STMGA Tournament Policy, Procedures and Information

1. **Tournament**s
    a. Tournaments will typically be held every Tuesday and are open to all members in good standing.
    b. Invitations usually are emailed Tuesday for the following Tuesday.
    c. Signup closes 12:00 noon on Friday (4 days prior)
    d. The pairings will be released to the portal and emailed late Friday
    e. SUNDAY NOON: If your plans have changed, it is VERY helpful if you cancel prior to this time. Scorecards will be printed Sunday afternoon.
    f. The Check in Desk will open 1 hour before the first tee time and will close 25 minutes prior to the last tee time. Members are expected to arrive st a minimum of 25 minutes prior to their tee time.
    g. Completed scorecards are returned to the marked box usually located at the bag drop or as directed. When socials at the Pink Palace follow golf, scorecards are usually collected at the Pink Palace.
    h. Scoring will usually be completed within a few hours of completion of the round and results and prize awards emailed.
    i. The tournament schedule is available on our webpage, seatrailma.com/stmga and is subject to change.
    j. Guests: We do not allow guests to play unless specifically noted in the invitation. The Tuesday prior to the Member Guest Tournament is open to Guests participating in the Member/Guest tournament.

2. **Tee Time Availability**
    a. We have a finite number of tee times. First come first served is the general rule.
    b. The schedule posted on our webpage has the Course, Game, First Tee Time and the number of tee times available.
    c. For "Pick Your Own" events:
        i. **Each player must sign up.** Players may be signed up by other players.
        ii. A **message to the manager** is still needed to let us know who is on what team.
        iii. Sign up gets guys onto the playing roster but does not tell us which team they are playing on. We do our best to when the information is incomplete but recognize that failure to sign up a team member can result in the field becoming "overbooked" and that failure to send a Message to the manager can result in the player not being paired with your team.
    d. Anybody signing up after the field is full will be put on a wait list. We make every effort to obtain additional tee times when this is the case, however there is no guarantee we can get them.
    e. For "Pick our Own" events, don't procrastinate, get your team signed up ASAP.

3. **Weather Cancellations by STMGA**
    a. Cold: If the course is open, we play. Forecasts for cold weather are VERY RELIABLE, if you do not want to play in the cold cancel no later than Saturday. Late cancellations impact the players remaining in the pairing and may result in those players not being able to play in certain events.
    b. Rain
        i. We rarely cancel based on forecast
        ii. Thunder/Lighting: Players may pause or seek shelter anytime thunder is heard or lightning seen. These conditions can be very local. Players must use their own judgement. If convective weather is expected to last for more than a half hour, we will usually cancel the remainder of the round. If the cancellation and event are such that we can count 9 holes, we will do that.
        iii. If it is raining at the start of the round (dripping off the brim of your hat = rain). We will usually cancel unless there is a forecast of immanent improvement.
    c. If the round is cancelled while in progress, we will get word to all players.
    d. The game fee will be refunded if we cancel, it is not refunded if a player quits on his own. Players that quit on their own may submit incomplete scorecards for skins. If the game is Stableford scored, 0 points will be awarded for incomplete holes.

4. **Player Cancellations**
    a. Prior to Noon Friday a player may cancel by clicking "Not Playing" on the original invitation or on the Web Portal. If you were part of a "Pick Your Own Team" Please email stmensgolf@gmail.com so we know to remove you from the team.
    b. After noon Friday email stmensgolf@gmail.com
    c. Please avoid cancelling after Sunday morning, after that the tee sheet is finalized, scorecards printed and cancellation will result in threesome or less waiting behind foursomes. In some events such as the Alternate Shot/Scramble it may result in players being forced to withdraw**. Late cancellations impact your fellow members**.

