

Shennecossett Women's Golf

Association Handbook

2026



Shennecossett was founded in 1898 as a four-hole golf course and was enlarged to 18 holes a few years later. In 1916 the famous golf course architect, Donald Ross, redesigned the course to his signature and challenging specifications.

New holes were created in 1997 with a land swap with Pfizer.

Shennecossett is a public municipal course located at 93 Plant Street, Groton, CT.

Table of Contents

- Welcome
 - 2025 Club Champion, Medalist, and Finalist
 - SWGA Executive Board
 - 2026 SWGA Standing Committees
 - Other Committees
- SWGA Membership
 - Levels of Membership
 - Meetings
- Slack
- Bulletin Board
- Sunshine
- Rules of Golf
- Ladies Day
 - 18 or 9 Holes
 - Flights
 - Day and Start Time
 - Sign Up and Groupings
 - Rain Policy
 - Scoring and Scorecards
 - Posting Scores
 - Chip-ins, Birdies, Closest the Pin on Par 3's
 - Winnings
- Competitions, Events and Tournaments
 - Ringers Tournament
 - Major Tournaments
 - Tournament Requirements
 - Scoring and Scorecards
- Pace of Play
- Grievances
- SWGA By-laws
- Calendars
- Appendix:
 - A. SWGA Membership Options & SWGA Membership Application
 - B. SWGA Season Calendar 2026
 - C. USGA/SWGA Golf Rules Guide- 2026

Welcome

The Shennecossett Women's Golf Association (SWGA) is an active league of approximately 60 members who play the game of golf for both enjoyment and friendly competition and is

recognized as one of the most welcoming and active women’s golf leagues in eastern Connecticut and western Rhode Island. The SWGA By-laws, updated and approved in 2025, govern the organization, standards, and rules of the league, and all members are expected to have a copy. The SWGA Handbook is updated annually and serves as a supplemental guide to league policies, procedures, and seasonal information.

2025 Club Champion

Renee Davis – 2025 Club Champion and Medalist

Jessica Hewitt– 2025 Finalist

2026-2027 Executive Board

Madeline Illinger	President, Shoreline Chair
Lawry O’Connell	Vice-President, Tournament Co-Chair
Diana Artiles	Secretary, Travel Golf Chair
Dawn Barrasso	Treasurer, Charitable Events Chair
Marie Shaw	Past President, Volunteer Coordination Chair
Cindy Lathrop	Handicap Chair
Mary Fluet	Ladies Day Chair
Margaret Hirsch	Tournament & Tech. Admin. Co-Chair
Ann Kearney	Social Chair
Karen Ciccone	Member-Guest Chair
Marcia Peterson	Technology Administration Co-Chair
Kathy Racette	Ambassador Chair

2026 Standing Committees

Committee	Chair
Tournament Co-Chairs	Lawry O’Connell, Margaret Hirsch
Handicap	Cindy Lathrop
Social	Ann Kearney
Ladies Day	Mary Fluet
Member-Guest	Karen Ciccone
Grievance	Madeline Illinger, Lawry O’Connell, Margaret Hirsch
Charitable Events	Dawn Barrasso
Volunteer Coordination	Marie Shaw
Technology Administration	Marcia Peterson, Margaret Hirsch
Travel Golf	Diana Artiles

Other:

Sunshine	Madeline Illinger
Ambassador	Kathy Racette
Shoreline	Madeline Illinger

SWGA Membership

SWGA welcomes both returning and new members. Memberships are valid for one year and must be renewed annually. All SWGA members are required to maintain a current United States Golf Association Golf Handicap Information Network (USGA GHIN) membership, which is included with SWGA dues. GHIN memberships are renewed annually.

USGA GHIN (pronounced “jin”) is the official handicapping service provided by the USGA through authorized associations and clubs. It maintains each member’s Handicap Index, which the USGA defines as “a measurement of a player’s potential ability on a course of standard playing difficulty.” Each member is assigned a unique GHIN Number ID to post scores and access her current index online or through the GHIN mobile app. Members must post scores for all rounds of play, regardless of the course, to ensure an accurate Handicap Index. The Handicap Index is then used to calculate a player’s course handicap based on the difficulty of the course being played.

SWGA Membership Levels

There are two levels of membership available in the Shennecossett Women’s Golf Association (SWGA):

1. SWGA Membership

The cost per person for a SWGA Membership for the 2026 season is **\$95.00**, which includes an official USGA GHIN Membership with Handicap. SWGA members who are also season passholders are eligible to participate in weekly Ladies’ Day play, the season-long Ringers Tournament, and all SWGA tournaments, including: Opening Day Tournament, Four Ball Tournament, Handicap Tournament, Senior Tournament (if age-eligible), Club Championship, Member-Guest, President’s Cup, and Closing Day Tournament. SWGA members who are not season passholders may participate in weekly Ladies’ Day play, the season-long Ringers competition, and all SWGA tournaments except for Women’s Club Championship and Senior Women’s Club Championship.

