



South Asian  
Golf Association

Bringing South Asian golfers together

OUR 19<sup>TH</sup>  
SEASON IN 2023



# WHAT IS SAGA ?



**South Asian Golf Association (SAGA )** was formed with a vision of creating a Global organization, which will bring South Asian Golfers together from across the world. The mission is to promote Golf as a sport in the South Asian community.

2023 is our 19<sup>th</sup> year.

SAGA in 2023 is getting exciting! It is expanding! New members, new formats, more competition! More comraderie! More fun!

# HIGHLIGHTS



Persistent Systems became the Title Sponsor in 2022 and continues the support in 2023



Megha Ganne, US Amateur Champion, AJGA Rolex Player of the Year, and qualified to play US Women's Open was our Chief Guest in 2021



Ami Gianchandani was Ivy League Player of the Year and qualified to play US Women's Open and was our Chief Guest in 2022

# FOUR CORNERSTONES OF SAGA



**COMRADERIE**



**COMPETITION**

# SAGA 2023

SAGA has 4 teams (3 at private clubs) and already has approximately 100 players starting the season.



SAGA - LINKSMEN

Colors: White

Capt: Vinay Bahuguna

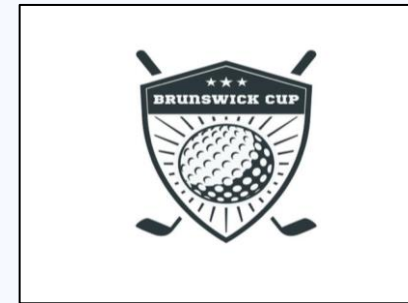


SAGA - TGC

Colors: Blue

Capt: Rajesh Saggi

Fiddlers Elbow CC



SAGA - BRUNSWICK

Colors: Red

Capt: Deep Thapliyal

Forsgate CC



SAGA – BERGEN BEARS

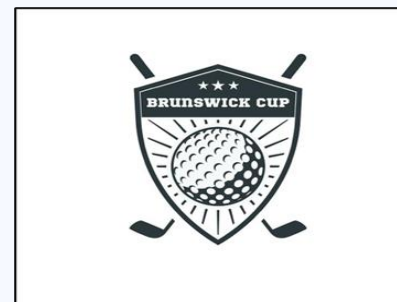
Colors: Yellow

Capt: Lex Collure

Tuxedo CC

# SAGA 2023

Each Team will conduct Regular rounds at their facility; those events will be co-sanctioned events with SAGA and will have a combined leaderboard.



**Note:** Final numbers will be determined just prior to season opening and will depend on number of Teams and final count of players signing up.

# 2023 SCHEDULE (REGULAR ROUNDS)



Round #	Date	SAGA - Linksmen	SAGA - TGC	SAGA - Brunswick	SAGA - Bears
1	April 23, 2023	High Bridge Hills	Fiddlers Elbow GC	Forsgate CC	Tuxedo CC
2	May 7, 2023	Charleston Springs	Fiddlers Elbow GC	Forsgate CC	Tuxedo CC
3	June 11, 2023	Fox Hollow GC	Fiddlers Elbow GC	Forsgate CC	Tuxedo CC
4	July 9, 2023	Heron Glen GC	Fiddlers Elbow GC	Forsgate CC	Tuxedo CC
5	July 30, 2023	Eagle Ridge GC	Fiddlers Elbow GC	Forsgate CC	Tuxedo CC
6	August 13, 2023	Berkshire Valley GC	Fiddlers Elbow GC	Forsgate CC	Tuxedo CC
7	August 27, 2023	Cobblestone Creek	Fiddlers Elbow GC	Forsgate CC	Tuxedo CC

*The Individual teams may adjust the round dates to closest possible to the SAGA - Linksmen round date as per their club needs*

## 2023 SCHEDULE (PLAYOFFS)



Date	Round	Golf Course
Sept 10, 2023	PLAYOFF ROUND	Eagle Ridge GC
Sept 30, 2023	FINALS	Cobblestone Creek Golf Club

# SAGA 2023 – MAIN AWARDS



ANISH JOSHI  
TROPHY

Highest  
Stableford in  
Finals total  
between the  
3 Flight  
champions



PERSISTENT  
SAGA TOUR  
CHAMPIONS

Reset Points +  
Playoff round +  
Finals will  
determine SAGA  
champions  
(3 flights)



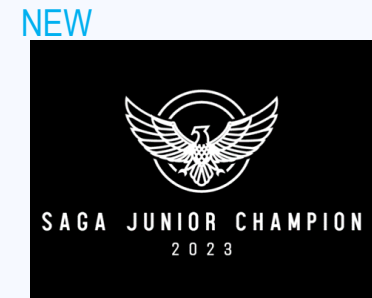
SAGA OPEN  
CHAMPIONS

Highest Stableford  
Points and Low  
Gross winner



UHC CUP

Team  
Championship  
for the winner  
of the four  
teams.



