



The Divot March 2019

The Official News Letter of the Sunflower Hills Patrons Club

Mother Nature has kept this winter's temperatures and precipitation on a roller-coaster ride! With the 2019 golf season almost upon us she will hopefully be kinder for the rest of the spring season! The Sunflower Hills Staff would like to extend our thanks to all patron members for their support of the golf course. Without our members' support, positive comments and ideas, our jobs just would not be the same. Sunflower Hills continues to strive to bring our patrons a great golf facility with outstanding service at the best value.

Winter Rates Expire March 31st

The last day that the Sunflower Hills special "winter rates" will be in effect is Sunday March 31, 2019; Standard rates will go into effect after this date. Beginning April 1, 2019 Twilight will begin at 12:00pm Monday through Friday, 2:00pm Saturday and the Sunday Special will begin at 12:00pm. Come out and take advantage of the great rates and good weather before this offer disappears till next winter!

Tournament Calendar

During the next few weeks Sunflower Hills has a busy tournament calendar. Please take the time to go over the following dates that the course will be closed.

Wednesday March 6th ----- Course closed until 1:00pm
Wednesday March 13th ----- Course closed until 1:00pm
Wednesday March 20th ----- Course closed until 1:00pm
Wednesday March 27th ----- Course closed until 1:00pm
Wednesday April 3rd ----- Course closed until 1:00pm
Wednesday April 10th ----- Course closed until 6:00pm
Wednesday April 17th ----- Course closed until 1:00pm
Wednesday April 24th ----- Course closed until 1:00pm

It is always a good idea to call ahead and reserve a time whenever possible. Weekday tee times may be made up to ten days in advance. Holiday tee times can also be made ten days in advance. The privilege of having an opportunity to make reservations for weekends and holidays does not guarantee that the time requested will be available.

We would also like to remind all of our members to make a special effort this time of year to repair their own ball mark and one other on every green. A fresh ball mark on the green will heal within 24 hours if repaired immediately. A ball mark left unrepaired for 24 hours will take 2 weeks to heal. In addition, please replace your divots in the fairway and rake any bunkers that you might have been in. The small amount of time that a player invests in these things not only makes the course

look better but will also make everyone's game more enjoyable.

2019 Ghin Handicaps

For those patrons who have not yet purchased their 2019 patron card, remember that due to the billing practices of the KCGA, if you had not purchased your 2019 membership by February 1, 2019 we were forced to drop you from the handicap roster. Never fear, none of your handicap information was lost and your scores and Ghin number can be reinstated as soon as you purchase your 2019 membership.

Golfers are required to have a unique email address in their GHIN golfer profile to ensure data security and privacy. This will impact golfers who currently do not have an email address in their golfer profile, golfers who share an email address, and junior golf parents who may have themselves and their children utilizing the same email address. You began to see prompts through our handicap kiosk, on GHIN.com and via the mobile app encouraging golfers to update their profile last summer. Remember to fill in your email addresses and birthdates when you renew your memberships for the 2019 season.

First Tee Junior Golf Program

Do you have children or grandchildren with an interest in golf? With one of the largest Junior Programs in the Midwest, Sunflower Hills offers lessons, leagues, and tournaments throughout the golfing season for all ages and skill levels of Junior golfers. These programs are held at the Sunflower Hills Junior Golf Course Located in the Wyandotte County Park Adjacent to Sunflower Hills. Classes are limited to the first 20 entries. Leagues are limited to the first 24 entries.

Sunflower Hills is proud to be a programming facility for The First Tee of Greater Kansas City. We have one of the best junior facilities in the Kansas City area. Located in the Bonner Springs Park adjacent to Sunflower Hills, the Sunflower Hills Junior Course features six holes with three sets of tees, driving range, putting green and practice bunker. The Sunflower Hills Junior Golf Course has been a programming site since 2003 for The First Tee of Greater Kansas City.



Upcoming Patron Tournaments:



Marlowe's Mudders Tournament Saturday March 9th

Entry fee for this event is \$20.00.
**As Long As The Course Is
Open, This Event Will Be
Played Regardless Of The
Weather! If You Sign Up You
Must Show Up!** Tee times will

be assigned for this event; any Sunflower Patron that wishes to

participate must sign up no later than Wednesday March 6th.

Masters Pro-Am Saturday April 13th

Entry fee for this event is \$25.00. Entry includes prizes and dinner with beverages following your round. This event is a two-man total score. Your score less handicap, plus the Saturday score of a professional competing in the Masters (you will draw your partner's name out of a hat). All tee times until 11:00am will be reserved for tournament players only! Tee times will be assigned for this event; any Sunflower Patron that wishes to participate must sign up no later than Wednesday, April 10th.

