

# GOLF RULES AND REGULATIONS

## **1. Player Categories, Tee Times and Related Rules:**

Full or Regular Members over 40 must designate either Member or the Members spouse to be the lifetime holder of "Preferred" tee time. The Member or spouse not so designated shall be accorded "Other" tee times. For Full or Regular Under-40, Young Professional and Legacy memberships the "Preferred" tee time holder will be the **primary member**, while the spouse shall be accorded "other" tee times. For Full or Regular Under-40, Young Professional and Legacy memberships no selection between the member and members spouse for "Preferred" tee time status is permitted. Memberships with "Non-Preferred" tee time status shall be accorded "Other" tee times.

### **A. Preferred Tee Times:**

Holders of "Preferred" tee times may play all day – any day the course is open. However, between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, Wednesdays are designated "Men's Day" during which time ladies and their guests may play after the field, Thursdays are designated as "Ladies Day" during which time men and their guests may play after the field. Holders of Preferred tee times are entitled to the early tee times on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays (unless superseded by a sanctioned tournament by the Golf Committee and Golf Professional), with holders of "Other" tee times to follow that early field at the discretion of the Starter.

### **B. Other Tee Times:**

These tee times are held by: the spouse of the Preferred Tee Time holder; single members who elect to not pay the charges as determined by the Board of Governors for "Preferred" tee times; Surviving Spouse or validly approved "Significant Others" of Full or Regular Members. Holders of "Other" tee times may play any day the course is open subject to the following restrictions:

Between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, (1) Wednesday are designated "Men's Day" during which time ladies and their guests may play after the field and Thursdays are designated as "Ladies' Day" during which men and their guests may play after the field, (2) On weekends and holidays, when tee times are not utilized, after 9:30 a.m. (3) On weekends and holidays when tee times are published, they may play thirty (30) minutes after the last published "Preferred" tee time, alternating with mixed pairings, if any.

### **C. Weekday Members:**

As defined in By-Law Article II., Section 2-C Weekday members may play as in B. above, "Other Tee Times" except not on weekends and holiday weekends. Weekday members, may play in Mixed Holiday Tournaments (Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day) and as a guest of a Full Regular member once per month on a weekend for the applicable guest fee that will be charged to the Weekday member's account.

**D. Juniors: (Male and Female)**

Junior Golfers who are 13-26 years old may play as

	Junior Golfers	Unaccompanied Qualified Juniors	Accompanied Qualified Juniors
Tuesday	After 2 pm	After 12pm	All Day
Wednesday	After 2 pm	After 2 pm	After 2 pm
Thursday	After 2 pm	After 2 pm	After 2 pm
Friday	After 2 pm	After 12 pm	All Day
Saturday/Sunday	After 2 pm	After 1 pm	After the field of play
Holidays	No play	No play	No play

Additional course access is always subject to the approval of the Starter.

Members always have priority over Junior Play

Juniors who have achieved a level of proficiency in playing the game, have a thorough understanding and respect for the rules of golf and golf course etiquette, can apply to become a “Qualified Junior”. Being a “Qualified Junior” affords expanded unaccompanied playing privileges. The junior must apply and be deemed “Qualified” by the golf professional and approval by the golf chair. Juniors must apply and be deemed “qualified” each season.

1. Junior Club Championship – the Junior Club Champion shall be the player (male or female) with the lowest overall eighteen-hole score. A trophy shall be awarded to the winner. No gift certificate or other cash award shall be made. The player (male or female) with the lowest score in each category shall also be awarded a trophy. No player shall receive more than one trophy in the tournament. To be eligible for the Junior Club Championship trophy, males 12 years old and over must play from the white tees.
2. Juniors shall not, at any time, be required to use a caddie or forecaddie.
3. Unaccompanied Juniors can carry their golf bag at any time.