SAGA JR.  
CHAMPION

Playoff round +  
Finals will  
determine  
SAGA Jr.  
Champion

# PERSSISTENT SAGA CHAMPIONS 2023



## QUALIFYING FOR THE PLAYOFFS / FINALS

- Upon making the playoffs and depending on your regular season position players qualifying into playoffs will then be placed in **three flights** based on handicap
- **RESET points** will be awarded for players in each Chapter (Fedex Cup style).

## IN THE PLAYOFFS / FINALS

- A total of your Reset Points + Playoff Stableford Points + Finals Stableford Points will determine SAGA champions for Flight 1, 2 and 3.



### *Eligibility:*

- *Must be a registered member of the SAGA Tour 2023*
- *Must have played the regular season and must have registered at one the 4 chapters*
- *Must have qualified to play the playoffs*

# ANISH JOSHI TROPHY



- The Anish Joshi Trophy is our most prestigious Champion's trophy
- Anish Joshi Trophy will be awarded to the highest point getter amongst the three flights in Playoffs
- The Anish Joshi trophy is sponsored by Dr Joshi and his wife Anju in memory of their son Anish, who was a SAGA Tour member



## *Eligibility:*

- *Must be a registered member of the SAGA Tour 2023*
- *Must have played the regular season and must have registered at one the 4 chapters*
- *Must have qualified to play the playoffs*

# PERSISTENT SAGA OPEN 2023



## ON THE DAY OF THE FINALS

- If not competing in the SAGA Championships Finals, Stableford Points and Low Gross will determine the Persistent SAGA Open winners



*Note: this Cup is to bring competition to those that are not in the hunt on the day of the Finals. This can happen for many reasons:*

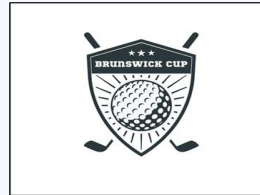
- *You didn't qualify for the playoffs*
- *You are not in the hunt at the finals*
- *You didn't play enough regular season rounds*

### *Eligibility:*

- *Anyone can play that day if they have a registered handicap*
- *If any member of the SAGA executive committee or a captain can vouch for the person*



# UHC CUP – THE ULTIMATE TEAM EVENT



- The 4 captains will pick 8 players each from their players who have qualified for the Playoffs and the Finals.
- TEAM SCORE – we will add the highest Stableford points from Playoff round and Finals for each player (NO RESET POINTS)
- The TOP 6 players scores will count for the cumulative team score

**Team with highest cumulative Stableford score (top 6 players each) will win the UHC Cup**

## *Eligibility:*

- *Must be a registered member of the SAGA Tour 2023*
- *Must have played the regular season and must have registered at one the 4 chapters*

*Note: this tourney is to foster competition between the clubs*

- *if a player who played in the Playoff round, for any reason cannot play the FINALS, the captain will be allowed to substitute the that player with another from his team, if that player was not on any team before. The 2 scores will be counted as one players score towards the total score.*
- *A player can only be on one team*

# SAGA JUNIOR CHAMPION 2023



## IN THE PLAYOFFS / FINALS

- A total of your Playoff round Stableford Points + Finals Stableford Points will determine SAGA Junior Champion



### *Eligibility:*

- *Must be a registered member of the SAGA Tour 2023 via one of the chapters*
- *Must have a valid handicap*
- ***Must be less than 30 years of age on September 10, 2023***
- *Can be competing in other championships*

*Note: no reset points counted for the Junior champion*

# CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES

**Player Signups** - Pitch SAGA to your club members and get them to sign up. Must be able to vouch for players signing up. Ensure they are eligible. Ensure everyone joins the SAGA WhatsApp group. Ensure that all players understand and will abide by the 4 cornerstones of SAGA.

Work with the SAGA Board and Exec Committee to:

- **Conduct Regular Round matches** in conjunction with the SAGA calendar. And SAGA rules and format. Also, be the top **RULES** official onsite.
- Send regular SAGA **communications** to your chapter members.
- Send in **Scores** for Regular Round matches that have been held. Develop your own leaderboard.

