



HILLVIEW SENIOR MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE



ACHIEVING BALANCE

OBJECTIVES

- Balance front and back nine play
- Balance among flights
- Balance among prize groups

BACKGROUND

For years, members had inconvenient ways to sign up for a tee time. When the COVID pandemic hit, sign up by telephone was used, but weekly. This has changed for the better.

Also, front and back nine balance was achieved by requiring members to alternate nines when they played. Memory of that procedure has led to some confusion. This note is intended to eliminate that confusion.

FRONT AND BACK NINE PLAY

The goal is to have golf course usage balanced throughout the League session. This is accomplished by having tee time signup one week before the season starts. Members call the Pro Shop at an appointed time. Usually, one member from formerly formed groups calls to firm up a tee time for the season. The Pro Shop records the result of this procedure. The League Treasurer completes the signup process with the information he acquired during registration.

Members populate the groups as threesomes and foursomes with the aid of the Starters. Most groups are established from the previous season, but new and returning members need help finding a group. Twosomes are discouraged because absence of one member leaves no one to attest the scores. The Starters help members find another group to temporarily play with so that the required attesting can occur.

To achieve balance on the golf course, members must play with their group when they play. To avoid confusion, a lavender-colored column next to the members' names shows the nine to which members are assigned the next week of play. Such confusion can occur when one or more members skip one or more weeks of play.

FLIGHT BALANCE

Members populate four flights, A, B, C and D. Average Point Score is used as a measure of skill level, so that one-fourth of the membership is in each flight. Top players are in Flight A. Flights B, C and D are populated in a consistent way.

Flight assignment takes place twice in a season: at the beginning of the season and after Round 5 is played. The latter assignment is necessary to accommodate new members and those whose skill level has changed between seasons.

PRIZE GROUP BALANCE

Since there are four flights and play is on the front and back nines, there are eight prize groups. For a given flight, there is no mechanism to guarantee balance between the number of players in the front and back nine prize groups. Fortunately, sufficient balance occurs by chance most of the time.

When excessive imbalance is observed, it is corrected by League Management. Balance is achieved by having one or more groups repeat the nine played without penalty. This action is seldom necessary. Some seasons no action is required.

MEMBER ACTIONS

Individual action usually does not affect balance significantly. Occasionally, a member wishes to play with or move permanently to another group. If the group is scheduled to play the same nine as his existing group, this is permitted.

However, if the target group is on the other nine, the member must obtain authorization from League Management before he plays. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.