



Weekly Member Play:

Ladies Day: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am

SMGA: Tuesday @ 10:00am

Dogfights: Wednesday @ 12:00; Friday @ 12:00;
Saturday @ 10:00; Sunday @ 12:00

Local Knowledge:

• Rules of Golf Changes for 2023

New Year, new rules. The USGA & R&A have unveiled a regular update to the Rules of Golf as they continue to make the rules easier to understand and apply. See page 2 of The Link for 5 key changes.

• Lessons & Grips

Our Assistant Golf Pro, Justin Fowler, is available for golf lessons for all ages & skill levels. You can book through the Golf Shop or call Justin at (803) 979-1395. The rate for members is \$65/hr & lesson packages are also available. Justin is also available for regripping clubs.

• LGA Meeting

The LGA board members will meet on Tuesday, January 10, following play (@ 1:30), in order to make plans for 2023.

• MGA Officers

The MGA has elected officers for 2023 and they are: President - Trent Whitfield; Vice President - Rick Kester; Treasurer - Gregg Erickson & Tournament Director - David Huff.

• Care for the Course

Taking divots is a normal part of golf. Making our best effort to repair divots should also be a routine part of the game. Spending a little time to properly repair divots makes a big difference in how the course plays & sets a positive example for others. Repairing divots is an easy way to care for the course, while helping others to enjoy their round!

• Tennis Lessons

Sean Koch offers tennis lessons for all ages & ability levels. Whether you're looking to pick up the game or improve it, he can assist. Contact Sean at (803) 719-1104 or snkoch5@gmail.com

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News from the Golf Shop

We hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! As 2023 begins, many people will take this time to assess where they are and where they would like to be. Your golf game is no different. The 2023 golf season will have many opportunities to enjoy the great game of golf at the best course in town. We are excited about all that 2023 has to offer and hope that spending more time with us here at Golden Hills made it to your New Year's resolution list.

December saw old man winter make an early showing with unseasonably cold temperatures the whole month. These cold temperatures made it difficult to get play started on time. During the month of January be sure to check your email or call the Golf Shop before you come to the course for any delays that may happen. Also be sure to check with the Golf Shop before using the facilities such as driving range or putting green to make sure they are ready to play. Please be aware and know that the staff at Golden Hills is committed to doing our best to keep things running as smoothly as possible with as little delay as possible. Also, during the winter months, please help keep your golf course in great shape by obeying cart rules. With frost or excessive moisture, driving a cart on the grass can cause damage to the leaf blades and roots. Check with the Golf Shop staff before starting your round for the rules of the day.

The Senior Men's Golf Association continues to grow and is looking forward to another great year. During the winter months the SMGA plays each Tuesday at 10:00. If you are new to the club or just looking for a steady game with a great group of guys, make plans to join up with the SMGA. To play on Tuesday mornings, simply call the Golf Shop by 3pm on

Mondays at 957-3355.

Throughout the winter months the ladies will continue to play on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15. Whether you are a beginner or scratch golfer, play 9 or 18, walk or ride, all are invited to come join in the fun. Also, as a reminder, the first Saturday of every month is Ladies Guest Day. Members are encouraged to bring a guest after 11am to play for only \$30. We hope you will take this opportunity to show off your club.

Many of you have expressed an interest in establishing or transferring a USGA handicap. The tournament season will soon be upon us. If you would like to establish or transfer your handicap, now is the time. All we need is an email address, your name as you want it to appear, your GHIN number if you are transferring, or your last 20 scores or any you can remember. To get started simply contact a member of the Golf Shop staff for assistance. If you have a handicap and wish to cancel it for the 2023 golf season, please let someone in the Golf Shop know your intentions by January 12. Annual handicap fees will be charged to member accounts during the month of January.

As the 2023 golf season starts, many of you may have done an assessment of your golf games strengths and weaknesses. If you haven't, your Golden Hills professional staff can help you. Now is a great time to do an assessment and schedule a lesson with a member of the staff to improve those weaknesses in your game. As always, our door is always open to you.

