

—THE— SAWGA NEWS

01 March 2026

All you need for winter golf is the right clothes and snow tires!!

The President's Page

You are receiving this after playing in our first tournament. I hope I won. I'm sure it was a great success, and no one blew too far away.

I would like to apologize in advance to many of you. We have a record number of members, and this old lady will have a very hard time putting names to faces. I am the poster child for that joke "I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing, retraced my steps, got distracted on my way back, and now I have to pee". I will remember that your name is on the membership list, but I promise nothing after that. So, help me out and keep introducing yourself until I "get it", and don't be offended. I am not speaking for the Tournament Committee, but they may want me to do so. I pine for the days when we had 40 members, and it was easy to remember them and my golf scores.

-Grace



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Community Corner Introducing “Lady Niners”

With the help of Sandy Lemon and the Santa Ana Golf Course staff, SAWGA introduced a monthly 9-hole play day last year. This was designed for those who wanted a fun, relaxing way to fit more golf into a busy week without dedicating a full day at the course. The shorter Star Purple course was also launched last year. Well . . . the shorter round and the shorter course were both a hit!

We are pleased to introduce you to the “Lady Niners”, our new name for our 9-hole fans within SAWGA. This is **not** a separate league, but rather a way to reference our 9-hole players and events. If you are looking to sharpen your game, meet new friends and enjoy a quick round this is PAR-fect!

This year we are increasing the Lady Niner days to two days per month. Lady Niner days will continue to be on Wednesdays, typically with a starting tee time around 10:00 a.m. There are also plans for some fun ‘games’ and ability to play on one of the other 9-hole courses. We are also exploring the ability to have 9-hole mixers with other associations at their course. Stay tuned!

Jana Burdick has volunteered to be the Lady Niners Coordinator. Thank you, Jana!! You can email or text Jana at hanamary22@gmail.com or 505-401-3650 if you have questions or need more information throughout the season.

Reminder: Although SAWGA hosts two Member/Guest events annually, participation in other SAWGA events requires membership (including Lady Niner days). Members should have a GHIN handicap index or be actively working towards obtaining one. Please see the New Member Handbook if you have questions about how to download or use the GHIN app. You only need to post scores for 54 holes to establish your GHIN index (six 9-hole rounds or three 18-hole rounds, or a combination of both).

It’s Back!! 2026 Match Play

Get ready for SAWGA’s 2026 Match Play. This is a flighted, handicapped, match play event with both a Championship Bracket and a Consolation Bracket for each flight. Participants eliminated in the first round of the Championship Bracket will be moved over to create the Consolation Bracket. SAWGA Members with an active GHIN are eligible to participate.

The invitation to enter the Match Play Event will be emailed to SAWGA members around April 20, 2026. Deadline to enter (and deadline to pay entry fee) will be May 11,

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2026. The brackets and rules sheet will be emailed and posted in Pro Shop around May 18, 2026.

Each round will have a maximum of 30 days to be completed based on the following schedule. This schedule applies to both the Championship Bracket and the Consolation Bracket:

- ❖ First round matches completed by June 30, 2026
- ❖ Second round matches completed by July 31, 2026
- ❖ Final matches completed by August 31, 2026

Entry fee is \$30 per person. The payouts for each flight will be as follows:

- ❖ 1st Place (from Championship Bracket) – \$110
- ❖ 2nd Place (from Championship Bracket) – \$70
- ❖ 3rd Place (winner of Consolation Bracket) – \$60

If you have questions regarding the Match Play Tournament please call, text or email Kathleen Austin at (505) 903-0393 or at nmst8r@gmail.com.

Putt To Any Hole Results

The first tournament of the year is under our belts, and it turned out to be a beautiful spring day! Kudos to those who were on the course, whether you were dusting off your clubs, or you spent all winter becoming a well-oiled machine, we are happy you came out!

Here are the results of the tournament. Nice playing ladies!

