

**Oakcreek Country Club
(OCC)
Women's Golf Association
(OCCWGA)**

Newcomer's Guide





Welcome to the OCCWGA. We've developed this guide to help you get oriented to how this group works. If you have any questions, please contact OCC or any of the OCCWGA board members for additional information.
Hope to see you on Tuesdays! Again, welcome!

**Refer to the OCCWGA blog for current
information**
www.occwga.wordpress.com

How Things Work

Starting Times

Ladies' Day (Tuesdays) is normally a shot-gun start (where everyone begins at the same time). In the winter months, it is normally 11:00 am, but you need to check to see if there is a frost delay. You can do this by checking www.oakcreekcountryclub.com, looking at the members' area (you might want to bookmark this on your computer), or by calling the golf shop (928-284-1660) after 7 am. In the spring and fall, starting times are in the 8-8:30 range (check on the first of each month), and in the summer (June-August) the group starts at 7:30 am. It's best to check in at the golf shop 30 minutes before starting in order to pay for the day's events (see below) and no later than 15 minutes before the start (especially if you want to hit balls on the driving range or rent a cart—see below). Often there are announcements on the putting green just before the start, as well. Aim to check in 30 minutes before the starting tee time, please.

Signing Up/Canceling

Sign-up is through Golf Genius. You will receive an email with a link to sign up. Or just talk to the staff at the pro shop. It's necessary to sign up by **6:00 pm Saturday** for the Tuesday event. If you can't get to the Golf Genius web site, call the golf shop (928-284-1660) and ask the pro on duty to sign you up. If you need to cancel, call the golf shop as soon as you know or submit your decline through Golf Genius by 6:00 pm Saturday. This really helps the tournament chair construct groups for the day's event. Also, if you want labels with your name on them to identify your club, ask one of the Pros to order them for you.

Weekly Fees, Chip-ins, Closest-to-the-pin, etc.

Most weekly events (see Dues, below) require you to deposit \$5 at the Golf shop desk when you check in. Or if the sign up is located away from the desk, handle your fee with the volunteer doing the check in. These funds are paid out to the weekly event winners in Golf shop credit (called sweeps) and must be used by the end of the calendar year, usually mid-December. Winners are announced on the bulletin board by the Golf Shop entry

For closest to the pin, there are normally two flights, one for those with lower handicaps (1st shot) and one for higher handicaps (2nd shot). Closest to the pin and the chip-in pot are included in your \$5 fee. If you get a chip-in or birdie, make a bold notation on the score card.

The hole-in-one pot is re-constituted at the beginning of each calendar year. Ladies who are lucky enough to get a hole-in-one (and who have contributed their \$5 to the fund) are paid out at the end of the year. If you get a hole-in-one at OCC, on any day of the week, remember to finish the 18 holes and have it attested by 2 other players (or it doesn't count).

Dues

The annual League dues (included in your OCC membership) are used to pay for big events (not weekly contests), such as the Member/Member, Match Play, President's Cup, Partner's Eclectic, and Club Championship (the Big Five). So if you play in the Big Five, you'll sign up but not pay extra. It will cost you extra (payable at Christmas Luncheon) for dues in the Northern Arizona Women's Golf Association (NAWGA). The dues allow you to enter the NAWGA tournaments. This is well worth it if you like to play tournaments at other northern AZ courses. Prize money is good.

Meetings & Luncheons

Meetings are held quarterly at formal luncheons (usually \$12-15 extra, paid in advance...see sign-up sheets). These take place after golf. The President decides on how many of these are held each year, but lately it's been about 4 per year. The Board meets the week prior to these, so if there is new business you'd like brought to the attention of the board, it's best to get in touch with the President early. Informal lunches follow some of the Big Five events and members pay separately for these.

On normal golf days, some members regularly have lunch at the club restaurant after golf, and others don't. If you want to socialize and have lunch, too, then just go to the bar area and join up with the women there.

