed member of its decision.

Section 10. Sponsorship Limitation (Rev. 01/24)

A member may not sponsor more than one (1) candidate for membership per year. You must be a member in good standing for two (2) years to sponsor a prospective member. In addition, to be eligible to sponsor a prospective member, a member must be in good standing with the club for more than 1 year.

Section 11. Suspension or Expulsion (Rev. 01/12)

In the event that any member of the club shall commit any act which reflects discredit or disrepute thereon or shall refuse or neglect to comply with the rules and regulations adopted by the club and/or the duly elected officers, or acts in a manner unbecoming of a member that is detrimental to the club, such member shall be subject to suspension or expulsion after ten (10) days written notice and the right to be heard, by a majority vote of membership at any regular meeting or special meeting called for such purpose.

Section 12. Honorary Membership (Rev. 01/12)

The Officers may propose to confer honorary membership upon those whom they feel have contributed to the advancement of golf, the club and/or the general welfare of the membership. The unanimous affirmation vote of the officers and a majority vote of no less than ninety (90%) shall be required to approve such action.

Section 13. Annual Meeting (Rev. 01/12)

The annual meeting of the Esquire Golf Club shall be held as soon as possible after the last scheduled round of the calendar year, preferably within three (3) weeks. The officers shall also provide for the holding of such other meetings as may be deemed necessary or desirable.

Section 14. Quorum

A legal quorum at any meeting shall be ten (10) members. Each active member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 15. Dues

The officers shall establish all membership fees and dues from time to time in such amounts as they deem to be adequate to operate and maintain the club. Members shall be liable for dues until their resignation has been received and accepted. Nonpayment of dues in the amount or within the time period required by the club shall constitute grounds for suspension or expulsion by majority vote of the membership committee. ***The club shall have the option to deduct delinquent membership fees and dues from any prizes awarded to the delinquent member.***

Section 16. Guests (Rev. 01/12)

Invitation and participation of guests except for up to two (2) times play for former members and S.I.G.A members at tournaments or outings where guests are specifically invited, is to be discouraged. Special circumstances may be presented to the membership committee.

Section 17. Special Memberships

Effective March 1990, a former member in good standing may elect to apply for special membership as follows:

A. Senior Membership - Intended to provide the senior citizen and long-time dues payer with the courtesy of reduced dues.

1. Requirements: **a.** He must have been a dues paying member for at least ten (10) years
 b. He must be a senior citizen (60) years old and retired.

2. Senior members shall

- a.** Pay a membership and dues amount determined by the board.
- b.** Have a vote.
- c.** Member is counted as part of the 75-man roster.

B. Junior Membership - Intended to provide reduced dues for the student son of a member.

1. Requirements:

- a.** Must be 16-17 years old.
- b.** Father must be a member in good standing.

2. Junior members shall

- a.** Pay fifty percent (50%) of the membership fees and dues.
- b.** Have no vote.
- c.** Member is not counted towards the 75-man roster.

Section 18. Special Roster inclusions (Rev. 01/12)

In the event of a waiting list forming to become a member of the club, (75-man roster), the following should be followed:

Membership will take a relative of an active member in the club ahead of another player (non-relative). A former member - 2 years or less does not constitute priority.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS/BOARD

Section 1. Titles and Responsibilities (Rev. 01/24)

The board shall consist of five (5) members in good standing of the Esquire Golf Club elected by the membership.

These duly elected officers shall exercise all powers of management of the club not specifically excepted in these by-laws. The duties of the officers shall be such as their titles would indicate or such as may be assigned to, or assumed by, them. In addition, the officers shall be responsible for arranging, scheduling, and conducting the weekly “Game”. They are also responsible for providing a representative to carry out these duties in their absence.

- The 5 board members will pay dues consisting of GHIN fees while holding office. (Rev 02/02)
- The length of term for the officers will be two (2) year terms. (Rev 02/02)

Section 2. Voting (Rev. 01/12)

Voting for officers shall be by written, secret ballot and those names receiving the greatest number of votes cast shall be declared to be elected. The officers shall appoint three (3) judges who are not officers or candidates to supervise the election, which takes place at the annual year end meeting.

Section 3. Meetings

The officers shall meet at such times and places as they may select and a majority shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. If a vote of the officers is deadlocked, the President shall cast a deciding vote.

Section 4. Office Vacancy

In the case of a vacancy through death, resignation, disqualification or any other cause, the remaining officers may elect a successor by majority vote to hold office of the remaining term of the officer whose place shall be vacant, and until the election of his successor.

