



# New Member Orientation

Welcome to the Sheridan Park Golf Club, we've excited to have you as a member. Our club holds several tournaments and social events throughout the year. An event calendar is posted in the Men's Locker Room 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 Computer System, and is licensed by the USGA to issue official USGA handicaps. 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 be starting from scratch. Scores for all 9 and 18 hole rounds played at Sheridan and all other courses must be posted in the GHIN system. Scores can be posted on the handicap computer in the Clubhouse, on the Internet, or with the new GHIN iPhone app. Use the Posting Online link on our Club's homepage for information on how to post via the internet. Handicap posting starts April 15 and ends October 31.

Once you have a handicap established you must start adjusting the scores you post using the Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) procedure. ESC adjusts the scores you post for handicap purposes only and must not be used to adjust scores submitted for tournaments. Details on adjusting scores are posted above or beside the handicap computer in the Clubhouse and in the Men's locker room.

Handicaps are revised twice monthly – on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month – using scores posted by 9pm the day before. You need to have a minimum of 5 scores posted in order to get a handicap. Revision dates and Official Handicaps are posted in the Men's Locker room and on our website.

Full details on USGA Handicap procedures are available at <http://www.usga.org>. Please contact me (contact information at end of this document) for questions on handicaps.

**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 must sign and date the tournament sheet in the locker room prior to starting your round to ensure you play only one round per weekly tournament. You then post your gross score (not adjusted for ESC) on the tournament sheet in the locker room and put your scorecard (signed by you and the other club member) in the tournament scorecard box in the Men's Locker Room (by the shower). 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 (normally \$20 gift certificates to local establishments) can be picked up at Lindner's Golf Shop across the street from the course. Each member can only win two weekly tournaments a year so your chances of winning improve as the year goes on.
- For larger tournaments a signup sheet is posted in the locker room well in advance of each event and we send an email announcing signups. You can signup in the Locker Room or by email. 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.

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**Parties** – The club hosts three non-tournament related parties – the Spring Party, Fall Party and Steak Roast. Each of these events requires a small additional charge (normally \$10-\$15) to participate and is optional. We provide a great meal and free drinks at each event and the Spring and Fall parties include hundreds of dollars of golf merchandise raffled as door prizes.

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

- In all circumstances, we require that all putts, no matter how short, be holed. No ‘gimmes’ are allowed under any circumstances.
- Our Club Plays:
  - “Summer Rules” (aka the Rules of Golf) anytime that Carts are allowed on the course. This means you cannot touch your ball for any reason (other than to identify it) from tee to green. We do have a local rule in place so if your ball ends up in an unrepaired divot in the fairway of the hole you are playing and your playing partner agrees that it is in a divot, you are entitled to mark the ball, lift (but not clean) it and take a drop as near as possible to the original position, but not nearer the hole. If the ball goes back into a divot you can repeat until you are no longer in a divot.
  - ‘Preferred Lies’ (aka Winter Rules) anytime the course does not allow carts out because of wet conditions. This allows for you to lift, clean, and place a ball in the fairway of the hole 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).
- All other rules are as designated on the scorecard apply. A couple of clarifications:
  - On hole 7, the fence that previously lined the left side of the hole has been removed but many of the fence posts remain. Those fence posts still mark the out-of-bounds line and you do not get relief from the posts themselves.
  - On hole 12, there is a drop area across the creek for tee shots that do not clear the creek. It’s just over the water to the right of where the cart path enters the fairway. This is not always marked with a white circle painted on the grass. Drop there whether it’s marked or not.

We do our best to keep the website up-to-date so check there frequently for news. If you have any questions the best way to get answers is to email the club @ [SheridanParkGolfClub@gmail.com](mailto:SheridanParkGolfClub@gmail.com).

Thanks for joining and I hope you have as much fun as I do playing this wonderful and challenging course and competing with and sharing a beer with over 150 fine gentlemen who are now your fellow Club members.

[SheridanParkGolfClub@gmail.com](mailto:SheridanParkGolfClub@gmail.com)  
<http://www.SheridanParkGolfClub.com>