



ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB



DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I would like to wish everyone a joyful and prosperous New Year! Each new year sometimes come with making resolutions. I would resolve to reduce the number of 3-putts I make but I know the golf gods would just have me making more 4-putts.

Also, with each new year comes a new RHGC Board. There are six new RHGC Board members for 2024, please see page 2 for all of the Board members. The Board is already hard at work planning out events and tournaments for the year. RHGC is always looking for members to help out. Apart from being on the Board, members can be a part of committees that help organize different aspects of running the Club. If you would like to be a part of a committee, or just help out as a volunteer at a tournament, let us know; we would very much appreciate the help.



The Opening Day Tournament is on January 20 and the format this is year is the Lone Ranger. The Lone Ranger format is always challenging and a lot of fun. You can find out more about the Opening Day Tournament and its format on page 3. Remember, in order to play in the Opening Day Tournament, you need to make sure you have paid your membership fees for 2024. See below for more information about membership renewals.

Bruce Waldner, RHGC President

### 2024 Membership Renewal

Reminder email for 2024 Membership renewal were sent to who haven't renewed on December 26 to all primary members' email addresses registered with RHGC.

If you have not received an email, please first check your spam/junk folder, then contact the RHGC Membership Director at [RHGCMemberships@gmail.com](mailto:RHGCMemberships@gmail.com).

NOTE: The Proshop does not have copies of your forms, please bring two copies with you for renewal.

**Reminder:**

- You must be a 2024 member to play in 2024.
- Cart shed holders must renew by January 31, 2024. Failure to renew your membership will result in your cart shed being reassigned to the next member on the cart shed waiting list.
- Renewals submitted between February 1 and February 28, 2024 will be subject to a 250SAR late fee.

# 2024 Rolling Hills Golf Course Board of Directors



**President**  
Bruce Waldner



**Vice President**  
David Bedford



**Secretary**  
Kevin Capstick



**Treasurer**  
Hayden Ponsford



**Co-Tournament Director**  
Christo Steenkamp



**Co-Tournament Director**  
Edward Syafron



**Handicap Director**  
Jonathan D'Antoni



**Grounds & Rules Director**  
John-Paul Scallon



**Facilities Director**  
James Platt



**Junior Golf Director**  
Alex Hollander



**Co-Membership Director**  
Dianne Le



**Co-Membership Director**  
John Sinesi



**Social Director**  
Sam Flack



**Ladies' Golf Director**  
Tamara Tahir



**Media Director**  
Rod Cummings

# OPENING DAY TOURNAMENT

January 20, 2024

## FORMAT

This will be a four-person team event (ABCD), Lone Ranger format where, on each hole, 1 player of the team will be playing by themselves, while the remaining 3 players will be playing a 3-person Shamble. This means all 3 players tee off, then the 3 players select the best drive they want to use, and all 3 players then play their own ball from the drive until holed. The best score from the 3 Shamble players, plus the score from the lone player will count as the combined score for the team for the hole. Three drives per player are required within the Shamble format. The drive of the lone player playing their own ball does not count towards the minimum drive count within the Shamble group.

Tee times will be Shotgun at 6:30am and Shotgun at 11am. Registration is [open here](#).



Monthly Medal  
JANUARY 27

Register now at  
[golfgenius.com](http://golfgenius.com)

**Team Canada-USA**

**RYDER CUP 2024**

**Team Row**

February 9-10

The World Ryder Cup sign-up is now open to [register](#).

SAVE THE DATE

## VALENTINE'S SOCIAL: COUPLES' EVENT

Thursday February 15th

Couples' golf followed by a catered dinner. More details to follow soon.





# 3 Key Changes to the 2024 World Handicap System

The USGA and The R&A announced the following updates to the World Handicap System™ (WHS™) as part of an ongoing review of the Rules of Handicapping™ and Course Rating System™ with a continued emphasis on accuracy, consistency and equity. The latest revisions will go into effect beginning January 1, 2024. Significant updates to the WHS include:

### 9-HOLE SCORES

No more waiting on 9-hole scores to combine, as they will count toward your Handicap Index the very next day. A premium is placed on the holes you played and combined with an expected Score Differential for consistency and fairness.



#### A new treatment of 9-hole scores

Today, 9-hole scores are combined in the order posted to create an 18-hole Score Differential™. This means that a 9-hole score shot today could be combined with a 9-hole score from days, weeks, or even months before – which can lead to volatile results.

