



2016 Member Handbook

Asheville Area Chapter

WELCOME

Greetings Fellow Women Golfers!

We are pleased to present the 2016 EWGA Asheville Area Chapter Member Handbook. We want you to have a quick and easy place to find out about our chapter activities and guidelines. Our website contains more detail about many of the topics you find in the handbook.

Established in 1991, EWGA National Association has grown to an Association with 120 Chapters coast to coast (as well as Canada and France) with nearly 20,000 members.

What makes EWGA unique and different from a local golf league? Here are just a few of the highlights:

1. A full curriculum of golf education programs designed for women at all levels of play. From "Getting Started" to "Breaking 100" to "How Low Can You Go?" These programs have been ranked in the top 3 of player development programs nominated for the prestigious Golf Industry Honors. (As the Asheville Area Chapter grows we hope to be able to offer these types of programs as well.)
2. The EWGA Championship is not only the largest women's amateur golf tournament, it's the only one that has flights for players of all skill levels. There's also a scramble team division for those who would rather play in a team format.
3. Benefits galore: we have national sponsors that offer us benefits and discounts. Please refer to the EWGA website for more details.
4. Coast to coast networking and friendships. As a member, you have access to golfers at all 120 chapters. Whether away from home on business or pleasure, the EWGA network will provide you unlimited playing partners.

The experience of being part of EWGA is different for everyone. Some people join to learn the game of golf; others join to improve or learn how to utilize golf for business. And some people join just to enjoy meeting other golfers.

The Asheville chapter was started in 2010 by a handful of women who wanted to "have fun and play golf." After researching various options, they found that EWGA provides a framework that will allow members to grow, have fun, and be successful. EWGA provides and delivers golf education and playing opportunities designed for women with busy schedules and of all playing abilities.

The Asheville Area Chapter had a great year in 2015. Our membership grew. We participated in weekly and Sunday golf, tournaments, skills clinics, and had fun playing at some nice area courses on the weekend. But most of all, we had fun meeting new friends. As membership continues to grow in numbers, we hope to continue to expand our chapter education and social programs.

Let's make 2016 a great year as we grow our membership numbers, programs and enjoy golf.

MEMBERSHIP

OUR MISSION: CONNECTING WOMEN TO LEARN, PLAY AND ENJOY GOLF FOR BUSINESS AND FUN.

Whether you are a rookie golfer or a more experienced player wanting to sharpen your competitive skills, EWGA Asheville is the place to be!

CHAPTER LEVEL BENEFITS

- Tuesday Evening and Sunday afternoon League play for golfers of all skill levels.
- Access to clinics and professional golf instruction for the new and experienced golfer.
- Competitive and non-competitive golfing events, including weekend golf at area courses.
- Opportunity to play in annual Chapter Championship and National Championship.
- Lifetime friendships and sharing your passion for the game of golf.
- Being a part of shaping our chapter.

EWGA MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Your EWGA Membership includes affiliation with the EWGA Asheville Area Chapter. Membership is for a year term—it runs for 12 months from the month you join. Most members choose to have a “Classic” membership. Other options are available, see the EWGA website for details.

In 2016, all members at all levels (Classic, Young Professional and Senior) receive:

- Membership in one EWGA Chapter of choice.
- Complimentary access to all domestic LPGA and Symetra Tournaments.
- Access to the EWGA Golf Handicap system for their official USGA handicap index.
- One-year (12) issues GOLF Magazine. \$15 value, not deductible from dues.
- A personalized EWGA bag tag when you join.
- Access to educational webinars.
- EWGA Member Card.
- EWGA Golf Club Network.
- ClubCorp Member for a Day Program.

Three levels of membership are available for 2016:

*Classic Membership	\$155 (USD)
*Senior (Age 65+)	\$125 (USD)
Young Professional (Age 18 - 30)	\$ 75 (USD)

Additional Chapter Affiliation is \$35 per Chapter.

Membership is an annual membership renewable 12 months from the month you join.

*Classic and Senior Memberships renew after the initial year at a discount.

All three levels may be upgraded to the 2016 Business and Birdies Membership Option - Please see the EWGA Website, Membership link, for further details.

GOLF EDUCATION AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

SKILLS CLINICS

Plans are in the works for clinics at our home course at the Onmi Grove Park Inn as well as other opportunities in the area.

Please watch the Chapter Webpage and EVITES for announcements.

