

**BY-LAWS of the
LAMBDA LINKS GOLF CLUB**
(updated March 2022)

Article I - NAME

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

Article II - PURPOSES

- To stimulate interest in golf by bringing together a group of people desirous of forming a golf organization for the LGBTQ+ community in the Washington, DC, metro area.
- 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.
- To maintain a uniform system of handicapping as set forth in the regulations of the United States Golf Association.
- 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 (see Article V) for current members are due by April 1st each calendar year and payment confers membership for the annual golf season (April 1 – October 31) and through March 31 the following year. The Club welcomes new members at any time and membership is conferred upon payment of annual dues.

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

- Full voting rights on Club matters;
- Priority notice and access to tee times for Club events; and
- Eligibility for an official USGA handicap paid for and provided 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.

Section 7. In the event any Club member shall commit any act which reflects discredit or disrepute thereon or shall violate, refuse or neglect to comply with the purposes, guidelines, rules and regulations adopted by the Club, such member shall be subject to warnings, fines, suspension, or expulsion as determined appropriate by a majority of the Club Officers. The Officers' decision for fines, suspensions and expulsions shall be provided in writing and will be effective immediately or after fifteen (15) days notice from the Club President, depending on the nature of the offense. The member may submit a written appeal, which may include a request for a hearing, to the Club Officers within two weeks of the date of the written notice. The Club Officers will convene (and hold a hearing if requested) within 30 days of the request and decide the matter by a majority vote and notify the member of their decision in writing. 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, duly elected Club members in good standing. They shall exercise all powers of the Club and have authority to convene meetings of the Club members.

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); and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- 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 the Club; and

- 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; and
- Creating and submitting a Club budget before the start of the Club season.

Section 3. The term of office for all Club Officers shall be one year.

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 meet at such times and places as they may select to discuss and carry out their duties and manage Club business. However, no action requiring attendance of or a vote of the membership can be concluded at such meetings. A majority of Club Officers present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

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 ANNUAL DUES AND FEES

Section 1. Membership dues shall be set annually by majority vote of the Club Officers.

Section 2. Annual dues for current members are due by April 1 in order to sustain the uninterrupted benefits of the member conferred by these By-Laws. Information on how to pay dues will be provided to current members before the start of the season and be paid by such means as the Club Officers direct. Digital payment is the preferred payment method. The Club Officers may set a pro-rated amount for annual dues for new members

joining later in the annual golf season.

Section 3. A non-member fee may be set annually by a majority vote of the Club Officers. Non-members may play with the Club by paying that fee each time they play, preferably prior to the event via digital payment. Otherwise the fee will be collected by the person organizing the event or by another designated member at the course before teeing off. Club Officers may establish the amount and policies for payment and waivers of non-member fees, including special waivers for non-members playing as a one-time guest of a member, as part of the annual budget.

Section 4. Excessive cancellation of tee time reservations is considered an infraction of the Club By-laws and is subject to the provisions of Article III; Section 7.

Article VI - TOURNAMENTS

The Club may conduct tournaments as determined by the Club Officers, including a Club Championship. Tournaments shall be held in a manner; at places; and under rules, regulations and procedures prescribed by the Club Officers. Prizes or trophies may be awarded to successful contestants in any such event. In order to compete for prizes or trophies, participants must be club members in good standing with a valid handicap. The officers shall require members to have played a minimum number of regular events during the playing year to qualify for prizes or trophies at a Club Championship. The officers shall provide timely notice to members and post the requirement on the Club website.

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); and
- 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 the Club Officers may call membership 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 (or a designee) who may be any Club member in good standing. 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. 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 Tuesday 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 be assessed a penalty under Article III; Section 7.

Section 5. People not showing up for their reserved time slots put an undue strain on the Club organizers and Point of Contact, as well as their playing partners. More importantly, they can cause direct loss of revenue to the host course and damage Club relations with our host courses, including the Club's ability to book future events. 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 III, Section 7. 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. Repeated failure to comply with these guidelines may be deemed a violation under Article III, Section 7.

- 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.

- **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.
- **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.
- For both handicap and pace of play purposes the Club follows the USGA guidelines for maximum score on a hole. Once you reach a NET double bogie, please pick up your ball and continue play on the next hole.
- 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.
- With the exception of certain tournaments, "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.