Your Golf Shop Staff

Steve Larick, Justin Fowler, Jared Courtenay

Ladies Golf Association

Welcome to 2023! We are looking forward to another amazing year for our Ladies Golf Association. For 2023, our new officers will be working together to make more ladies feel welcome to play and enjoy participating with the LGA. Current members and all ladies with an interest in golf are encouraged to join us throughout the year for our weekly play dates, tournaments, meetings and social events.

Our LGA Officers will meet on Tuesday, January 10 following play (@ 1:30) to discuss plans for the upcoming year. The 2023 Board includes: President - Trish Proctor, Vice President - Regena Sellers, Secretary/Treasurer - Annemarie Keene, Sandlapper Representative - Tia Davis. The first quarterly meeting for all LGA members and prospective members will be held in February. Details for the February meeting will be forthcoming. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions for the upcoming golf season, please contact our LGA President, Trish Proctor at: proctrish@gmail.com.

Even though we've had a cold start to Winter, our ladies have continued to play as much as possible. If you are new to the club, picking up the game or looking for more playing opportunities, please join us at the club each week for the Ladies Play Days. We have tee times set aside each Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15. To participate, please contact the Golf Shop at least 48 hours in advance sign up. Whether you like to walk or ride, play 18 or 9, all ladies are welcome to participate.

If you would like to join in on our fun or learn more about the LGA, contact Trish Proctor at: proctrish@gmail.com

Senior Men's Golf Association

Winter's arrival last month brought plenty of cold and wet weather. It really did a number on our weekly play, limiting us to only one organized outing last month. Let's hope winter will loosen its grip a bit this month and allow us more play days for our senior men. Any male member of Golden Hills, age 55 or older, is invited to participate in our matches held each Tuesday at 10:00am. To be included on the roster, simply call the Golf Shop at (803) 957-3355 by 3:00pm on the preceding Monday.

The SMGA Golf Council met last month to discuss plans for 2023. Effective January 1, 2023: Dues will be \$25/member. You will have until January 31 to pay your dues in full. Entry fees for our 2 large tournaments will be increased to \$15 for the Yellow Ball and \$30 for the SMGA Championship. Those who attend the summer social will be asked to bring a shareable appetizer and the treasury will pick up the bar tab. We will have the entrée for our Christmas Party catered and will ask those attending to bring a salad, appetizer or dessert. The council also discussed a few new formats for 2023 that include: Blind Draw - Due to the number of members, many in our group do not mix up their playing partners each week. In order to switch things up a bit, once every 2-3 months the foursomes will be drawn at random. That foursome will be who you play with that day. We will try this once and put it out to the membership to decide how often we should mix groups up. There was also discussion of permanently flighting the membership by the tees you play from and going permanently to a points format. More details will follow.

Results from our SMGA events are as follows:

December 13: 1st - Dale Mamele (63); 2nd - David Gray (64); 3rd - Butch Hale (67); 4th (tie) Frank Jansen & Dan Sass (69)

If you would like to receive emails from the SMGA about events and results, send your address to Ray Chiellini. He can be reached by calling (803) 518-4215 or email him at: dober2plus1@gmail.com

2023 RULES OF GOLF: 5 KEY CHANGES

The R&A and the USGA have released the most recent edition of the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

HERE ARE 5 KEY CHANGES



New Rule — Modifications for Players with Disabilities

These modifications are now part of the Rules and are in effect for all competitions and all players who fall under the categories covered in new Rule 25.



Replacing Damaged Clubs

If your club is damaged during a round (except in cases of abuse) you may replace it, repair it or continue to use it.



Handicap on Scorecard (Stroke Play Only)

You are not required to put your handicap on your scorecard and there is no penalty if you return your scorecard in a competition with an incorrect handicap, as this is now the Committee's responsibility.

This change is consistent with other penalty reductions, such as reducing the penalty for playing an incorrectly substituted ball from the general penalty to one stroke.



Ball Moved by Natural Forces

When your ball is at rest after taking relief and then rolls into another area of the course due to natural causes, there is no penalty, and you must replace it.



Simplified Back-on-the-Line Relief

When using this relief option, you are required to drop your ball on the line, and it may roll up to one club-length in any direction.

For more information on the Rules of Golf, please visit usga.org or randa.org.