INFORMAL PROGRAM - ON COURSE MENTORS

EWGA Asheville welcomes rookie golfers and golfers new to league play. The purpose of our mentor program is to help you enjoy the game and introduce you to rules and etiquette along the way

Golf is a game of tradition and etiquette. Your on-course mentors are experienced golfers who want to help you feel comfortable on the course. No skills instruction is provided, but if you ask for assistance, you'll get help with:

- Speed of play & keeping up with the group ahead.
- Order of teeing off (ready golf vs. honors).
- Where to stand when others are teeing off.
- Provisional ball if you think you hit it out of bounds or lost.
- Helping to spot other players golf balls.
- Order of hitting (furthest from tee).
- Ready golf (getting quickly to your ball, club selection, etc.).
- Repairing divots and ball marks.
- Picking up ball if falling behind (10 stroke rule).
- Where to place your bag/cart.
- Where to stand while playing partners are putting.
- Balls hit into a hazard or water.
- Properly marking your ball on the green.

GOLF HANDICAP

Handicapping is a way of creating a level playing field between golfers of differing abilities. You've heard of people "giving strokes" to someone, right? That's what a handicap does, but on a somewhat more sophisticated level. It is not just an average of your scores-instead it is based on your scoring potential, using the 10 best of your last 20 scores. You enter your golf scores through the internet (EWGA website or other available sites), and the result is two numbers: your handicap index and the trend. The **handicap index** is the number you use for tournament play and is updated every two weeks. In the game of golf, the lower the number, the better the player. The **trend** changes every time you enter a score and lets you know whether your handicap is moving up or down at that particular moment. Establishing and maintaining a Handicap Index is a great way for you to see how your golf game improves through the season and from year to year.

You have 2 options to establish your golf handicap:

OPTION 1: As part of your EWGA Membership, EWGA offers you a free Handicap tracking system thru the website. It is an official USGA handicap.

OPTION 2: Some of our members pay a fee to their local course for handicap service to obtain a USGA handicap. In our area, most clubs are now participating in the Golf Handicap and Information Network (GHIN).

Although establishing a handicap is not required, it is highly recommended. Handicaps are required for the Chapter Championship, Presidents Cup and other tournaments held by other organizations. Once you post ten 9-hole rounds or five 18-hole rounds you establish a handicap index. We recommend an 18-hole handicap even if you most often only golf 9 holes.

For more information on Handicap, see the Handicap tab on our Web site, the EWGA website or contact Handicap Guru Carol Mills @gagalu@aol.com.

HANDICAP CLINICS

Clinics are free. Clinics will be offered on an "as needed" basis with signup sheets for registration. The clinic will include instruction on various rules interpretation and important aspects of establishing an accurate handicap.

2016 GOLF EVENTS

For the 2016 golf season, the Asheville Area Chapter is focused on increased participation and quality of our golf events. Most events require registration via online registration through the EVITE system.

Advance planning is necessary for successful events; therefore you may not be able to participate if you don't sign up by the registration deadline. For a few events, payment in advance is required. No refund will be given for cancellations received after the event registration deadline.

Opening Event – Membership Drive

- March, 21, 2016 at Packs Tavern.

Annual On The Course Rules & Etiquette

- TBA – Waiting on GPI to hire a new assistant golf pro.

Annual Season Opener

- Tuesday, April 12 @ GPI. Details to follow.

Chapter Championship

- Sunday, June 5, 2016; Grove Park Inn. This event has Flights and is handicap required.
- Compete individually or on a scramble team. See the chapter Web site for details. Rain date June 12.

Member/Guest Tournament

- Sunday, July 17, 2016. GPI. 18 holes. Advance registration required.
This is your chance to invite a friend, spouse, or significant other to join you for a fun round. Also a good opportunity to invite a potential new member.

Dixie Cup

- Saturday and Sunday July 30-31 at Tanglewood Golf, Clemmons, NC. (Website: <http://golf.tanglewoodpark.org/>) Accommodations are at The Village Inn (www.thevillageinn.com) All Chapter members will receive an email directly from EWGA regarding the event. Registration opens early February. Registration is online. 2-person match play tournament to earn points for your team (similar to Ryder Cup format). Carolinas VS Heart of the South (TN, AL, GA). Emails

will be sent from the Chapter once the official email is sent from EWGA regarding how to set up teams and signups.

UNCA Women's Golf League Tournament

- Sunday, August 28, 2016. GPI. 18 holes. 1:00. Fundraiser with the UNCA Staff. Stay tuned for details.

Annual Season Finale: Golf, Food, and Awards

- Tuesday in September, 2016 to be determined.
- Be there to celebrate our chapter and member accomplishments.
- We'll also conduct our annual meeting and confirm elections for next season's board.

Annual President's Cup – the crowning 'jewel' for players with handicaps.

- Sunday, September 18 at GPI. Golf, Food, and Awards
- This is a 2-person team event with HC & advance registration required to participate
- Handicap requirements are the same as for the Chapter Championship.
- The EWGA Asheville Area Chapter must be your primary chapter.
- Who will replace last year's winning duo??

INFORMED MEMBERS MAKE GOOD MEMBERS

Some things you should know...

More than anything, we want new members to feel welcome and informed about our chapter. Please contact the Board with any questions you may have. thru the Chapter email site ashevilleareaewga@gmail.com.

