

# Tallwood Men's Club Tournament Guide

This Tournament Guide is published as a convenience for the Tallwood Men's Club membership to highlight and explain tournament events. Specific rules for individual events may differ slightly, so always check in the Pro Shop before teeing off.

A symbol in front of a tournament description indicates that the event is a trophy ("major") tournament for which a trophy will be presented at the Fall Banquet.

## General Tournament Guidelines

The Tallwood Men's Club currently requires participation in ten (10) scheduled TMC tournaments for Membership renewal the following year. One tournament credit is earned for each date played. With the exception of March tournaments canceled before the first TMC official tournament, any rain-outs or other postponements count towards this ten tournament minimum, if you have gone to the club.

Players using a Men's Club starting time are required to participate in the scheduled TMC event. These starting times are reserved for the Tallwood Men's Club. Ten (10) TMC tournaments are prepaid at the time the member pays his annual membership dues. Each member will receive a Tournament Punch Card that will be punched for each event until this prepayment has been used up. After that a \$5 cash tournament fee is required which is paid to the Pro Shop. There are a few events, such as the Mother's Day and Father's Day tournaments, for which restaurant gift certificates are awarded to the winners instead of Pro Shop credit. These events are run as Entry Fee tournaments where Tournament punches are not accepted. Besides the daily TMC tournament, there are additional optional Pro Shop events and Kickers which have separate entry fees.

Unless otherwise noted, the U.S.G.A. Rules of Golf govern all play. It is the player's responsibility to check the local rules before each event, as both rules and conditions of competition may occasionally change.

Tournament rules and regulations will be posted in the Pro Shop prior to the start of the event. It is each member's responsibility to play according to these rules and regulations.

For TMC events each player is responsible for the accuracy of his own score. After confirming your score, the attested scorecard for your group must be handed into the Pro Shop. There will be Tournament sheets for that day on the Bulletin Board outside the Pro Shop heading towards the Grill Room. Each group is responsible for posting their scores on these sheets accurately. During the "active season" for Connecticut (April 1<sup>st</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>) scores adjusted by Equitable Stroke Control must also be entered into the GHIN computer located in the Pro Shop. Most major or special events will be entered as being "T-scores" pre-programmed into the computerized handicap system.

## White Tee Option

- 1) Any member who meets the criteria of age + GHIN index of 85.0 or higher at the start of a tournament can opt to play from the white tees. The tee cannot be changed during a multiple day tournament.
- 2) Any member who is eligible to play from the white tees must declare to the pro shop that they are playing from the white tees. If the white tee option is not declared prior to teeing off and the player plays the white tees, the player will be disqualified from the tournament.
- 3) There are tournaments for which the white tee option will not be permitted. They are all GOTY events: (Mother's/Father's Days, Match Plays, Memorial Tournament, Club Championship, Member/Member, Pres Cup, Govs' Cup, Pro's Trophy), plus the Member-Guest and 2Ball Open.

The Tallwood Board of Directors has tried very hard to do its due diligence in implementing the white tee option. While our motivation has been to ensure that we all continue to have fun playing golf, the BOD also takes very seriously its obligation to keep competition fair and to follow any and all recommendations and rules of the United States Golf Association, which govern all golf competition in the USA. The USGA encourages clubs to offer alternative tee options and gives us the methodology for adjusting handicaps for

competition from different sets of tees. In their position paper on this subject the USGA states: "**The USGA Handicap System has been developed so that competitions from different tees utilizing the differences in Course Ratings can result in equitable competition. We encourage golf clubs to offer competitive opportunities following this philosophy.**" Here's a link to that position paper in case you want to read it in full: [http://www.usga.org/playing/handicaps/understanding\\_handicap/articles/different\\_tees.html](http://www.usga.org/playing/handicaps/understanding_handicap/articles/different_tees.html)

If you read the position paper, you'll see that in order for competition from different sets of tees to be fair, it's not sufficient to get course handicaps using only the difference arrived at by applying the different slope ratings from each set of tees. The USGA says that an additional adjustment must also be made based on the difference in Course Rating. The position paper talks about adding the Course Rating difference (which at Tallwood is 70.1 minus 69.3 = .8, rounded up - per the USGA - to 1) to the handicaps of those players playing the longer tees. The USGA in its wisdom, however, has made a Decision (Decision 3-5/1, accessible on the USGA's website at <http://www.usga.org/bookdecision.aspx?id=14375>) regarding a situation like ours, where many more players will be playing the blues and many fewer the whites. In that case, the Decision states that the course rating difference (of 1 stroke) may be subtracted from the white tee handicaps.

