SHADOW VALLEY MEN’S GOLF ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Hello golf buddies. I hope 2024 is off to a robust start for you and continues throughout the year. After shoveling sidewalks this morning, it may be a while before we can play golf here in the valley, but I want to bring everyone up to date on the changes we have in-store for our men’s association for 2024.

First of all, the board has voted to increase our annual membership fee to $65, which you pay through the IGA when you sign up for your handicap. Several factors went into this increase. We split the cost of Golf Genius with the course and that cost goes up every year. We are by far the largest user of that software, but I think everyone agrees it works very well. We experienced a loss in membership in 2023, which meant lower revenue than budgeted, so we had to take that into consideration for 2024. We continue to increase the amount the association adds to each tournament’s payout pool, as well. The entry fee for our monthly tournaments will remain at $80 per tournament (except for Club Championship, but that will remain the same as 2023) with $50 going to the payout pool and $30 going to discounted green fees. We are going to increase the league entry fee to $80 from $70. There will also be a small transaction fee associated with this as we require everyone who wants to play in league to sign up through Golf Genius, and they charge us for those transactions. Remember, 100% of the league entry fee is returned in prize money to the winners, so while we don’t like these increases, you can win more if you play well enough to get into the money! The good news is that the golf course will not be increasing their green fees for 2024. Thank you, Shadow Valley!

One important thing to remember, when you go to the IGA web site to pay your IGA and SVMGA dues, you must select **Shadow Valley Men’s Golf Association.** There is another portal for Shadow Valley Golf Course, but that is only for individuals that want to use Shadow Valley for their handicap but not be in our association. I have been told that it is best to sign-up via a laptop or desktop. If you use your phone, it may be hard to read and understand. If you sign-up for your dues before March 1, you can save yourself $5.00 if you use the promo code “**EARLYBIRD**”.

You will note one big change to our tournament schedule. We are moving the Club Championship from early August to the weekend after Labor Day in September. This change was driven by the aeriation schedule the course is planning for the greens in August. For the Club Championship, we want to have the course in the best condition and that means we delay until the greens have had time to recover from aeriation. So, there won’t be a tournament in August but there will be two in September. The October Turkey Shoot date is TBD as we wait to see what the BSU football schedule is, as we don’t want any conflicts. Another change for this year is in an effort to attract new members, we will not require anyone to pay for their SVMGA annual dues for our first tournament in March. This newsletter is being sent out to neighboring subdivisions to see if anyone is interested in joining our association, so come out in March and see what we have to offer.

For leagues, in the spring we continue to offer competition on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, starting the first week in April. As I mentioned above, you will need to register through Golf Genius, so watch for the notification that sign-ups are being allowed. We are going to limit play to the first 100 sign-ups on each night. This is so we can avoid 3-hour rounds and have a much more enjoyable evening of golf. When you sign up for league, you must have paid your 2024 IGA and SVMGA membership dues. If you haven’t, we cannot guarantee you a spot, as enrollment is first come first serve for those that have paid all their dues. For summer league, we will continue with just offering play on Wednesday evenings and we will continue with the varied formats that we implemented this past year. But we are going to extend play to an 11-week season. However, there will be a couple of breaks in play. There will not be any play the week of the Fourth of July and we will not have any play for two weeks following aeration in early August, to allow the greens to heal. The end of the summer league season will be September 18.

While there won’t be any changes to the course, other than removing some dead trees, the exciting news is the changes Shadow Valley is making in the bar area of the clubhouse. The course has hired a new manager of the bar/restaurant. His name is George and the next time you are in there, make sure to introduce yourself to George. Along with George, comes a new menu. While not finalized yet, it promises to be an improvement from the previous offerings. The bar area is currently being remodeled. The walls are being straightened out and booths are already in place in the bar. In the area next to the bar where the front door is, those walls are being straightened and booths will be installed there. A new wall has been installed where that front door was, and you will no longer be able to access the clubhouse through those doors. A new 85-inch TV will be installed in the larger room and the bar is getting a new 55-inch TV also.

**Here is our Tournament Schedule for 2024:**

Rudy Wolf Season Opener March 23 Individual Stroke Play

Mad Scramble April 13 2-Man Scramble

Beat The Pros May 11 2-Man Shamble

Summer Shootout June 8 Individual Stroke Play

Old Chicago July 13 Individual Chicago Format

Club Championship September 7-8 Individual Stroke Play

6-6-6 Combo September 28 2-Man Best Ball

Turkey Shoot (Annual Meeting) TBD 2-Man Best Ball

**League Schedules are as follows:**

Wednesday Spring League April 3 – June 12

Thursday Spring League April 4 – June 13

Wednesday Summer League June 19 – 26, July 10 – 31, August 21 – Sept. 18

The board of SVMGA would like to thank everyone for their support and we wish you all the best golfing in 2024.

Respectfully,

Jim Toy,

President