

Welcome Guide

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



History of OCCWGA:

Welcome to Oakcreek Women's Golf Association. To give you a little history, the VOC Golf Course (9 holes) marked the "Grand Opening", September 15, 1968. Two stars of the professional golfing tour, Miller Barber and Bob Rosburg, participated in a head-to-head match play tournament. Barber was the winner and received \$5000.00. The Ladies Golf Association was formed in November of that year with 24 charter members. In May of 1972, the second nine was opened as a Robert Trent Jones 18-hole golf course. The golf course is now Oakcreek Country Club and is a valuable asset to the Village of Oak Creek Association (VOCA). While there have been many changes over the years, the women's association remains strong. You do not need to be a member of Oakcreek Country Club to be a member of OCCWGA.

OCCWGA Governance: The association is governed by officers and committee chairs (Board of Directors). Refer to Article VI, Article VII and Article VIII of the OCCWGA Bylaws for a detailed description.

Dues: Non-OCC members pay an annual fee directly to OCCWGA.

How to stay informed: Click the link <https://oakcreekcc.com/clubs-leagues> and note Women's Club – 18. Under League Documents you will find the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and this guide. If you click on Ladies League it will take you to the portal which allows you to view the Tuesday calendar (information tab) as well as tournament scores.

The **Oakcreek Country Club Women's Golf Association (OCCWGA)** is a dynamic group of women golfers who share a passion for the game and camaraderie amidst the stunning beauty of the Village of Oak Creek near Sedona, Arizona.

Mission:



Values:



League Play:



League Documents:



Meetings & Luncheons: Please refer to the OCCWGA Bylaws. At least one general meeting of OCCWGA shall be held in each calendar year. Meetings may be called by the President or at the written request of five (5) or more Members.

During December we have our holiday luncheon. We start the day playing nine holes of golf followed by lunch. It's a time to vote for new officers, recognize our outgoing OCCWGA President, Most Improved Player, Birdie/Eagle, Hole in One recipients and State Medallion players. This is also a good time to collect money for NAWGA membership, Hole in One fund and non-OCC member dues for the upcoming year.



How Things Work:

An annual calendar of weekly games and other regional events is prepared and sent out to all members in January and updated as changes occur. The calendar can also be found in the League Portal (information tab).

Our ladies league play is every Tuesday unless the course is closed (weather, maintenance or outside tournament). OCCWGA members receive weekly email invitations for the game one week in advance with a sign-up deadline the Sunday before the day of play. Tee sheets with starting time and hole assignment are sent out the day before. League play is generally a shot gun start so players start and end their round within 4- 4 1/2 hours.



Check in is encouraged at least 30 minutes prior to your start time. This allows the golfer to pay any golf fees in the Pro Shop, get a cart and go to the driving range. Announcements regarding the round are made near the Pro Shop/putting/chipping green. The cost to play in the weekly event is \$5.00 cash (includes chip in's and closest to the pin) that you will put into an envelope on the desk in the Pro Shop. Please mark your name as paid. Major tournament fees are \$10.00 per day and we ask that golfers pay the total amount for multi-day rounds on first day of play.

League start-times: The start time changes during the year (see below). You can also check the website at oakcreekcc.com for current playing conditions as occasionally there is a frost delay or maintenance causing delay.

- December thru February is an 11:00 a.m. shotgun,
- March is 9:00 a.m.,
- April is 8:30 a.m.,
- May thru September is 8:00 a.m.,
- October is 8:30 a.m.,
- November is 9:00 a.m.

Official scorecards are printed out by the Pro Shop and are available during check-in. Please be sure to have someone in the group keep a backup and verify each hole score before proceeding to the next hole or at the end of the round. Score cards need both a competitor and marker signature. Record chip in's and birdies on the official scorecard. Birdies or better are identified through Golf Genius and awarded at the end of year holiday luncheon.

In most cases weekly winners receive golf shop credit (sweeps). The tournament chair/committee will notify players when there will be a cash payout. A group email is sent out notifying winners following the round by the Tournament Chair(s) and/or the Pro Shop. Golf credit needs to be used within the year it is earned and generally expires some time mid-December. Golf gift cards do not expire.

If you are unable to register for a round or find that you are unable to play on the event date, please email the Tournament Chair and/or notify the Pro Shop at 928-284-1660.

Rules of Golf: OCCWGA will adhere to the USGA Rules of Golf and Local Rules. A combination of stroke play, match play, scrambles and other formats are common. If a player is unsure of a rule, download and use the USGA Official Rules of Golf or reach out to Heather Risk, LPGA Professional, Head Golf Professional Oakcreek Country Club and/or the Rules Chair for direction. During play, consider playing a provisional ball on the hole and then seeking advice/opinion from hrisk@oakcreekcc.com.

Scores & Handicaps: All acceptable scores should be posted following play to ensure that:

- The handicap index can be updated the next day,
- They are included in the playing conditions calculation, and
- Are available for peer review.

It is the responsibility of the player to post their score unless otherwise directed. **Tuesday scores are posted by the Tournament Chair to GHIN if acceptable score (authorized format).**

Hole by hole scores should be entered using the GHIN website/app. The application has a lot of functionality including stats which highlight your average score on Par 3's, Par 4's and Par 5's. It also helps with future hole handicap allocation, course/slope evaluation and rating. If you make a mistake entering a score, the handicap chair can help you correct and/or notify the Pro Shop.

