

The Villages Women's 18-Hole Golf Association

BIG SISTER PROGRAM

Revised 12-11-24

Thank you for agreeing to be a Big Sister for one of our new 18-Hole ladies members.

This will involve welcoming your new member (little sister) to our 18-Hole ladies group and showing her how it works. This involves the following:

Prior to First Playday / Meeting, the Membership Director will introduce you to the new member via email. Ideally, a joint meeting will be scheduled. The purpose of the meeting is to review the Handbook and Welcome Letter in their entirety. Encourage questions and follow-up. Discuss Ringer and Partnership EC, the difference between a Playday and a Tournament, team events, etc.

The Big Sister Responsibilities:

- Play with her on her first Playday. If you are unable to play on her first outing, please assign a substitute "Big Sister" to be with her for that one playday.
- Facilitate introductions, sign-ins for Lunch, Chip-in pot, picking up score card and show her the Posting Room
- The "Big Sister" will review with her:
 - How to sign up on Cobalt and use the USGA app to adjust and post her scores. Post all your own scores except Thursday Play Days and Tournaments, which the Pro Shop posts. Advise her to contact the Handicap Director with any posting problems.
 - She must sign up on-line or with the Pro Shop by Tuesday night before the Thursday Play Day. If the Member does not sign up by Tuesday night, she can follow the field, participate in Birdies and Chip-Ins but is not eligible for sweeps.
 - Explain "ready golf" and tricks for keeping up with the group ahead as well as etiquette within her group.
 - Make sure she knows basic rules, especially how to drop from water hazards, take relief from cart paths, etc.

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- On playday, help her find her name and tee assignment on the pairing sheets on the table by the Pro Shop. Explain “non-sweeps” days.
- Show her how to sign up for lunch, encourage her to participate and join her for her first time. Explain that only food from the set menu is allowed to be consumed in our luncheons. Beverages from the bar are allowed.
- Explain the Chip-in pot. Let her know she must sign the book for chip-ins and birdies after play.
- Make sure she knows the deadline for signing in is twenty minutes (by 8:10 AM) before the beginning of play. She also needs to be at her tee 10 minutes before the shotgun if she's in the “A” Group. (If there are two groups on a hole, the “A” Group tees off at 8:20 AM).
- After play, make sure she knows where to turn in her completed scorecard with all required information – (Signatures, etc.) Not later than 1:15 PM.
- Introduce her to the membership at the luncheon, giving a bit of her background.
- Try to pair her with different members each week for about a month.
- Show her how to “pop” a card if she does not know how. (this is typically done by the Pro Shop.)
- Explain the Saturday morning 18-Hole tee times and sign-up procedure.
- Keep your new “Little Sister” informed about upcoming events and tournaments.
- Your goal is to make our new member feel comfortable and welcome. It's not always easy joining a big group. Your efforts will be appreciated.