



*Golf Rules and Regulations*

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**The following policies and rules are not meant to interfere with the enjoyment of playing our course; rather, the Golf Rules and Regulations are intended to ensure maximum enjoyment and safety for all golfers. For the purpose of this document, the Golf Course includes the practice facility, all cart paths and the golf course itself. Anyone found to be violating these rules will be subject to punishments found in section 21 of this document.**

1. **It is expected that all Members shall treat fellow Members and staff with respect. Verbal abuse, profanity, threats, and intimidating actions will not be tolerated.**
  
2. **Tee Time Policy:** Advance tee time requests (advance tee times are considered to be those requests made 8-14 days in advance) will be booked exclusively through the Chelsea Tee Time Reservation System via the Internet. **NO ADVANCE TEE TIMES WILL BE GIVEN OUT IN PERSON.** After the tee times have been assigned by the system, any remaining tee times will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
  - a) Members and Renters may request tee times from 8 to 14 days in advance by using the Chelsea Tee Time Reservation System. Renters shall have Membership numbers that are different from the Owners' numbers. The Owners' numbers will be inactive whenever they have transferred their privileges.
  - b) Tee time procedures are governed by the Chelsea System. Information regarding the Chelsea System may be obtained from the Club website or by contacting the Golf Pro Shop.
  - c) Penalties for "LATE" cancelations and "NO-SHOWS" for posted tee times will be enforced upon all Members (including any guests' posted times) for "regular play" as follows:
    - Peak season (October through April): Posted tee times must be canceled by calling the Golf Pro Shop no later than 24 hours in advance of scheduled tee time. Failure to do so will result in a "No-Show Fee" as well as a Chelsea play point charge toward the play history as if the person had played.
    - Non-Peak season (May through September): No fee will be charged for a "no call" and/or "no-show", but a Chelsea play point will still be charged towards the play history as if the person had played.
    - Chelsea points will not be charged as a result of:
      - Golfers who cancel with the Golf Pro Shop on the day of play, because of "cart path only" restriction.
      - If weather conditions become unplayable.
      - Or the course closes due to "severe inclement weather", as determined by the Golf Professional Staff and/or Golf Course Superintendent.
  - d) Penalties for "LATE" cancelations and "NO-SHOWS" for posted tee times will be enforced upon all Members for "Men's and Ladies' Day" play as follows:
    - Peak season (October through April): Posted tee times must be

canceled by calling the Golf Pro Shop no later than 5:00 pm on the day prior to play. Failure to do so will result in a charge of the Men's Day or Ladies' Day fee.

- Non-Peak season (May through September): No play charge or fee will be assessed for a “no call” and/or “no-show”. However, please be considerate of your fellow Members by making every effort to contact the Golf Pro Shop staff should you unexpectedly need to cancel a tee time.
- e) Players should report to the Pro Shop at least 30 minutes prior to their tee time. Players should report to the Starter at least 10 minutes prior to play. Players must be ready to commence play at their scheduled tee time or lose their starting time. In the event of such loss, the players may not play unless authorized by the Pro Shop. In the event of an alteration to a scheduled tee time, players may be asked (but may decline) to move to an earlier or later tee time.
- f) All trail fee Member play after the closing of the Pro Shop must check-in prior to closing and must start on #1 or #10 tee. Golfers must yield to any 18-hole golfers crossing over to #1 or #10. No play is permitted by non-trail fee Members, Renters or their guests after the Pro Shop closes unless the Pro Shop staff has been previously notified and the appropriate fee paid. This includes those walking the golf course.
- g) Unauthorized play will be subject to penalties as set in the Club's rules and regulations.
- h) The Chelsea System will track the daily play of each Member for the preceding 7 days and bookings 7 days into the future. THE PLAY HISTORY is the sum of all past plays and future bookings charged to the Member number for the 14-day rolling period. For example, if the total rounds for a Member is three rounds played in the preceding 7 days and three rounds booked via placement in the following 7 days, the Member's play history would be six. A Renter assumes the Club's average play history on the day the rental begins.
- i) Each time a Member, a Renter, their spouses, or their guests play, applicable Chelsea points will be issued to the Member's PLAY HISTORY. For example:
  - Owner plays - one Chelsea point will be charged
  - Owner and spouse play – each player will receive one Chelsea point
  - Owner, spouse and two guests play – each Member will receive two Chelsea points etc.
- j) Participation in Club-approved events will be charged Chelsea points to the PLAY HISTORY as determined by the Head Golf Professional or General Manager.
- k) The Club reserves the right to host non-Member events.
- l) Any misuse of the Chelsea System will subject the abuser to disciplinary action detailed in section 21 of this document.

