

Stone Creek Mens Club (SCMC) Members Handbook



Welcome from the President

On behalf of the Board and our members we would like to welcome you to our Mens Club. As you will read in this handbook, there are many golf related activities scheduled by the Stone Creek Mens Club (SCMC) throughout the year. These include Monthly Majors, the Club Championship, and of course our regularly scheduled weekend and weekday games. All of our activities are intended to provide for the enjoyment of the game and fellowship with other members from the beginning golf enthusiast to the more experienced players. We host many tournaments and events throughout the year starting in March with our Spring Opener and ending in November with the Fall Closer.

One way to find out what is going on with the Mens Club is by frequently checking the SCMC website hosted by Stone Creek. This is located at [StonecreekGolfClub/Clubs/Mens-Club](https://www.stonecreekgolfclub.com/clubs/mens-club). The website is updated frequently, and used to convey information on upcoming events, signups for games, and provide results of tournaments.

I encourage you to contact a Club member, and specifically any Board member, for information about the Mens Club. Board contact information may be found here: [SCMC Board Members](#).

We have a great Mens Club with a high spirit of camaraderie and fellowship. Our members enjoy the game of golf while challenging ourselves to play the best that we can while having fun. I know that you will too.

Warmest regards,

Eugene (Gene) Zaharie, President, Stone Creek Mens Club

Congratulations!

Your membership in the Stone Creek Mens Club (SCMC) provides you the opportunity to regularly play one of the more challenging, well-conditioned and playable courses in the Pacific Northwest. We're glad you've joined up with us!

As stated in the SCMC Bylaws, the purpose of the SCMC is:

- To stimulate interest in golf by bringing together a group of golfers interested in forming a golf organization.
- To promote and foster among the members a closer bond and fraternity for their joint and mutual benefit, and to and conserve the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions.
- To encourage conformance to the USGA Rules of Golf by creating a representative authority.
- To maintain a uniform system of handicapping, as set forth in the World Handicap System (WHS) and issue Handicap Indexes to the members.
- To provide an authoritative body, the SCMC Board, to govern and conduct club competitions.

We hope that you will enjoy your membership and become an active participant in the club's tournaments, meetings, and other activities. *Consider serving on a committee, or on the Board, it's only with active member participation that the club can grow, not only in numbers, but in the stature for its tournaments and the camaraderie of its members.*

Your membership in the SCMC entitles you to several benefits:

- Membership in the Oregon Golf Association
- Membership in the Pacific Northwest Golf Association
- Free Subscription to Pacific Northwest Golfer Magazine (quarterly)
- Computerized USGA handicap service
- Weekly Wednesday and Saturday Play with Preferred Tee Times
- Monthly Major Tournaments (March – November)
- Season long Ringer Tournament
- Gross, Net, and Team Match Play Tournaments
- Club funded entries to four OGA Tournaments for qualifying members
 - ◆ Net Championship (4 paid entries)
 - ◆ Team Championship (4 paid entries)
 - ◆ Senior Amateur Championship (1 paid entry)
 - ◆ Tournament of Champions (2 paid entry)
- 10% Pro Shop Merchandise and Equipment Discounts
- One-hour early twilight rate
- An annual \$1500 prize fund for a hole-in-one during Club play.
 - ◆ The \$1500 is split by the number of hole-in-ones, with \$750 being the maximum payout to an individual per hole in one.

The SCMC Board

Board Meetings:

The SCMC has General Membership Meetings and Regular Board meetings. There are two General Membership meetings per year. The first is held in conjunction with the Spring Opener in March. The second, which is also the Club's Annual Meeting, is held in conjunction with the Fall Closer in November. General Membership Meetings are typically held after the conclusion of play in conjunction with the Spring Opener and the Fall Closer.

All members are invited to attend the monthly SCMC Board meetings where regular SCMC business is conducted. The Board meetings are typically held on the last Tuesday of each month (except for December) and starts at 6:00 PM. Pizza and liquid refreshments are provided. If you have questions, please contact any Board member.

The Monthly Board Meeting location is:

**Jimmy O's Pizzeria
1678R Beavercreek Road
Oregon City, OR 97045**

Board of Directors:

A Board of Directors (Officers or just the Board) is elected by the membership at large in accordance with the SCMC Bylaws. Elections are at the Annual Meeting typically in November after the Fall Closer. The Board of Directors will implement and administer all duties and events pertaining to the SCMC in conjunction with the Head Professional at Stone Creek Golf Club. Please refer to the SCMC Bylaws if you need more information.

Board Member Terms:

- The President, Handicap Director, Tournament Director serve for two (2) years, elected in odd numbered years.
- The Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer serve for two (2) years, elected in even numbered years.
- The two At-Large members serve for one (1) year, elected every year.

