

## WHO WE ARE

The Rhode Island Golf Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1902 whose primary function is to promote the game of golf in Rhode Island and to serve the interests of its affiliated clubs and members.

To the best of our knowledge, there were ten founding member clubs. They include Agawam Hunt, Choppequonset GC, Long Meadow GC, Melrose GC, Mianatuck GC, The Misquamicut Club, Newport CC, Pawtucket CC, Quinnobequin GC and Wannamoisett CC. Of the original ten, five are still active in the Association. The RIGA is now comprised of 48 member clubs.

The Association is operated by an Executive Committee and Operating Committee. The day to day operations are managed by an Executive Director and his staff.

The RIGA conducts fifteen Major State Championships each year in which hundreds of area golfers compete. They are listed as follows:

Amateur Championship  
Open Championship  
Northeast Amateur Invitational  
Stroke Play Championship  
Mid-Amateur Championship  
Four-Ball Championship  
Senior Amateur Championship  
Senior Four-Ball Championship  
John P. Burke Memorial  
Junior Amateur Championship  
Rhode Island Public Links Championship  
Father-Son Championship  
Mulligan Interclub Team Championship  
Mixed Foursomes Championship  
Parent-Daughter Championship

In addition to the Majors, the Association also conducts a Weekly Invitational Program. Open to all RIGA members, the program consists of five packages of five rounds of golf per package. Members are able to sign up for the program by purchasing a foursome and enrollment opens in February for the Weekly Program. The RIGA is thankful of the cooperation of our member clubs, as the weekly program has become the most popular set of events conducted by the RIGA.

As the state representative of the United States Golf Association (USGA), the RIGA conducts local qualifying for both the USGA Amateur and Open Championships. Also in accordance with the USGA, the RIGA acts as the local authority on the Rules of Golf, and maintains a course rating and handicap system for member clubs.



[WWW.RIGALINKS.ORG](http://WWW.RIGALINKS.ORG)

## MEMBER SERVICES

### HANDICAPPING

More than 12,000 Rhode Island golfers are served through the USGA's Golf Handicap and Information Network (GHIN). With over 2 million golfers receiving handicaps, GHIN is the largest provider in the world. The RIGA provides the GHIN software, which includes a comprehensive tournament pairings program, the installation of the software, and any necessary training, as a complimentary service to our RIGA member clubs.

### COURSE RATING

As part of our member services, the RIGA rates Member Club courses in accordance with the USGA Course and Slope Rating System. The USGA requires that all new golf courses be rated every three years for a period of nine years and then every seven to ten years thereafter.

### RULES OF GOLF

The RIGA plays an important part in the Rules of Golf by being the official liaison between the ultimate authority on the Rules, the USGA, and the clubs. During the course of the year, the RIGA answers numerous phone inquiries regarding the Rules. As an additional member service, the RIGA will go to a member club and conduct a Rules seminar for its members for their everyday play.

### COMMUNICATION

Through our website, [www.rigalinks.org](http://www.rigalinks.org), we are able to inform our members as to what is happening in the Rhode Island golfing community and beyond. Schedule, results and general golf news are posted here regularly. Twice yearly a newsletter is sent out with our season-ending results and the schedule for the upcoming season.

### MEETINGS

At the end of each season there is an Appreciation Dinner which is the RIGA's way of thanking the players. And every few seasons the RIGA will host a club officer's meeting. This meeting acts as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to club operations, facilities, and management procedures. All clubs are encouraged to participate.



# RIGA

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Besides its own activities, the RIGA works closely with the USGA, the New England Golf Association, the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Rhode Island Professional Golfers Association, plus other state and regional associations throughout the United States.

## **BUTTON HOLE GOLF & LEARNING CENTER**

The RIGA office is located at Button Hole Golf & Learning Center. Button Hole is dedicated to providing a short course and teaching center focused on kids and getting them involved in golf.

## **JOHN P. BURKE MEMORIAL FUND**

In 1946, as a tribute to members of the RIGA who served in World War II, the RIGA helped establish the fund. It assists students who work in the service of golf pursue a college education.

# RIGA

**RHODE ISLAND  
GOLF ASSOCIATION**

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**[WWW.RIGALINKS.ORG](http://WWW.RIGALINKS.ORG)**



# RIGA

**SERVING THE GAME OF GOLF  
IN RHODE ISLAND  
FOR OVER 100 YEARS.**

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