Scores & Handicaps

You need to post your score (on the computer in the corner of the golf shop) and hand in your scorecard (in a box next to the computer) every time you play a round that is yours alone (no scrambles, alternate shot, scotch balls, etc.). If you make a mistake in entering a score, the golf shop staff or the handicap chair can help you correct it. You can also enter your scores from home via the GHIN website at www.awga.org (see "Post a Score") or via mobile phone, after downloading the GHIN app for I-phones or Droids. You may play from either the Gold or the Teal tee; use the appropriate handicap.

Speed of Play

Groups are expected to keep up with the group in front of them. If one person is holding the group up, ask her politely to find a way to speed up. Here are some ways to do this:

- ◆ Ready golf—play out of turn as long as you are not interfering with another player who is ready to hit her shot.

- ◆ Go to the next tee box to do scoring and put clubs away. It's easier for one player to remember her score from that hole than it is for the scorer to remember correctly all four scores.
- ◆ Cart drivers should drop riders at their balls and proceed to their own balls, ready to hit. Riders can walk to the cart while the drivers are hitting.
- ◆ Walkers who are not keeping up with riders should ask the riders to go ahead and hit, even if they are in front of the walker. If they finish putting while others are still on the green, they should proceed to the next tee box.
- ◆ Be aware and be ready to chip or putt when it's your turn. Help fellow golfers by offering to mark their balls on the green, move their cart for them, or hand them a rake (or rake their trap if they are in trouble).
- ◆ If you're waiting on the green, clean your ball and read your putt before others arrive so you're ready to hit.

The Bulletin Board

Lots of things are on the OCCWGA Bulletin Board in the back of the Ladies Restroom:

- ◆ News/photos—Members' golf news.
- ◆ Handicap Sheets—Posted on the 1st & 15th of each month.
- ◆ Posts for used golf equipment for sale by members.
- ◆ Who Broke 80/90/100 for the first time—Sign up when you do!
- ◆ New members—You should be listed here. Sometimes photos.
- ◆ NAWGA news—About tournaments and events.
- ◆ Ringers contests—Announcing when they are and results after they're over.
- ◆ Calendar of Events—Look ahead to plan vacations.
- ◆ Upcoming tournaments—Locally and around AZ.

We also have a website section on the OCC website that contains:

- ◆ Upcoming tournaments for: Interclub, AWGA, NAWGA

- ◆ Monthly calendar of all tournaments
- ◆ News of Members (recent hole-in-ones, etc.)
- ◆ Winners of the Big Five Tournaments
- ◆ Links to Rules, AWGA, and NAWGA
- ◆ List of all Officers and Committee Chairs
- ◆ Blog: www.occwga.wordpress.com

There is also a Bulletin Board by the Golf Shop check-in desk that contains information you will find useful:

- ◆ Interclub sign-up sheets
- ◆ Luncheon information and sign-up sheets

Outside the golf shop (in a glass-enclosed bulletin board) you'll find the weekly winners.

OCCWGA

The Oakcreek Country Club Women's Golf Association is run by the officers, committee chairs, and other essential positions. Here are the roles, duties, and names of each for the calendar year:

Executive Board

- ◆ President—Oversees everything: meetings, problems, tournaments, website, etc.
- ◆ Vice-President—conducts annual Invitational Tournament, helps the President, and stands in if the President is absent.
- ◆ Secretary—takes minutes at all board meetings.
- ◆ Treasurer—handles dues, bills, and anything involving funds. Collect Hole-in-One contributions.
- ◆ Tournament Chair—plans and executes all weekly and Major tournaments of the year.
- ◆ Handicap Chair—oversees posting of scores for major tournaments. Members post own scores for weekly events.
- ◆ Rules Chair—educates members on golf rules.



