

Heron Lakes Women's Club Member Guide

Welcome to Heron Lakes Women's Golf Club!

Mission statement: Our mission is to promote the game of golf for women. We offer assistance and support to each member to attain her goals, while learning the rules and etiquette of golf in a constructive and cooperative environment. It is our desire to provide an experience that encourages friendship, empathy and inclusion for women from diverse backgrounds by treating each other with respect and dignity.

We want your start to Heron Lakes to be informed and welcoming.

Let's Get started.

We use a site called Golf Genius to send out our invitations to play as well as to prepare the pairings, games, scorecards, posting, emails etc. Be aware of any emails from Golf Genius as that is how we communicate with members. Heron Lakes also has a website, www.heronlakesgolf.com. You will find the Women's Club information on that site with the officers' names and phone numbers as well as the new member enrollment form and a link to this guide. Another way we are informed by the club is through our Newsletter, emailed monthly between March and October. We welcome players who are members at other clubs. When you join HLWGC, you will pay another OGA fee. However, you are eligible for a \$20 rebate from OGA. Here is the link for the OGA Multi Member Rebate form <https://www.oga.org/sites/default/files/2020-oga-rebate-form.pdf>

Play Days: Our women's club plays on Saturday morning and Tuesday morning starting the first of March and ending the end of October. You can play both days or one or the other. The Vice President for those days will send out an invite via Golf Genius for you to sign up. You either click playing or not playing. Pay green fees and the \$3 for the day's game at the course when you arrive. All members **must** pay the \$3.00 for the game if they sign up for the day's play. The cut off to sign up for Tuesday is Sunday at midnight. The cut off for Saturday is Thursday at midnight. The day before day's play you will get another email that will have the tee times and pairings along with the game being played.

How to Cancel Play: Text, Email or call the VP. You can also go back to the original day's play invitation and click on "not playing".

We usually play the Great Blue once a month. This course is more expensive than the Greenback course with a higher difficulty and slope rating.

Arrive at the course a minimum of 30 minutes prior to your tee time ready to play. The reason is the starter will often get us out sooner. Should players cancel, changes might need to be made in the pairings. Check in with the starter and get a scorecard. Write your full name on scorecard and date the card. Find your teammates for that day and prepare for the game. Mark your ball so it's easy to identify on course. Keep a couple Sharpies in your bag along with flat ball markers. Head to first tee before you are called to the tee. Be ready to step up and hit when the fairway is clear.

Our club plays by the USGA rules. You can ask for a rule book if you don't have one and you can view rules online to get more educated. We do abide by the rules and putt everything out. You will be appointed a mentor for the first few times out on the course. If after this time frame you still like the idea of a mentor, you can ask one of the ladies you have played with if she would be your mentor. It can be fun to exchange via email or face to face, your ups and downs of the game. The idea is to support one another's golf anyway you can. During day's play, but not during tournament play, players can point out rule's infractions **before** the player hits to avoid penalty strokes. This should always be done in a constructive, kind demeanor. If you question a rule, you can ask your group and if still unsure, play 2 balls to finish the hole from there. When you finish the round, the rules chairman will make the decision on the score.

You will keep one other player's score on your scorecard, and they will keep yours.

There will also be one player that will keep a master scorecard with everyone's score. Announce scores once everyone has completed the hole and prior to teeing off at the next tee box. Should you disagree with the player's announced score, kindly go back through the shots, and work it out with respect to one another. When a player has a difficult hole, shots can be miscounted. Please be respectful when pointing out missed shots. If you have a hard time remembering your shots, write them down or get a set of beads or count how many shots were in the fairway and how many were putts. We all are here to help so ask someone to count if having a troubled hole. When you keep the other players score you are responsible for the accuracy of that score.

We play ready golf. That means if your ball is on the right side and everyone else is on the left, you go to your ball and get ready to hit. If another player is delayed getting to their ball, you can go ahead and hit even though it is not your turn. When you get on the green with the group, the first 2 people who finish putting should walk off the green and go to the next hole. This does speed up play. Ready golf under Match Play rules does not apply.

Pace of play is enforced by the course. You must keep up with the group ahead of you. When they are done with their second shot then you can hit. It is advised to take a golf cart if you are not conditioned to play 18 holes walking. A good way to condition yourself is to walk 9 holes and ride 9 holes. This is just enough walking to build stamina over a few weeks so you can then walk 18. It takes a lot of energy to play 18 holes and walk in a way to keep up with the group ahead of you and play your best golf. If you struggle keeping the pace you need to get a cart.