**E.. Young Junior: (under the age of 13 years)**

May play after 3:30 p.m., with the provisions that they have been certified by the Golf Professional and the Golf Committee and they be accompanied by an adult golf member. A Young Junior who has a handicap of less than 24, based on at least ten scores, may play in the Junior Club Championship and the Parent-Child Tournament.

**F. Special Guest:**

1. Defined as an unrelated friend of an unmarried member who has advised the Board of Governors that he or she has a special, personal relationship with the named individual for whom “Special Guest” privileges are

requested.

2. A single golf member or single intermediate golf member or full regular member may file an application for this privilege with the Board of Governors.
3. Upon approval of the application (subject to the Rules existing at the time the application is made), the member's Special Guest shall be granted house, tennis and golf privileges with the provision that with respect to golf privileges, the member must, at all times, play with his or her Special Guest.
4. Special Guests may not participate in tournaments except for the following: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day or other events designated by the golf committee.
5. Special Guests privileges shall not be granted for more than one year at a time. Re-application may be made on an annual basis. A Special Guest shall not have membership status.
6. Upon acceptance of the application by the Board of Governors, the applying member, if a single golf member or single intermediate member, shall pay an annual non-pro-rated Special Guest Fee: of \$1,000.00 or such other amount as the Board may, from time to time, determine. If the applying member is a Full Regular member, or agrees to pay full regular member charges, said Special Guest fee shall be waived.
7. The member requesting Special Guest privileges shall be responsible for all charges incurred by his or her Special Guest.
8. A member may designate only one Special Guest in a dues year.

#### **G. Significant Other**

1. Defined as the unrelated friend of an unmarried members who has advised the Board of Governors that a unique personal relationship presently exists between the applying member and his or her designated significant other. A Significant Other shall not have membership status.
2. Full Regular Family members and Full Regular Single members who elect to pay the cost of Full Regular Family membership may apply through the Admissions Committee to the Board of Governors for "Significant Other" guest privileges as provided for under this section and otherwise pertinent Club Rules and/or Bylaws.
3. Upon approval of the application (subject to the Rules and charges existing

at the time of the application is made or thereafter as the case maybe), Significant Other guest privileges shall be granted for house, tennis and golf with the provision that, with respect to golf privileges, the Significant Other may not participate in the Club Championship.

4. Significant Other guest privileges, granted by the Board of Governors under this section, shall be for the entire dues year. The privileges granted shall be deemed renewed from dues year to dues year without further application. Privileges may be terminated either by written notice from the host member to the Board of Governors or by the Board of Governors acting on its own initiative.

5 The member requesting privileges for a Significant Other shall be responsible for any and all charges incurred by their guest.

6. A member may not designated ~~more~~ more than one Significant Other in any dues Year.

**H. Guests may play as follows:**

	October 1- April 30	May 1 - September 30
Tues, Wed, Thurs	Up to 3 guests per member	Up to 3 guests per member
Fri	Up to 3 guests per member	Up to 3 guests per member, not before 10:00 am. Member foursomes without guests have priority
Weekends	Up to 3 guests per member (during periods when tee times are published, refer to May 1- Sept 30	Up to 3 guests per member Tee times to be assigned by the time-card at the end of the field
Holiday weekends		No golf guests permitted except for members' children (and/or children's spouses) living over 100 miles from the club playing with a least one parent Tee times to be assigned by the time-card at the end of the field

1. Guests shall at all times play with the host member.

2. With the exception of out-of-town guests (persons residing more than 100 miles from the Club.) and family members, **the same person may not be introduced as a guest for golf at Mill River more than twice in any calendar month, only one of which**

**may be on a weekend, or more than 6 times in season (defined as between April 15 and October 15), among all hosting members.** These guest limits shall not include Member/Guest event participation. Members' adult children (and/or children's spouses), may play up to four (4) times per month only two (2) of which may be on a weekend. The host member and the starters shall ascertain and be responsible for how many times his or her guest has played (with any Club member) during the calendar month. Participation in a Member-Guest tournament does not count towards the guests allotted guest privileges.