Bylaws:

The SCMC Bylaws may be found on the SCMC website.

Regular Season Program: March 1st through November 30th
Regular Saturday Game:

Signups:

Signup for regular Saturday play is done via a first come, first served sign up process. Sign up typically opens the Sunday preceding the date of play. Sign-up for Saturday play closes at 12:00pm on the Thursday preceding the Saturday play. There will be an online sign-up via Golf Genius. Space is typically limited to the first 48 (March & April), to 60 players (May through September), and are usually rolling tee times. Occasionally there may be a shotgun start. Events may be full prior to the expiration of the sign up. If the sign-up sheet is full, you may call the Tournament Committee Chairman to see if additional times are available, a cancellation has occurred, or added to a wait list.

Tee Times:

Tee times are ultimately assigned by the Pro Shop. We do our best to accommodate requests to play early, mid or late within the time block, as well as allow play with a particular player(s), as you may indicate.

Entry Fee and Payment:

The entry fee is payable at the time of check in. The amount due will be listed on the sign-up sheet/announcements. The entry fee is optional if you are playing a match play event during regular Saturday play, but if playing in both events, the regular Saturday entry fee must be paid at the time of check in.

Game Format:

The game format will vary during regular Saturday play. The game will normally be posted on the website, although depending on number of participants, it may be changed on the event day. The typical game rotation is individual gross/net and individual Stableford gross/net.

Variations:

Other scoring variations and games may occur throughout the season including 2–man best ball (1 net), 3-man blind draw best ball (2 net), Chicago, etc. Decisions as to game format will be made by the Tournament Director prior to the start of play. Completed and checked scorecards are turned into the Pro Shop at the end of the round, and scores will be posted via GHIN.

Cancellation and No–Show Policy:

Once sign up has closed, each member is expected to show up unless they have cancelled by calling the course and request cancellation with Pro shop staff. We request that cancellations occur by Friday morning so that wait-listed players can be contacted. Players who are “no shows for Regular Saturday Play”, that is they have not called the Pro-Shop and cancelled prior to their tee time may be assessed a \$10 “no show” fee that until paid makes them ineligible to earn any prizes in any subsequent events played. No prize money will be retroactively paid. If there are any questions concerning this, please contact the Tournament Director.

Note: “no shows” may result in your Mens Club membership privileges being suspended or revoked at the sole discretion of the Board. In addition, you may, at the sole discretion of Stone Creek, be responsible for your green fees. SCMC has no authority over actions that Stone Creek Golf Course may pursue.

Regular Season Program: March 1st through November 30th (cont.)

Regular Wednesday Game:

SCMC plays on Wednesday mornings, usually from the white tees and is a net only game.

Signup:

Wednesday signup is via the Golf Genius online registration, or on the SCMC website (under the Stone Creek Clubs link). Invitations to register are sent by email to all club members on the Wednesday preceding the date of play. Any cancellation must be made by the Monday evening before play. There is an entry fee payable at the time of check-in. The amount will be listed on the sign-up sheet/announcements. Games will vary week to week. Members may request specific player pairings and early, mid or late tee times. The Pro Shop will do their best to honor tee time requests and player pairings.

Prizes:

Game payout will be via “book money credit” in the Stone Creek Pro Shop. The Mens Club strives to pay out one-third the field in each event/tournament. Results and payouts for Majors, Wednesdays and Saturday play are posted on the website. We endeavor to have results posted within 2 to 5 days after the event.

\$\$ on the Books:

Book money credit is posted to a member’s account no later than two weeks after the event (typically it is posted within 2-3 days after results have been posted). Book money may be used for pro shop merchandise, green fees, and driving range and other items as may be determined and allowed by the Pro Shop. *It is preferred and recommended that book money be used within 12 months of earning it.* The Pro Shop reserves the right to request that any unclaimed book money be used within a given time frame or any balance may be forfeited. Other forms of prizes are also occasionally awarded during tournament play including gift certificates, door prizes, etc.

Major Tournaments:

SCMC hosts one major tournament per month March through November. Additionally, SCMC hosts a Senior Mens Club Championship, and a Super Senior Club Championship, and a Legends Championship.

Entry Fee:

Entry fees for major tournaments are typically \$30 with an optional \$10 skins game. The Club Championship, Senior Club Championship, and Super Senior Club Championship generally have higher entry fees.

Flights:

Majors are typically flighted into 2-3 flights. Field size varies depending on the tournament. Flighted major tournaments are typically scored individual gross and net. Gross and net skins are also typically awarded per flight. KP’s are typically separated by flights.

