Greetings to Fellow Competitors for 2016!

Our membership and participation continue to grow and we are anticipating another successful and exciting year. This past summer the CKSMGA provided over $50,000 in payments to our local courses, so we continue to be a major economic force in Central Kentucky, as well as an outstanding recreational and social organization. We should be justifiably proud of our contribution to the area.

The time has come again to renew memberships for the next season. You may enter online beginning immediately, or, alternatively, you may use the enclosed membership renewal form or booklet. Note that for the 25th year, the membership fee has not changed! We continue to work hard to provide you the best service and product for your dues and entry fees by keeping expenses at a minimum and by looking for better efficiency, since costs per item keep rising.

Please enter online or return the completed membership form ASAP, and by no later than February 15th to insure your inclusion on the roster for the coming year. At that time, we will extend invitations to those individuals on the waiting list to fill out our membership, so be sure you get in under the wire.

This year, most policies and procedures will be exactly the same as last year, with groupings and playing days remaining the same. HiGroup (HANDICAP 17 AND ABOVE) will play on Mondays and LoGroup (LESS THAN 17) will play on Tuesdays in every tournament and we will again have Super Senior flights each day. Most players will play on the same day on which they played last year, and EACH PLAYER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING HIS HANDICAP.

We will have one venue change this year. We will play Longview CC in place of Tates Creek in response to member suggestions. We will have three 2-man team tournaments (two better-ball and a shamble). The complete schedule for next year is enclosed.

The spring kickoff luncheon will take place at the Crowne Plaza/Campbell House on Monday, April 18th. The cost will be $16 per person, the same as last year, and members are encouraged to bring their spouses or other guests. Please mark this date on your calendar. The registration form for the luncheon is included with the membership renewal form (again, sign up on line for simplicity and ease). Please do not misplace it, and send it in as soon as you know you will be attending. Luncheon attendance is limited by available space to the first 140 who register. New hats will be provided to all members.

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PO Box 4054
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More and more members are entering our events on line. We encourage everyone to get on board (perhaps enlisting the help of a grandchild if necessary – a fun way to do it!). It’s also money and effort saving for both you and CKSMGA.  **IMPORTANT NOTICE!** Each year, a weather event or scheduling difficulty may arise on the spur of the moment that is beyond our control as has happened in the past. Notifying all 250 members individually by mail or phone is not possible in a short time span. An announcement will be posted on the website as soon as a decision is made, and the course will have the information by phone. **INDIVIDUAL NOTIFICATIONS WILL BE DONE BY EMAIL. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL, OR DO NOT PROVIDE US WITH AN EMAIL ADDRESS WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS WITH A MEMBER WHOM YOU KNOW TO CONTACT YOU IN THE EVENT SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS FORTHCOMING.**

Again, you may enter tournaments in three ways – the included entry form (which you may copy or download from the website as needed), on-line at www.CKSMGA.com and pay with a credit card, or using the enclosed individual Tournament Entry Tickets.

We have some important rule changes for this year, designed to increase the pace of play and make the rounds generally more enjoyable. A copy of the Relaxed Rules of Play is included. Look for more to come on these changes.

This year we welcome a new Board member, Gary Varner. Please welcome and congratulate Gary when you see him. He has already begun to provide additional insights for us in our meetings, and we are very pleased that he agreed to join the Board.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Blackburn, President CKSMGA

ENCLOSURES:

1. Membership renewal form
2. Kickoff Luncheon Reservation Form (return both forms together if you like).
3. 2016 Entry Form/Tournament Schedule – KEEP THIS FORM. Make copies or download additional forms from the website.
4. 2016 Entry Booklet (use as alternate for tournament entries)
5. Relaxed Rules of Play
PACE OF PLAY

All CKSMGA members please read this statement carefully!

There is continually concern regarding the pace of play in the CKSMGA tournaments. The Board regularly receives comments, suggestions, and complaints about it. Pace of play is discussed at length in each board meeting. It is fair to say that we have discussed every suggestion that has ever been forthcoming from members a number of different times, and that it is unlikely that a member could come up with a suggestion that has not already been considered numerous times. Often, comments from members reflect quite opposite views – examples: “I got paired with guys with a higher (or lower) handicap than mine and it isn’t fun to play with someone that is a much weaker (or stronger) player,” while at the same time “we could all play faster if weaker players are paired with stronger player to spread out the slower players.” (The reality is that a number of our slower players are very strong players and some of our weaker players play quickly.)

We have instituted, and will continue to institute rules and guidelines to speed up play, but these steps can only have limited efficacy. Previously enacted rule changes include: (1) all lost balls and out-of-bounds balls are played as hazards, with a one stroke penalty and dropping near the spot, (2) improving lie one club length (3) maximum score of triple bogey on a hole. Rule changes this year that should speed up play are (4) when dropping a ball under rule one above, it may be dropped in the fairway, rather than in the high grass where it was lost. (5) putts “in the leather” may be picked up and considered made putts. (This new rule will be discussed at the start of each tournament.) Note that none of these rules are rules common to most tournament, but most are listed in the USGA “Rules for Relaxed Play” to enhance enjoyment of a round.

Other less obvious things the Board does is to give each and every club Pro guidelines we prefer as to total yardages for each set of tees, as well as providing them pairings in advance and starting tee positions that will insure faster players can finish earlier so that the scores can be posted and winners determined, while the slower players are finishing. We also suggest pairing as threesomes when useful, to help keep a good pace of play. (Note that the club Pros have the final say on these issues and sometimes do not implement our suggestions, which we cannot do anything about.)

This organization was formed to provide enjoyable tournament venues for senior players of all abilities, and it has fulfilled that goal for some 25 years. We plan to continue this. We will not exclude any members on the basis of age or handicap and we continue to invite new golfers meeting our stated guidelines. (Some of you remember that a blind golfer won a closest-to-the-pin prize several years ago. What a great thing to have happen in one of our tournaments!)

Finally, tournament play is slower than normal play. It has always been so and will be so. Average handicaps in our Monday groups total about 105 per foursome, and our Tuesday groups about 38 per foursome. Note that a Monday foursome playing to their handicaps will average almost 4 strokes more per hole, resulting in significantly time to play the hole.

Also, complaining will not speed up play. Play in CKSMGA may well be slower than in your normal rounds, but that is the price for playing in an organization like this, so plan ahead to try and enjoy a leisurely round. If you cannot accept this, then perhaps you need to find another venue for your tournament play. The majority of players are enjoying the outing. (See back for Suggestions for Improving Pace of Play).
SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING PACE OF PLAY
(In addition to our relaxed rules of play)

- Play “ready golf.” If you are not close to another player and there is no danger, hit your shot rather than wait for another player to play.
- If a player has hit his ball into high grass and you are in the fairway, take your shot before going to help him find his ball. This saves a great deal of time in the long run, from walking all over the hole.
- Limit your search for a lost ball to what the rules of golf allow: ONLY 5 MINUTES. Everyone in a foursome is responsible for enforcing this rule.
- The cart driver should proceed to the rider’s ball, then go to his ball and the two meet after their shots. If the Driver’s ball is significantly shorter than the rider’s ball the driver should get out and allow the rider to take the cart on to his ball, unless it is in the path of the driver’s shot.
- Scores should be recorded AT THE NEXT TEE rather than while sitting at the green you just finished.
- As good and funny as your “stories” are, you need to limit storytelling or general discussion on the tee box.