3. **Golf Operations:** Use of the golf course is controlled by the General Manager

and Board of Directors and is supervised by the Head Golf Professional. Non-golfers are not permitted on the golf course unless authorized by the Pro Shop staff.

- a) USGA Rules of Golf shall apply. Local rules are posted in the Pro Shop and printed on the scorecard. Temporary rules or special notices will be posted on the Pro Shop bulletin board. USGA Rules of Etiquette shall apply.
- b) Cancellation of play due to course conditions will be determined by the Golf Professional Staff and the Golf Course Superintendent.
- c) Practice golf activities shall be limited to those areas of the golf course designed for such activities. No more than one ball shall be played on the golf course. Please report any such infraction to the Player Assistant, Pro Shop Staff or General Manager.
- d) All play must start on hole number #1 or #10 tee and all players must check-in to the Golf Pro Shop prior to teeing off unless otherwise directed by the Pro Shop staff.
- e) Hours of Play: The Pro Shop hours are 7 am – 6 pm daily unless otherwise posted. There shall be absolutely no play prior to the first scheduled tee time nor may any play begin after the Golf Pro Shop has closed without checking-in with the Golf Professional Staff.
- f) Certain days and times may be established by the Head Golf Professional, after consultation with the General Manager, during which time the course shall be reserved for Men's and Ladies' golf days and special golf events. Members and Renters may participate in any of these events, except for designated Major Club tournaments.
- g) If an errant golf ball damages a dwelling unit, the player is encouraged to accept responsibility and to contact the owner immediately. If the unit is unoccupied, please make note of the address and leave information with the Golf Professional or Shop staff. The Esplanade Community Association is not responsible for damages or injuries caused by errant golf balls.
- h) Ball hawking is strictly prohibited. In addition, foot traffic is prohibited in all preserve areas. Time is not to be taken probing for balls other than the one belonging to the player whose ball is lost. If the player's ball is not readily found, and there is reasonable evidence that the ball is lost in any hazard or out of bounds, the player shall play the next stroke in accordance with the applicable USGA rule.
- i) Range balls are not permitted on the golf course or putting green.
- j) Feeding or harassing wildlife is strictly prohibited. This may make them more aggressive and a danger to the entire community.
- k) While it is permissible to bring food and beverage onto the course in small quantities necessary for the health and well being of the golfer, Esplanade strongly encourages members to purchase food and beverage from the club. **No personal alcohol is allowed to be brought onto the course.**
- l) Unauthorized skipping of holes or cross-hole playing is strictly prohibited.
- m) In the event of inclement weather, alerts and warnings will be sent through the GPS monitors. Players are urged to seek shelter or return to the Golf Pro Shop when such warnings occur.