2. USGA GHIN Handicap Membership

The cost per person for a USGA GHIN Handicap Membership is **\$45.00**. Members at this level are not eligible to participate in SWGA events or tournaments, except for the Member-Guest Tournament if invited by a SWGA member. Membership at Shennecossett Municipal Golf Course is not required.

After May 1, 2026, new season passholders of Shennecossett Golf Course who wish to become members of the SWGA and compete but do not have a current established handicap, must:

- Apply for an official USGA GHIN handicap.
- Play and post scores from a total of 54 holes, made up of any combination of 9 or 18-hole rounds.
- Only scores from courses with a valid course rating and slope rating are acceptable for handicap purposes.

Meetings

The annual Spring Meeting shall be held in March or April, and the annual Fall Meeting shall be held in September or October, at times and locations determined by the Board. All members will be notified by email. Special meetings of the SWGA may be called by the President upon request of the Board.

Slack

SWGA uses an online communication platform called Slack. A Slack Handbook is available to assist members who are new to Slack or who would like a refresher. New members will be given access to the SWGA Slack account upon joining. Slack is organized into shared folders, or “channels,” each dedicated to a specific topic. Channels are used for Ladies’ Day sign-ups, tournament information, and other league-related communications. The “general” channel is used for broader member communication, such as announcements and coordinating play on non-league days.

Bulletin Board

There is a bulletin board in the pro shop for posting SWGA news items.

Sunshine

SWGA has a Sunshine Committee that, on behalf of the membership, acknowledges significant life events by sending cards. These may include illness, hospitalization, surgery, the passing of a family member, serious injury, or other circumstances in which a gesture of support is appropriate. Members are encouraged to notify the Sunshine Committee when they become aware of a situation where outreach or recognition may be needed.

Rules of Golf

The USGA Official Rules of Golf shall govern all play, except where modified by Local Rules. Questions regarding the USGA Rules or Local Rules should be directed to the Tournament Committee or the Golf Professional, who will assist in providing clarification or obtaining an official ruling if needed. Any deviations from the Rules of Golf due to extreme weather or course conditions will be determined by the Tournament Committee.

Ladies Day

Ladies’ Day competitions are open to Full members of the SWGA and are held weekly during the league season. Members may compete in **one** Ladies’ Day competition per week, either on Tuesday or on the preceding weekend. Members who choose weekend play may not compete on Tuesday that same week (though they may still play socially), and vice versa.

Members playing their Ladies’ Day competition on the preceding Saturday or Sunday must declare prior to the start of play that the round is for Ladies’ Day competition and must play with at least one other SWGA member who will attest to the score and sign the scorecard. All Ladies’ Day competitions are played from the green tees unless otherwise announced. SWGA members may choose either 9-hole or 18-hole play on Ladies’ Day.

18 or 9 Holes

While SWGA is one league, we recognize that some members prefer the option of playing 9 holes rather than a full 18. To accommodate this preference and maintain flexibility, members may choose each week to play either 18 or 9 holes in the Ladies' Day competition on Tuesday or on the preceding Saturday or Sunday.

Members competing in the 9-hole Ladies' Day competition on the weekend will play holes **#10 through #18** for scoring purposes. This may be subject to change at the discretion of the Golf Professional.

Flights

Once the field has been determined for a given event, players are grouped into flights based on handicap for scoring and payout purposes. To establish a flight for a round of golf, SWGA requires a minimum of **six (6) 18-hole players** using full handicap or a minimum of **three (3) 9-hole players** using half handicap. If the minimum number of players is not met, a flight will not be formed.

Members participating in a Ladies' Day competition, whether played on the weekend or on Tuesday, are placed on appropriate flights each week based on their current handicap. Flights and flight assignments may change from week to week. Winnings are awarded weekly for both gross and net scores to approximately **one-third of the field** within each flight.

Day and Start Time

Members may play in their Ladies' Day competition on the preceding Saturday, Sunday, or on Tuesday morning during the SWGA league season. Players must declare prior to the start of play that the round is their weekly Ladies' Day competition and must play in the presence of at least one other SWGA member who will attest to the score and sign the scorecard. Members playing on Saturday or Sunday are responsible for making their own tee time. If Ladies' Day Tuesday falls on a major holiday, an alternate date will be announced.

18 Holes

The reserved shotgun start time for 18-hole players is **8:00 a.m. on Tuesday**. Players are asked to arrive by **7:30 a.m.** and be ready to play by **7:45 a.m.**

9 Holes

The reserved tee time for 9-hole players is **10:00 a.m.** Players should be ready to play by **9:45 a.m.** The Golf Professional will assign the starting hole, which is typically **Hole #10**, but may be subject to change.

