**Rules**:  
  
With the exception of the local rules stated below, [**USGA rules**](http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules/rules-2019/rules-of-golf/rules-and-interpretations.html#!ruletype=pe&section=rule&rulenum=1) will apply throughout the entire season.  The officers reserve the right to amend rules as conditions require and inform players prior to the start of the round. As of January 1, 2019, there are a number of USGA rule changes. Please familiarize yourself with these changes. They can be found by clicking [**here**](http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/major-changes.html).  
  
     **Local Rules (most of the HGSGA local rules are identical to those established by Hobbits Glen Golf Club. When in conflict the HGSGA local rules will prevail)**

* **On hole #10:**any drive lost to the right of the cart path (no matter how far) shall be deemed lost in a penalty area. The drop area will be within two club lengths behind the red penalty stakes in the right rough next to the small pond - a one stroke penalty
* ​**On hole #11:**the drop area for the penalty area is the green tee unless a drop area has been established by a white circle.  You must hit within two club lengths behind the green tee or retee and take stroke and distance. Either way you will be hitting 3.
* ​**Out of Bounds or a Lost Ball**; instead of stroke and distance, a new local rule allows the option of dropping a ball in the general vicinity of where the original was lost or went out of bounds, including within two club lengths inside the nearest fairway area as long as the drop is no closer to the hole. There is a two-stroke penalty. This option is not available if you have already hit a provisional or you are certain that your ball has landed in a penalty area. Once this option is taken, any lost ball subsequently found cannot be played. It is important that all members familiarize themselves with this new local rule. Click [**here**](http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/golfs-new-rules-stroke-and-distance.html) to see a video on this rule.
* **Flower/Tree Bed**: For the following locations a free drop is provided as close as possible to where the ball lies - no closer to the hole:   **Hole 1** - flower bed behind the green. **Hole 3** - flower/tree bed behind the green. **Hole 11** - flower beds on the left and right below the lower stone wall. **Hole 17** - flower/tree bed to the right of the path by the green.
* **High Grass Penalty Areas:** Even if not marked, the following high grass areas are considered red penalty areas: High grass between holes 13 and 18. High grass area between hole 14 tee box hole 18 fairway. High grass area between hole 16 tee box and hole 17 fairway. High grass area between holes 6 and 7.
* **Staked Trees**: If a staked tree interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball may be lifted, without penalty, and dropped at the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole. There is no relief for intended ball flight path.
* **Ground Under Repair:** Any area encircled by a white line is considered ground under repair. A ball landing in this area may be lifted without penalty and dropped at the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole.

**Other USGA Golf Rules that we want to emphasize:**

* No putts may be conceded in individual medal play. No gimmes! In team play, match play, Stableford, and other similar formats, players are encouraged to pick up and estimate their score when their score will not be used in the competition.
* Balls will be played down where they rest unless an alternative announcement is made prior to the beginning of the round.​
* A ball hit in a penalty area, requires a stroke penalty. There are various options related to where the next shot can be played. All members should familiarize themselves with these options and abide by them. Click[**here**](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=usga+penalty+area+video&view=detail&mid=A722BB38860F7AD47EC0A722BB38860F7AD47EC0&FORM=VIRE) to see a video related to these options
* Golfers have three minutes to look for a ball. Please follow this rule and keep pace.
* Golfers are encouraged to download the USGA Rules of Golf App on their phone and use it when needed.
* **​**​​All HGSGA events will be played from the gold tees unless otherwise announced prior to the start of play.