# Houston Telephone Golf Association

# Bylaws as amended October 2024

## Name

The organization shall be known as the Houston Telephone Golf Association, hereinafter referred to as HTGA.

## Purpose

The purpose of HTGA is to provide competition and fellowship through Golf Tournaments and to promote good sportsmanship and conformance to the Rules of Golf.

## Membership

HTGA is a non-profit, member-supported organization open to all amateur golf enthusiasts in the greater Houston, Texas area.

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of 3 Elected Officers; President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President. The Officers shall serve 1 year terms. For the Annual Year of 2013-14 there will be 2 Vice Presidents elected and the President will designate one as 1st Vice President and 1 as 2nd Vice President. In subsequent Annual Years the 1st Vice President shall become the President, the 2nd Vice President shall become the 1st Vice President and a new Vice President will be elected as the 2nd Vice President. The Election of Officers shall occur at the HTGA Annual Tournament held in October (starting 2015) of each calendar year. The Board of Directors shall have full powers and authority to act and perform all functions which HTGA might do or perform, except it shall have no powers to amend the Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Treasurer to oversee the finances of HTGA.

**President**: The President shall preside over the HTGA and Board of Directors, and in general, shall perform the duties of the Office, and be ex-officio member of all Committees. The President shall assign the duties of the Vice Presidents.

**1st Vice President**: The 1st Vice President shall perform the duties assigned by the President. In the absence of the President, the 1st Vice-President shall assume the duties of President.

**2nd Vice President**: The 2nd Vice President shall perform the duties assigned by the President. In addition, the 2nd Vice President shall perform the duties of Secretary of the Association.

## Committee Chairs

Additional Committee chairs will serve at the discretion of the Board and normally will include a Web Master, Competition Committee Chair, Membership/Handicap Chair, and Tournament Director. Committee chairs may recruit / appoint other members to serve on their committees or assist in the duties of the committee.

## Amendments to the Bylaws

All propositions to alter, amend or add to these Bylaws shall be made in writing to any member of the board any time of the year and the Board of Directors will have 45 days to put such proposition to a vote of the membership either to be voted on via e-mail or at the “Annual” tournament held in October of each calendar year, voted on by the Membership and receiving a two-thirds (2/3) approval of those voting.

## Annual Membership Dues

Annual Membership dues are $50 for each calendar year, January to December. The Membership Dues covers league costs of maintaining members' GHIN Handicap (cost as of 2024 $28 per year) and is subject to increase upon membership voting should the GHIN fee increase and the BOD elects to propose an increase in dues. There is a limited player membership that requires dues of $30 when paying dues between January 1 and June 30 but that member is only eligible to compete in 2 tournaments during the calendar year. A limited player member must pay the full dues balance if they wish to participate in any tournament once already playing in 2 tournaments during the calendar year. Officers of HTGA will have the dues waived for the calendar year following the competition year start of their service to HTGA. New members joining during the year shall pay prorated dues as follows:
Jan – June = $50 July – December = $30.

## Tournaments

Tournaments will be played in the Greater Houston area, with occasional retreats to Louisiana or throughout Texas. Tournaments will be held at least monthly with a season starting event "The Annual" to be held in October of each year. The league may conduct additional competitive golf events throughout the competition season with results of those included for awarding points towards Golfer of the Year status.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to compete for the tournament prize fund you must meet the following qualifications:

- Be current with membership dues.
- Have a valid GHIN Handicap.
- Play in 3 HTGA Tournaments. (Eligible in 3rd Tournament which can be waived by Competition Committee if an individual's handicap can otherwise be reasonably established for Tournament scoring purposes)

- Paid the Tournament entry fee for any tournament you signed up to play but fail or are unable to notify the Tournament Coordinator of cancelling or withdrawing from the Tournament prior to 9:00 PM the Thursday before the scheduled tournament. Payment of the entry fee for late cancellations or no shows can be waived at discretion of the Competition Committee when the Association does not otherwise incur any costs for non-participation in that event.
- Play in a minimum of 5 Tournaments to be eligible for unique* Annual Prizes. *(Low Net, Low Gross Trophies and Golfer of the Year)

## Handicaps

GHIN Handicaps shall be included as part of annual membership dues and will be managed by the Handicap Committee.

## Tournament Rules

- USGA RULES will govern all HTGA Tournaments, unless modified by the Tournament Director and announced prior to the start of play. Local rules printed on the Golf Course scorecard or posted on Course Property will be observed.
- Players age 62 and older will play from the senior designated tee in competition and be assigned the course handicap calculated from that tee. Players competing from different tees in the same flight will have their course handicaps calculated based on slope, rating and par using USGA handicap rules. Adjustments will be made to the low rating tees (usually senior and forward tees), leaving standard course handicaps assigned from the tournament tees. This allows players to compete fairly from different tees.
- As eligibility is reached, the player will automatically be flighted on the ‘Senior’ tees unless declined in advance. However, that decision cannot be made on a tournament by tournament basis. A player’s decision will remain in effect for the entire season and can only be changed on a seasonal basis.

- Each Tournament Pairing group is responsible for promptly turning in a complete and accurate scorecard at the end of play. For individual stroke play competitions, the scorecard should have hole-by-hole scores, a gross and net total for each player. In addition, the scorecard should be signed by the scorer and be attested by at least one other member of the group, although it is the responsibility of each individual player to verify the accuracy of their score. Failure to promptly turn in a scorecard to the tournament scorer will result in disqualification of the entire group. The accuracy of the scores will affect individual players per USGA Rules.