Beginning in 2024, when a player posts a 9-hole score, it will be combined with their expected Score Differential over 9 holes to create an 18-hole Score Differential for immediate use – with expected score based on the player’s Handicap Index at the time the round is played as well as a course of standard difficulty.

### 10-17-HOLE SCORES

Use of expected Score Differential™ applies when 10-17 holes are played, introducing more flexibility to score posting. In this scenario, you’re asked to post your score hole-by-hole.



#### An updated approach for holes not played

At present when a hole isn’t played (due to darkness, for example), the score recorded is a net par. When the 2024 revision goes into effect, when 10-17 holes are played, an 18-hole Score Differential will be determined by adding the player’s Score Differential from the holes played to an expected Score Differential for the number of holes not played.

Since a player’s expected score is not specific to a course or reliant upon the course’s stroke index allocation (as net par is today), this will lead to more consistency.

### COURSE RATING & SHORTER COURSES

Courses as short as 750 yards for 9 holes and 1,500 yards for 18 holes are eligible for a Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™ – enhancing the portability of a Handicap Index™ to make the system more accommodating for all players.



#### A lower minimum length for a golf course to obtain a Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™

Under the current system, an 18-hole course must be at least 3,000 yards to receive a Course Rating and Slope Rating (or 1,500 yards for 9 holes). Starting in 2024, the yardage requirements will be cut in half, to 1,500 and 750 yards, respectively.

This is good news for golfers who regularly play par-3 and shorter-length courses and have wanted those scores to count toward their Handicap Index®.

[Click here](#) to read more about WHS change summaries for 2024

Happy New Year!  
 Please see below for January dates.  
 More information will be following  
 in the upcoming weeks.

**Tamara Tahir**  
 Ladies' Golf Director



Sat AM Skills at  
 9am



Tue AM Skills  
 at 9am



Morning  
 League



Nine & Dine  
 evening event

## FROM THE PRO

*Stuart Hurstfield, P.G.A. Member*

### LADIES ROLL UP CLASS

Every Thursday, beginning **January 4**, ladies are invited to join Thursday morning group sessions from 9 - 10 am for beginner and intermediate golfers. All equipment is supplied and instruction covers all the skills to get one out on the course! The cost is 90 SAR per person, per class and sign-up is at the ProShop.

### GOLF IN A WEEK

The next Golf in a Week class starts on **Sunday, January 21**. Classes are from 7 - 8 pm and run for five consecutive days. These group sessions are ideal for beginner and intermediate golfers and covers all aspects of the game: safety, rules, etiquette, and swing technique. All equipment and range balls are supplied. The cost is 600 SAR. Sign up at the ProShop.