Etiquette Rules: Please mark your ball (on the green) by putting a flat marker right **behind or right next to** the ball. If your ball needs to be moved due to interfering with another player's putting line, you mark the ball first, lift the ball, then measure away from the putting line using a fixed object nearby as the guide. Do not walk on someone's putting line! Refrain from talking or making any noise when someone is preparing to hit the ball. When possible, replace divots or fill with sand. Ball marks on greens need to be fixed, preferably on the way to mark the ball on the green. Too much talking, playing music, using profanity to excess are all breaches of etiquette. Be courteous to fellow players at all times. Encourage good play and camaraderie. This is a difficult game for all skill levels, and it requires some concentration so don't take a bad golf day out on the group. Your actions do affect others in the group. We all come out to have a good time on the golf course so keep a positive attitude and support others. Golf pull carts and riding carts should never be left in front of the green. Park riding carts to the back or side of green at least 30 feet from the green and bunkers or on the cart path. Keep all pull carts off greens. When you get done in the bunker rake the bunker.

Scorecards at end of round: When the round is over you will meet with your group on backside of the 18th green and go over hole by hole scores and attest each other's scores before turning in the cards. You will sign the card you scored as well as the master scorecard. The cards are turned into the VP or a designated

area determined by the VP. The VP will notify the players if the VP is posting the scores in Golf Genius or if the players will post their own scores in GHIN.com. Posting the scores in Golf Genius allows all the scores to be a part of Ringer tournament, also known as EC and Eclectic tournaments. This tournament accumulates your best hole by hole scores all season and creates your best 18-hole score at the end of the season. The lowest EC scores are awarded at the end of the golf season. The winners for each play day are sent out the next day via email from Golf Genius. The amount players win will then be put on the books at Heron Lakes under the player's name and are itemized in the email.

Tournaments: Our club has 4 **tournaments** per season that are included in your club dues. Your club dues do not include the \$3 paid for day's play. The first Tournament is the Spring Handicap Tournament, and the final tournament is the Fall Handicap Tournament. These tournaments are 2 days of combined play. You have 4 options to choose from for these 2-day events. There would be 2 Saturdays and 2 Tuesdays to choose from. When you choose those 2 days you then can play after the field on the other tournament days. You will sign up for Tournaments with the Tournament director. The VP's are not in charge of Tournaments. You will be notified by the Tournament leader via Golf Genius email to sign up and then pairings will be sent out. The season payouts occur at the end of the golf season unless stipulated differently. Winnings are all paid out as money on the books that can be used for green fees or merchandise in pro shop. The club pays out gross and net in tournaments including the Club Championship. This allows for multiple ways to win. The Club Championship is played over two days in August and a player must complete 6, 18-hole rounds with the HLWGC in the current season to be eligible. All tournaments start with like handicaps playing together the first day. The second day will be paired according to scores of first day.

Additional playing opportunities: Club members can also participate in the Women's Inter Club (WIP) team tournament, which is a series of day's plays against teams from other Women's clubs in the area. HLWGC also runs a voluntary Match Play tournament for the members.

End of Season Luncheon and Awards: The end of season banquet is our opportunity to come together and celebrate completing our season of golf. We announce awards, have a formal club meeting, vote for our Board officers and enjoy lunch. In addition, we raise funds for our charity The First Tee Greater Portland chapter.

Frequent rules used every round, would be balls that land inside the red stake and yellow stake penalty areas, dropping with free relief from cart path, and OB or white stake rules. Be advised on how to handle all these scenarios before your first day on the course. We have a rules chairman, and she is a great resource if needed.

At the course:

On your day of play, at Heron Lakes, you will find that most of the players gather near the practice putting area before teeing off and after the round members are encouraged to gather socially at the clubhouse. Heron Lakes also has a range, chipping area and bunker for practice. The pro shop offers food that can be ordered midround for pickup, plus merchandise such as socks, balls, golf gloves, clubs and clothing.

Thank you for choosing to join our club. We think you will find we encourage and support each other. We are an eclectic mix of players and love that diversity. Please let your VP of days play know of any situations you feel are challenging or that you need help with. If you want to grow as a golfer this is a great group to belong to.

Heron Lakes Women's Golf Club Board
2022