

# **LAMBDA LINKS CLUB BY-LAWS**

## **Article I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Lambda Links Golf Club (herein called the "Club").

## **Article II - PURPOSES**

First: To stimulate interest in golf by bringing together a group of people desirous of forming a golf organization for the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community in the Washington DC metro area.

Second: To promote and foster among its members a closer bond and camaraderie for their joint and mutual benefit, and to promote and conserve the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions.

Third: To maintain a uniform system of handicapping as set forth in the regulations of the United States Golf Association.

Fourth: To afford a convenient and authoritative body to govern Club tournaments and other activities.

## **Article III - MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership shall be available to all persons 18 years of age or older.

Section 2. Memberships are individual and non-transferable.

Section 3. Annual dues are due by April 1<sup>st</sup> each calendar year, covering activities from April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, or they are due by August 1<sup>st</sup>, covering activities from August 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Information on how to pay dues will be provided to members at the start of the season, or they may be paid in person at the first activity a member participates in, whenever that may be.

Section 4. Club membership will entitle members to the following:

- Full voting rights on Club matters.
- Priority access to tee times for Club events.
- Eligibility for an official USGA handicap through the Club, as a member of a sanctioned USGA golf club.

Section 5. The Club Officers by unanimous vote may confer honorary memberships upon those whom they feel have contributed to the advancement of golf and/or the Club.

Section 6. The acceptance of membership in this Club shall bind each member to uphold the provisions of these By-laws, to abide by all the conditions, rules, and regulations of this Club, and to accept and enforce all rules and decisions of the Club Officers or any of its committees acting within its jurisdiction.

Section 7. In the event any member of this organization shall commit any act which reflects discredit or disrepute thereon or shall refuse or neglect to comply with the rules and regulations adopted by the Club, such member shall be subject to fines, suspension, or expulsion after fifteen (15) days written notice from the Club President. The member may submit a written statement to the Club Officers regarding the proposed action not less than five

(5) days before the effective date of the proposed expulsion, suspension, or termination and request a hearing. The Club Officers will convene a hearing within 30 days of the request and decide by a majority vote how to proceed with the case. A suspended regular member shall not be entitled to exercise any of his/her voting rights set forth in Article V.

#### **Article IV - CLUB OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Club Officers shall consist of five Club members in good standing. They shall exercise all powers of the Club.

Section 2. The officers shall consist of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President for Activities, Secretary, and Treasurer. Their duties shall be such as their title would indicate or such as may be assigned to them respectively from time to time, though their duties will include these outlined as follows:

- Duties of the President will include:
  - Presiding at all Club meetings.
  - Enforcing Club rules and regulations.
  - Overseeing formation of ad hoc and permanent committees, such as a tournament committee, a By-laws committee, a Gay Pride committee, an outreach committee, an election committee, or a handicap committee, as required.
  - Oversee the implementation of the Club Playing Calendar (see Article IX below).
  - Personally verify the Club's bank balance.
- Duties of the First Vice President will include:
  - Performing duties as President in the absence of the President.
  - Work with the Second Vice President to organize and look after the committees.
- Duties of the Second Vice President for Activities will include:
  - Encouraging and overseeing social Club activities.
  - Working with the First Vice President to organize and look after the committees.
- Duties of the Secretary will include:
  - Overseeing membership records, including updates and additions for new members.
  - Keeping minutes of Club meetings.
  - Handling correspondence for Club.
  - Maintaining Club web pages and email lists.
- Duties of the Treasurer will include:
  - Establishing an account in the name of the Club, with the signatures of at least two officers needed for withdrawals.
  - Accounting for all receipts and disbursements.
  - Maintaining detailed financial statements that are updated at the start and end of Club season.
  - Creating and submitting a Club budget before the start of the Club season, and making any revisions as necessary prior to adoption by the Club Officers.

Section 3. The term of office for all Club Officers shall be one year, starting February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Section 4. Any Club Officer may be removed, either with or without cause, by a vote of two-thirds of the Club membership. Any such removal shall be without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the Officer.

Section 5. In the case of any vacancy through death, resignation, disqualification or other cause, the Club Officers shall appoint someone to serve the remainder of the term.

Section 6. Election of officers shall be by written ballot unless an oral vote is agreed by a majority of those present at the meeting. Those names receiving the plurality of votes cast by those present at the meeting, in person or by proxy, shall be declared to be elected. The Officers shall seek volunteers and may appoint an election committee to supervise the election. Such committee will not include any candidates in the election to be supervised.