3. Out-of-town guests may play without restriction as to the number of times, during a two (2)-week only, with the prior consent of the Golf Committee.

4. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, out-of-town guests may not play on holiday weekends, except members' children (and/or children's spouses) who reside more than 100 miles from the Club; these guests may play with at least one parent, tee-times to be assigned by time-card at the end of the field.

5 Junior guests and Young Junior guests shall be subject to the rules for Juniors and Young Juniors above.

6. Green fee paid for a guest shall permit the guest to utilize tennis and pool facilities and, in keeping with our no tipping policy, shall include remuneration for services provided by Locker Room Attendants.

7. In the event of a rain out, if fewer than nine holes are played, the guest fee will be refunded and the round shall not be counted with respect to limitations on the number of times the guest may play during the calendar month.

8. From November 1 until March 31, green fees for guests will be halved.

## **II. Certification Procedures and Requirements**

A. All golfing members admitted to membership after January 1, 2009, their spouse, eligible family members, designated Significant Others and Special Guests who do not have a USGA handicap must be certified prior to being allowed to play the golf course.

B. Person seeking to be certified shall request an appointment with a golf professional for certification by contacting the Pro Shop to select a mutually convenient time.

C. Applicants for certification must, during certification process, safely operate a golf cart unaccompanied by any person except the person certifying them.

D. Males must play the first five holes in no more than 36 strokes.

E. Females must play the first five holes in no more than 39 strokes.

F. Strokes played from bunker shall not be included in the above totals, but the applicant must exhibit some knowledge of how to play out of a bunker.

G. The player must exhibit satisfactory knowledge of the Rules of Golf.

H. The player must exhibit satisfactory knowledge of the Rules of Etiquette.

I. The player must exhibit an understanding of the concept of keeping pace on the golf course and the importance of speed play.

J. A player may reapply for certification as often as necessary.

### **III. Facilities: Procedures and Equipment:**

#### **A. Use of the Golf Course**

1. The Starter shall have complete control of traffic on the golf course at all times. No one may tee off without the Starter's prior permission.

2. Golf Course Hours: Except where the Green Superintendent and/or the Starter shall determine otherwise, the golf course will open, during the season (from Memorial Day through Labor Day), at approximately 7:30 a.m. on weekends and 8:00 a.m. on weekdays. The golf course shall be closed on Mondays.

3. The bag room shall open thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of play.

4. Starting Time Cards: On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from mid-April through mid-October, adult golfers with weekend privileges and their guests will have starting times allotted by the Starter. Cards requesting starting times shall be completed and deposited into the boxes provided for that purpose in the men's locker room or at the main reception desk no later than 3:00 p.m. on Sunday prior to the weekend desired. A list of starting times will be provided to the membership each week. Cards signifying "guest" will be given starting times after the entire signed-up field. No player may request more than one starting time on any day. A player whose name appears on two or more cards shall be given the later starting time. The Starter shall attempt to assign a starting time as near as possible to that requested.

5. Starter may combine groups to complete foursomes.

6. Sign-in for Players with Starting Times: All players must report to the Starter, dressed and ready to play, at least ten (10) minutes prior to their assigned starting time. Any group not ready to start at the appointed time may be set back one (1) hour by the Starter. If two or more members of a foursome are ready to play, they may tee-off. A golfer waiting without a starting time may be used to fill in. If no one is waiting a

latecomer may join the group on the course. If the foursome is already filled, the latecomer will be assigned a time as the last single available or one (1) hour after the time of his arrival, whichever is later.

7. Sign-in for Players without Starting Times: When starting times are in effect those who have not reserved time for the weekend should report to the Starter who, where possible, will either assign them to complete a foursome, or to one of the Starter's open times, or after the field.