Other Board Members

- ◆ Past President—advises the board.
- ◆ NAWGA Rep—keeps members informed about regional tournaments.
- ◆ Social—plans the 4 major luncheons each year and sends out get-well, sympathy, etc. cards.
- ◆ AWGA State Rep—keeps members informed about changes in rules, AWGA news, and AWGA tournaments.
- ◆ Historian—collects photos, articles, and memorabilia about club members and posts to the blog.
- ◆ Ringer—coordinates the two ringer tournaments each year.
- ◆ Publicity—publishes stories and photos about weekly results, team play, interclub, holes in one, and other news in the *Villager* (Red Tee Chatter) and *Red Rock News*.
- ◆ Interclub—coordinates exchange play days at participating courses (for a fee). Sign up and pay early to reserve a spot.
- ◆ Team Play—The four lowest handicappers available each week are eligible for team play at various tournaments.

Tournaments at Home

Before playing in any of the Big Five (those with an *), you must have played 5 times with the ladies on Tuesdays. A maximum handicap of 36 is used for these tournaments; otherwise a 40 is allowed for weekly tournaments. Make

sure that the Golf Shop staff have you entered into the GHIN system and you get your GHIN number for recording scores.

***Partner's Better Ball (aka Member/Member)**—This is a 2-day tournament, separated by a week. As of late, the first week is a better ball of the partners, and the second week is a Chapman tournament, but the format may change from year to year. The weeks are combined. For some tournaments, partners' handicaps must be within 10 strokes of each other.

***Match Play**—This tournament is based on net scores. Five rounds are scheduled on Tuesdays (shotgun) and Thursdays (tee times). Pairings are done by the golf shop staff. Match play involves comparison of two golfers' handicaps and holes are won or lost one at a time. The losers from the first match go into a consolation match that runs at the same time as second thru fifth rounds. Winners of various flights receive golf shop credit.

***President's Cup**—This is a flighted (A, B, and C handicap groups) tournament in which net scores of two rounds are combined.

***Partner's Eclectic**—This is a flighted better ball tournament consisting of 2 rounds; it gives the golfers a chance to better their scores on the 2nd round (hole by hole).

***Club Championship**—This is a three-day tournament (involving one Thursday), usually run in flights, in which the low gross combined score wins.

Invitational—The biggest event of the year. Up to 50 2-women teams from all parts of AZ (and the US) compete in a one-day event. Originally a member-guest, teams may now comprise member-guest, member-

member, or outsider-outsider. The vice president traditionally is the tournament chair for the event and decides the format, theme, fees and any extra contests or raffles.

Fun Day with the Men's Club—This is a golf shop event that usually takes place on Ladies' Golf Association day. Teams of women and men compete in a scramble format with handicaps considered. Overall winners are awarded golf shop credit. A luncheon follows the day's play.

State Medallion—There are four designated qualifying rounds at OCC and the two best gross and two best net games out of the four are combined. The 2 winners (one net, one gross) have the opportunity to represent OCCWGA at the AWGA State Medallion competition in December (usually held at a club in the Phoenix area).

Transnational—This is a 2 best net games out of 4 designated rounds. The winner receives the Transnational pin.

Ringers—Twice a year, a 4-week ringers tournament is held. This costs an additional \$5. The lowest gross and net scores on each hole are recorded for each player for those four weeks (you can play fewer weeks, but you then have fewer chances to improve your score). These are flighted, but you don't know who or how many are in each flight until everyone is signed up.

Non-Local Golf Events

AWGA—The Arizona Women's Golf Association is the major association in the State. When you join OCCWGA, you become a member of AWGA. AWGA provides many services including:

- ◆ USGA course and slope ratings.

- ◆ Handicap computation, with new handicaps sent to members twice a month. Members should check email on the 1st & 15th to see what their new index is (convert to course handicap).
 - ◆ Statewide tournaments including State Championship, which are flighted by handicap and open to all members. Educational rules seminars for club rules chairmen, which are open to all interested members.
 - ◆ Advice and assistance to member clubs as needed.
- The yearly AWGA handbook and website at www.awga.org provide additional information.

NAWGA—The Northern Arizona Women's Golf Association is our regional association. It holds Spring Kick-Off, Seniors, Stroke Play, and Partners Better Ball tournaments at more "local" courses. Sign up for these on the Bulletin Board. If you're interested in these events, ask the NAWGA representative for a Member Directory.