Section 5. Committees

The officers shall authorize and define the powers and duties of all committees. Chairmen and members of all committees shall be appointed by the President, and the President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except as modified by the officers, all committees shall function as recommended in the USGA golf committee manual. The following committees shall be appointed each year, with such other committees, as the President may deem necessary or advisable:

- A. The Membership Committee** with duties and responsibilities as defined previously in these by-laws.
- B. The Tournament Committee** to arrange and conduct all intra-club and inter-club competitions. The committee will consist of the 5 board members with one being elected chairman.
- C. The Rules Committee** will define play (tees, fairway, rough, traps, etc.) within the bounds of these by-laws and USGA rules. The committee will consist of the 5 board members with one being elected chairman.
- D. The active officers will encourage and arrange social and entertainment features and events.**

Section 6. Records

The board members shall be responsible for passing on to their successor's complete records from their administration as well as those records passed on to them by previous administrations... These records shall include:

Membership name, address and telephone list
Final annual schedule
Description of tournaments played
Finance reconciliation
Current By-laws
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ARTICLE V - THE GAME

Section 1. The "Game"

The game constitutes the general form of competition each time the club plays a scheduled round, except tournaments. While the officers are responsible for choosing and conducting the particular "game" each week, certain rules and customs have evolved over the life of the club or have been voted into existence via motions at membership meetings. Following these rules and customs creating a framework within each weekly "game" is to be conducted:

Teams: A team game is the normal basis for competition at regularly scheduled rounds, except tournaments. Attendees at a round are divided as nearly into four (4) man teams as possible and an appropriate number of "captains", those players present with the lowest handicaps, are assigned. Captains then pick the remaining members of their team, which then compete for prizes.

Group

Makeup: Normally, members of a team play as a group. However, regardless of the "game" once every few weeks foursomes will be composed of golfers of like ability or the mix and match of different teams. This allows the member to occasionally play with peers, an opportunity not normally possible with team play. This will not preclude a team competition; members would simply not be playing with their team.

Picks: In the normal team picking process, a strict rotation is followed, the weakest captain picking first. If there are one or more threesomes, however, lots will be drawn to determine which captains will have the three-man team and the order of picking for that third man (the second pick). After the captains with the three-man teams have completed their selections, the remaining captains will resume picking in the designated order.

Game Definition: The game will be defined before the captains pick teams board members based on the fairness of the strength of players present. Within the bounds of judgment, the game selected the majority of the time should be that involving as many players as possible in the result.

Closest to the Pin: A prize will be awarded for the closest shot to the pin on all par three holes played.

Scat: A scat competition is normally conducted in which participation shall be included in the daily fee. A scat shall be awarded to the single lowest score, untied on any hole.

Team/Individual prizes: Prizes will be awarded each week to the winning teams and/or individuals. The officers will determine the prizes, conducting the game. (Specific "Away" rounds may be subsidized from dues money). **(Rev. 01/14)**

Sand Traps: Unless specified by the board on the day of play, the traps will be played as "Place" meaning you can move it 1 grip length in the trap no closer to the hole.

Lie: During early Spring and late Fall, the club will play "winter rules", unless in the opinion of those conducting the game, the conditions are unusually favorable. It is the intent of the club to play the ball down, as required by the rules of golf, as soon as conditions permit.

Section 2. The Rules of Golf

The USGA rules of Golf shall apply to the Esquire Golf Club play except as contradicted above.

Section 3. Making the Scheduled Sign in Time

- A member shall be allowed to call in before the sign in time.
- Once a captain makes the first pick, the game will be closed.
- If a member shows up after the first pick has been made, then said member will be allowed in scats, skins, and pins. In some cases, there may be an exception where the game needs a player to complete a fair game.
- Under no circumstances will the game be made up a second time, for a member showing up late.

Article VI - Amendments to the By-Laws

The Officers shall have the power to repeal or amend any of these by-laws provided that such action shall not be effective until approved by a majority vote of the members of the Esquire Golf Club at a meeting held in accordance with the provisions contained herein.

These by-laws are respectfully submitted to the membership by the executive board

Any instances not covered in these by-laws may be covered in the clubs guidelines.

We are particularly indebted to Jim Canfield, a charter member of the club, for preparing the first draft of this document, (circa 1961).

Board Members
Vinny Tingos
Robert Wangenstein
Joe Infantino