Section 7. The Club Officers may set meetings at such times and places as they may select and a majority of Club Officers present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. All meetings shall be open to all members. Club Officers present shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 8. The Club Officers shall review and approve by majority vote the previous year's record of revenues and expenditures, as presented by the Club Treasurer. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Club Officers also shall approve by majority vote a budget for the next year, as proposed by the Club Treasurer and amended by the Club Officers. Club fees, dues, and penalties (Article V) shall be decided as elements of next year's budget.

#### **Article V – CLUB DUES AND FEES**

Section 1. Membership dues shall be set annually by majority vote of the Club Officers, with the full rate beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> and a partial rate applying to members joining August 1<sup>st</sup> and later in the season, as described in Article III above.

Section 2. A Non-member guest rate may be set annually by a majority vote of the Club Officers. Non-member guests may play with the Club by paying that fee each time they play, which will be collected by the person organizing the event or by another designated member at the course before teeing off. Club Officers may establish a policy for guest fee waivers each season as part of the budget.

Section 3. Penalties for late payment of dues, excessive cancellation of tee time reservations, infractions of the Club By-laws, and other violations may be set annually by a majority vote of the Club Officers.

#### **Article VI - TOURNAMENTS**

The Club shall conduct tournaments as determined by the Club Officers and Tournament Committee. Tournaments shall be held in a manner; at places; and under rules, regulations and procedures prescribed by the Club Officers and/or Tournament Committee. Prizes or trophies may be awarded to successful contestants in any such event.

#### **Article VII - AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

Section 1. The Club Officers shall have the power to repeal or amend any of these by-laws, by a two-thirds majority vote, provided that such action shall not be effective until approved by a majority vote of the members present at the next Club member meeting. The next meeting may be the annual meeting as described in Article VIII or a meeting called by majority vote of the Club Officers for any purpose.

## **Article VIII – ANNUAL CLUB MEETING**

Section 1. There shall be at least one general Club meeting (herein called the “Annual Meeting”), presided over by the President, and arranged by the Club Officers. Fifteen percent of the membership during the previous year shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting, whether present in person or by proxy. Members may vote at the meeting or by a proxy submitted prior to the meeting.

Section 2. The purpose of the Annual Meeting includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Election of Club Officers following Article IV, Section 6.
- Review of the previous year’s actual revenues and expenditures, and presentation of the current year’s budget, as approved by the Club Officers (Article IV, Section 8).
- To elicit from the membership suggestions for activities and committees during the upcoming season.

Section 3. Members will be informed in advance of the Annual Meeting agenda. Meeting minutes will be made available within one month after the meeting.

Section 4. In addition, as set forth in Article IV, Section 7, the Club Officers may call meetings as needed throughout the year to conduct Club business. Such meetings will be open to any member wishing to participate and to propose new business for the Club Officers to consider. These meetings will be publicized in a timely manner, including the meeting agendas. All business will be conducted by majority vote of the Club Officers present. Members may also present ideas for new business via email or other means. Such suggestions will be noted along with their discussion in the Meeting minutes.

## **Article IX – CLUB TEE RESERVATION AND PLAYING POLICIES**

Section 1. The Club Officers will establish a Playing Calendar for at least one month in advance. It will list upcoming Club playing dates, including Point of Contact information, course names, their locations, and other logistical details. This calendar will be posted on the Club web page and/or distributed to members by other means.

Section 2. Each Club golf play date will have a designated Point of Contact. This person is responsible to set up dates and starting times with the golf course, receive reservations from the players, organize the playing groups, and maintain good relations between the Club and the courses that host its events. Specifically:

- The Point of Contact will announce the final pairings prior to the event and will provide adequate advance notice to the golf course of the final numbers.
- The Point of Contact will be present at the event at least one hour prior to the first starting time to coordinate with the course and resolve problems that come up as the Club’s tee times approach.
- The Point of Contact will collect fees from guests and event fees from members (or designate someone else to do so).
- It is good practice for the Point of Contact to play in the last group, to make sure all players have the Point of Contact’s phone number, and to have contact details for all players.
- The Club seeks to maintain good relations with courses hosting its events. The Point of Contact is the Club’s primary Ambassador to the host course at each event.

All members are encouraged to volunteer as Points of Contact; in the absence of volunteers, the Club Officers will be responsible for this role.

Section 3. Club members may reserve tee-time slots for themselves on a first-come, first-served basis at [lambdalinks.com](http://lambdalinks.com). Guests may reserve tee-time slots also, but members will have first priority. Guests who have reserved a tee-time slot may be removed by the Point of Contact from the playing roster to accommodate Club members and will be informed if this happens.