- n) In case of emergency, dial 911 and give the dispatcher the nature of the emergency and the exact location. Then, call the gatehouse and Golf Shop to notify them of the emergency and location so that Esplanade G&CC responders are alerted to be in place for EMS arrival.
4. **Dress Code:** Proper golf attire is to be worn by all players on the golf course and when using the golf practice facilities. It is the Member's responsibility to advise their guests of the Club's dress code. The Golf Pro Shop staff and Player Assistants have the responsibility and authority to see that this provision is enforced. Proper golf attire is defined as follows:
- MEN and BOYS: Shirts, slacks or tailored shorts, and shoes must be worn. Shirts must have a standard style collar, turtleneck, or mock style and sleeves. Shirts must be tucked in. Slacks must be tailored and of good repair. Shorts are to be tailored and not shorter than 3" from the top of the knee. Cap bills are to be worn in the forward position.
  - LADIES and GIRLS: Shirts, slacks or tailored shorts and shoes must be worn. Shirts must have collars and/or sleeves. Sleeveless shirts are acceptable as long as they have a collar. Slacks, skirts, and shorts must be tailored and of good repair. Skirts and shorts must be no shorter than 5" from the top of the knee.
  - Some clothing items NOT PERMITTED ON THE GOLF COURSE, PRACTICE RANGE AND PUTTING GREEN are tee shirts, sweat suits, cut-offs, running shorts, yoga pants, tennis attire, swimming attire, halter tops, tank tops, denim of any look or color, and jeans of any color that look like denim, whether denim or not.
5. **Club Storage:** Club storage is available on an annual basis for a stated fee. Additional information can be obtained in the Pro Shop.
6. **Electric Golf Cart Operation:**
- a) Each foursome shall have no more than two golf carts, whether Club-owned or privately owned. An exception to this rule may be authorized by the General Manager or the Head Golf Professional. However, a request must be made 30 minutes prior to the scheduled tee time for an exception to be considered. No more than two riders and two golf bags per cart will be allowed.
  - b) Non-trail fee Members and Renters may also ride on Trail Fee Carts after paying the prevailing fee.
  - c) No club-owned cart shall be used without authorization from the Pro Shop or Starter.
  - d) Around all tees and greens, and on par 3 holes, all four wheels of golf carts must be kept on the cart path.
  - e) Green and red stakes have been placed on the golf course to identify where golf carts are to enter and exit grassy areas. Green stakes identify where it is ok to enter the grassy area, and red stakes are placed where golf carts are to exit grassy areas and return to the path.

- f) The 90-degree rule should be observed, when practical, in the operation of golf carts. When driving to a ball, proceed along the cart path until the cart reaches a point opposite the ball in play, and then proceed across the grass area to the ball. Once all player(s) shots have been hit on or near the green, please return to the cart path from that point.
- g) All fleet or private golf carts must have a functioning GPS unit in order to be allowed onto the golf course. In the event of a malfunctioning GPS unit, Members are required to notify the Golf Pro Shop so the malfunctioning unit may be replaced with one in good working order before teeing off. If the unit cannot be replaced without causing undue delay, trail fee Members will be transferred to a fleet cart at no charge for that day only.
- h) Handicap Flags: A designated blue "medical" flag shall be used to identify the cart of a medically challenged golfer. This flag signifies that the cart may be driven subject to the rules and restrictions for medically challenged golfers as follows, unless otherwise instructed by a member of the golf staff due to course conditions: Medical flag users may not drive their carts beyond the blue stakes, which are approximately 10 yards from the greens. Carts must remain on the cart paths of all par 3 holes. Furthermore, medical flag users must observe the "carts restricted to cart paths" rule on any holes so marked, as determined on any given day by the Golf Course Superintendent and the Golf Professional Staff. **Handicap flags will NOT be issued on days deemed to be cart path only throughout the entire golf course.** Persons desiring to qualify for use of a medical flag must first apply with the Head Golf Professional. A doctor's authorization, noting the dates and the nature of the medical condition, or a copy of a current disabled parking placard or license registration must be submitted and filed with the Golf Pro Shop. A six-month doctor's authorization renewal is required for any non-permanent disability. Medical flag privileges apply only to the flag owner. If the flag is not returned to Golf Pro Shop, the Member will be charged a fee.
- i) Individuals operating golf carts must have a valid driver's license and must obey all traffic rules, including stop signs.
- j) Carts are never permitted on the shoulder, surface of any tee, green, or bunker. Please keep carts, including all four wheels, on path surfaces near tees and greens. This helps to maintain optimum turf conditions.
- k) The Golf Professional Staff and/or the Golf Course Superintendent shall determine when golf cart operation is prohibited or restricted to paths only. When cart path only is in effect, all players must adhere to stated rule. Violators, including those with handicap flags, will be subject to disciplinary action detailed in section 21 of this document.
- l) Golf carts shall not be driven on the rear or side yards of private homes or condominiums adjacent to the golf course. These areas are private property and the golfer is responsible for any damage to sprinklers, grass and foliage.
- m) Members are responsible for any damage to Club golf carts, whether caused by the Member or by his/her guests.
- n) Driving through the main parking lot in a fleet cart is not permitted. Members should use designated cart paths.
- o) Immediately upon the completion of a round of golf, all fleet carts must be

