**APPENDIX C**

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**BDGA COMPETITION RULES**

**Note:** All Buffalo District Golf Association events are spikeless. Please repair all marks on the greens and divots on the course.

**Rules Of Golf:** USGA Rules govern all play except as modified by local rules and/or BDGA rules. Competitors will be informed before the beginning of play, if any local rules are in effect. Questions will be settled by the appointed Tournament Committee, with consultation with the USGA if necessary. The Tournament Committee will be announced prior to all tournaments. Its decisions shall be final.

During junior and sub-junior events, the host professional and the Tournament Committee are encouraged to help the competitors with their understanding of the USGA and Local rules.

\***Doubt As To Procedure (Rule 2-5):** In match play competition only, if a doubt or dispute arises between the players, a player may make a claim, if no duly authorized representative of the Committee is available within a reasonable time, the player must continue the match without delay. The Committee may consider a claim only if the player making the claim notifies his opponent (1) that he is making a claim, (2) of the facts of the situation and (3) that he wants a ruling. The claim must be made before any player in the match plays from the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players in the match leave the putting green. Etc;

\***Doubt As To Procedure (Rule 3-3):** In stroke play competition only, if a player is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking any further action, the player must inform his marker or fellow competitor that he intends to play two balls AND he must select the ball which he wants to count, if the rules allow, if he fails to do so, the provisions of Rule 3-3b(ii) apply. Upon completion of the stipulated round, he MUST report the facts to the Committee. If he fails to do so, he is **Disqualified**.

**Distance Measuring Devices:** Based on Rule 14-4, the BDGA will allow the use of devices which measure distance only. The use of devices which are capable of measuring elements other than distance, such as wind, elevation changes, slope, etc; are prohibited, even if such features are not actually used. The penalty for breach of this rule is **Disqualification.**

**Electronic Equipment:** The use of electronic devices, such as cellular phones, pagers, beepers, IPOD’s, portable radios and other similar devices are prohibited during a stipulated round. Penalty for breach is **Disqualification.**

**Club Grooves:** Based on USGA Rules (Appendix II, Sect. 5, Note 2) The BDGA chooses at this time **not** to impose club restrictionson the irons, based on groove design, that BDGA members will play with in our events.

**Time Of Starting and Groups:** (Rule 6-3) The player must start at the time established by the Committee. And, in stroke play, the competitor must remain throughout the round in the group arranged by the Committee, unless the Committee authorizes or ratifies a change. Penalty for breach is **Disqualification.** The Note under Rule 6-3 and Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I will be in effect.

**Suspension Of Play & Resumption:** (Rule 6-8) Suspension of play will be signaled as follows-

**Discontinue Play** – 3 short blasts on an air horn; Then repeated. Players may discontinue play immediately **OR** complete

The play of the hole they are on. They may not tee off on the next hole until play is resumed by the Committee.

**Dangerous Situation/Immediate Stop** – 1 long blast on the air horn; Then repeated. Players **MUST** stop play immediately;

And seek the nearest shelter. Penalty for breach is **Disqualification.** Resumption of play signaled by 2 short blasts.

**Ball Marking** – when play is interrupted, the player must leave his ball in place **OR** mark its location before lifting.

**Stopping Play** – players may discontinue play at anytime they feel threatened by weather conditions. No penalty.

**Scoring & Close Of Competition:** (Rule 6-6) The competitor is responsible for the correctness of his hole by hole score, the Committee is responsible for the correct addition of scores, and applying the handicap. Rulings by the Tournament Committee, and questions about scores must be completed before the score card is signed by the competitors. The card is deemed returned when the player has left the scoring area without possession of his scorecard. All cards must be signed and attested to, before the competitor leaves the scoring area. The competition is deemed closed when all results are posted on the scoreboard and the winner(s) have been announced by the Committee.

**Speed of Play:** Competitors are expected to play “ready golf” at all times, and to keep up with the group(s) in front of them. The Rules Committee reserves the right during any competition to warn a player or a group of players, if their pace of play is too slow. If there is a continued undue delay: slow play, the Rules Committee will follow Rule 6-7 . In Match Play that will carry a penalty of loss of the hole; and in Stroke Play will carry a penalty of one stroke for the first offense, two strokes for the second offense, and disqualification for subsequent offense.

The BDGA has established a policy of no more than 4 hour rounds in our stroke play events, barring any undue conditions.