Regular Season Program: March 1st through November 30th (cont.)

Major Tournaments (cont.):

Signup:

Signups for the major tournaments are done online on a first come, first served basis. Signups typically start about 3 weeks prior to the tournament and closes by the Thursday afternoon preceding the tournament. Tournaments may be full prior to the expiration of the sign up. Opening of the sign up is announced via e-mail as well as is posted on the website. For tournaments that have rolling times, we will *try* to honor early, mid and late tee time requests. Pairings for majors are normally randomly assigned except for those involving team play (such as a Member-Member). Requests to play with specific other players will not be honored.

Tournament Schedule:

SCMC holds Major Tournaments, Holiday Tournaments, and participates in Stone Creek Golf Course Tournaments. Below is a list of Tournaments (with approximate dates to be held). This includes information on eligibility for the Ringer, Net Points, and Gross Points. Also, indicated is if Non-Members of SCMC are allowed to participate. Also, these events are subject to change.

SCMC Tournaments			Ringer	Net Points	Gross Points	Non-Member Allowed
March	Spring Opener	AM Shotgun	Y	Y	Y	N
April	The Masters	Rolling	Y	Y	Y	N
May	PGA	Rolling	Y	Y	Y	N
June	US Open	Rolling	Y	Y	Y	N
July	British Open	Rolling	Y	Y	Y	N
Aug (2 days)	Club Championship	Rolling	Y	Y	Y	N
Aug/Sep (2 Weds)	Super Senior CC	Rolling	N	N	N	N
Sep	Member/member (guest)	Rolling	tbd	tbd	tbd	Y
Aug or Sep (2 days)	Senior CC	Rolling	N	N	N	N
Oct	Memorial Cup	Rolling	tbd	tbd	N	N
Nov	Fall Closer	AM Shotgun	Y	Y	N	N
Match Play Tournaments	Gross, Net, Team Competitions		N	N	N	N

Regular Season Program: March 1st through November 30th (cont.)
Major Tournaments (cont.):

Qualifications for Club Championships:

Qualifications for the Club, Senior Club, Super Senior Club, and Legends Championships are:

Club Championship:

- 8 paid events since the previous year's Club Championship **OR**
- 6 paid events in the current season
- No age restriction

Senior Club Championship:

- 8 paid events since the previous year's Senior Club Championship **OR**
- 6 paid events in the current season
- Contestant must be 50 years of age or greater by the date of the event

Super Senior Club Championship:

- 8 paid events since the previous year's Super Senior Club Championship **OR**
- 6 paid events in the current season
- Contestant must be 60 years of age or greater by the date of the event

Legends Championship:

- Contestant must be 70 years of age or greater by the date of the event

Definition of Paid Events:

- Only events from March 1st to November 30th will be included
- Major Championships
- Regular Saturday Mens Club Game
- Regular Wednesday Mens Club Game
- Net match play (counts as 1 paid event regardless of the number of matches played)
- Gross match play (counts as 1 paid event regardless of the number of matches played)
- Team match play (counts as 1 paid event regardless of the number of matches played)

Exception to Qualification Requirements:

- If a member is unable to play 8/6 counting rounds to make him eligible to play in the Club Championships (that includes Senior and Super Senior), he may appeal to the Board to be included.
- Long term membership, consistent participation, and an established level of play will be minimum requirements.
- Additionally, health or injury issues with the member or his family, and/or job situation or other financial duress may be among those considered acceptable.
- Final decision will be at the sole discretion of the Board.

Regular Season Program: March 1st through November 30th (cont.)
Major Tournaments (cont.):

Cancellation and No-Show Policy for Major Tournament Events:

Due to the popularity and logistics of the major tournaments, there is an enforced cancellation/no show policy once the on-line sign-up has closed, as follows:

Cancellation and No-Show Policy for Major Tournament Events cont.):

Cancel:

You must cancel your tee time for a major event by the preceding Thursday at 5pm. Cancellation must be made by contacting the Tournament Director. Do not call the Pro Shop to cancel. If you do not cancel by the preceding Thursday at 5pm, you may be prohibited from playing in the next major event. If you need to cancel after the Thursday cancellation deadline due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, it is also your responsibility to call the course and let them know AND send a follow up e-mail to the Tournament Chair advising him of your need to cancel and the reason why. If you cancel after the Thursday deadline but before the day of the event, you may also be subject to a “no show” fee at the sole discretion of the Board.

No-Show Fee:

If you cancel the day of the event or fail to show up for your tee time you will be assessed a “no show” fee unless waived by the Board – in these same day cases the Board will waive the “no show” fee in only the most extreme of emergencies, or for other good cause as solely determined by the Board. You will be ineligible to play in any subsequent major tournaments until you pay the “no show fee”. The “no show fee for Major Tournament events” is equal to the amount of the missed tournament’s entry fee (typically \$30).