Thus for handicap purposes the methodology for implementing the white tee option will be:

For those playing the white tees, a course handicap (that's the handicap that will appear on the tournament score sheets and be subtracted from your gross score to get your net score) will be derived by using your handicap index and the white tee slope (USGA handicapping system does this for us) and then subtracting 1 from that handicap.

For example: A player who is 65 years old with an index of 20.0 would be eligible for the white tee option. You can use GHIN's handicap calculator and see that a player with an index of 20.0, playing from the blue tee slope of 122, would have a 22 handicap. From the white tee slope of 121, he'd be a 21. So if this player chose the white tee option, his handicap for all events that day would be 20.

**ALL OF THIS WILL BE HANDLED BY THE PRO SHOP!** If you choose the white tee option, all you'll have to do is post your gross, subtract the handicap that's on the sheet and that will be your net.

## Standard Events

### **Individual Gross & Net by Flight**

Each player plays his own ball throughout. Total your individual hole scores to determine your gross score. Subtract your handicap from this total to determine your net score. Post your score on the correct sheet for your flight based on your handicap. Although subject to change, there are generally three flights: A Flight (0-10), B Flight (11-16), and C Flight (17 & up).

### **Individual Gross & Net vs. Field**

Each player plays his own ball throughout. Total your individual hole scores to determine your gross score. Subtract your handicap from this total to determine your net score.

### **2-Man Best Ball**

Two players comprise a team. Each player plays his own ball throughout the round. Team score is the best (lowest) individual gross and net score on each hole.

#### **4-Man Best Ball**

Four players comprise a team. Each player plays his own ball throughout the round. Team score is the best (lowest) individual gross and net score on each hole.

#### **4-Man Scramble or 5-Man Scramble**

Teams consist of four or five players. On every hole each member of the team may hit a tee shot. The team then selects one of the tee shots from which to play. All members of the team may then hit from that position. This procedure is repeated until the ball is holed out. Sometimes there are minimum requirements for using each team member's tee shot a certain number of times (i.e. each must be used a minimum of two or three times). Specific rules for Scramble events will be announced as well as either being posted in the Pro Shop or on a published Rule Sheet which will be handed out.

#### **4-Man Shamble or 5-Man Shamble**

Teams consist of four or five players. On every hole each member of the team may hit a tee shot. The team then selects one of the tee shots from which to play. All members of the team may then hit from that position. Each player then plays his own ball until his ball is holed out. Sometimes there are minimum requirements for using each team member's tee shot a certain number of times (i.e. each must be used a minimum of two or three times). Specific rules for Shamble events will be announced as well as either being posted in the Pro Shop or on a published Rule Sheet which will be handed out.

#### **Ringers Tournament**

This is a season long event that begins the Sunday following the Spring Classic and runs until the Sunday before the Turkey Classic. It costs \$10 to enter and after the season has started interested parties can still enter by checking in the Pro Shop. All entrants will have a page in the green and orange Ringers book with their name on it. After each tournament players should check their page to see if they have improved their best score of the season on any hole. If so, the new score should be entered in the appropriate box and attested by another member of the foursome. At the end of the season, the lowest scores for all 18 holes are tallied and prizes are awarded for both low gross and low net scores in each flight.

## **Trophy Events**

Winners of each of the following Tournament events receive trophies at the final Social event of the season, the Awards Banquet. There are also runner up trophies awarded for the Pro's Trophy, Governor's Cup, President's Cup and Club Championship.

Note: There also are points awarded towards the Golfer of the Year (GOTY) for several of these events and this is documented later in this guide.

#### **Pro's Trophy**

The low 31 net scores, plus the defending champion, qualify for individual match play using 100% Handicap. This is a season-long event which Tournament Committee marshals oversee. There are specific deadlines by which each of the five rounds must be completed. The qualifying days for are usually scheduled for early May. Players must declare their desire to attempt to qualify before their round.

#### **Governor's Cup**

This is a two-man team match play event using 80% handicap off of the player with the lowest handicap. It also is a season-long event which Tournament Committee marshals oversee. There are specific deadlines by which each of the five rounds must be completed. A sign-up sheet limited to the first 32 teams will be posted in the clubhouse.

#### **Memorial Tournament**

This Low Gross/Low Net tournament is a Golfer of the Year (GOTY) event.

### **Super Seniors Tournament**

This is an 18-hole individual medal play tournament. Eligible participants must be **62** years of age by the event.

### **Club Championship**

This is a 72-hole individual, flighted medal play tournament. The greater of the (i) low 8 scores plus ties or (ii) players within 10 strokes of their flight leader, after 2 rounds (36 holes) qualify for rounds 3 & 4. Eligibility for new members is 7 tournaments prior to the event. This tournament requires play on Saturday and Sunday on two consecutive weekends. There are Club Champions awarded in four flights: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight and C Flight.

