

New Member Orientation

Welcome to the Sheridan Park Golf Club. We're excited to have you as a member! Our club holds several tournaments and social events throughout the year. An event calendar is posted at the Sheridan Golf Course and on our website <http://www.SheridanParkGolfClub.com>.

Getting a Handicap - The first thing you need to do is establish a handicap. Our club follows all Handicapping Rules and Procedures of the USGA, uses the USGA's GHIN Handicap System, and is licensed by the NY State Golf Association to issue official USGA handicaps. Note that the USGA's system has now merged with the World Handicap System as well. If you're coming from another club and have a USGA handicap on the GHIN system already, that handicap will be brought forward to our club. If you don't already have a handicap, you'll need to establish one before you can play in handicapped events. Our Handicap Chairman this year is Bob "The Sheriff" Lombard.

Establishing a Handicap – You'll need to post three 18-hole scores at any course before a handicap is established. Scores for all 9-hole and 18-hole rounds at any course must be posted in the GHIN system either online or with GHIN SmartPhone app. To Post a score on the internet use the link <https://www.ghin.com/login>. Handicap posting in our region begins April 15 and ends October 31 for rounds played in our part of the country. If you travel to warmer climates and play there – you must post those scores as well. When in doubt, just try to post the round – the system will tell you if it can't post it because it's out of season. The system will set a handicap index which follows you from course to course. Your course handicap is set by the combination of your handicap index and the course handicap for the course you are playing. **I strongly encourage you to read the Rules of Handicapping posted at <https://www.usga.org/handicapping/roh/2020-rules-of-handicapping.html>**. It describes how your handicap is calculated (it's actually an indication of how you score on a "good day" and not an average of your scores) and all sorts of other things you should know.

Tournaments - Once you have a handicap established you can start playing in Club tournaments. Our club hosts several large tournaments each year and also has a weekly tournament.

- For **Weekly Tournaments**, you can play your 'tournament round' anytime between Tuesday and Sunday but must play with another club member who either scores your round or attests your score.
 - You can only play one "Weekly Tournament Round" per week and you must sign your name on the sheet in the Men's Locker Room prior to starting your round. Every weekly tournament round must be witnessed by another Club Member and that other Member must either keep your score or attest to your score. When you're done, write your gross score, subtract your current handicap from the handicap report posted in the Locker Room, Sign your Scorecard, have the the Club Member you played with sign to attest your score, and put your signed/attested scorecard in the box by the showers.
 - The club has 3 handicap classes and prizes are awarded weekly for the best 3 net scores in each handicap class. Winners are posted weekly and prizes are awarded to winners. 1st Place wins 3 \$20 gift cards, 2nd and 3rd place each win 2 \$20 gift cards.
 - Each member can only win two weekly tournaments a year so your chances of winning improve as the year goes on.
- For **Major Tournaments** we now do signups both electronically and with a signup sheet posted in the Clubhouse. We send an email announcing signups well in advance of each tournament. If after you've signed up you cannot participate, **please** (as a courtesy to those running the

tournaments) cross your name off the signup sheet. Most major tournaments also include an optional skins game and closest to the pin contest.

- **Match Play Tournaments** – we have two season-long single elimination tournaments that use match play format.
 - **Individual President's Cup** – this event can accommodate up to 64 Members who are grouped in four handicap classes and randomly placed in a 64-man Single Elimination Bracket. Members play match play with full handicap. Winners advance to the next level until play again throughout the year until a single winner is determined.
 - **2-Man President's Cup** – this event is the same as the Individual except it accommodates up to 32 2-Man teams who play a season-long single elimination bracket at full handicap until one 2-man team is determined the winners.
 - **Handicapping the President's Cup Matches** – to handicap these matches, simply determine the lowest course handicap of each participant and then other players in the match get the difference between their handicap and the lowest as the number of strokes they get for the round. Then assign those strokes to holes by the handicap rating of the hole.
 - For example, in a 2-Man President's Cup match, if there's a 5, an 8, a 10, and a 15 handicap in the foursome,
 - the 5 Handicap plays scratch (gets no handicap strokes on any holes)
 - the 8 Handicap gets 3 and thus 1 stroke the #1, #2, and #3 handicap holes
 - the 10 Handicap gets 5 – one stroke on each of the 5 hardest holes
 - and the 15 gets 10 – one stroke on each of the 10 hardest holes
 - The person who gets the lowest net score wins the hole – so in a 2-man match they win that for their team
 - If a match ends in a tie, ask the starter to put you back out on either side of the course as soon as possible to finish the match
 - **NOTE: It is each Member's responsibility to contact their next opponent and arrange for a time to play the match – the Club does not schedule these matches**
 - **There are often informal handicapped Skins games on Tuesday and Thursday mornings where Club members gather around 8:00. Typically 3 or 4 foursomes participate with a nominal charge for entry.**

Parties – The club hosts two non-tournament related parties – the Spring Party and the Fall Party. Both parties are optional and require a small additional charge (normally \$20) to attend. We provide a great meal and non-alcoholic drinks at each event and members can bring their own alcoholic drinks as well.

Local Rules – Our Club has a pretty large set of local rules and procedures you should be aware of:

- **Download and Read the Local Rules** – all new members should download and familiarize themselves with the local rules. You'll find them on our website at <https://www.sheridanparkgolfclub.com/sheridan-park-golf-club-local-rules-2024-revision.pdf>
- **All Putts Holed** - In all circumstances, we require that all putts, no matter how short, be holed in tournament play. No 'gimmes' are allowed under any circumstances other than when a hole is conceded in match play.
- **Our Club Plays:**
 - "Summer Rules" (aka the Rules of Golf) whenever course conditions permit. We usually start the season playing "Preferred Lies" until the course dries up and then we announce that Preferred Lies are no longer allowed until the mid-to-late Fall. This means you cannot touch your ball for any reason (other than to identify it) from tee to green.

- 'Preferred Lies' (aka Winter Rules) is played when the course is extremely wet. This allows for you to lift, clean, and place a ball in the fairway of the whole you are playing. The ball must be replaced within one club length, not nearer the hole. You cannot touch any ball in the rough nor in the fairway of a hole you are not playing (other than to identify it).

Website – we invite you to visit our website where all key information exists and all information is posted so check there frequently for news.

- Website: <http://www.sheridanparkgolfclub.com/>

Social Media - we also now distribute news and other info via:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sheridanparkgolfclub>

If you have any questions the best way to get answers is to email the club @ SheridanParkGolfClub@gmail.com.

Thanks for joining and I hope you have as much fun as I do playing this wonderfully challenging golf course and competing with and socializing with about 150 fine gentlemen who are now your fellow Club members.

Bob Cohan

President – Sheridan Park Golf Club

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<http://www.SheridanParkGolfClub.com>