

4 States 4 Play — Rules & Bylaws

Article I — Name & Purpose

1. Name

The name of this organization shall be 4 States 4 Play (“the Group”).

2. Purpose

- To unite a group of golfers across multiple states for friendly competition, camaraderie, and shared experiences.

- To host periodic events, tournaments, matches, and social outings.
- To maintain fair handicaps, standings, and record-keeping.
- To uphold sportsmanship, integrity, and the spirit of golf among members.

Article II — Membership

1. Eligibility

Membership is open to any individual recognized by the Group who ***demonstrates a commitment to the game of golf, integrity, and the spirit of fair competition.***

All members must also agree to abide by the “Rules of Engagement” outlined in Article V, Section 6.

This includes maintaining **a reasonable pace of play**, adhering to all posted rules on the 4 States 4 Play website, and respecting the group’s standards for conduct, competition, and camaraderie.

- Members who consistently violate pace-of-play standards, fail to follow established rules, or disregard tournament etiquette may face disciplinary action, including reassignment to the final group, suspension from events, or removal from the Group.

- As of 2025, the Group will not tolerate incidents that result in course marshal intervention.

2. Handicap Requirement

To ensure fair and competitive play, all members participating in the Annual Golf Trip must maintain an official or verifiable **USGA handicap of 25 or better by November 1, 2025**.

- Members whose handicap exceeds 25 after this date may participate in non-wagered or casual rounds but will be ineligible for any competitions or events during the Annual Golf Trip where money or prizes are involved.

- The Handicap Committee reserves the right to review, verify, and adjust handicaps as necessary prior to the trip.

- Members who do not meet the established handicap requirement by November 1, 2025 will be temporarily restricted from competitive play during the Annual Golf Trip until compliance is achieved.

3. Application & Acceptance

Prospective members must complete a formal interview(play around) with the group, and agree to abide by these by laws, and be approved by the Executive Committee by majority vote.

4. Dues & Fees

Annual dues and event fees shall be determined by the Committee prior to each season and allocated toward tournament operations, prizes, and group activities. These Dues and Fees are subject to LC approval.

5. Resignation & Termination

- A member may resign in writing any time but must pay outstanding dues.
- The Board may suspend or expel a member for cause, including violation of the Rules of Engagement (see Article V, Section 6).

Article III — Governance & Officers

1. Board of Directors / Leadership Committee (lc)

- The Group is governed by a Board (or Leadership Committee) of 3 members.
- Board members serve for unlimited term.
- Vacancies may be filled by Board vote until the next general election.

2. Officers

4State4Play Board of Governance:

- **Managing General Partners:** Dave T (LC) & Gene P (LC)
- **Treasurer:** Rich C. (LC)
- **Gaming Director Scoring:** Tony T.
- **Food & Beverage Director:** Ricky A.

3. Meetings

- Annual Meeting: Held once a year to approve budgets, elect officers, review reports.
- Special Meetings: May be called by the President or a specified number of members.
- Notice: Written notice required (e.g., at least 10 days prior).
- Quorum: Defined (e.g., majority of members or Board) for valid decisions.

4. Voting

- Each Full Member gets one vote (unless classes differ).
- Voting on tournament location and disciplinary actions

Article IV — Committees

1. Standing Committees

Examples: Tournament Committee, Handicap Committee, Membership Committee, Rules/Etiquette Committee.

2. Committee Powers & Duties

- Tournament Committee: Plans event dates, formats, flighting, prizes, tees.

- Handicap Committee: Ensures fair and consistent handicaps, handles adjustments and appeals.
- Membership Committee: Reviews new applications, onboarding.
- Rules Committee / Etiquette: Interprets bylaws, resolves disputes, enforces conduct.

3. Appointment

Committee chairs and members are appointed by the President or Board.

Article V — Events, Tournaments & Play Structure

1. Event Schedule

The Board or Tournament Committee publishes a calendar (dates, locations).

2. Tournament Format & Rules

- Use USGA / R&A Rules of Golf as baseline (or local adaptations).
- Define formats (stroke play, match play, skins, best ball, etc.).
- Define prize structure, payout, tie-breakers.

3. Handicaps & Scoring

- All members in tournaments must maintain a valid handicap.
- Handicap adjustments follow a defined procedure (via Handicap Committee).
- Reports of scores must be submitted within a deadline.

4. Forfeits & No-Shows

- Members who fail to show or withdraw late may incur penalties (loss of points, fees, suspension) as defined.

5. Course & Tee Selection

- Tee boxes may be standardized or rotated per Executive Committee
- Course rotation schedule set by Board / Committee.

6. Rules of Engagement

You agree to follow all posted rules on the 4 States 4 Play website.

Play at a reasonable pace.

Slow play disrupts the group and the overall flow of the round. "Ready golf" means being prepared to hit immediately after the person in front of you has finished.

On the greens, putting should be done efficiently. Read your putt while others are putting so play can continue without delay. Taking several minutes to line up a putt is not acceptable.

Anyone consistently slowing down play will be reassigned to the final group each day. There will be no discussion, no appeals, and no exceptions.

We will not have a course marshal approach our group again as occurred in 2025.

Being placed in the last group serves as a clear reminder to maintain an appropriate pace of play.

- Post honest scores
- Follow the rules posted on our website — they're there for a reason, and they apply to everyone, every day, every round.

Article VI — Conduct, Discipline & Appeals

1. Code of Conduct / Etiquette

Members and guests must:

- Show respect, courtesy, and sportsmanship.
- Follow golf rules, local rules, and Group-established guidelines.
- Dress appropriately and adhere to etiquette standards.
- Refrain from harassment, abusive behavior, or misconduct.

2. Disciplinary Process

- Complaints may be submitted in writing to the Board or Rules Committee.
- The accused member receives notice and opportunity to respond.
- Actions may include: reprimand, probation, suspension (temporary), or expulsion.
- Decisions require a defined vote threshold (e.g., majority or two-thirds).

3. Appeals

- Members may appeal Board / Committee decisions under a defined process and timeline.

Article VII — Finances & Funds

1. Fiscal Year

Sept 1 – Sept 1

2. Budget & Approval

The Board proposes a budget annually. Members must approve (at the Annual Meeting or via vote).

3. Expenditures & Signatures

- All expenditures above a threshold require multiple signatures (e.g., President + Treasurer).
- Recurring expenses may have pre-approved status.

4. Audit / Review

Periodic review or audit of financial records, by an internal auditor or external party.

Article VIII — Amendments & Dissolution

1. Amendments

- Bylaws may be amended by vote of the membership (e.g., two-thirds majority).
- Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing and circulated with notice ahead of vote.

2. Dissolution

- Upon dissolution, any remaining assets after debts are satisfied shall be distributed as determined by membership vote (e.g., to a charitable entity).

Article IX — Miscellaneous Provisions

1. Indemnification

Officers, Board members, and Committee members acting in good faith shall be indemnified from liability to the extent permitted by law.

2. Conflict of Interest

Members with a personal interest in a matter must disclose and abstain from voting on that issue.

3. Records & Access

Minutes, financials, and membership lists shall be maintained and made available to members in good standing.

4. Interpretation

The Board / Rules Committee has authority to interpret any ambiguous or silent provision.