Make an **8-player** team to **compete** in the UHC CUP

Date
April 23, 2023
May 7, 2023
June 11, 2023
July 9, 2023
July 30, 2023
August 13, 2023
August 27, 2023



## **Club Eligibility:**

- *Must have at least 10 members that want to signup for SAGA.*
- *Everyone must have a USGA handicap and must have played golf for several years per USGA rules.*
- *Must abide by the 4 cornerstones of SAGA*

# SIGNING UP AND ELIGIBILITY

- If golfers are not affiliated with any of the member clubs, they should sign up as part of the Linksmen Chapter. If golfers are members of one of the member clubs, they should sign up for that chapter.
- Signup with Captains. Captains are as follows:
  - Linksmen Chapter – Vinay Bahuguna
  - TGC Chapter – Rajesh Saggi
  - Brunswick Chapter – Deep Thapliyal
  - Bergen Bears – Lex Collure
- FEES are the following:
  - \$350 for Linksmen chapter
  - \$250 from other clubs
  - Whatsoever the fees for every round is at your venue
  - \$200 for golfers and \$50 for spouses for the Gala on the evening of the finals on Sep 30, 2023
  - Fees are paid at [www.paypal.me/sagagolf](https://www.paypal.me/sagagolf) via Paypal.



## *Eligibility:*

- *Must have a valid USGA handicap*
- *Must be sponsored by an existing SAGA member or one of the Captains*

## *Note:*

- *The Chairman does have the ability to veto anyone's membership*

# SCORING – REGULAR SEASON



- There will be **7 Regular Season** Rounds held in 4 locations
- **1 COMMON Leaderboard** will be maintained
- Score of **Best 5** rounds out of 7 Regular Season will determine Regular Season leaderboards
- At the end of Regular Season, depending on number of signups– a set number of golfers will **advance** to the Playoffs / Finals
- Flights will be determined, based on player's handicaps, from the common leaderboard and **RESET points** will be awarded for players advancing (Fedex Cup style).
- No minimum rounds are required to qualify





## RESET POINTS

- Upon the conclusion of the Regular Season – Players will be divided into 3 flights.
- Then, Reset points (FedexCup Style) will be awarded to each player in their flight depending on how they did in their **BEST 5 GAMES** of the regular season.

Rank	Reset Pts		Rank	Reset Pts		Rank	Reset Pts
1	18		6	9		11	4
2	15		7	8		12	3
3	12		8	7		13	2
4	11		9	6		12	1
5	10		10	5		REST	1

# HANDICAPS

- All SAGA Tour participants will be established a valid GHIN handicap in 2023 as part of the registration fees, ensuring transparency.
- A maximum handicap of 26 at the beginning of the tournament is required for all participants.
- All scores should be posted regardless of where and when you played (not only SAGA Scores).
- 'NET' double bogey is the max score per hole under the new WHS (World Handicap System).
- **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW AND DETERMINE EACH PLAYER'S FINAL HANDICAP FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY**



# SCORING (STABLEFORD)



POINTS      Your NET SCORE

**0 Points - Double Bogey**  
**1 Point - Bogey**  
**2 Points - Par**  
**3 Points - Birdie**  
**4 Points - Eagle**  
**5 Points - Albatross**  
**6 Points - Condor**

## How it is played

- Each player plays their own golf ball and records points based on their net score.
- Points are awarded according to the table of left and reflect the difference between the Net Score of the golfer against the par of each particular hole.
- Once a player's attempt for net bogey is unsuccessful pick up the ball and move onto the next hole.
- Each hole has a difficulty rating (as noted on the scorecard) which helps the golfer to determine if they receive an extra shot relative to the par of that hole.
- Points, once awarded, cannot be taken away. This means that a player who has played a good first 9 and then faded may still be in the running to win a prize for the good holes they played.

# SAGA JUNIOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

SAGA junior college scholarship is a one-year grant that will be awarded annually to one or more students that are selected by Anish Joshi / SAGA Scholarship Committee who meet or exceed the set criteria:

- Criteria include SAGA ethics and core values, applicant's achievements in Academic, Golf and other pursuits.
- \$5,000 dollars in total amount of scholarship funds will be disbursed every year among two or more applicants. Scholarship amount that is awarded to applicants may vary each year.
- Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of every year to the selected applicants who plan to attend accredited college in the fall of that academic year.

*SAGA has, so far, awarded 22 scholarships to deserving college bound children*



# SAGA - ANNUAL GALA

The SAGA Gala will be held at Cobblestone Country Club after the SAGA Finals on Sat, Sep 30, 2023



# SAGA TEAM



## TEAM



Mahesh Yadav



Uday Patel



Vinay Bahuguna



Sanjay Seth



Paresh Desai



Deep Thapliyal



Rajesh Saggi

## CHIEF SUPPORTER



Dr. Anil Joshi

## TITLE SPONSOR



## ANNUAL SPONSOR





# APPENDIX

# SAGA RULES



## SAGA SPECIFIC

1. **The tournament directors and or executive members who are present will arbitrate any disputes after the round.** Do not enter a score for the hole/s on which the dispute occurred but each participant must still complete the hole.
2. Flights will play from the Tees decided by the committee.
3. **COUNT EVERY STROKE:** A stroke is the forward movement of the club made with the intention of striking the ball. Every stroke counts, including whiffs. (A whiff is when you attempt to hit the ball but miss it entirely.) It is your responsibility to keep track of your own strokes on each hole. We will follow USGA rules.
4. All players must agree (sign card) on the scores being turned in at the end of the round. Its mandatory to add the total for each round for each player in the foursome.
5. **Gimmie: Pick up the ball while putting if the ball is inside the leather of your putter (standard length).**
6. **Maintain LIVE leaderboard – download VPAR and enter** <sup>NEW</sup> **scores in as you play.**