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.

Hole in One Club: See OCCWGA Standing Rules for the details but for a fee of \$5.00 each calendar year you can join the fund, and if lucky enough to get a valid hole-in-one you will receive a payout of \$100.00.

Major Tournaments: In order to qualify for major tournaments, a member must be in good standing within OCCWGA, have an established GHIN handicap and have played a minimum of five (5) Tuesday Ladies League events within the past 12 months. Major Tournaments are league sponsored and include: President's Cup, Partner's Eclectic, OCCWGA Club Championship, and other events so designated by the Tournament Chairpersons. Qualification audit(s) will be performed by the Tournament Chairpersons.

No one may play to a course handicap greater than 36 in the Major Tournaments. C (Competition) scores, for Handicap Committee and Tournament Chair review and adjustment, will be used for the following OCCWGA tournaments: President's Cup, Partner's Eclectic and OCCWGA Club Championship.

*Partner's Eclectic—this is a flighted better ball tournament consisting of two rounds; it gives the golfers a chance to better their scores on the 2nd round (hole by hole). The course handicap spread between players shall not exceed 10 strokes.

*President's Cup—this is a net tournament in which the net scores of two rounds are combined. There is one overall net winner, but each flight will also recognize a low net player.

*Club Championship—this is a two round stroke play tournament with the low gross winner crowned Club Champion. The tournament is flighted and recognizes low gross and low net in each flight.

Match Play—if scheduled, this tournament is based on net scores. Three rounds are scheduled within one week (generally Tuesday, Thursday and Tuesday). Pairings are done by the Tournament Chair and Pro Shop staff. Match play involves two golfers, with similar course handicaps, playing hole by hole where the hole is won, lost or tied. Winners move on to the next match and defeated players move into a consolation match.

Invitational—if scheduled, this event is a one-day event and requires pre-registration (limited to fifty-two women teams). This requires a committee to plan the event including format, theme, fees and any extra contests/raffles.

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 the following January (usually held at a club in the Phoenix area).

Ringer—this tournament runs consecutively with other weekly league play. It is stroke play and offers the golfer an opportunity to improve their hole-by-hole score over four rounds. The Tournament Chair will determine the cost for the tournament which must be paid for in advance of play. Golfers are not required to complete all four rounds. The initial course handicap is used throughout the tournament and golfers are notified of gross and net standing following each round.

State and Regional Associations:

AZ Golf Association: As an official allied association of the USGA, AGA members receive an Official Handicap Index allowing them to compete and play on an equitable basis. The organization provides our official USGA course and slope rating, rules and handicapping education and is available for advice and assistance to member clubs as needed.

All OCWGA members must have an active USGA Handicap Index. OCC members are responsible for paying yearly handicap fees and will receive a club member renewal email at least one-month prior to expiration date.

Northern Arizona Women's Golf Association (NAWGA):

Purpose

- To promote participation, equitable competition, and recognition of women's golf in Northern Arizona
- To organize, arrange and conduct golf activities of NAWGA
- To assist, upon request, the club associations of NAWGA and the Arizona Golf Association (AGA)

NAWGA sets an annual membership fee which is collected by your NAWGA club representative. The association offers four tournaments a year to include Seniors Championship, Scotch Play, Stroke Play and Partners Better Ball. Access the website: www.nawga.com

Team Play: Priority will be given to OCC members to participate in Team Play. If an OCC member is not available to play, any OCCWGA member who qualifies will be eligible to play. Competition shall be Four-Ball Match Play. Play shall be both gross and net. In the 2024 WHS Rules of Handicapping for Four-Ball Match Play, the handicap allowance is 90% of the course handicap for each player. This will be determined by the host club after receiving the names and GHIN numbers of the lowest four available handicappers from each club no later than eight (8) days in advance of the date of play. The handicaps of all four players are then reduced by the lowest handicap in the group. The low handicap plays at scratch and the other three are allowed the resulting difference as the strokes fall on the scorecard. A player is allowed to play for only one team per year. Competitors are limited to a maximum handicap of 27 on the competition course, even if index conversion should be higher.

Interclub is a golf exchange with other clubs in the surrounding area. You are paired with golfers from other clubs so you get to meet new people and play different courses. The format will be a 4-Person Team - 2 Best Balls. These take place once or twice a month starting in May through November most years. Our local Interclub Chair will send out information and provide notice on how to sign up (generally a sign-up sheet in the Pro Shop). All members are invited to play. Cost generally includes golf fees, cart, lunch and prize money (gift card to course Pro Shop).



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) of 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 dry creek bed in front of the green. 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 after nine holes, just hit straight (or slightly left). Don't kill it. BTW, there's a little house on the right that is now considered a penalty area (red stake).

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 gold tee knocks 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 because the beach is 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 and into the lake. Green breaks towards the lake.

Restrooms and Water Locations: On the front nine you can access the restroom after hole #1, #4 and #6. At the turn you have access to the clubhouse facilities and on the back nine you will see them on the #15-hole tee box.