8. When starting times are not in effect, a single player may sign-in a twosome, threesome or foursome on the day of play. A starting position (and approximate starting time) will be assigned only after all members of the group have personally checked in with the Starter.

9. Playing Groups: If the Starter requests, players must play in a foursome. Where circumstances dictate, twosomes and threesomes will be permitted to tee off at the discretion of the Starter.

10. 10th Tee: No player may begin golfing without the Starter's knowledge. Only those who have been allotted a starting time at the 10th tee, or authorized by the Starter, may start play there.

11. Officers: On weekends and holidays, Club Officers and their groups shall have priority of the starting tee when Club business requires their giving up their personal time.

12. Non-playing children, under the age of 12, whether or not accompanied by a parent, are prohibited from the golf course any time it is open for play.

13. Bulletin Boards: It is the responsibility of the player, prior to teeing off, to refer to the bulletin board for Local Rules of Play for the day, tees to be played if in a tournament, cart usage, registration sheet for tournaments and other important information.

## **B. Caddies:**

1. Players are required to use available caddies or forecaddies, on Wednesdays, Fridays, weekends, and holidays from the day of the Annual Opening Tournament (no later than May 10 if not held) through Oct 1, except if the only caddies who are present would be doing their second loop.

2. After 4:00 p.m. on weekdays a player may carry his or her own bag.
3. Caddy assignments, except for finals or major tournaments, where players may request particular caddies, caddies shall be assigned by the Starter/Caddy Master on a first come, first served basis.
4. Payment of Caddies: Caddies shall be paid in cash, in accordance with suggested fees.
5. If, because of rain or other inclement weather, a golfing group leaves the course before completing 9 holes, the caddy charges shall be paid for the full 9 holes. If the group begins to play the second 9 holes, the caddy charges shall be paid in full.

**C. Equipment: Bags and Carts:**

1. Golfing bags and minimum equipment: Each player must have his or her own golf bag and at least seven (7) clubs when carts and caddies are unavailable or if playing 5 holes or fewer after 6:00 p.m.
2. Carts: No more than two (2) players may ride in a cart at any time.
3. Players under 16 years of age may not drive carts. Users of carts assume responsibility for their proper and safe operation.
4. Carts shall not be driven or parked nearer than 15 feet to greens and bunkers, or on the sides of the hills, or past ropes or other demarcations.
5. Members shall be responsible for damage to carts due to carelessness, negligence, or improper handling of carts by themselves or their guests.
6. Handicap flags: Players who present adequate proof that they are unable to walk long distances or up or down hills, may request that a yellow "handicap" flag to be placed on their golf carts. This will afford them the privilege of driving beyond ropes or other demarcations. In no event, however, shall any player park his or her cart closer than fifteen (15) feet from any green or bunker.

**IV. Play:**

**A. USGA Rules** – USGA Rules of Golf shall prevail at all times, unless modified by a Local rule

**B. Local Rules:**

1. The embedded ball rule is in effect “through the green”.
2. “Out of Bounds” shall be defined by white stakes.
3. Penalty areas are defined by red stakes.
4. Artificially surfaced paths are immovable obstructions. (See USGA Rule 24).
5. Areas covered with woodchips or flowerbeds shall be played as ground-under repair. Relief may be taken or the ball may be played as it lies.

**C. Recording Scores** – Each player is required to post every 9 and 18 hole score during the April to October period prescribed by the M.G.A. In case of flagrant violations, the member will be suspended from tournament play. Scores must be posted in accordance with U.S.G.A. Rules & Procedures.

**D. Golf Etiquette:**

Whether using a caddy or a cart, each player shall:

1. Carefully repair divots and ball marks.
2. Enter and exit bunkers from the lowest point, thoroughly rake bunkers and place the rake outside and parallel to the edge of the bunker within one foot.
3. Complete play within four hours.
4. Keep pace with the group ahead or allow faster players through.
5. Properly operate golf carts.
6. Conduct themselves appropriately at all times.
7. Clear the 18th green quickly and return clubs and carts to the bag storage area.

