

TVLGA18 prepares to start new season

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Sue Miller celebrates a hole-in-one last season at Kahite Golf Course.
Submitted Photo

The Tellico Village Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association is ready to kick off a new season in a little over a month. Weekly play will begin April 5 and run through Oct. 25, rotating between the Village's three golf courses.

"We play on Tuesdays throughout the season," Cindy Chalfant, TVLGA18 president, said. "We play various types of games, and we have a lot of fun events, specialized tournaments that we put on each year for our membership."

Special events include a member-member tournament May 23-24 and a member-guest tournament June 20-21.

"A member-member is where two people in the league get together and form a team and then we are matched up with other teams, and it's a two-day tournament," Chalfant said. "It's a lot of fun, it's one of our premiere events for our league, but it involves just the members. And then we also have what we call a member-guest, where a member invites someone who is not in the league to come out and play in our tournament. That's also a two-day event. We have a nice luncheon after both of those events, there are awards, of course, and prizes and just fun stuff."

Membership in the league is open to all women who are Tellico Village property owners with a handicap of 36 or less. Those wishing to join can get an application on the league's website at www.tlvga18.com. Anybody who joins before March 15 will be invited to the new members welcome coffee.

“We're just having a welcome gathering,” Chalfant said. “Any new member that has not joined the league previously, we assign them what we call a ‘big sister.’ It's just someone, if you're new, especially to the community, someone to play golf with, someone to participate in the tournaments with, somebody to just help you navigate your way into the league.”

Anybody interested but not ready to make a commitment can learn more March 24 at an event organized by the New Villagers Club. Additional information is also available at tlvga18.com, and Chalfant said she is happy to talk to prospective members and answer questions. Email Chalfant at clc1952@gmail.com.

League play will begin April 5 with a nine-hole scramble, followed by a luncheon at the Yacht Club.

“The luncheon is where all of us will congregate after the first day, so everybody has a chance to talk with everyone and meet everybody, the whole group,” Stacey Lawson, member at-large, said. “And our league board will be there to host the event. It's just a welcome party.”

Regular play will begin the following week, with competing golfers divided by level to give everyone a chance.

“Every week is a little mini-tournament and there are winners and there are prizes,” Lawson said. “You can earn points and then you can redeem those in the pro shop. Some women will play the regular green tees and other women who may feel more comfortable will play the forward tees, so there are two flights and there are prizes for both flights. We have some fabulous golfers, but we also have golfers like me who

just want to be out there and enjoy the day and are still struggling, trying to get their handicaps lower. But it doesn't matter because we're flighted, and we all have a chance to win and meet different ladies in different flights.”

In addition to weekly winners, golfers can opt for additional season-long competitions such as a hole-in-one challenge or ringers. The hole-in-one challenge is an additional \$5 for the chance to win up to \$500 if a golfer gets a hole-in-one at any point in the season. Ringers is an additional \$3 and requires golfers to keep track of their best score for each individual hole. At the end of the season, they tally up the best score on each hole and the lowest 18-hole total for all three courses wins a prize. League dues before additional pots are \$42 plus a \$25 handicap fee.

Despite various competitions and prizes, Chalfant said golfers do not have to be competitive to enjoy participating.

“It's a very welcoming group of ladies,” she said. “We have ladies in the league that play the yellow tees and maybe they just play a couple times a week and they do it socially and they just enjoy being out there and playing golf and having fun with other ladies who have similar interests in golf. But we also have people who participate in our league who play every day and are serious and practice and want to win and are competitive. But what I think is so good about it is we have a nice mixture of those ladies, and I think that's what golf is about. There are those who enjoy playing and socializing and there are those of us who enjoy playing and being competitive. Sometimes we are one way and sometimes we're another way, but we are always welcoming and friendly to each other.”

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