Flight 1 Cheena/Star

Low Gross-1st	Kathy Colley
Low Net-1st	Karen Blatt
Low Gross-2nd	Monica Baca
Low Net-2nd	Mona Wolfswinkel
Low Gross-3rd	Mechelle Taylor
Low Net-3rd	Carol Latham

Flight 1 Tamaya/Cheena

Low Gross-1st	KayLinda Crawford
Low Net-1st	Jane Childs
Low Gross-2nd	Marylou Anderson
Low Net-2nd	Sharon Harrington
Low Gross-3rd	Bobbi Pierson
Low Net-3rd	Connie Hansen

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Flight 2 Cheena/Star

Low Gross-1st	Pam Romer
Low Net-1st	Susan Lane
Low Gross-2nd	Wanda Giles
Low Net-2nd	Debbie Heeter
Low Gross-3rd	Therese Martinez-Loner
Low Net-3rd	Jana Burdick

Flight 2 Tamaya/Cheena

Low Gross-1st	Melissa Franklin
Low Net-1st	Cathy Dahlstedt
Low Gross-2nd	Gloria Montoya
Low Net-2nd	Cindy Ascolese
Low Gross-3rd	Lisa Wilcox
Low Net-3rd	Marcia Schick

Rules We Live By: Local Rules

Tournament season has begun. This is a good time to look at our local rules. It is perfectly acceptable to use rules to your advantage. Years ago, Tiger Woods found his ball behind a 1000lb boulder during a tournament. The rule states that you can move a rock if it is not embedded. This boulder was not embedded and ten fans helped move it for him. Stupid, but perfectly within the rules. (Sadly, I don't think I have 10 friends that would move a 30lb rock for me). But you need to know the rules in order to use them. The following are SAWGA local rules. They are briefly explained here. You can go to your Handbook for full explanations.

- ❖ **E-3 Preferred Lies:** This is only at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. If implemented, you may mark your ball, lift, clean and then place it within one club length no closer to the hole. Fairway only.
- ❖ **E-4 Aeration Holes:** Free relief from aeration holes is available only in the fairway or on the green.
- ❖ **E-5 Lost Ball or Out-of-Bounds:** You may drop another ball two club lengths in the fairway across from where your ball is lost or out-of-bounds. Two stroke penalty.
- ❖ **F-5 Sprinkler Head Near Green:** Free relief if you want to putt instead of chip. Sprinkler head must be in your line of play, within two club lengths of the green and your ball must be within two club lengths of the sprinkle head.
- ❖ **G-8 Audio Devices:** Not allowed if any playing partner objects and cannot be golf-related.
- ❖ **Tree Roots:** Free relief in the fairway only.
- ❖ **Unmarked Ground Under Repair (GUR):** When course is not marked, you may ask your playing partners for relief. All must agree. If not in agreement, take a picture, play two balls and ask for ruling when round is complete.

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- ❖ **Blue Stakes:** Tamaya #3. This is a “No Play Zone” by the maintenance shack. You must take one club free relief into the rough.
- ❖ **Maintenance Paths:** Star 9 dirt path along right is not considered a cart path. No Relief.