returned to the Cart Barn. Golfers are not permitted to stop at the Bahama Bar or Culinary Center before returning their cart.

- p) All privately-owned golf carts (POGC), when parked around the Resort Campus, must fit fully and completely into designated cart parking spaces. Carts must not extend into trafficked areas and/or prevent or hinder the proper flow of traffic.
- q) Privately owned golf carts approved for community only are not allowed at driving range prior to 4 o'clock.

7. **Privately-Owned Golf Carts (POGC) – Trail Fee:** An Owner may own and operate a golf cart on the golf course only under the conditions set forth in the Trail Fee Program, and subject to the protective covenants of the Esplanade Golf & Country Club HOA, and after paying the annual trail fee established by the Board of Directors. No prorated of the annual golf cart trail fee will be allowed except in the first year of cart ownership or if the homeowner sells his/her property.
8. **Privately-Owned Golf Carts (POGC) – Community Only:** An Owner may own and operate a golf cart within the community only under the conditions set forth in the Community Only Program, and subject to the protective covenants of the Esplanade Golf & Country Club HOA, and after paying the annual community-only fee established by the Board of Directors. No prorated of the community-only annual golf cart fee will be allowed except in the first year of cart ownership or if the homeowner sells his/her property.
9. **Walking:** Walking may be permitted throughout the year at the discretion of the Head Golf Professional.
  - a) When using a pull cart, it must remain off the putting surface, tees and bunkers.
  - b) No walking is permitted by Members, Renters, or their guests after the Golf Pro Shop closes without first checking-in to the Golf Pro Shop and paying applicable fees. If walking or using a pull cart after the Golf Pro Shop closes, any applicable golf fee must first be paid at the Golf Pro Shop.
  - c) Walkers must properly care for the golf course by carrying their own personal container of sand to fill divots or permission to walk will be denied. Sand is available in the Cart Barn area.
  - d) All members who are permitted to walk will be charged the appropriate golf fee.
  - e) Casual walking, jogging, bicycling, dog-walking, rollerblading and skateboarding are strictly prohibited on the golf course and cart paths.
10. **Junior Play:** When using the golf course or practice facilities, juniors less than 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise authorized by the Head Golf Professional.
  - a) The Golf Professional Staff may waive playing/practice restrictions for juniors that the Golf Professional Staff determines have adequate knowledge of golf rules and etiquette.