Interclub—All are invited to play at various local courses on Ladies Day. These take place once or twice a month. Sign up on the Bulletin Board sheet. They generally cost about \$45 to \$60, and lunch, golf, carts and prizes are included.

Team—Spring and summer team competition pits four players with the lowest handicaps from each club against each other in gross and net match play. They compete in about 8 tournaments a year. Usually six or seven OCC women are called upon to round out the team at various times, since the top four are not always available to play.

A User's Guide to the OCC



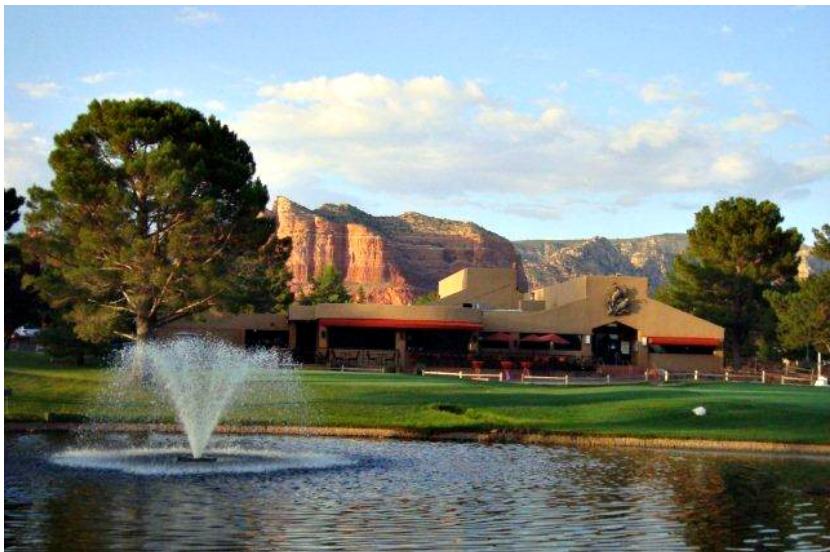
Front Nine

1. Long, long, long. Did I say long? If you start your golf round here, use the hole to warm up. You'll get to try out all your clubs before reaching the green.
2. Drives should stay left (not OB) or center. Expect to 3-putt this green.
3. Unless you've been invited for a drink, driving left (OB) can be a problem.
4. Expect a left roll—into the pond. Hit farther right than you think you should, because it's going to roll left. On a dry day, even a shot to the green might roll left, down the hill, and plunk into the lake.
5. Club down on your second shot, or be prepared to dodge traffic on 179.
6. Get a good drive here. It's a long way to the fairway from the tee and a short drive makes the hole very, very long. Oh, and watch out for the stream. A very hard-hit ball can bounce out the other side of it, but why count on trick shots?
7. Pretend there is no water, and hit straight onto the green.
8. Drive right of the trap. Everything rolls left, once again. Is this course built on the side of a mountain?
9. Just do it. Get it over with. Watch out for stray slices from the driving range.



Back Nine

10. Avoid the lake. Duh. If you haven't warmed up fully, just hit straight (or slightly left). Don't kill it. BTW, there's a little house on the right; hitting it may be embarrassing, but you get a free drop if you do.
11. Unless you know someone who lives there (and want to stop for coffee) avoid the OB homes on the left.
12. Only long-ball hitters who can fade the ball should aim right. Others should aim in the middle and hope for roll.
13. Don't hit short. Balls that land in front of the green will roll back down the hill.
14. Not only is this hole long, but untrimmed bushes ahead of the red tee knock down line drives. Aim for the notch between the bushes.
15. Stay left...the whole way. Every shot will roll right. Say goodbye to balls venturing right. Be aware of OB stakes behind the green!
16. Aim for the right tree, but watch out for more bushes. They also knock down low drives. Avoid the beach on the left.
17. Do your best to get over the abyss. Loft one towards the sand on the left or make good use of the cart path.
18. Stay left. Balls will roll right, towards the lake. Green breaks severely towards the lake.



Oakcreek Country Club

928-284-1660

<http://www.oakcreekcountryclub.com>

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