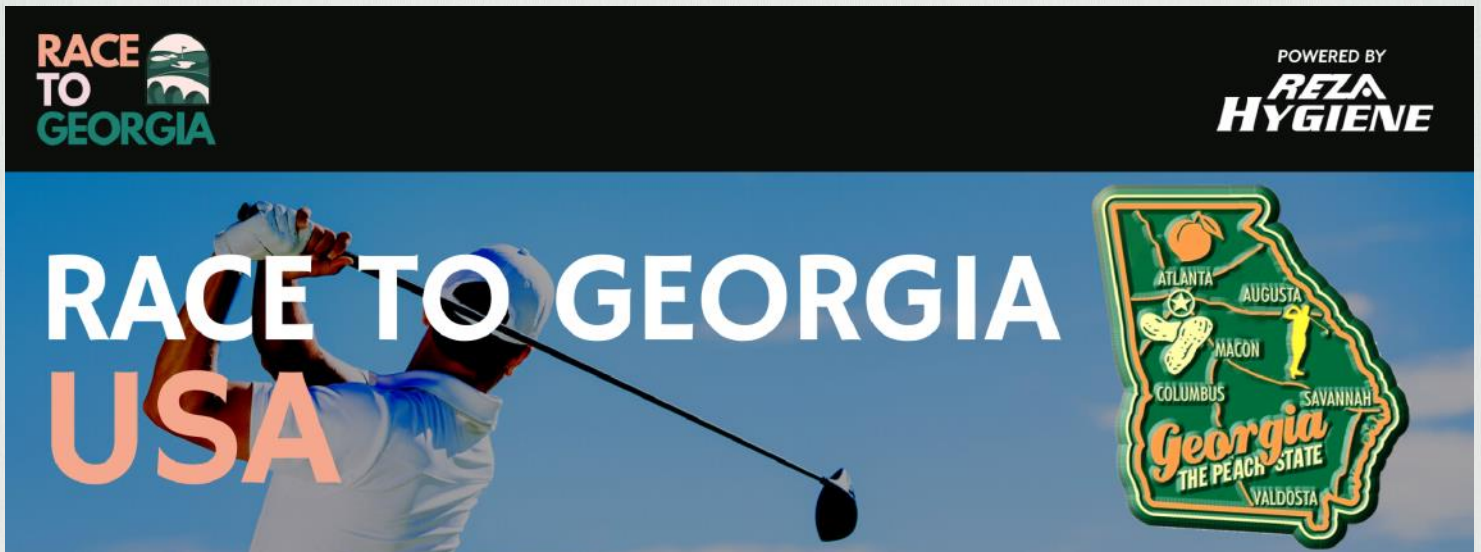
### JUNIOR TOUR SCHOOL

The Junior Tour School commences on **Sunday, January 28** for ages 8+. It will run Sun - Thu from 6-7 pm. The classes cover rules, etiquette, and golf swing mechanics in a group setting. All equipment and range balls are supplied. The cost is 400 SAR. To register, please visit the ProShop.

### INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

Individual lessons incorporating GASP video analysis can be taken at times convenient to suit your schedule. Junior pricing is 30 minutes/150 SAR and Adults is 50 minutes/200 SAR. Register at [stuarthurstfield@gmail.com](mailto:stuarthurstfield@gmail.com) or WhatsApp +44 775 337 1547.

*Golf club repairs and re-gripping service available. Contact Stuart for details.*



The 2023 – 2024 Race to Georgia started last month in Saudi Arabia with a strong pool of 85 players competing for honours at the at Dirab Golf Club. This is the first of 13 qualifying rounds for this popular season long series of events held in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which attracted over 1,500 golfers last season.

The qualifying rounds are open to all amateur golfers; men, women, as well as a junior division, with a maximum handicap allowance of 24 for men and 36 for women.

All events will be played in a Stableford format with 75 percent of registered handicaps, with sanctioning from the respective official golfing authorities; Saudi Arabian Golf Federation, Bahrain Golf Association and Emirates Golf Federation.

The RHGC qualifying even twill take place on **February 3, 2023 at Rolling Hills Golf Course** in Dhahran. More details will follow in the coming months.

From each qualifying event, the category winners and runners-up will qualify to attend the Regional Finals to be held in Dubai at the Montgomerie Golf Club (for UAE qualifiers) on Sunday March 3, 2024, and at the Riyadh Golf Club (for KSA, Bahrain and Qatar qualifiers) on Saturday, March 9,2024.

The ultimate winners of the finals will win an all-expenses trip to the World Final of the Race to Georgia to be held during The Masters week. Part of the prize is a two-day visit to attend The Masters week as a patron.

Keith Watson, the Tournament Series Organiser on behalf of REZA Hygiene, said: “We are all very excited with the growth and interest in this tournament with the ‘Bucket List’ trip to the US World Final and a visit to The Masters. We thank all the participating golf clubs and golfers for their support – many of whom are traditional regulars of the Race to Georgia. Due to the growing interest and awareness of the Race to Georgia, the series has been expanded this season to include Qatar, at Doha Golf Club.”

The series is powered by REZA Hygiene, a leading hygiene solution provider throughout the GCC, whose core mission with their Race to Georgia initiative remains the same; to help promote golf's growth in the region, especially in line with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. The 2023 – 2024 Race to Georgia is sponsored and supported by Zahid Group KSA, PAPA JOHNS, EMAAR Hospitality, GOLFTEC UAE, DYSON and Rezaroma.

**Sign-ups are now open. Click [here](#) to register.**

# 2023 RHGC Golf Ball



# Awali Golf Club



A Bapco Refining Sports Facility in the Kingdom of Bahrain

presents  
the

## 59<sup>th</sup> Bahrain Open Championship

combined with the

## 35<sup>th</sup> Bahrain Ladies Open Championship

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – practice round

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Round

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Final day

WHS Handicap Index limit for BO is 9.7

WHS Handicap Index limit for BLO is 36

**Entry Fee:**

**35 BHD for guests**

**25 BHD for members**



For more information please contact the  
secretary on  
[opensecretary@awaligolfclub.com](mailto:opensecretary@awaligolfclub.com)

