

BENEFITS OF MISGA MEMBERSHIP

To Club:

1. Cash Flow – In 2010, MISGA Mixers and Tournaments generated a cash flow of over \$900,000 for the 68 MISGA clubs.
2. Membership Draw – A club's partnership with MISGA may serve as additional inducement for prospective club members, as well as to invigorate existing members to become more active.

To Associates:

1. Opportunity to play at many Golf and Country Clubs in an organized and friendly atmosphere at reasonable cost.
2. Opportunity for associates and spouses to enjoy organized golf vacations during fall trips to South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, or Florida
3. In 2006, MISGA campaigned to have Automated External Defibrillators (AED) installed at all MISGA clubs.
4. Charity – MISGA & MISGA Associates have contributed over \$18,000 to the 9/11 Relief Fund and \$11,500 to Operation Second Chance, a non-profit charity that provides assistance to wounded veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars and their families.

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

MISGA operates under a Constitution and Bylaws both contained in a Club Representative's Handbook and available on the MISGA web site at www.misga.org.

The voting members of the Board of Directors consist of the Directors and Assistant Directors of the six MISGA divisions. The directors are elected by the club representatives of the division. The President and Vice President are chosen from among the Division Directors. Appointed, non-voting board members are Secretary, Treasurer, and General Counsel. Then there are the Permanent Committee chairmen appointed by the President: Associates, Audits, Budgets, Events, Historian, Membership & Participation, MISGAGRAM Editor, Policy & Planning, Rules & Handicap, Tournament, and Webmaster. Ad hoc chairmen are appointed for special projects such as producing a History booklet at ten year intervals or preserving the Archive of MISGA documents. The duties of the officers and chairmen are enumerated in the bylaws.

The Club Representatives are the ones who do the real work for which MISGA was created, namely, the scheduling and conduct of mixers. Obviously, there are many ancillary duties for the club reps such as liaison with club management and maintaining an accurate roster of MISGA Associates in coordination with the division associates chairman who in turn coordinates rosters with the MISGA associates chairman. He also collects the associates' dues and forwards them to MISGA. He prepares an annual fiscal report of the mixer and tournament revenue supplied by the MISGA activities at his club. The annual reports of all clubs in the division are combined and forwarded to the President for consolidation into a MISGA Annual Report.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. There is an annual meeting of club representatives and assistant representatives for information dissemination and voting on issues that require approval by the associates. The club rep will serve as the club's authorized representative for MISGA affairs. Each club has one vote.
2. The Board of Directors will meet at least three times per year to conduct the business of the association.
3. The Divisions hold up to four meetings per year, one of which is a Training Seminar for new and potential club representatives.
4. E-mail has become the prevalent means of communication for coordinating activities and policies within MISGA.
5. MISGAGRAM is the official newsletter of MISGA that is published on the web site four times per year. It contains articles of general interest to associates, anecdotes, lists of winners and pictures at major events and outings.
6. The MISGA Web site is the repository for all of the information, guidelines, forms, and documents that enable the efficient operation of the organization. It has copies of all MISGAGRAMS ever published and the three History booklets published at ten year intervals. Most documents are in PDF format.

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M. I. S. G. A.??



**MARYLAND INTERCLUB SENIORS
GOLF ASSOCIATION**

WHAT IS MISGA?

BACKGROUND: MISGA (Maryland Interclub Seniors Golf Association) was founded in 1975 as a non-profit organization with the purpose of developing greater interest, enjoyment, communication and participation in golf by senior members of golf clubs in the State of Maryland. Its geographic reach has since been expanded to include clubs in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia's Eastern Shore, and West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. Its goal is to foster friendship and camaraderie through tournaments and mixers on a host and guest basis and to provide an opportunity to play at other member golf and country clubs. As of the 2011 season, MISGA is affiliated with 68 member clubs and almost 3700 Associates. Efforts are continually underway to increase membership. Member clubs are assigned to one of six semi-autonomous geographic divisions. ([See below](#))