- b) Juniors operating a golf cart must possess a valid driver's license, and must obey all traffic rules, including stop signs.
11. **Player Assistants:** Player Assistants are provided to improve the quality and enjoyment of the game of golf. They help golfers locate missing clubs, head covers, and assist reciprocal players and other guests. However, their primary function is to ensure that all players finish their round of golf in the recommended appropriate pace of play time as determined by the Club. To achieve this, each group of players must strive to maintain their position directly behind the group in front of them.
- a) The Player Assistants personnel will remind players to keep their cart on the paths and to comply with the modified 90-degree rule.
  - b) Groups "out of position" and who are behind the established pace of play will be asked to correct their position, which may include skipping holes. All players must understand that the Player Assistants are there to improve the quality of play and the enjoyment of the game for all Members and their guests. Guidelines to determine if a group is "out of position":
    - On a Par 3: The group in front has cleared the next tee
    - On a Par 4: The group in front has cleared the putting green on the hole in which you are teeing off
    - On a Par 5: The group in front is on the green of the hole in which you are teeing off
12. **Courtesy, Etiquette and Safety:** Golf is a game where courtesy and etiquette should always be observed. The following policies should be strictly adhered to for the maximum enjoyment of everyone. It is requested that Members follow these rules and to urge others in their playing group to do the same. Infractions must be reported in writing to the Golf Pro Shop indicating date, time, parties involved, etc.
- a) All divots must be filled with sand.
  - b) Repair all ball marks on greens.
  - c) Rake and smooth bunkers after play. After hitting a shot from a bunker, place the head of the rake inside the bunker on the low side, with the handle outside the bunker.
  - d) When removing the flag, *place* the flag on the green rather than dropping it. This will extend the life of the flags and flagsticks.
  - e) Twosomes and threesomes shall accept other Members to fill their group.
  - f) Please be respectful of private property surrounding the golf course. Under no circumstances shall carts be driven on, or any shot played from, an Owner's property.
  - g) Hitting a ball into the group ahead to signal them to speed up play or for any reason is strictly forbidden and an obvious threat to player safety. Any instance of this behavior should be reported to the Golf Pro Shop or the Player Assistant as quickly as possible.
  - h) The disposal of cigarettes, cigars and other smoking materials including their ashes, lit or unlit, on the golf course is prohibited. No person may



use cigars, cigarettes, or other smoking materials on the golf course, unless the golf cart in which that person is riding contains an ashtray. For this rule "ashtray" does not include a paper or plastic cup or other device not intended for the containment and disposal of smoking materials.

- i) Personal music devices are permitted on the EGCC golf course. All golfers who would like to utilize personal music devices must first check with their playing partners for consent. Those who elect to play music are required to keep the volume at a reasonable level as a courtesy to their playing partners and homeowners whose homes border the golf course.

13. **Ready-Golf:** The basic elements of READY-GOLF are as follows, and are recommended for use when safe to do so:

- a) On the tee: The player who is ready should hit, regardless of "honors".
- b) Tee to green: Take appropriate clubs when approaching your ball; be ready to hit when it is your turn. When driving a cart, drop your partner at his/her ball, then continue to yours; be conscious of the 3-minute lost-ball rule.
- c) If the player who is "away" is delayed, other players who are ready should hit.
- d) On the green: Continue putting until holed out unless you would be standing in another's putting line.
- e) Short cut: Mark your score on the way to or at the next tee.
- f) Always: Keep up with the group in front of yours.

14. **Golf Handicaps:** To establish an accurate and legitimate handicap, players are required to post all 18-hole and 9-hole scores using the handicap computer located in the Golf Pro Shop. Scores may also be posted through the GHIN app or the GHIN website. Scores from other courses should be recorded along with the appropriate course and slope ratings if the courses played are not listed.

- a) To be eligible for tournament play, a current and valid USGA handicap registered in the Esplanade GHIN handicap system is required. All players must pay the established annual handicap fee. If a player has not posted an acceptable score within 48 hours of play, the Handicap Committee will send a reminder letter followed by a possible penalty score equal to the lowest handicap differential in the player's record.
- b) If a player is returning or transferring membership (i.e., Renters) for the upcoming season, the player must post all his/her most recent scores from rounds played away from Esplanade.
- c) All tournament scores and Men's and Ladies' Day events will be posted by the Golf Pro Shop Staff.
- d) Members who participate in away tournaments should not post their score as a "tournament score" but should as a regular score.

15. **Golf Guests:** All guests must be registered with the Golf Pro Shop staff before playing.

- a) Guests must be accompanied by at least one Member in each twosome, threesome, or foursome during the peak season of October 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Exceptions may be made by the Head Golf Professional

for the months of October, November and December. May through September, Members must pre-register all unaccompanied guest play with the Golf Pro Shop staff.

- b) Each golfer must have a set of clubs. Rental sets are available in the Golf Pro Shop for a fee.

16. **Tournaments and Events:** Scheduled Club events, including Men's and Ladies' Days and Mixers, take priority on the course. They are to be scheduled in advance and the Membership made aware of the hours of the event.