**E.** It is recommended the players incorporate the following suggestions to eliminate slow play. A reasonable goal for an 18-hole round is four (4) hours or less.

1. Play “ready” golf when possible.
2. Players should make their club selections while waiting their turn to hit.
3. Drop your partner off at his or her ball and proceed to your ball, select your club and be ready to hit when it’s your turn. Do not stand around while your partner is hitting.

4. If a shot is offline, select several likely clubs and leave caddy or cart.
5. Players should carry an extra ball to avoid returning to their cart or bag.
6. Line up your putt while others are putting.
7. Be aware of the pace of your group; ask fellow players to pick up the pace if your group is falling behind.
8. Leave carts at the side or rear of the green, not in front.
9. After holing out, move promptly off the green and mark scorecards at the next tee.
10. Do not take more shots than your equitable stroke control limit.

**F. Local Procedures:**

1. The golf staff have full authority to regulate play and all players are expected to follow their instructions.
2. Rights on the Course: Twosomes, threesomes and foursomes have equal rights on the golf course. Singles have no standing.
3. Keep Up with the Group Ahead: Each group must keep up with the group ahead, especially on crowded weekends. It is not enough to “stay ahead” of the group behind. This creates gaps and eventually backs up the course. If a group cannot maintain its place, it should wave any waiting group through on its own initiative. If a group has a full hole open ahead, it must stand aside and let the waiting group play through.
4. Putting: Continuous putting is encouraged.
5. Crossovers: Groups crossing over to the first and tenth tees must check with the starter before teeing off.
6. Infractions: Players are charged with reporting to the Golf Committee in writing any observed infraction of these rules or unseemly conduct.
7. Tees: Unless announced on the bulletin board, players may play the red, white, blue or black tees as desired.
8. Stopping for Lunch: Groups stopping for an extended lunch must advise the Starter and await the Starters permission before re-entering the field.
9. Lost Clubs: Players are urged to check their golf bags after each round. Neither the Club nor the Golf Professional shall be responsible for lost clubs.

## **V. Tournaments:**

### **A. Eligibility:**

1. Only designated holders of "Preferred" tee times are eligible for weekend Club Tournaments unless otherwise announced.
2. Players who fail to sign-up for a tournament prior to the closing date may apply to the golf professional staff for inclusion as an alternate.

### **B. Fees:**

All Members having "Preferred" tee times and those choosing Memberships with "Non-Preferred" tee times will be charged a fee for the year to cover handicapping and trophies. Holders of "Other" tee times as well as all other players requesting participation in the handicap system will be charged a fee. Any member not wishing to participate in tournaments and/or not wishing to receive a handicap will not be billed, providing he or she advises the accounting office by May 1st.

### **C. Rules:**

1. Tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with the latest U.S.G.A. Rules of Golf, which shall govern at the Club, except as modified by Local Rules. A member committing an infraction will be penalized under these Rules. Ignorance of the Rules will not be accepted as an excuse. The Golf Committee or the Golf Professional shall make decisions with respect to the interpretation of the Rules.
2. All competitors shall familiarize themselves with the Rules of Golf, our Local Rules and Golf Etiquette. It is good sportsmanship to call an infraction of the Rules on oneself, or on an opponent in match play and on any contestant in stroke play.
3. It is unsportsmanlike to enter a tournament if you know you will be unable to play through. Players shall not enter any tournament unless they are willing and able to play all scheduled dates with any player in the field.
4. Players shall play in their assigned time slots. A player who does not appear or telephone will be disqualified from the tournament and shall not be permitted to participate in the next equivalent tournament for which he or she signs up.
5. All matches will be played on specified dates unless contestants mutually agree to a prior date. If no agreement can be reached for an alternate date, the specified date shall stand.
6. All qualification rounds must be played on specified dates.