The designated start times are intended to allow 18-hole and 9-hole players to complete their rounds at approximately the same time, encouraging members to gather for lunch following play.

Sign up and Groupings

The Chairperson of the Ladies' Day Standing Committee coordinates weekly groupings and hole assignments. Groupings change from week to week.

Members wishing to participate in Ladies' Day must sign up in Slack by **Sunday** to indicate their intent to play the following Tuesday and whether they will play **18 holes or 9 holes**. Members who choose to play on Saturday or Sunday must indicate the **date of play** in Slack. Members who do not sign up in Slack are assumed not to be participating that week.

The Slack channel used for weekly Ladies' Day sign-up also includes an option for members to indicate whether they plan to **walk or ride**. This information may be used at the Chairperson's discretion when determining weekly groupings.

Rain Policy

Ladies' Day will generally proceed in cases of light or intermittent rain. However, if weather conditions are severe, Ladies' Day may be cancelled or postponed. Members are responsible for checking Slack and/or calling the Pro Shop on 860-448-1867 for updates regarding cancellations or postponements. A decision will be made by 6:45 a.m. and posted on Slack.

If Tuesday play is cancelled, members may arrange their own foursomes and tee times and play on **Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday** of that week. Attested scorecards must be placed in the box under the SWGA bulletin board by **Friday afternoon before the Pro Shop closes**.

Scoring and Scorecards

To maintain an efficient pace of play, gross scores are recorded with a maximum score of 10 on any hole during weekly Ladies' Day competitions, excluding tournaments.

Each group of four players should keep a minimum of **two scorecards**. Both scorecards must be completed, signed, and attested. One scorecard serves as the **official scorecard** and must be placed immediately after play in the scorecard box located in the Pro Shop in front of the SWGA bulletin board. The second scorecard should be retained as a backup.

Posting Scores

All members **must post scores on the day of play for all rounds of play**, regardless of the course, in the USGA GHIN system using their own computer or smartphone device to maintain an accurate Handicap Index. Members are required to **post scores hole-by-hole (not as a total score) in GHIN** to ensure an accurate Handicap Index and Course Handicap.

An exception applies during the **inactive posting season** in certain states. In Connecticut, the posting season closed on **November 15, 2025**, and reopened on **April 1, 2026**. Scores from rounds played in Connecticut and surrounding states during the inactive season must **not** be posted. However, scores played in areas that are in an **active posting season must be posted hole-by-hole**. A state-by-state posting schedule is available from the USGA.

Chip-Ins, Birdies, and Closest to the Pin (Par 3s)

During weekly Ladies' Day competition, chip-ins, birdies (on any hole), and closest-to-the-pin shots (Par 3s only) should be noted on the attested scorecard, including the player's name and hole number.

For **Closest to the Pin on Par 3s**, players should measure from the **edge of the cup** to where the ball from the drive came to rest. Members should then check the Slack channel “**Closest to the Pin**” and record their name, hole number, and measurement if their shot is the closest for that hole. Winners are announced at the end of the season.

Winnings

Ladies’ Day winnings accumulate over the course of the league season and are determined and distributed at the end of the season.

Competitions, Events, and Tournaments

SWGA offers five types of competitions:

1. Opening Day and Closing Day Events
2. Ladies’ Day
3. Ringers
4. Member-Guest
5. Major Tournaments

Ringers Tournament

The Ringers Tournament is open to all SWGA members and runs throughout the season. Rounds must be played with and attested by another SWGA member. Ringers consist of a player’s best score on each of the 18 holes, accumulated over the season. Winners are determined at the end of the season.

Any round played at Shennecossett Golf Course with another SWGA member may be used toward a player’s ringer score. See the **2026 SWGA Tournament Overview** for specific format details.

Major Tournaments

Major tournaments include Four Ball Tournament, Handicap Tournament, Senior Tournament (if age-eligible), Club Championship, and President’s Cup.

A full listing and explanation of each tournament for the 2026 season is available on Slack. Full SWGA members are encouraged to participate in both competition and enjoyment.

Note: A player may not participate in a match play event and a stroke play event simultaneously (for example, Four Ball and President’s Cup may not be played at the same time).

Tournament Requirements

All SWGA major tournaments, or individual flights within a tournament, must have a minimum of six (6) competing members to be considered a valid competition.

To be included in a competition, members must:

- Sign in with the designated person prior to playing
- Have an SWGA member serve as their marker

- Submit a scorecard that is dated and signed by both the player and the marker

The maximum allowable **Handicap Index** for SWGA-sponsored tournaments in 2026 is **40.4** (equivalent to a **43 Home Course Handicap**), unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Committee. Players with a higher index may still compete but will be limited to using a handicap of 43.

Scoring and Scorecards

To maintain an efficient pace of play, the Max 10 format is used for Ladies' Day games, meaning the maximum gross score recorded on any hole is 10.