- a) Handicaps for Club events will require a current and valid USGA handicap. Handicaps are updated per the USGA schedule.
- b) The major club tournaments are: Member/Member, Club Championship, Men's and Ladies' Invitationals and Play With the Pro Shootout. These are only open to Golf Members and are not subject to Chelsea Play Points. Participation in these tournaments is not permitted for guests and Renters.
- c) Golf Pro Shop credits resulting from tournament awards or other event winnings may be used for Golf Pro Shop merchandise only. They may be redeemed only by the Member, spouse or Member Designee residing in the same unit and are not transferable. Accumulated credits must be redeemed by April 30<sup>th</sup> and are forfeited after that date.
- d) Holiday tournaments include: Thanksgiving, Bloodshot Open, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day.

17. **Tournament Sign-up:** Sign-up for all tournaments will be made online through the Chelsea Tee Time System unless otherwise noted by the Golf Pro Shop staff.

- a) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, tournament sign-up and guest eligibility will be noted in the tournament announcements.
- b) Members signing up for a tournament requiring a partner/partners must include the name or names of each individual. "TBD" (to be determined) will not be accepted as a participant.
- c) Members may only sign-up themselves and their spouse/significant other for individual events.
- d) For events requiring a partner, one Member may sign-up themselves and their partner.
- e) For events requiring a foursome, one Member may sign-up the foursome.

18. **Tournament Cancellation:** Except as otherwise provided in tournament materials, if a Member or Member's team cancels a tournament reservation within 48 hours of the start time of the event, the Member will be charged a fee to cover all costs associated with the trophy, tee gift, and food portion of the event package (food and beverage, gratuity and taxes) only if the resulting vacancy is not filled. If a Member or Member's team cancels within 24 hours of the event, the full entry fee will be charged.

19. **Practice Range:** The practice area is primarily to be used as a warm-up for Members, guests of Members (whether accompanied or unaccompanied) and any daily-fee players to use prior to their scheduled tee time. Golfers who have

a scheduled tee time have priority over any and all others. Those who may wish to utilize the area for the sole purpose of extended practice must check-in to the Golf Pro Shop and pay the prevailing range usage fee prior to using the practice facility. Practice balls are not to be removed from the practice range. The practice areas may only be used during designated times, as established by the Head Golf Professional. The Head Golf Professional may, from time to time, allow the range to stay open past the designated time for special events. The Head Golf Professional may, in his or her sole discretion, allow alternative practice times as he or she deems appropriate.

The practice area is divided into three sections - driving range, pitching & bunker area and putting green. Practice is allowable in these respective areas during the times stated below:

- a) Driving Range/Pitching & Bunker/Putting Green
  1. Golfers with a scheduled tee time always have first priority.
  2. Practice is allowable during season (October 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>) only at designated practice stations before 4 pm, and available at all stations on a first come first served basis after 4pm.
  3. Practice is allowable during off-season (May 1<sup>st</sup> – September 31<sup>st</sup>) throughout the day when the range is obviously not crowded with golfers warming up prior to their round.

**Safety is a high priority. Please use care in the practice area to not hit balls toward others where injury may occur.**

20. **Golf Rain Checks:** If a golf round is disrupted by inclement weather, a rain check will be issued as follows:
  - Under 6 holes played = 18-hole rain check (or a 9-hole rain check for those who checked in to play 9-holes)
  - 7 to 14 holes played = 9-hole rain check
21. **Failure to Comply:** Failure to comply with the above referenced Rules and Regulations will, in most cases, result in the following actions:
  - a) Verbal Warning with written (email) notification from the Head Golf Professional as verification of said warning
  - b) Written Warning
  - c) Fine
  - d) Suspension of all Club privileges.
  - e) Referral to the Board of Directors for further action.

**The Board of Directors reserves the right to deviate from this procedure as they see fit. Failure to follow Rules and Regulations deemed by the General Manager to be of a more serious nature will be referred to the Board of Directors with the possibility of immediate escalation to steps c, d or e.**