

# **Habersham Creek Golf Club (HCGC) Rules and Regulation 2026**

## **1. HCGC Membership and Board of Directors**

The HCGC rules and regulations for calendar year 2026 regarding membership, dues, team game scoring, tournament scoring, and Hole-in-One Club are as follows:

The HCGC Board of Directors must be elected annually. The Board of Directors for 2026 was elected at the Annual Meeting on December 16, 2025.

The HCGC Board of Directors consists of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, GHIN Administrator, and Scheduler. Any current HCGC member in good standing may be nominated, elected, and serve in any Board of Directors position. Current Board of Directors members are:

President – Olivier Gindraux  
Vice-President – Joe Leckemby  
Treasurer - Dan Mullin  
GHIN Administrator - Dave Wanthal  
Scheduler - Don Meyer

HCGC members pay annual dues currently set at \$50. Dues must be paid to the Treasurer no later than January 7, 2026. Failure to pay the annual dues will result in the removal of the member from the HCGC and removal from the GHIN system.

As a direct result of the growth of Habersham and the HCGC, the number of non-Habersham members will continue to be limited to 10. As of December 15, 2025, there are 10 non-Habersham HCGC members. A Habersham member is any member who currently lives (either owns or rents) in Habersham **OR** previously lived in Habersham **AND** was a club member while living there. A non-Habersham member is defined as any member who has never lived in Habersham **OR** if he did, was not a club member when living there.

## **2. HCGC Games**

- A. A golf game will be set up for each golfing date with an individual entry fee of \$5. The game rules and money distribution will be determined by the “Gamer” for

that day's round. The Gamer will be either a member of, or designated by, the Board of Directors prior to the day of the game.

- B. Participation in the day's game will further be governed by the Tee It Forward initiative adopted by the club Board of Directors in October 2021 and states that for all future club sanctioned play, including tournament play at Parris Island (PI):
  - a. A member may elect, at his discretion, to move forward to the green tees at PI, regardless of his age, GHIN index, or actual handicap from the gold tees.
  - b. If a member has a GHIN handicap (handicap, not index) from the gold tees of 25 or higher, he **should** move up to the green tees.
  - c. Any member playing from the green tees who lowers his GHIN index sufficiently to lower his gold tee handicap below 25 may elect to move back to the gold tees or remain at the greens.
  - d. Should a member who **should** move to the green tees choose to play from the gold tees, he may do so but would be ineligible to participate in the day's game or tournament.
  - e. When HCGC plays away from PI, reasonable and appropriate adjustments will be made for each day's game and members will be advised of such adjustments prior to that day's game.
- C. While recognizing the maximum GHIN handicap is 54, the maximum allowable handicap for HCGC games is **30**.
- D. In each game, a player must record his actual score (or estimated score if he picks up). For posting scores in GHIN, however, the maximum score allowed on any hole is a net double bogey. Members should **always** post their scores in GHIN to ensure accurate handicaps are used in daily games.
- E. In addition to normal HCGC daily games, there will be established tournament games with separate or additional entry fees.

### **3. Rules for Play**

- A. HCGC follows USGA rules, including the three (3) minute limit searching for a lost ball. But there are a number of "local rules" and/or recommendations for player safety and to help the pace of play, as follows:
  - a. When putting, (non-tournament rounds only), if your ball is "inside the

leather”, it’s considered “good”, you may pick up. “Inside the leather” is defined as the distance from the bottom of the grip to the head of the putter.

- b. If your shot would result in you hitting a tree root or embedded rock, you may roll the ball to the nearest safe area with no penalty.
- c. You may “roll” the ball in the fairway no nearer the hole. This is allowed **only on the fairway of the hole being played** and **is not** allowed off the fairway.
- d. Balls can be “picked and cleaned” in the fairway due **only** to weather conditions. This option will be declared by the Gamer on the day of play. This option **does not** apply for balls off the fairway.
- e. If a ball is hit into the woods and is lost or unplayable, a player has three (3) options, **each incurring a 1 shot penalty**:
  - i. Go to the point where the ball crossed into the woods and drop two (2) club lengths, no nearer the hole;
  - ii. OR draw a line from the hole to where the ball last crossed into the woods. Drop the ball anywhere behind that point, keeping the point between you and the hole.
  - iii. OR replay the shot from the original position.
- f. Play “ready golf” unless your shot disrupts or distracts another player.
- g. When putting, you are encouraged to finish out the hole rather than marking your ball unless doing so distracts another player or causes you to stand in another player’s line.
- h. If a member of your group hits a ball into the woods or a penalty area, hit your next shot and then help him search for his ball.
- i. When playing a team game, if you know your score will not be counted, you may pick up and realistically estimate your score on that hole for GHIN posting purposes.

#### 4. Rules for Tournament Play

- A. USGA rules and HCGC “local rules” still apply in the Club Championship **except** there is **no “inside the leather” rule** while putting. All putts must be holed.

- B. There is also no “inside the leather” rule in Match Play or Ryder Cup matches. All putts must be holed unless conceded by an opposing player. Once a putt is conceded, it must be picked up.
- C. To be eligible to compete in the HCGC Club Championship, a member must have played in a minimum of 10 club sponsored games **and** posted their resulting scores in GHIN.
- D. As set forth above under **HCGC Games**, the Tee It Forward initiative applies in all tournaments.

## 5. Hole In One Club

- A. All HCGC members who are current with their annual dues may elect to participate in the Hole In One (HIO) Club. Participation requires registration with the club Treasurer and an initial entry fee of \$10. The initial HIO entry fee for a new or returning member may be greater than \$10 based upon B.(ii) below. That member is then eligible to win the existing HIO “pot balance” if he makes a hole in one during an HCGC sponsored round. A sponsored round is defined as one scheduled/organized and sanctioned by the Board of Directors. HCGC sponsored round/events are:
  - (1) Tuesday and Thursday HCGC scheduled outings
  - (2) Annual Club Championship
  - (3) Individual Match Play rounds
  - (4) 2 Man Match Play rounds
  - (5) Ryder Cup Match rounds
  - (6) Scheduled outings for members not participating/ineligible to play in the Championship or Match Play events.

Any additions to the list of HCGC sponsored events must be approved by the Board of Directors and then communicated to the club membership prior to said event.

- B. To remain eligible to win the HIO “pot balance”, each HIO Club member must pay an additional \$10 to the club Treasurer upon one of the following events:
  - (i) A hole in one is made by an HIO Club member; or
  - (ii) The anniversary of the last hole in one recorded by an HIO member.

(iii) As referenced in 5.A. above, a member may elect to join the HIO club at any time. If joining more than a year after the last HIO was recorded, in addition to his \$10 entry fee, he must “catch up” by paying \$10 for each year missed.

C. Should an HCGC member record a hole in one in a club sponsored round, and he is not an HIO Club member in good standing, he is ineligible to win the “pot balance.” “In good standing” is defined as current with the club Treasurer for HIO fees **AND** HCGC annual dues.