No-Show:

If you are a no-show for a major event twice in a season (whether excused or not), you may be prohibited from playing in the next club championship. Additionally, individuals who show a pattern of cancellation over the years will be documented and subject to further Board discipline including up to expulsion. In addition, you may, at the discretion of Stone Creek, be responsible for your green fees (SCMC has no authority over actions that the Stone Creek Course pursues). If you have any questions, please contact the Tournament Director.

Tee Policy:

The following policy is in effect for events where play from one set of tees is not required, or set forth in the Tournament rules:

- any Stone Creek Mens Club member may move from the Blue Tees to the White Tees but will compete for the net prize only.
- USGA rule 6.2/6.2b will determine the handicap differential in switching tee boxes.
- For most Major Tournament play events where the competition is individual, C Flight will be playing from the White Tees, for the Club Championship, A Flight will play from Black Tees, B Flight from the Blue Tees, C Flight from the White Tees.
- White tee players are eligible for gross and net payouts on score and pay balls (skins) as well as KPs within their assigned flight.

Regular Season Program: March 1st through November 30th (cont.)

Other Tournaments:

Ringer Tournaments: There are two Major Ringer Tournaments for members: gross and net, and these are part of the Major Tournament. The Ringer takes your best score (net/gross) on each hole during any qualifying Major Tournament played (see the Major Tournament schedule on page 6). The entry fee is included in your Tournament fee. Scoring begins after membership to the Club dues are paid along with any tournament entry fee.

Match Play Tournaments: There are three Match Play Tournaments for members: gross, net, and team. Match Play tournaments usually start in April and conclude by September or October.

- The Net field is for a maximum of 64 players with entry fee of \$30.
- The Gross field is typically for a maximum of 32 with an entry fee of \$40.
- The 2-man Team field (net best ball format) has an entry fee of \$60.
- A member may play in all three tournaments if they choose.
- Match Play tournaments will be played in a WGC Pod format seeded by handicap.
- Each round *must* be completed within the appropriate round month.
- *Both* players are strongly encouraged to contact their opponents *prior to* the beginning of the month to schedule their matches.
- **The lower player on the bracket** is responsible for making initial contact to set up the match.
- The **upper player on the bracket** must inform the Tournament Committee via e-mail at stonecreekmc@gmail.com if he has not heard from his opponent by the 20th of the month.
 - ◆ The Board will then reach out to both members and try to get the match scheduled.
 - ◆ If unsuccessful or the match is not played, the winner by default will be the **upper player on the bracket** unless an exception or a ruling has been made by the Tournament Committee for good cause.
- All decisions by the Tournament Committee are final.

Regular Season Program: March 1st through November 30th (cont.)
Hole-in-one Prize Fund:

The SCMC budgets \$1500 annually to a prize fund for every hole-in-one made during Club play. The prize is payable at the end of the year to *members* that make an eligible hole-in-one. Guests are not eligible even if paid into the event. The pot is evenly divided by the number of eligible aces with a maximum \$750 payout to any individual *per hole-in-one*. Only a hole-in-one made during officially sanctioned SCMC events, for which the player has paid an entry fee, qualify. Officially sanctioned events include the Regular Saturday and Wednesday games, the Majors and Match Play. Other tournaments are not officially sanctioned SCMC events. A hole-in-one must be properly documented with the Pro Shop and reported to the Tournament Chair. The eligible period season is the calendar year. SCMC play in the offseason on Saturday and Wednesday both qualify. You must be a paid, active member to qualify (that means if you have not yet paid your dues you do not qualify). In addition, if you have been assessed a no-show fee that has not been paid you are not eligible until after the no show fee has been paid. Finally, the intent of the hole-in-one prize fund is to help offset the lucky member's costs of the long honored and expected tradition of *buying drinks after the round to celebrate the event!*

Season Points, Club Championships, Paid OGA Entries:

The Mens Club pays the entry fees to the various OGA Tournaments listed below for qualifying members. Entries to the OGA Net Championship and OGA Team Championship are based on points earned in Major Tournament play during the regular season. The gross Senior Club Champion and the gross Club Champion are invited to play in the OGA Tournament of Champions.

- Net Championship (4 paid entries)
- Team Championship (4 paid entries)
- Tournament of Champions (2 paid entries)

Season Points:

Season points for gross and net are earned based on finish/rank in SCMC Major tournaments. Points are awarded as follows: 1st (100 pts.); 2nd (75 pts.); 3rd (70 pts.); 4th (65 pts.); 5th (60 pts.); 6th (50 pts.); 7th (40 pts.); 8th (30 pts.); 9th (20 pts.); and 10th (10 pts.). Ties split points. Season long point total standing results are posted on the website.