5. **Game Fee**
    a. The Game Fee is set by the Tournament Chairman and is generally $8. For most events, the game fee is applied as follows
        i. $20 of the total goes to the Closest to the Pin contest (4 x $5)
        ii. $2 from each player goes to the Gross Skins Game
        iii. $1 from each player goes to the Net Skins Game
        iv. $1 Goes to the Individual low net game
        v. The balance goes to the "main event" which is usually a team game.
    b. Flights
        i. Pick Your Own team events will be flighted. The number of flights will be determined by the Tournament Chairman.
        ii. Individual Low Net and Gross, Net Skins and Gross Skins games will be flighted. The same flights are used for all three games.
        iii. Team Flights are not the same as individual flights. Many events require both.

c. On occasion players forget to check in. It is their responsibility to get the payment to the Tournament Director or his designee. You may:

- **i.** Put the money in the scorecard box with your name attached.
- **ii.** Email stmensgolf@gmail.com and make arrangement to drop it off
- **iii.** If you have sufficient prize money due, we will deduct the game fee from it.
- **iv.** "Paying next Week" is not an option. You will not be able to sign up to play until you pay.

6. **Handicaps**
    a. Scores are posted to GHIN by STMGA following the rounds.
    b. Indexes are downloaded every Sunday at about 2AM and will be used for the entire week unless otherwise noted.
    c. The Tournament Chairman can answer any question related to how the playing handicap was determined for a particular game. STMGA has a Handicap Chairman responsible for issues related to handicaps.
    d. You are responsible for entering correct GROSS SCORES on your scorecard. Net scores and points are calculated when we enter the scores into our scoring software.
    e. Occasionally, you may note an incorrect tee assignment on your scorecard. In that case: PLAY your CORRECT TEE and make a NOTE on the card regarding the error and the tee you actually played. This will allow us to correct the tee assignment before we score the event.
    f. Please: **Always total the gross score Front, Back and Total.** Your team net score is very helpful, our software will calculate the net scores and team scores. Having the totals allows us to confirm the accuracy of our data entry.

7. **Tee Times**
    a. Pairings and tee times are the responsibility of the Tournament Chairman. Factors affecting same are:
        i. Tournament staff requiring early or late tee times.
        ii. The need to pair First Time Players with suitable mentors
        iii. Pick Your Own Teams whether full or partial are paired together.
        iv. Reasonable requests for early or late tee times. Medical appointments and accommodation for members who still are working are reasonable.
        v. Threesomes will generally be first off, though should a late cancellation result in a threesome, the tee time for the pairing will remain as it was.
        vi. Where the event is listed as a team event “ABCD” the teams are balanced by Handicap Index. Requests for partners will not be honored.

8. **Rules**
    a. Our rules of play are posted on our webpage.
    b. Rules of the day will either be posted at check in or printed on the scorecard. Rules posted at check in supersede those on the scorecard.

9. **Tee Policy**
    a. Players may choose the tee they play except that the following restrictions apply:
        i. 1 Tee change per year is allowed
        ii. New members will be given leeway to adjust their tee selection if needed.
        iii. Players may opt for "Winter Tees" as follows
            1. Notice must be received before November 1 each year of the players desire to move forward for the Winter.
            2. The player will move forward 1 tee (example Gold to Red or White to Gold).
            3. The tee change will be effective from November 1 to April 1 with NO EXCEPTIONS.
            4. Any change outside of these limitations will constitute a permanent change and must stand for 1 year.
            5. Temporary Tee Changes for medical issues may be granted by the Tournament Chairman. Recovery from surgery would be an example of a situation for which a temporary change would be approved.

10. **Prize Money**
    a. Prize money for each STMGA tournament is determined by the Tournament Chairman and is based on the number of players and the games played.
    b. Winnings will be announced as soon as possible by email following the completions of the round
    c. It is incumbent on the player to be aware of what they are due. Questions or issues regarding the prizes awarded must be received by email to STMGA.TD@gmail.com within 24 hours of the announcement of the prizes.
    d. Tournament payouts will be available for pickup at the next STMGA event. Players are responsible for picking up their winnings at that event. Winnings will be held for up to 1 year after that event; however, STMGA will not be responsible if they become lost. If not picked up in that time frame, they will be forfeited and returned to the prize fund.