Section 4. Club Members may generally cancel reservations for tee slots up until the Wednesday prior to a weekend event without justification. Shorter notice may be permissible in an emergency, at the discretion of the Point of Contact. If the course requires payment for the slot, and a replacement player is not found, then the canceling player is liable. Lambda Links seeks to be a reliable partner for courses hosting its events; members who habitually cancel may have their right to reserve tee-time slots revoked by majority vote of the Club Officers and/or assessed a penalty.

Section 5. People not showing up for their reserved time slots put an undue strain on the organizers, their playing partners, and the host course the day of play. Often, they are wasting a spot someone else would have taken if it had been made available. Any player who fails to cancel and does not show up for his or her tee time will forfeit the right to reserve tee times in advance for a period determined, case by case, by a majority of Club Officers and may be penalized according to Article V, Section 3. No-shows are always liable for prepaid green fees. If the right to reserve tee times in advance is removed, he or she may still have an option to play by asking to be contacted the morning of play by the Point of Contact in case a spot becomes available.

Section 6. Unless otherwise stated by the Point of Contact on the Club web page, players should arrive at least 30 minutes before their tee time, check in at the course and pay the greens fees, check in with the starter, alert the Point of Contact of their arrival, and pay any additional fees to the Point of Contact that are required by the Club for that outing. This is standard practice at most golf courses. Groups may go off earlier than the scheduled tee time, so it is important to be ready in advance. It is distracting for the Point of Contact, playing partners, and the starter to search for straggling players. Players who are late may be reshuffled into later groups, or if very late may even lose their slots completely, at the discretion of the Point of Contact and the starter.

Section 7. Occasionally there may be a waiting list. Players on the waiting list should check with the Point of Contact 24 hours prior to the tee time to check their status. Wait list players may also be contacted by the Point of Contact when a spot opens up and should make an effort to confirm their participation as soon as possible.

## **Article X – PLAYING GUIDELINES**

To keep the game an enjoyable experience for everyone, listed below are guidelines on etiquette and pace of play that should be followed by all Club members.

- Care of the course: rake traps, replace divots (the clump of sod) after hitting, repair ball marks on greens (yours and another is good), don't drag or twist feet on greens, lay down and replace flag carefully to not damage green or hole.
- Safety: be careful when swinging clubs, don't stand too close to others hitting, don't hit until everyone is out of the way, be cognizant of others hitting and balls flying, be sure nearby playing partners are aware that you are going to hit the ball, yell "fore" if anyone is in the path of a ball (yours or another one).
- Courtesy:
  - Don't move, talk, or stand too closely or directly behind someone as they hit or putt.

- Don't step on someone's putting line, and keep your shadow off of the putting line and hole.
- Pace of Play:
  - Be ready to play when it is your turn: club in hand, addressing the ball, with conversation ceased.
  - Play "Ready Golf": Agree with your playing partners on the first tee that your group will play ready golf. Then, if the player with the honor or farthest from the hole is not ready to play, and you are, declare that you are ready and proceed to play if you can do so safely. This approach can speed up play particularly around the green, playing up as others walk to their balls or holing out putts while others prepare to putt. Be sure to communicate what you are doing to your playing partners, and proceed. Continuous putting instead of marking and remarking your ball can save a lot of time. Go ahead and hole out if you want. Contrary to popular belief, only in the seldom-played Match Play game is there a penalty for hitting out of order.
  - "Double Par" maximum score is a common practice. When better than double par on a hole is no longer possible, pick up your ball and wait until next hole. For example, after 7 strokes on a par 4 and the ball is still not in the hole, take an 8 as the score, pick up your ball, and continue play at the next tee. Be sure to communicate to your playing partners what you are doing so they stop waiting for you to play. This procedure is formalized for those keeping USGA handicaps, via Equitable Stroke Control. There is always a maximum score on each hole that can be reported for handicaps, as follows:

<b>Course Handicap</b>	<b>Maximum Score</b>
<b>0-9</b>	Double Bogey
<b>10-19</b>	7
<b>20-29</b>	8
<b>30-39</b>	9
<b>40 or more</b>	10

- Exit the green quickly after finishing the hole. Park the cart on the side or behind green, in the direction of next tee. Write scores at next tee, not on green.
- Always keep up with group in front of you. When you get to a par 3, the group in front of you should at most be leaving the green or just arriving on the next tee, otherwise you are behind and need to catch up.
- "Gimmes" are a good way to speed up play. Putts that are within a couple of feet may be assumed to be made, and hence need not be putted. Consider skipping putting on a hole if the group is way behind – everyone just takes two putts and moves on.