Net Championship:

Net Championship points are earned from the Spring Opener through the Fall Closer where individual gross and net are recorded. The Net Championship paid entry is for the prior year, provided the member is still a current SCMC member in that following year. The top 4 net point earners earn entries. In the event a member cannot play, the next top net point earner(s) will be eligible and invited.

Team Championship:

Team Championship points are earned from the Spring Opener through the Regular Club Championship for eligibility in that year's OGA Team Championship. The OGA Team Championship tournament is typically late September/early October. The top 4 gross point earners earn entries. In the event a member cannot play, the next top gross point earner(s) will be eligible and invited.

Regular Season Program: March 1st through November 30th (cont.)

Guests:

Any member may bring a guest, if space is available. Tee time preferences will be given to regular club members first. Any guest is eligible to be in the individual game but must have a current USGA handicap or they must play as a zero (0) if they have no handicap. A guest is limited to three plays during the Regular Season. Guests are not allowed to play in any SCMC Major Tournaments nor are they eligible for the hole-in-one prize fund.

Winter Off-Season Program: December 1 – February 28/29

During the Oregon golf off season there is a weekly Wednesday and Saturday game. These are usually less formal than the Regular Season Program. Sign-up for Wednesday or Saturday play are sent via Golf Genius, typically a week prior to the date of play. The tee time and whether there is a “game” that week may change depending on participation. Entry fees are the same as for regular season games, but payout for Saturday is usually cash that same day, as opposed to being “book” money due to the smaller field. The game is determined by that week’s organizer who will typically be a Mens Club officer or a long- term member.

SCMC Rules Information

The SCMC is a member of both the USGA and OGA and as such, there are golf rules to be followed. It’s understandable that any one golfer cannot be knowledgeable of every rule pertaining to every condition in golf, therefore, read the suggestions below:

- 1) Play USGA Rules of Golf.
- 2) Putt out all putts unless you are playing match play (and not also playing a regular game at the same time) and the hole is conceded.
- 3) In a doubtful situation, if no one in your group can be helpful, play two balls if applicable, but state you are doing so as recommended by the Tournament Director.
- 4) Keep score on both balls and get a ruling after the round.
- 5) If you have a grievance, state it on the hole being played, and when you finish your round, bring it to the attention of an Officer or the course Pro.

In My Lifetime:

- 1) Report to the tee box ten minutes prior to your start time; **the tee time is when you should be hitting the ball from the first tee.**
- 2) Slow play will not be tolerated.
- 3) Play ready golf.
- 4) When finished putting, go to the next tee and tee off.
- 5) Each player is responsible for his timely play and the timely play of his group.
- 6) Mark your ball whenever you are allowed to lift it.
- 7) If you have any questions regarding the rules, contact an Officer or the Pro Shop staff.
- 8) **Play Ready Golf!**
 - Ready golf is being ready when it’s your turn to play.
 - Your turn begins when the golfer, playing before you, strikes their ball.
- 9) If slow play becomes an issue, the Board reserves the right to implement a monitoring system which may include imposing individual and/or group penalties.
- 10) In addition, consistently documented slow players may be placed at the end of the field.

SCMC Rules Information (cont.)

Local Rules:

- 1) We play the ball “down” unless the committee has determined that preferred lies will be allowed.
- 2) Follow rules on all yellow, red, or white posts/stakes, specifically point of entry.
 - Note: on hole 4, lateral hazard drop option includes drop option on the right side of the cart path.
 - Drop areas may be used on holes 6 and 14.
- 3) If your ball is lost in long grass, play it as a lost ball not a lateral hazard.
 - Declare and hit a provisional ball if unsure or even if there is any chance you are lost in the tall grass.
- 4) Local rules may be put in effect by the Tournament Committee for all events at the discretion of the committee.

Preferred Lies / Winter Rules, Embedded Ball and other Adverse Course Conditions:

The Tournament Committee has adopted a temporary Local Rule known as “Preferred Lies” or, “Winter Rules” for dealing with local unpleasant course conditions. It will be invoked and declared by the Committee prior to start of play when deemed appropriate. When Preferred Lies has been declared, the following mark, lift, clean and place procedure may be used anywhere except hazards, the teeing ground, and the green except as noted:

Procedure:

- *The ball may not be moved if the ball lies within one club length of a tree.*
- A player may play the ball as it lies, or may take free relief
- A player must first mark the ball location, lift the ball (cleaning is allowed)
- Place the ball within 6” of where marked or to a point within one club length of nearest relief if also dealing with an Abnormal Ground Condition.
- The ball may not be placed closer to the hole
- The ball must stay within turf of the same golf course status (may not move from fairway to fringe, for example).

