

## NEW PLAYER GOLF Program Information

### SIR Branch 159

(revised 1/22/2024)

Welcome!! This document will inform you of our Branch 159 golf 18 holes tournament basic procedures.

**GOLF COMMITTEE.** The volunteers running the golf 18 holes tournament program are:

Golf Chairman:	Brian Nicholson	<a href="mailto:bnicholson0427@gmail.com">bnicholson0427@gmail.com</a>
Handicap Chairman:	Gary Morgan	<a href="mailto:morgangary@att.net">morgangary@att.net</a>
Event Chairmen	Gary Morgan	<a href="mailto:morgangary@att.net">morgangary@att.net</a>
	Walt Plachta	<a href="mailto:plchatawalt@yahoo.com">plchatawalt@yahoo.com</a>
	Fred Martinez	<a href="mailto:ajm7pc@gmail.com">ajm7pc@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Roger McCoy	
Additional 2024 Committee Members: Duke Marshall.		
Handicap Committee : Gary Morgan, Brian Nicholson		

**FIRST STEP.** Make sure that your name and personal info (phone, email address and GHIN number, if available) are in our golf data base. You should contact the Golf Chair or the Handicap Chair as soon as possible. Communications to our golfers is primarily by email, so it's important to set up your address in our directory and to let us know if you do NOT receive our emails.

### **SECOND STEP: GO TO OUR WEBSITE.**

Bookmark our Branch 159 golf website: <http://branch159.sirinc2.org/Golf/GolfHome.html>

Explore the website. There are many boxes, and each box contains a drop down menu with the appropriate information. You'll find our latest news, tournament roster, pairings, results, name of the Monthly Tournament Chairman, updates, rules, etc.

**SCHEDULE.** Our play schedule is published on our website. We set up a tournament every week, all year long, on Thursday, except on the 2nd week of each month and holidays when we play on Wednesday. One of the best advantages of joining our club is that you'll have the option of playing 12 to 13 golf courses in the Fresno-Madera-Visalia area.

**MONTHLY TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN (MTC).** Not to be confused with the Golf Chairman. The MTC runs our regular weekly tournaments for one month; therefore we have 12 different MTC, one for each month. The MTC's name and contact info are published on our golf schedule and on each Roster/Pairings notice. If you have a question about a regular tournament, contact the MTC.

**TOURNAMENT SIGN-UP PROCEDURE.** The players sign-up on the e-board sign-up page which has 4 – 6 future events listed and whose link is available under weekly events. Place an X or the appropriate symbol in the row across from your name and to the left of the event. If your name is not yet printed on the list contact Gary Morgan. Please try to sign up 8 days in advance of the tournament date you are interested in

By signing up on the board, your name should be in the tournament pairings which will be published on our portal whose link is also found under weekly events. This is usually published on Mondays. If your name does not appear contact the monthly chairman ASAP and we will get you in. We notify our golfers and guests by email when the Pairings are updated.

If you could not sign up on the e-board, then contact our MTC who coordinates our regular weekly tournament. You'll find his name on the website schedule or under weekly events, look for the monthly chair button on our web page. Contact the MTC if needed.

**TOURNAMENT PLAY.** At most venues, we have a shotgun start for our foursomes. Each player must pay the green and cart fees directly at the pro shop and check-in with the Monthly Chair for the SIR tournament **at least 30 minutes** before the tournament start. If you were on a standby waiting list, check with our Monthly chair first. Late arrivers may be scratched from the tournament at the Chairman's discretion.

**CANCELLATION, ADD-ON, CHANGE.** If you signed up and need to cancel, or if you were not signed up but wish to play, you should contact the Monthly Chairman.

**HANDICAP.** We are a fully accredited NCGA Associate Golf Club. The handicaps of our 90+ members are quite diverse, ranging from single digit to over 36. In order to participate in our weekly tournaments, a player must be a SIR member in

good standing and have an active handicap index. If you do not have an active handicap index (inactive or never had one), please contact our Handicap Chair or the Golf Chair, they will assist you in getting one quickly. For the 2024 season, the cost for a SIR NCGA Branch 159 membership is \$55 (renewal or transfer or lapsed).