For major tournaments—including the Handicap Tournament, Four Ball Tournament, Senior Club Championship, Club Championship Qualifying, Club Championship, President's Cup—and for all match play events, **there is no maximum number of strokes per hole.**

Scorecards must be accurately dated, signed by the player, and attested by an SWGA member. Members should refer to the **2026 SWGA Tournament Overview** in the Appendix for any event-specific scorecard instructions.

Pace of Play

1. Play ready golf whenever possible.
2. If there is an open hole in front of your group, your group is likely behind pace.
3. While conditions vary, players should aim to complete:
 - **18 holes** in approximately **four hours**
 - **9 holes** in approximately **two hours**

Grievances

The Grievance Committee—consisting of the President, Vice President, and Tournament Co-Chairs—shall review and resolve all grievances.

SWGA By-laws

[Welcome to the Town of Groton, Connecticut](#)

Calendars

Season calendars and Ladies' Day schedules are available on Slack.

Appendix

Appendix A: Membership Options and Membership Application 2026

Appendix B: SWGA Calendar 2026

Appendix C: USGA/SWGA Golf Rules Guide – 2026

Appendix D: SWGA Tournament Overview - 2026

**Appendix A: Shennecossett Women’s Golf Association (SWGA)
2026 SWGA Membership Option or Handicap Only**

In preparation for the 2026 SWGA season, we offer these options.

Membership Option or Handicap Only:

1. **SWGA Member** – Includes an official handicap. The cost for 2026 is **\$95.00** per member.
2. **Official handicap only** – No participation in SWGA events or competitions. The cost is **\$45.00**.

The fee must be paid in full on or before **May 1, 2026**, by returning previous-year members. Returning SWGA members who fail to pay their membership assessment by May 1st may be charged a special assessment of \$15.00. SWGA members who are season passholders are eligible to play in all events. SWGA members who are not season passholders are eligible to participate in the weekly competitions and limited tournaments (all except Women’s Club Championship and the Senior Women’s Club Championship tournaments). A player who joins after May 1st as a NEW member will pay the full SWGA assessment and be entitled to participate in SWGA events with the season passholder condition described above. Any questions/concerns please contact Madeline Illinger on (860) 510-9254.

Please fill out the application form and return it by May 1, 2026.

Processing time takes up to 2 weeks so plan accordingly.

Make checks payable to SWGA

Mail form and check to:

Dawn Barrasso, Treasurer

7 Spyglass Circle, Groton, CT 06340

Shennecossett Women's Golf Association (SWGA)

Membership Application – 2026 Season

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Alternate Address (if applicable) _____

Alternate Phone (if applicable) _____

Email Address _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: (M/D/YYYY) _____

Select membership type:

_____ **Full Membership (\$95.00)**

_____ **Handicap Only (\$45.00)**

Shennecossett Municipal Golf Course season passholder _____ **Full** _____ **Limited**

_____ **Not a passholder**

New SWGA Members Only: If you have a GHIN Number, enter here: _____

Please fill out the application form with payment and return it by May 1, 2026.

Returning (previous year) SWGA members who fail to pay their membership fee by May 1st may be charged a special assessment fee.

Processing time may take up to 2 weeks so plan accordingly.

Make checks payable to SWGA. (Cash or checks only)

Send this form with your payment to the Treasurer:

Dawn Barrasso, 7 Spyglass Circle, Groton, CT 06340.

**Appendix B: Shennecossett Women's Golf Association
Calendar – Season 2026**

May	Ladies Day Tuesdays Opening Day Scramble	Saturday, May 2, Sunday, May 3* Tuesday, May 5 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, May 12 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, May 19 – 12pm Shotgun followed by Pizza Event Tuesday, May 26 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9)
June	Ladies Day Tuesdays	Tuesday, June 2 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, June 9 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, June 16 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, June 23 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, June 30 – Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9)
July	Ladies Day Tuesdays	Tuesday, July 7 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Thursday, July 16 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, July 21 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, July 28- Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9)
August	Club Champion – 1st round Member Guest Tournament Club Champion – 2nd round Club Champion--Final Ladies Day Tuesdays	Saturday, August 1 – Tee time 8:50 a.m. Tuesday, August 4 (Rain date August 11) Saturday, August 8 – Tee time 8:50 a.m. Sunday, August 9 –Tee time 8:50 a.m. Tuesday, August 11 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, August 18 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, August 25 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9)
September	Ladies Day Tuesdays End of Season Golf & Banquet	Tuesday, September 1 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, September 8 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, September 15 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, September 22 -Tee times 8 a.m. (18); 10 a.m. (9) Tuesday, September 29- 12 pm shotgun followed by Awards Banquet

**On the preceding weekend members may compete in the following Tuesday game if playing with another SWGA member.*