When the competition is not playing under a Preferred Lies declaration, and interference is due to an Abnormal Ground Condition that exists per Rule 25-1, the player shall follow the drop procedure outlined in Rule 25-1 instead of the mark, lift, clean and place procedure under the SCMC local rule when playing Preferred Lies.

The Tournament Committee has adopted a temporary Local Rule for relief from Aeration Holes. It will be invoked and declared by the Committee prior to start of play when deemed appropriate. If a ball comes to rest in an aeration hole anywhere except hazards, the teeing ground, and the green, the player is allowed free relief from the condition. A player may play the ball as it lies, or may take relief from the abnormal condition, as stated above under Procedure.

The Tournament Committee has adopted for all competitions (whether Preferred Lies has been declared or not) a Local Rule for relief from Embedded Ball Through the Green. If a ball found anywhere Through the Green (not including any hazard) is embedded in the ground in its own pitch mark, a player may take free relief, as stated above under Procedure, and not to exceed 3”.

SCMC Rules Information (cont.)

If a ball rests in a drainage line repair area not marked as Ground Under Repair, the player may choose to take free relief, as stated above under Procedure.

In all cases, if a player lifts the ball without first marking it, or removes the marker prior to putting the ball back into play, the player incurs a 1-stroke penalty and then must replace the ball.

Distance Measuring Devices Allowed:

For all Mens Club play, the use of conforming distance measuring devices will be permitted during the competition. The Local Rule as prescribed by Appendix I of the U.S.G.A Rules of Golf will be in effect. Multifunctional devices must conform as described in Appendix IV as modified as follows:

A multifunctional device, such as a smartphone, may be used as a distance measuring device provided the application being utilized provides information limited to measuring distance only and the application being utilized does not provide other information that are contrary to the rules of golf (such as slope, wind speed and direction, playing recommendations, etc.). If an application or feature on a multifunctional device is actively utilized during the round that renders that application or feature contrary to the rules, the penalty is disqualification. Disqualification shall not occur if the multifunctional device has a non-conforming feature or application installed but that non-conforming feature or application is switched off, otherwise disengaged or not utilized during the round.

Handicaps and SCMC Handicapping Policy:

The SCMC through its affiliation with the OGA, is responsible for ensuring the Handicap Index of our members who have designated SCMC to be their home club. This is administered in accordance with the requirements of the World Handicap System (WHS) *Rules of Handicapping* as adopted by the USGA. SCMC meets all necessary requirements of a golf club as defined by the USGA and is authorized by the USGA/OGA to issue Handicap Indexes using the World Handicap System.

Committee:

A Handicap Committee is established by SCMC to be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Club's obligations and responsibilities under the WHS *Rules of Handicapping*. The Handicap Committee is led by the Handicap Director who has been certified through testing by the OGA.

Handicaps and SCMC Handicapping Policy (cont.):

Player Responsibility:

Players have a responsibility role, as well, in ensuring the *Rules of Handicapping* are being implemented and administered properly. These responsibilities are:

- Act with integrity by following the *Rules of Handicapping* and to refrain from using, or circumventing, the *Rules of Handicapping* for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage,
- Attempt to make the best score possible on every hole played,
- Submit **all** acceptable scores for handicap purposes as soon as possible after the round is completed and before midnight local time,
- Submit **all** acceptable scores to provide reasonable evidence of their *demonstrated* ability,
- Play by the *Rules of Golf*, and
- Certify the scores of fellow players.

Index:

To obtain a Handicap Index from this club, a player must be a member of the SCMC *and* designate it as their home club. Players can belong to more than one golf club, but they must designate one of them to be the home club, and that home club is responsible for the player's Handicap Index. Players who belong to more than one club **must** ensure each golf club knows the details of the other clubs, and all must be aware of which club is the home club.

Scores:

Member scores from an authorized format of play are expected to be posted immediately after play is concluded and before midnight local time. Unposted scores **must** be posted **at least** 24 hours **prior** to any game following that which is still not posted. The WHS/GHIN updates all Handicap Indexes daily at midnight local time. Players can post scores on the GHIN computer in the Pro Shop, from a computer at home at GHIN.com, or using the GHIN app from a smartphone. The OGA prefers the scores be posted hole-by-hole using a smartphone or similar device. **Members are responsible for accurately posting all their own scores except where SCMC posts the scores for Major Tournaments or other games. Members are responsible to know and understand if their game was in an authorized format of play.** Failure to post eligible scores in the timeframe will result in a penalty score being posted to the player's record. Please note that penalty scores may be posted without notice and are *solely* at the discretion of the Handicap Committee.

