

WOMEN'S NINE HOLE GOLF ASSOCIATION

HISTORY OF WNHGA

The Women's Nine Hole Golf Association was organized in 1973 by some very enthusiastic women nine-hole golfers with the help and encouragement of golf professionals Gary Plato of San Jose Country Club and Al Braga of The Villages.

The purpose of WNHGA is to promote the interests of women's nine-hole golf. The association affords us the opportunity to share ideas for better golf programs, maintain uniformity in all procedures and rules advanced by the USGA, and provide our membership with a handicapping service (GHIN).

Many nine-hole groups are still struggling to receive recognition, consideration and cooperation within their home club. Being associated with a strong organization such as WNHGA assists in gaining recognition.

Membership is open to nine-hole golf groups from both private clubs and semi-private clubs. Members may belong to any organized dues paying golf club or group, however any member(s) holding dual membership must designate a "Home Club." (USGA Rules of Handicapping 1.4b) This jurisdiction is defined as the counties of Monterey, Kern, Tulare and all of California north of these counties. (From By-Laws – *Amended March 2008.*)

The association is presently divided into four geographic areas in order to ensure relatively equal representation for each member club. WNHGA is the only nine-hole independent golf association recognized by the United States Golf Association.

WNHGA is currently comprised of 39 clubs that are private or semi-private with approximately 2,200 members.

We believe our association has a great deal to offer nine-hole golfers. We have created an exciting and lively image for all nine-hole women golfers where the challenge of the sport is combined with friendly competition and companionship.

WNHGA Chronological History

- 1975 WNHGA officially was established with bylaws. First clubs were Almaden, Contra Costa, Palo Alto Hills, Peninsula, Richmond, Round Hill, San Jose, Saratoga, Sequoyah, and The Villages.
- 1977 The first official Tournament of Champions was held. The entry fee was \$1. Golf balls were the prizes.
- 1979 Rosters were printed for all of the club members for the first time.
- 1981 WNHGA started recruiting clubs from the Central Valley. Unification of handicapping was pursued. In the past, each club had a handicap chair who calculated the handicaps for each member.
- 1983 The first Open Day was held at Crow Canyon Country Club. Picture of WNHGA officers first printed in the NCGA book.
- 1984 WNHGA was incorporated. The association contracted with IDC to do the handicapping for all the clubs.
- 1985 The first Fairway News was published.
- 1986 Four portions of the Captain's Manual were completed.
- 1991 WNHGA Corena Green Classic for Junior Girls was held for the first time.
- 1994 Rules seminars were established.
- 1998 WNHGA was recognized by the USGA as the only independent 9-hole association.
- 2002 Computerized handicap services were provided by GHIN, with members being able to post scores on computers located at their club or at home via the internet.
- 2006 WNHGA website was established – *WNHGA.com*. The Fairway News was now published in color, including pictures from member clubs.
- 2008 WNHGA added marker training to the rules seminars. WNHGA By-Laws are amended allowing dual club memberships within its territorial jurisdiction.
- 2010 Computerized scoring was instituted at all WNHGA tournaments.
- 2012 New interactive website created at *WNHGA.com*; WNHGA Captain's manual online.
- 2019 USGA eliminates 9-hole GHIN# converting all members to 18-hole GHIN# in preparation to the New World Handicapping System in 2020.
- 2020 USGA launches the New World Handicapping System, a complete revision to the Rules of Handicapping.