MIXERS: The most important thing that MISGA does, and what sets it apart from the usual golf association, is to schedule and hold hundreds of mixers each year. Simply, a mixer is a meeting of senior golfers from two or more member clubs, one of which is the "home" or host club and the others are the "away" or visiting clubs. The date for this event is scheduled well in advance (usually 6 to 12 months) by the club representatives with further coordination a few days beforehand. The host club representative, preferably with help from the golf professional, makes up foursomes (two members from each club), attempting to keep combined handicaps equal. The format of play, usually best two balls of four or modified Stableford, is determined by the host club. After the round of golf, it is customary for the players to lunch together. To facilitate this, a shotgun start is used. Each player contributes a small sum of money (currently \$5.00) for prizes which are awarded as gift certificates for merchandise in the host club's golf shop. Green fees are not charged the visitors. Each participant pays his share of the golf cart rental. It is important to note that this is not a competition between two clubs – a match. Rather, it is an opportunity to meet and form friendships with other senior golfers. At some other date during the same golf season, the roles are reversed and the visiting club members become the hosts at their clubs. Mixer fees are presently \$35-\$45. Typically, the cost breakdown is as follows: cart fee -- \$20.00, lunch -- \$15.00, prize pool --

\$5.00. All of the prize money collected is paid out (pro shop certificates) to the winners of the day – no carry over. The rest goes to the host club for food and carts.

TOURNAMENTS: MISGA holds two tournaments each year – a two-man team event and an individual stroke play competition. Participation is determined through club and division qualifying tournaments. The field for these MISGA-wide tournaments and the division qualifiers consists of a maximum of 128 participants. Cost for these events runs around \$95-\$100 per man.

MISGA-SPONSORED OUTINGS: In addition, MISGA sponsors fall and winter outings in the Sun Belt at reasonable cost. Outings are scheduled to such places as Sea Trail, NC; Seabrook Island, SC; Fripp Island, SC; Jekyll Island, GA; Cape Coral, FL; Admiral Lehigh, FL; and Plantation Inn, FL, and Little River, NC. In the spring, a three-day outing is held at Ocean City Golf Club or at Williamsburg, VA. In the summer, a two-day outing is held at Carroll Valley Resort in Pennsylvania. Spouses, or female companions, are encouraged to attend these outings.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: To belong to MISGA, a club must be a member of the USGA and provide a rated 18-hole golf course, preferably of at least 5,500 yards. Member clubs must have an active Handicap Committee. The club must have an active seniors' organization, preferably with a minimum of 32 members. These members must be at least 50 years old and pay membership dues, or an annual greens fee, to their club. Member clubs must have the ability to pay such dues, fees and other charges that may be established by the MISGA Board of Directors. The club management must be willing to accept the items listed on the [New Club Membership Requirements](#).

CURRENT DIVISION ALIGNMENT:

Division I - Eastern Shore - East
Division II - Western Maryland and Baltimore
Division III - Eastern Shore - West
Division IV - Washington - West
Division V - Eastern Shore - South
Division VI - Washington – East

NEW CLUB MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Waive Greens Fees for MISGA Mixers, Tournaments and Events.
 2. Host and Attend at Least the Minimum Scheduled / Matrix Mixers.
 3. Maintain a Roster size, preferably a minimum of 32 Members, who are at least 50 Years Old and Pay an Annual or Monthly Greens Fee to a Golf Club.
 4. Have Ability to Pay Such Dues, Fees, and Other Charges as May be Established by the MISGA Board. (Currently, the annual fees are \$50 per club and \$5 per associate.)
 5. USGA Rated 18-Hole Golf Course preferably of at Least 5500 Yards.
 6. Permit Shotgun Starts, Have Riding Carts for All Participants, and normally allow carts on the course. Other golfers will not be mingled in with the MISGA group.
 7. Have Adequate Dining Facilities for All Participants.
 8. Ability and Willingness to Host Division and MISGA Tournaments (Maximum 128 Participants).
 9. Be a golf club, licensed by the USGA or State or regional golf association to issue USGA Handicap Indexes; have an active handicap committee and program complying with the USGA Handicap System; and maintain members' score postings and Indexes on GOLFNET or a comparable internet-connected computer system allowing MISGA-wide peer review.
 10. Club type: Private, Semi-Private, Public, or Military.
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