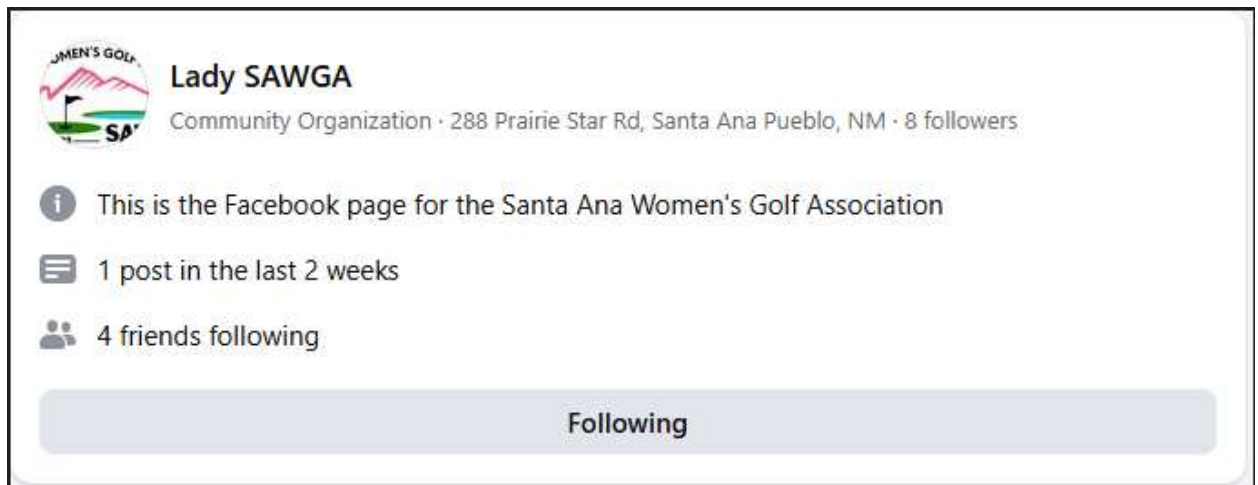
That’s it. Know the rules. Use them. Thank me later.

FORE!!

We have created a Lady SAWGA Facebook page! Please be our friend. All you need to do is type in the search bar “Lady SAWGA” and the page will pop up. It will look like this



Select the page and then hit “Follow” (It says “following” because I have already followed the page”)



We will be posting about upcoming tournaments, pictures, and other events that are happening within the SAWGA community. If you have pictures that you would like us to share on the page, please email them to Bethany at Bethany.wells970@gmail.com. If you don’t want to be featured on the Facebook page, please let us know!

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Ask Betty Birdie

Dear Betty Birdie,

Long before I started playing golf, I watched it on TV, carefully observing the players' etiquette on the course. I consider myself a student of the game and that's how I want to play. So why do my playing partners roll their eyes and keep telling me that "we are playing ready golf"? I am ready. I just don't know what that means. Help!

Sincerely, Ready to Rock and Roll

Dear Ready,

First of all, PLEASE do not emulate those pro golfers and their 5½ hour rounds. You are playing with ladies who need to pick up their kids at school, stop at the bank to cover yesterday's check or go to the grocery store so they can cook for the old fart. We play ready golf so we can make the rest of our lives manageable.

Ready golf is OUR etiquette, and we are proud of it. If you are ready to hit, it's your turn. If your partner has stopped the cart to hit, get out and walk to your ball. Line up your putt while others are putting. Continue putting when feasible. Put your club away and mark your score after you drive away. Let walkers use the bathrooms first. Shorter hitters tee off first. Watch other players' balls and help look for them. Don't tell stories on the tee box.

Please know that ready golf is different than speed golf. Ready golf entails common sense and a desire to make the round fun for everyone. Please disregard all of this if you are in a match play round. There you must play by the normal rules, and we do have a courtesy that lets whoever had a birdie on the previous hole go first on the next tee box. (If you remember).

Happy golfing,
Betty Birdie

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19th Hole

- ❖ The Rules We Live by Column will explain a rule every month. If you wish to see a certain rule discussed, email it to us! Please know that we are not using official USGA language in our explanations.
- ❖ Need Betty's advice? Submit questions to LadySAWGA@gmail.com
- ❖ Upcoming events for March
 - Wednesday 3/11: 2-Person Las Vegas Scramble
 - Saturday 3/21: Individual Stroke Play
 - Wednesday 3/25: Lady Niners
- ❖ If you need help with the rules, please download the "USGA Rules of Golf" app. Or search online for different quick reference guides that you can keep in your golf bag. It is okay to ask for help with the rules, but it is also important to know all your options, and by knowing the rules you not only help yourself, but it helps your playing partners too!

Happy golfing!

-SAWGA Board