LEAGUE PLAY

To provide you with the opportunity to play with as many people as possible and to make sure newcomers get integrated into the group, a variety of pairing options will be used throughout the month. We offer a couple of different play options: 9 hole league play on Tuesday at Grove Park Inn, and Sunday afternoon at Grove Park Inn. Tuesday is a shot-gun start, Sunday start is by tee-time, usually around 3:00, and play can be 9 or 18 holes. Advance registration via EVITE allows us to do pairings and secure an appropriate number of tee times. Please be considerate to fellow golfers by signing up, showing up, and canceling when you have a change in plans!! Cancellation should be made thru the EVITE system by 3:00 on Tuesdays and as early as possible on other days, but an email may be sent as follow up to ashevilleareaewga@gmail.com. In the event that GPI cannot accommodate us, other plans will be made and advised to the Chapter via email and EVITE. Also, check the Chapter website.

CHECK IN PROCEDURE AT GPI:

To insure a smooth start each Tuesday league night, please pay for your round at the GPI golf shop. Then bring your receipt to the GPI Starter who will be standing near the carts, and sign the evening's roster. The Grove Park Inn extends special discounted rates for EWGA events. Regular greens fees apply to rounds played at other times.

Arrive by 5:10 as announcements will be at 5:15. 1st tee at 5:20 pm.

IF RAINING – come anyway and we'll pick a place for dinner.

It is customary to tip the “bag men” a dollar or two each time you play for their assistance in helping with your clubs.

SOCIALIZE WITH US AFTER PLAY

Following league play on Tuesday nights, players tend to go out to a local restaurant. Check the white board by the bag room for further information.

PLEASE BE ON TIME

Please arrive at least 15-20 minutes before the round to allow time for check in. Your tee time is the time you are to be ready on hole #1 – NOT the time you are supposed to arrive.

PACE OF PLAY & READY GOLF/PICK UP YOUR BALL POLICY:

Nine holes of golf should take approximately 2 hours to play. Proper Pace of Play means keeping up with the group IN FRONT of you. If your group can not see the group in front of you, pick up your pace. Play “Ready Golf” - you don't have to wait to putt or drive.

To help keep pace of play, the Chapter is asking players to limit the amount of “fun” on each hole to double par.

You decide how you want to play it. You can use up all your strokes on the fairway, or you may decide to pick up sooner than that and drop your ball on the putting surface to get in some putts. For that matter, if you aren't maintaining a handicap and think it sounds more fun to tee off at the 150 yard marker instead of the tee box....go right ahead and do it. Don't torture yourself!

A number of you are probably saying “WHAT ABOUT MY HANDICAP!!! I can't simply pick up and still post a score.”

YES you can! The USGA has an official procedure to address this situation. Rules of Golf Section 4-1, Unfinished Holes and Conceded Strokes:

A player who starts, but does not complete a hole or has conceded a stroke must record for handicap purposes the most likely score. The most likely score may not exceed the player's Equitable Stroke Control limit, defined in Section 4-3. This most likely score should be preceded by an “X.”

There is no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round**

So when you pick up your ballyou simply record the score you MOST LIKELY WOULD HAVE MADE. For example: if you reach double par while you are on the fairway, then you just say...it would have probably taken me one more shot to get on green, and most often I two putt, so I'll add 3 strokes to what I've already taken. Or if you reach max on the green, you just add the number of putts you think it would take to hole it out.

If you have a Handicap, then you should record what you would have made OR your max score using the Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) chart...whichever is less.

ESC sounds complicated. Don't worry. It just means “maximum score you can post” and is determined by your handicap.

EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL

COURSE HANDICAP	MAXIMUM NUMBER ON ANY HOLE
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - RAISE YOUR HAND TO HELP YOUR CHAPTER

Our chapter cannot function without volunteers. We are always looking for someone(s) to help with organizing social events like dinners out, movie nights, going to a driving range, organizing an 18 hole event, etc... **We especially need additional greeters on Tuesday nights - a good opportunity to meet everyone.** Where can your time and talents be best utilized? Volunteer to help! Contact the Board at ashevilleareaewga@gmail.com and we'll be happy to put you to work!

CHAPTER STRUCTURE for 2016

Our EWGA Chapter is organized in a "Flexible Model" and your Board is made up of:

- Executive Board (elected) President - Julie Willingham
- Member Services - Debbie Aiton
- Member Recruitment - Lorraine Silverman
- Events - Carol Ann Howell
- Golf Programs and Services - Anne Hill Snyder
- Finance and Records - Linda Lane
- Marketing - Maryann Parish

Directors will recruit volunteers for activities under each of their respective functions.

Elections are held in September of each year and terms start November 1. More information about the election process will be provided prior to elections.