Penalty:

The first time a penalty is posted, the player will be informed of the penalty and why it was assessed. The player will be given the opportunity to post the missing score. If posted, the penalty will be withdrawn. After the first penalty score is applied to a Member, if subsequent scores are found unposted, each unposted score shall result in a permanent penalty score. After the third such incident where a penalty score applied is permanent, a player's Handicap Index shall be withdrawn.

Handicaps and SCMC Handicapping Policy (cont.):

Sandbagging:

Each Player is expected to try to take their lowest number of strokes, at every hole, and in every round, no matter where the round is played. Players are expected to know and understand the following concepts and their application:

- Net Double Bogey – A score equal to par of a hole, plus two strokes, and adjusted for any handicap strokes applied on that hole (usually a plus).
- This is the maximum *posted* score allowable for any hole
- Hole not played – When a player ***does not*** make one or more strokes on a hole, the player marks his scorecard with an ‘X’.
- For posting purposes, the score entered is net par. (This often happens after a completed Match Play round or if a hole is unplayable).
- Incomplete hole – If a player takes even a single stroke on a hole (e.g. drives a shot OB), that hole is still considered to have been started and ‘played’.
- If the player does not hole out the ball, the *posted* score shall be the lesser of Net Double Bogey or Most Likely Score.

Handicap Modification:

The Handicap Committee reserves the right to modify the Handicap Index of any Member whose home Club is with the SCMC. Modifications to a Handicap Index shall only be done in accordance with the USGA Rules of Handicapping, Rule 7.

Posting Scores:

Players must start a minimum of 7 holes to post a 9-hole score, and a minimum of 14 holes to post an 18-hole score. Even if attempting to play 18 holes, if the player starts at least 7 holes, a 9-hole score must be posted. Players without a Handicap Index must play and post at least 54 holes prior to a Handicap Index can be awarded. All Members are encouraged to read and understand the USGA Rules of Handicapping. These can be found online at:

<https://www.usga.org/handicapping/roh/2020-rules-of-handicapping.html>.

Please contact the Handicap Committee Chairman, or any member of the SCMC Handicap Committee, with any questions you have about the USGA Rules of Handicapping.

Scorecards:

Scorecards and scoring *are the responsibility of the player and his competitor(s)*. For Major tournaments a scorecard will be provided to the player. If it is an individual scorecard, swap scorecards with your playing competitor. Legibly print names (last name and first initial) and handicaps on the scorecard. Use your current course handicap, not your index. Legibly record scores and totals. **Sign your scorecard and have it attested by your competitor. All scorecards must be signed and attested. Any scorecard with more than one competitor's score on it must also have that competitor's signature on it (so if it is a scorecard with 4 competitors' scores, then all 4 need to sign it).** Not following proper score keeping and turning in an improper scorecard may result in disqualification at the discretion of the Tournament committee. **For major tournaments, unsigned and non-attested scorecards WILL result in disqualification.**

Pace of Play Tips:

- 1) EACH MEMBER of a group should proceed directly to his ball. The group should not travel as a pack, going first to one ball, then the next, and so on.
- 2) WHILE WALKING (OR RIDING) to your ball, use the travel time to begin thinking over your next shot – the yardage, which club you'll use, and so on. Begin preparing before you get to your ball.
- 3) WHEN AT YOUR BALL, be ready when it is your turn to hit. Please be focused on your next shot and figure out the club you are going to use before it is your turn.
- 4) USING A RANGE FINDER OR OTHER DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICE, if you are not the first to play, go to your ball, determine the distance and select your club before it is your turn.
- 5) PRACTICE SWINGS take time. Each practice swing takes 5 seconds if not longer. The USGA has a page on their website discussing pace-of-play and they clearly state to limit practice swings to one. It is also very possible to take practice swings before your turn. This wastes no time.
- 6) IF SHARING A CART, don't drive to the first ball, wait for the first player to hit, then head to the second ball. Drop the first player off at his ball, drive on ahead to the second ball. The first player should walk over to the cart as the second player is playing his shot.
- 7) WHEN USING A CART ON A CART-PATH ONLY DAY, be sure to take a couple of clubs with you when you walk from the cart to the ball. This way, you won't have to return to the cart if you discover you didn't bring the appropriate club.
- 8) WHEN YOU THINK YOUR SHOT might have landed out of bounds or be lost, hit a provisional ball (after declaring so to your playing partner(s)). Don't walk ahead to search, only to have to return to the original spot to replay a shot.
- 9) NEVER HOLD UP PLAY because you're in the middle of a conversation. Put the conversation on hold, take your stroke, and then continue the conversation.
- 10) LEAVE YOUR BAGS OR GOLF CARTS to the side of the green, and in the direction of the next tee, never in front of the green.
- 11) ON THE GREEN, begin lining up your putt and reading the break as soon as you reach the green. When it's your turn to putt, be prepared to step right up and take the stroke. When finished putting, go to the next tee and tee off. It is not a breach of etiquette after the first two players putt out on a green for them to go to the next tee and hit, rather it is a good pace of play practice.
- 12) NEVER STAND ON OR NEXT TO THE GREEN after holing out in order to write down scores. Write it down when you reach the next tee.