As a general rule, all venues utilize the player's full handicap with no restrictions among the field. Special tournaments, however, may have specific play or handicap rules. For our Team events, player selection is done using an approved computer application program (USGA TM) to ensure team handicaps are fair and balanced. When we play Individual Net Strokes events, players are divided into Flights based upon their handicap.

**TOURNAMENT RESULT, SCORING.** Our Scoring Team will post the tournament results on our BLUE GOLF portal and the link on our web page. If it's a recordable score (i.e. one that influences the handicap), it will be posted to your GHIN account by our Scoring Chair, so you don't have to do it.

**RULES of PLAY.** We follow the rules of golf, except as modified by our branch golf rules which are published on our website. We play ready golf and we allow a 6" bump preferred lie.

**PRIZES & FEES.** On the day of the tournament, each player shall pay the negotiated green & cart fees at the pro shop. The SIR 159 tournament entry fee is \$5 (cash only) (or \$10 that includes Skins Gross & Net prizes) payable to our Monthly Chairman for the branch (prize fund, two CTPs and golf fund). Prizes are paid in cash and available at the following week's event.

## OTHER TOURNAMENTS

In addition to the weekly events that Branch 159 hosts all year long, there are 5 golf Special Events available to the SIR branch 159 players with a more competitive spirit. Here is a summary of current information for these tournaments.

### 1. Branch Special Events:

**Ron Rich**, Single Match Play elimination, max 32 players, play at 90% of current course handicap.

**Team Championship**, 18-36 holes.

**Branch Individual Championship:** Gross & Net, 36 or 54 hole total, 4 flights.

**Holiday Cup**, 36 holes, Net & Gross, not flighted.

**2. SIR STATE GOLF Championship** events are run by the SIR State Golf Committee. The player must hold a SIR GHIN handicap. **Check SIR State web site as most dates and locations are yet to be determined:**

- Individual Championship (Net stroke, 7 flights): Area Qualifier, then Division Qualifier and the Championship (7 flights, 18 holes) to decide who is the best SIR golfer.
- Team Championship (Scramble 4 men ABCD): one Area Qualifier, then the Championship (18 holes) to decide who is the best SIR Scramble team.
- SIR website is "sirinc2.org/golf2018/"

**3. SIR STATE GOLF Tournaments** are run by the SIR State Golf Committee, however they are not championships and there are no qualifiers to get in. They are open to all SIR golfers, their guests and Ladies as well; You must have an active GHIN and your SIR membership in good standing. The emphasis is on 1 or 2 days of golf playing fun, with a nice prize fund. **Check SIR State web site as most dates and locations are yet to be determined.** In prior years they are:

- NAPA: in April
- RENO : in June
- FALL CLASSIC:
- Open Play tournament concurrent with the SIR State Individual Championship.
- SIR website is "sirinc2.org/golf2018/"

**4. NCGA Associate events.** For the SIR player with the most competitive spirit; play is under USGA rules only (no SIR 6"bump). You must hold a SIR 159 GHIN handicap to participate in the following four Championships (more info is on our website under NCGA Tournaments and on the NCGA website):

- Four Ball Net:** 2 players, best ball. Sequence is Branch Q, then NCGA Sec Qualifier and NCGA Champ.
- Associate Team** (4 players, 2 best ball): Branch qualifier then NCGA Sec Qualifier; then NCGA Champ.
- Senior Four Ball Net** (over 55yrs, 2man best ball): Branch Q, then NCGA Sec Qualifier and NCGA Champ.
- NCGA Net Amateur** (Individual): Branch Q, then NCGA Sectional Qualifier and NCGA Championship.

In addition, the NCGA organizes the Public Links Net Championship and the Senior Net Championship.