

# Brazos Golf Association

## STANDARD TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES 2026

**14 CLUB RULE:** Per USGA rules, a player is allowed a maximum of 14 Clubs. Club adjustments during play are not allowed.

**CADDIES:** Caddies are not allowed in BGA Tournaments.

**CARTS:** All participants are expected to share a cart.

**FLIGHTS:** Flights are established by course handicap. The number of flights is dependent on the number of tournament participants.

**GHIN:** Post your scores to GHIN after a stroke play tournament including best ball. Post the score as a “competition” round.

**HANDICAPS:** Course handicaps are used for all tournaments. The Course Handicap is calculated based on the member’s GHIN Handicap Index and selected tees using the selected tees Slope and Course Ratings. Refer to the USGA Course Handicap topic or GHIN Handicap Calculator.

Course Handicap = Handicap Index X (Slope Rating/113) + (Course Rating – par)

**HAZARDS:** The concrete ditches on #2, #4, and #8 are considered hazards and are to be played as such. Bridges are considered part of the hazard. Red stakes and lines indicate the edge of hazards. Where lines or stakes are not present, the edge of the hazard will be the break in elevation. The ditch left of #9 green is a hazard.

**OUT OF BOUNDS:** The inside edge of white stakes determines the OB line. You may:

Option 1: Replay the ball from its original location adding one penalty stroke.

Option 2: Drop the ball within 2 club lengths at the edge of the fairway no nearer the hole where the ball went out of bounds with a 2-stroke penalty.

**PACE OF PLAY:** Play promptly throughout the round. “Ready golf” is encouraged.

**PAYMENTS:** Tournament fees are for tournament entry only. Course fees must be paid to the course prior to your tee time.

**PREFERRED LIE:** Play lift, clean, and place within one scorecard length, approximately 11 inches, from the original lie but no closer to the hole.

**PRIZES:** Gross and net prizes will be paid in each flight. Skins will be paid by flight based on gross scores. Closest to pin (CTP) will be played on each of the four par threes. Only one CTP per player. If your distance is within the top four, write it on the marker.

# Brazos Golf Association

## STANDARD TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES 2026

**PUTTS:** All putts for birdie or better must be holed. Putts for par or worse within the "leather" are conceded. "Leather" length is defined by the BGA measurement PVC pipe, approximately 24".

### **ROOT & ROCK POLICY (for player safety & equipment damage prevention):**

- If a player's ball lies on, near, or among roots or rocks, the player may take relief. Relief applies to both the fairway and the rough.
- The player must mark the spot where the ball lays and take relief keeping that spot between the flag and the drop. The relief must be taken straight back, not left or right.
- The player may take relief one club length at a time until the ball is no longer on, in, or among the roots or rocks.

**SAND BUNKERS:** There are three options should your ball come to rest in a bunker. In a team event, all players on the team must play the same option.

Option 1: Play it as it lies.

Option 2: Lift, rake and place ball in original location and play from there.

Option 3: Drop the ball backward, out of the bunker, keeping the point where your ball came to rest in a direct line between the drop point and the hole. Play ball over the bunker onto the green.

**SCORECARDS:** Please sign scorecards before turning them into the pro shop.

**SCORING:** Put gross scores on the scorecard. Maximum score is triple bogey.

### **TEE POLICY:**

- Women may play from any tee box.
- Men may play from the gold, white, and blue tee boxes.
- For the red/grey tees, men will conform to the "Rule of 85."
- Rule of 85 Formula: If your age + GHIN handicap index is greater than or equal to 85, then you are eligible to play for the red/grey tees.
- The Rule of 85 may be waived for medical or physical limitations with BGA Board approval on a case-by-case basis. Send your request to [info@brazosgolf.org](mailto:info@brazosgolf.org)

**TIE BREAKERS:** All score card tie breakers will be determined by the USGA tie breaker. (Last 9, last 6, last 3, hole 18, 4-9, 7-9, hole 9, coin flip.)

**USGA Rules:** All other USGA rules apply.