7. Players in qualifying rounds (stroke play) must be accompanied by a competitor in class.

8. Finals for the Club Championship in each class must be played on the scheduled date.

9. In the event of rain, play will continue unless the course is closed by the Green Superintendent or play is suspended by the Golf Professional. If play is suspended, players must mark their balls and remain available to resume play. Players will be notified if, and when play is to be resumed. If play is postponed to a different date, play will commence on the hole following the last completed hole. In either case, if a player is unavailable at the time play is resumed, he or she will be disqualified from the tournament.

10. Ties:

a. In match play, the match will continue beginning at hole number one, regardless of the original starting point, strokes being allowed as they fall. Caddies should be paid per bag, per hole.

b. In stroke play, where a competition ends in a tie, the winner shall be decided by a match of cards as follows: first, the total of the last nine holes, second, the total of the last six holes, third, the total of the last three holes; and fourth the eighteenth hole, matches that play off ties shall be given preferences in the field on the play-off holes.

11. Unresolved Disputes:

Questions as to tournament procedure should be referred to the Golf Committee personnel in charge. A question of U.S.G.A. or Local Rules interpretation should be referred to one of the following: Golf Committee Chairperson or a Golf Professional. Do not stop playing to settle a disputed point in match play. The player whose ball is involved may proceed as he or she sees fit. The opponent must make a claim before teeing off on the next hole. Try to reach one of the persons named above as soon as possible. In order to speed play in stroke-play tournaments, if there is a dispute and a rules official cannot be reached, play two balls and have the ruling settled after the round.

12. Scorecards:

a. Legibly written.

b. Show competitors' full names.

c. Dated.

d. Signed, attested and deposited in the box provided by the Golf

Committee.

e. Failure to comply with any or all of these requirements will result in disqualification.

13. Sponsorships: Sponsorships by members involving a company in which the member (or spouse) is an officer, director or principal shall be prohibited. Participation in nationally-sponsored tournaments not requiring a local sponsor may be authorized by the Golf Committee.

**D. Additional Rules for Ladies' Tournaments:**

1. Eligibility: Tournaments are open to all who have paid the tournament and handicapping fee. No one may enter 18-hole tournaments until she has achieved a computerized 54-handicap or lower.
2. Procedure: On tournament days report to Starter ready for play at least 15 minutes before scheduled tee-off time. foursomes will proceed in their assigned time slots although foursomes may be incomplete due to lateness or cancellation. Absent of local rules U.S.G.A will prevail. Local rules can be found on the bulletin board or in special notices.
3. Tardiness: Latecomers will be placed in the field at the discretion of the Starter should there be an opening.
4. Cancellations: Cancellations should be made, if possible, before the tournament day by notifying the golf professional or the Starter. In case of the same day emergency, call the Starter or a member of your foursome.
5. Undue Delays During Play: If a foursome fails to keep pace on the course, it must invite the next foursome to play through. If there is a clear and open hole ahead, they must allow the next foursome to play through.
6. Prizes: No player shall receive more than one team prize per tournament.
7. Weather Conditions: If the weather on the day of a tournament is questionable, participants should contact the Starter.
8. Club Championship: Participants in the Ladies' Club Championship must be a member or spouse of a member who has posted at least 10 (ten) 18-hole scores during the current season.

**HOLE IN ONE**

If either a member or spouse of a member shall score a "Hole-In-One" there will be an "Open Bar" commencing at the time the golfer posts their score and then continuing either until 8:00 p.m. or for two (2) hours after the round has been completed, whichever is later. A Hole-in-One is official upon the golfer's completion of the front or back 9 holes including the ace or 18 holes and the posting of the score. All members and guests shall be entitled to "toast the ace". ~~upon signing a chit or chits.~~ The cost of the celebration will be shared equally by the entire membership with appropriate billing at the end of the current month. Any surplus shall be retained in a special fund to be applied against the next such celebration.