### **Member/Member**

This is a 36 hole, (18 Saturday, 18 Sunday), 2-man better ball tournament. Eligibility for new members is 8 tournaments prior to the event. On the Friday evening before the event, there will be a Pairings Auction (and Calcutta) held at the Tallwood Pavilion.

### **Seniors Tournament**

This is a 36-hole individual medal play tournament, (18 Saturday, 18 Sunday). Eligible participants must be **55** years of age by the event.

### **Two-Ball Open (Rib Open)**

This is the second and final "Member-Guest" type of event. This is not a true "Open" as each team must have Tallwood Men's Club member. This is a two-man better ball event with Gross, Net and Callaway divisions. There is a traditional "Rib Barbeque" that is served in the Tallwood Pavilion. Starting times are assigned on a first paid basis. This event allows members to bring guests to the event to participate in a memorable TMC event. The Two-Ball Open is usually scheduled for mid-August.

### **President's Cup**

This is a 36-hole individual medal play tournament. Eligibility for new members is 9 tournaments prior to the event.

### **Tournament of Champions**

Each individual Gross or Net flight winner of 23 selected tournaments will qualify for this invitational tournament. These pre-designated qualifying tournaments are marked as **TC** on the TMC Tournament Card. This event is usually scheduled for mid-October and has an eligibility requirement of ten (10) events prior to this date.

## **Special Events**

### **Spring Classic**

This is a 4-Man or 5-Man Scramble event: A, B, C, D, (E). It is a Shotgun start and members of each group generally tee off from tee boxes assigned by their handicap range. Hams and Pro-Shop credit are awarded to winning teams of this initial Social event and traditional kick-off to the TMC golfing season. This event is one in which you typically get to meet and golf with members outside your normal foursomes.

### **Scotch Ball I and II**

This is a mixed pairs event. The member hits his drive from the blue tees and his female partner hits her drive from the red tees. For the second shot, the partners exchange balls (man hits from where woman's drive landed and the woman hits from where the man's drive landed). The team then chooses one ball and hits alternate shots until the ball is holed out. There are generally 9- and 18-hole flights. The golf is followed by a dinner either at the pavilion or at a local restaurant.

### **Mother's Day**

This Low Gross/Low Net tournament is the initial Golfer of the Year (GOTY) event. Because prizes are for restaurant credit rather than Pro Shop credit, it is an entry fee tournament with Tournament punches not being accepted.

### **Father's Day**

This Low Gross/Low Net tournament is a Golfer of the Year (GOTY) event. Because prizes are for restaurant credit rather than Pro Shop credit, it is an entry fee tournament with Tournament punches not being accepted.

### **Member/Guest**

This is the premier event of the season, requiring an additional entry fee. This event showcases our club to the guest of our members. The Member-Guest is usually scheduled for mid-June. It will be followed by an Awards Dinner at a local restaurant.

### **Match Play I & Match Play II**

These are two-man team match play events. Teams are grouped into flights with six teams per flight determined by total combined team handicap. There are five nine-hole matches, three on Saturday and two on Sunday with all matches being played as scratch, except the last flight. Partners handicaps must be within five strokes (lower handicap plus five is maximum for the higher player). Participation for this event is limited to the first 72 paid team entries received. The Match Play events are usually planned for early May and late September.

### **Turkey Classic**

This is a 4-Man or 5-Man Shamble event: A, B, C, D, (E). It is a Shotgun start and members of each group generally tee off from tee boxes assigned by their handicap range. Turkeys and Pro-Shop credit are awarded to winning teams of this ever popular, final golfing Social event of the season. This event is one in which you typically get to meet and golf with members outside your normal foursomes.

## **Most Improved Golfer**

Participation in 10 Men's Club Tournaments is required in order to be considered for the Most Improved Golfer. The winner is determined using a formula comparing the previous year's final handicap vs. the current year's final handicap. First year members are not eligible for this award. The winner of this award is presented with a trophy at the Awards banquet.

## **Golfer of the Year (GOTY)**

There are points awarded towards the Golfer of the Year (GOTY) for several of the trophy and special events detailed above. Points are awarded in each flight. This prestigious award is presented to the golfer who earns the most total points during the golfing season. There is a trophy presentation at the Awards Banquet at the end of the year.

## **Golfer of the Year (GOTY) Point Allocation**

Event First Second Third

**Mother's Day 3 2 0**

**Match Play I \* 2 0 0**

**Memorial Day 3 2 0**

**Father's Day 3 2 0**

**Club Championship 10 6 2**

**Member/Member \* 4 2 0**

**President's Cup 5 2**

**Match Play II \* 2 0 0**

**Governor's Cup \*\* 5 2 1**

**Pro's Trophy 8 4 2**

**\* Two Man Events: Points per player**

**\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> place points to all semi-finalists**