EVENT REGISTRATION POLICY:

Event registration helps us to do pairings and secure an appropriate number of tee times. Registration is through EVITE. Some events require advance payment. Refunds will not be given for cancellations received after event registration deadline. You may not be able to play in an event that you fail to sign up for by deadline.

AREA CHARITY GOLF EVENTS

We want to encourage participation in local charity events. We think that is a great way to publicize our chapter. If you are part of an organization that puts on tournaments, please provide complete information to the Board so we can communicate the event to our members.

GOLF EVENTS

All members are encouraged to organize golf outings for the Chapter. A membership list will be supplied and updated thru the season for members to use to communicate with each other.

UNCA WOMEN'S GOLF TEAM

The Asheville Chapter is excited to team up with the new UNCA Women's Golf Team, coached by Asheville Founding Member Bre Hall. We look forward to getting to know these young women, playing golf with them, perhaps being coached by the players, and traveling to tournaments to cheer them on!

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER POLICY

Prospective members are welcome to "try us out." After two golf outings, if prospective members wish to join they should fill out a membership application to take advantage of EWGA benefits. EWGA membership is valid for 12 months from the join date.

EWGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Come be a part of the largest women's amateur golf tournament in the world!

The EWGA Championship offers each member the opportunity to **compete against members of the same skill level (known as a Flight)** in a tournament format. Your skill level is determined by your official Handicap Index (a calculation based upon your score and the difficulty of the course you are playing).

Flight	Handicap
Championship	0.0 – 12.0
First Flight	12.1 – 19.0
Second Flight	19.1 – 25.0
Third Flight	25.1 – 32.0
Fourth Flight	32.1 – 40.4

As long as you have a USGA Handicap Index of 40.4 or less, set before Chapter Championship requirements, you can compete.

It is played in three stages:

- The Chapter Championship, an 18-hole local qualifying round (our local event)
- The Semi-Final Championship, an 18-hole qualifying round (a regional event)
- The EWGA Championship Finals, a 36-hole final (the national event)

The EWGA Championship consists of two competitive divisions:

- Stroke Play Division: Participants play in one flight based upon their official Handicap Index
- Four-woman Team Scramble: Consists of 4 participants from the same Chapter. The team "handicap" is established based on the official Handicap Index of all four players.

Whether you are a competitive golfer or not, the EWGA Chapter Championship is a great way to test your golfing ability in a fun but official way.

Asheville Area EWGA Chapter Championship

On Sunday, June 5, 2016 (rain date June 12) our chapter will conduct our 4th Chapter Championship, the 3rd one to be held at The Grove Park Inn.

You have the option to either "compete" or "play for fun" at the Chapter Championship. If you don't think you're quite ready for competitive golf this year, then come play for fun with the idea you may be ready to compete next year.

Stroke Play: For each flight there are 2 winners. The "gross" winner is the player with the lowest total score. The "net" winner is the player with the lowest total score when the handicap is deducted. The two winners from each flight will advance to the regional tournament.

Scramble Team: The one team from our chapter with the lowest net score will advance to the regionals.

Winners have the option to "decline to participate" at the regional level. In that case, the 2nd place winners will have the option to represent our chapter at the regional tournament.

EWGA Chapter Championship Carolina's District Semi-Finals

Each flight winner who qualifies as Asheville Area Chapter Champion will move on to the regional tournament and compete against members of the Carolina's District. This year our regionals take place on July 9 or 16, 2016. The final location has not been advised. Stay tuned

Players who win their flight do have the option to "decline to participate" at the national tournament.

EWGA Chapter Championship National Finals

Friday & Saturday, October 14-15, 2016 at The Golf Club @ Landsdowne, Leesburg, VA. Winners from the Semi-Finals move on the National Finals and compete against all of the semi-final winners from across the country!

Questions? – Contact Janet Hutchins @ janet01803@gmail.com, or ashevilleareaewga@gmail.com

SOCIAL AND NETWORKING EVENTS

Social and Networking Events are a major component of EWGA. We'll incorporate food and social time in golf events where possible, and will host a holiday party in December. We'll also make a point of making sure you are paired with different players during league night so that you have an opportunity to play with as many different ladies as possible. As our membership grows, and we have committed volunteers, we'll add social and networking events to take place off the golf course. Volunteers and suggestions are welcome.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS & ONE TIME EVENTS

We love the idea of having events regularly scheduled each month, particularly in the months that are outside our golf season. We do want to promote business and friendship connections. Possible ideas include: monthly Happy Hours at local establishments or perhaps a regular monthly networking lunch at a local restaurant. One time social events could be fun too and can range anywhere from networking, to movies, the theatre, a cookout at your home, etc.

Perhaps you have a passion for getting people together. If so, we ENCOURAGE you to be a leader – step up and organize a group event, either on-going, or one time. Contact a board member with your ideas, and we'll help you get the word out.