## PACE OF PLAY

1. For the speed of play, once your attempt for net bogey is unsuccessful AND you have reached your maximum equitable score control (ESC) score, **pick up your ball.**
2. If your group or any player is unusually slow please speak up and ask them to pick up the pace of play. Groups need to maintain an average pace of 15 mins per hole and not fall behind more than 1 hole from the group in front of them.
3. Always be ready to play when it is your turn and play **ready golf.**
4. Hit your ball before helping to look for someone else's ball.
5. Putt out rather than mark your ball and encourage others to putt out as well.
6. Stand behind your ball and align your putt while others are putting.
7. Always have your club and an extra ball readily available to speed up play.
8. Use **common sense** to speed up play – Think! Think! Think!

# SAGA RULES CONTD.



## ***Rules if Golfers are tied at the FINALS***

Overall winner for each flight will be determined by adding the scores assigned based on rankings at the end of the regular season and adding scores from the Playoff + Finals.

- Top point getter from each flight will win that flight.
- In case of a tie to determine the flight winners, following method will be employed.
  - o The highest Stableford score at Saga Open
  - o The highest Stableford in the first playoff event, and if still a tie
  - o The highest Stableford score on the back 9 of SAGA OPEN, and if still a tie
  - o The highest Stableford score on the last 6 holes of the SAGA OPEN, and if still a tie
  - o The highest Stableford score on the last 3 holes of the SAGA OPEN, and if still a tie
  - o The highest Stableford score on the last hole of the SAGA OPEN, and if still a tie
  - o Coin toss
- (The back 9 as described above relates to holes 10 -18, irrelevant of the starting hole.)
- In case of a Tie of Stableford points in SAGA Open, Anish Joshi Trophy winner will be determined by adding the points assigned at the end of the regular season plus the SAGA Open score. If there is still a tie then the flight winner method will be employed.

# SAGA RULES - CONTD.



## COMMON RULES TO BE AWARE OF

- 1. MAXIMUM CLUBS IN BAG:** Player is allowed to carry a maximum of 14 clubs. Failing to do so will lead to incurring 2 stroke penalty for each hole. Maximum penalty is 4 strokes for the round. Penalty will be applied to first two holes played in the round and points will be adjusted accordingly.
- 2. BALL FALLING OFF TEE:** If a ball falls off the tee or is knocked off by a player addressing it, the ball may be re-teed without penalty.
- 3. BALL MOVING ACCIDENTALLY AFTER ADDRESS:** No penalty if the ball moves after it has been addressed either off the tee or on the green.
- 4. ARTIFICIAL OBSTRUCTION (such as a bench, water fountain, shelter, house, or protective screen):** If your ball lies on or touches an artificial obstruction, or when an immovable obstruction within two club lengths of the ball interferes with your stance or stroke, you may without penalty pick up the ball and drop it within two club lengths of the original lie, but not nearer the hole.  
*Note: Out of bounds stakes are not considered artificial obstructions.*
- 5. CASUAL WATER, GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** If your ball lies in or touches casual water, ground under repair, or a hole made by a burrowing animal, you may obtain relief without penalty. Your ball may be lifted and dropped as near as possible to the original lie, but not nearer the hole. If your ball requires such relief in a bunker, it must be dropped within the bunker. If you elect to drop behind the bunker, you must count one penalty stroke. (Casual water is a puddle of rain water or hose water--not a creek or pond.)
- 6. WRONG BALL:** If a competitor makes a stroke or strokes at a wrong ball that is not in a hazard, they incur a penalty of two strokes. The competitor must correct their mistake before the next hole by playing the correct ball or by proceeding under the rules. Strokes made with a wrong ball do not count in their score. If a player plays any strokes in a hazard with a wrong ball, there is no penalty provided that player then plays the correct ball; the strokes so played with a wrong ball do not count in the player's score. If the wrong ball belongs to another player in the group, its owner shall place a ball on the spot from which the wrong ball was played. When the player and the opponent exchange balls during the play of a hole, the first to play the wrong ball other than from a hazard shall forfeit their points for that hole. When this cannot be determined, the hole shall be played out with the balls exchanged.

**LET THE COMPETITIONS BEGIN !!**

**Sunday – April 23, 2023**