Miscellaneous Items:

Dues:

Dues are used to benefit the members at large by the following: membership in the OGA and PPGA including handicap maintenance; expenses, including added prize money for certain events; expenses incurred for administrative purposes. The Board determines the dues required for each year and the amount is listed here: [SCMC membership application](#) in the application. You must be a paid member before you can sign up for SCMC events. There is a \$25 return check fee assessed by the SCMC in the event your check “bounces”.

SCMC budget:

The status of the SCMC budget and a detailed accounting of revenues and expenditures is presented and discussed at every monthly regular business meeting of the Board. If you are interested in how your Mens Club is spending and accounting of your SCMC funds we encourage and welcome members to participate in the Regular Board meetings whether or not they are a Board member.

Member Responsibilities and Code of Conduct:

All members are expected to play and conduct themselves in accordance with the Rules of Golf, the U.S.G.A Handicap System, and the policies and procedures issued by the Board. **All members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the traditions and integrity of the game and show common courtesies and respect to other members before, during and after the round.** If you have a grievance or need to correct another player, do so at the time of the infraction or suspected infraction. It is your duty to “protect the integrity” of the field. After your round, if the situation was not handled and resolved during the round, bring it to the attention of a Board member. We must never lose sight of the fact that Golf is an honorable game. Our Mens Club is based on enjoying a high spirit of camaraderie and fellowship with our fellow members, to enjoy the game of golf while challenging ourselves to always play the best while following the Rules of Golf. Above all else though we are supposed to enjoy the game and have fun. Golf is a recreation, a time when we can refresh our minds and bodies from the hustle and bustle of today’s fast paced life. Whether you are on that career round or just can’t put two shots together, relax and take in your surroundings. Life is way too short. If you are having a bad day, treat your teammates or fellow competitors with respect. At the end of the day congratulate your competitors and return to compete another day. If you do not subscribe to these principles and philosophies then the SCMC is not for you, and we wish you the best elsewhere.

SCMC Communications:

Members are also expected to keep their member information current. This includes e-mail information, address and phone contact numbers. It is particularly important to inform us of any e-mail changes since the primary method of direct communication from SCMC is through e-mail. Information may also be found on the website.

Expulsion/Suspension/Disciplinary Action of a Member:

It is our desire never to have to discipline a member. However disciplinary action may be warranted including expulsion for good cause. All members are expected to follow common courtesies and accepted behavior before, during and after play. We have a great Mens Club with a high spirit of camaraderie and fellowship and our members enjoy the game of golf while challenging ourselves to play the best that we can while having fun. In the event disciplinary action is warranted the following procedures will be followed:

By unanimous vote of the Board, any member may be suspended and/or expelled from the SCMC for good cause, including, but not limited to violation of rules, handicap infractions, or any conduct which results in adverse reflection to the SCMC. Disciplinary action of a member, including immediate suspension, may occur via an electronic vote or teleconference of the Board. Disciplinary action may also include a “warning letter” or “letter of concern” in lieu of a suspension. At the next Regular Business meeting, the matter of suspension shall either be affirmed or modified according to the merits of the case. Expulsion of a member may only occur after action at a Regular Business or Special meeting. The member being disciplined, suspended or expelled shall have the opportunity to present a case for a modification of the action taken or proposed by the Board concerning his situation. Deliberations by the Board in the matter shall be held in an Executive Session. The action taken may be shared with the membership as deemed appropriate by the Board. In the event the suspension and/or expulsion involves an Officer, he shall not be permitted to vote, nor shall he be included in or counted as part of the vote. In the event a member is expelled, that member shall forfeit his right to vote and shall be suspended from the activities of the SCMC for a time designated by the Board according to the merits of each case.

CERTIFICATION:

This SCMC Members Handbook has been read and approved by:
Members of the Stone Creek Mens Club Board
and are accepted by:

PRESIDENT: Eugene (Gene) Zaharie
VICE PRESIDENT: Pat Walsh
SECRETARY: Tom E. Dorzweiler

REVISION DATE: July 2024