Honest Harry Golf Rules

Preferred Lies (Lift, Clean, and Place)

- You may lift, clean, and place your ball within **one club-length** in the fairway and rough, no closer to the hole. You may not improve your lie from the rough to the fairway or from the fairway to the green. You may not move your ball within a penalty area (marked with red or yellow stakes/lines) or a bunker.

Conceded Putts

- Absolutely no gimmies for par, birdie, or eagle. Bogey and double bogey putts are considered good within the leather of a standard putter. To measure: lay the putter head inside the cup with the shaft on the ground next to the ball. If the entire ball is within the bare-shaft portion of the putter, it is inside the leather.

- Gimmies must be conceded by a member of the **opposite** team. A player may not pick up their own ball without a concession.

Bunkers

- You must play the ball as it lies in bunkers unless an announcement is made before play that bunker conditions warrant relief. If announced, you may lift, clean, and place within the bunker, no closer to the hole.

Mulligans

- You get **one mulligan per round**. It can be used anywhere on the course. Note: mulligans are not recognized by the Rules of Golf — this is a local rule specific to this tournament.

- If you think your shot may be lost or out of bounds, you may play a provisional ball before going forward to search. If both balls are lost or out of bounds, you have used your mulligan and must drop where the second shot crossed the OB line. If you use your mulligan, you play that ball — you do not get to choose between the two.

- *Reference: Rule 18.3 (Provisional Ball). A provisional ball must be announced before playing it.*

Out of Bounds / Lost Ball

- **One-stroke penalty.** Out of bounds is marked by white stakes or white lines. If your ball is OB or lost (after a three-minute search), drop your ball on the course side between where the ball crossed the OB line (or is estimated to be lost) and the nearest edge of the fairway, no closer to the hole. You may then take your one club-length relief under the Preferred Lies rule. You may not place the ball on the fairway.

- *Reference: This is a local rule alternative to stroke-and-distance. See also Model Local Rule E-5 (Alternative to Stroke and Distance). Under the standard Rules of Golf, OB/lost ball carries a stroke-and-distance penalty (re-play from the original spot with a one-stroke penalty). Our local rule is more lenient.*

Maximum Score

- Pick up your ball once you reach **triple bogey**. Triple bogey is the maximum score to record on your scorecard for any hole.
- *Reference: Rule 21.2 (Maximum Score). The Committee may set a maximum score for each hole. A player who does not hole out must record the maximum score.*

Penalty Areas (Red and Yellow Stakes)

- **One-stroke penalty.** Penalty areas are marked with red stakes/lines (lateral penalty areas) or yellow stakes/lines. When your ball is in a penalty area you may play it as it lies with no penalty, or you have these relief options with a one-stroke penalty:
- **Red penalty area:** (1) Drop within two club-lengths of where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, no closer to the hole (lateral relief); (2) drop on a line going back from the hole through where the ball last crossed the edge (back-on-the-line relief); or (3) play again from where the previous stroke was made (stroke-and-distance relief).
- **Yellow penalty area:** Back-on-the-line relief or stroke-and-distance relief only (no lateral drop).
- If there is a marked drop zone, you may use it even if it is closer to the hole. **You may not use your club-length Preferred Lies relief inside a penalty area.**
- *Reference: Rule 17 (Penalty Areas). Note: the former term "water hazard" was replaced by "penalty area" in the 2019 Rules of Golf. Penalty areas may or may not contain water.*

Unplayable Ball

- **One-stroke penalty.** If your ball is unplayable (behind a tree, under a bush, etc. — but not in a penalty area), you have three options: (1) drop within two club-lengths of where the ball lies, no closer to the hole; (2) drop on a line going back from the hole through where the ball lies; or (3) replay from where your previous stroke was made.
- *Reference: Rule 19 (Unplayable Ball). The player is the sole judge of whether their ball is unplayable.*

Tee Boxes

- 70 and older play from the forward tees. 60 and older play from the senior tees. Everyone else plays from the regular tees. The specific tees will be listed on the pairing sheet each day. Please play the same tees each day.

General Rules

- Other than the Local Rules listed above, all play is governed by the current **Rules of Golf as published by the USGA**

Scoring & Scorecards

- You are responsible for ensuring your scorecard is turned in. Lost cards will result in disqualification and your bets will be relinquished. Scorecards must be signed by the scorekeeper and one other player from the opposite team.

- Please keep your score in **strokes** (not plus/minus to par). Please list the first and last name for everyone in your group — this makes our scoring guru very happy! If you are making side bets, keep an extra card for yourself.

Point System

- Bets are based on a point system: Double Eagle — 15 pts | Hole-in-One — 12 pts | Eagle — 8 pts | Birdie — 6 pts | Par — 4 pts | Bogey — 2 pts | Double Bogey — 1 pt.

Integrity

- Cheating is not tolerated. If it is determined that you have cheated, your entry fee is forfeited and you are disqualified for the weekend with no refund.

- Any disputes will be handled by the Rules Committee and their decisions are final. The current Rules Committee is **Mark Mitchell, Carlton Elliott, Caleb Adams and Mike Carter**. If you have any questions, please let one of us know.

Pace of Play & Tee Times

- **PLEASE be on time.** Tee times will be posted on hhgolf.net the evening before. Arrive at least 30 minutes before your tee time. If you miss your tee time, you may not be able to play.

- Play **ready golf** and stay no more than one hole behind the group in front of you. If an entire hole is open ahead of you, pick up your balls, proceed to the next tee, and score triple bogey for everyone in your group.

Dress Code

- Proper golf attire is required on all courses. No denim trousers, denim shorts, athletic pants/shorts, or tee shirts. Use of personal coolers is at the discretion of the course.

Weather Policy

- If the course closes, bets carry over to the next round. If it is Sunday, bet money becomes a deposit for next year's trip. Rain checks will be collected by us and applied to the next trip (same course, following year), subject to course discretion — rain checks are not guaranteed.

- If the course remains open and you choose not to play or quit during the round, your bet money is paid out to the winning team. We will make every effort to adjust teams and bets fairly if several people opt out. If at least half the teams finish nine holes, the round is considered complete and bets are paid out.