Masters Pro-Am Sunday April 14th

Entry fee for this event is \$20.00. Entry fee includes prizes and dinner with beverages following your round. This event is a two-man total score. Your score less handicap, plus the Sunday score of a professional competing in the Masters (you will draw your partner's name out of a hat). All tee times until 11:00am will be reserved for tournament players only! Tee times will be assigned for this event; any Sunflower Patron that wishes to participate must sign up no later than Wednesday, April 10th. Players competing in both Saturday's and Sunday's events will be eligible for a two-day event.

Golf Leagues Available for 2019

Looking to play in a golf league in 2019? We have several options available:

Danny's 9 Hole League

Monday Evenings - Weekly April 29th to August 26th

One time league fee of \$45, Weekly fee of \$23 (includes green & cart fees). This 17 week league is a 5:30pm tee time start consisting of various individual and 2 person team formats.

Golf Status Two Person 9 Hole League

Wednesday Evenings-Weekly May 1st to August 21st

One time league fee of \$45, Weekly fee of \$23 (includes green & cart fees). This 17 week league is a 5:30pm shotgun start consisting of various 2 person team formats.

Beginners 6 Hole League

Tuesday Evenings – Weekly May 28th to August 13th

One time league fee of \$25, Weekly fee of \$17 (includes green & cart fees). This 12 week league consists of various individual formats with 6:00pm shotgun starts.

Couples 9 Hole Tournaments

Friday Evenings - Monthly May to August

Four monthly events consisting of various two person team formats with a 6:00pm shotgun starts. More information coming soon.

Patrons 9 Hole Tournaments

Friday Evenings - Monthly April to August

Five monthly events consist of various individual formats with a 6:00pm shotgun starts. More information coming soon.

Thursday Ladies Golf League

Did you know that Sunflower Hills has a Thursday morning Ladies League? Let your wife, sister, cousin, mother, daughter and/or your friend know this too. Our Ladies League officially starts in May and goes through October and we play 18 holes every Thursday morning. For more information please contact Pat Seber-Bradley psbradley@att.net. We look forward to having you join us.

Group Lessons

For those of you who have a novice or beginner interested in golf, Sunflower Hills is offering Beginning Group Lessons. Our programs allow the student with little or no golf experience to learn the basics of the game of golf. These classes will give the student the basic knowledge of the swing, terminology and etiquette giving the golfer more confidence to move from the range to the first tee.



If You're Not Playing By The Rules... You're Not Playing Golf!



GOLF'S NEW RULES

Golf's Modernized Rules Released

The USGA and The R&A have unveiled the new Rules of Golf, to be implemented January 1, 2019.

The USGA and The R&A finalized golf's new Rules this month after an extensive review that included a request for feedback from the global golf community on the proposed changes. Golfers can now access the official 2019 Rules of Golf by visiting RandA.org or usga.org/rules.

The process to modernize the Rules began in 2012 and was initiated to ensure that the Rules are easier to understand and apply for all golfers and to make the game more attractive and accessible for newcomers.

While the majority of proposed Rules remain intact in the final version, several important changes to the initial proposals and further clarification of many Rules were incorporated. The most significant adjustments made following review of the feedback received from golfers around the world include:

Dropping Procedure: When taking relief (from an abnormal course condition or penalty area, for example), golfers will now drop from knee height. This will ensure consistency and simplicity in the dropping process while also preserving the randomness of the drop. (Key change: the proposed Rules released in 2017 suggested dropping from any height).

Measuring in taking relief: The golfer's relief area will be measured by using the longest club in his/her bag (other than a putter) to measure one club-length or two club-lengths, depending on the situation, providing a consistent process for golfers to establish his/her relief area. (Key change: the proposed Rules released in 2017 suggested a 20-inch or 80-inch standard measurement).

Removing the penalty for a double hit: The penalty stroke for accidentally striking the ball more than once in the course of a stroke has been removed. Golfers will simply count the one stroke they made to strike the ball. (Key change: the proposed Rules released in 2017 retained the existing one-stroke penalty).

Balls Lost or Out of Bounds: Alternative to Stroke and Distance: A new Local Rule will now be available in January 2019, permitting committees to allow golfers the option to drop the ball in the vicinity of where the ball is lost or out of bounds (including the nearest fairway area), under a two-stroke penalty. It addresses concerns raised at the club level about the negative impact on pace of play when a player is required to go back under stroke and distance. The Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite level competitions. (Key change: this is a new addition to support pace of play)

"We're thankful for the golfers, administrators and everyone in the game who took the time to provide us with great insight and thoughtful feedback," said Thomas Pagel, USGA Senior Director of Rules & Amateur Status. "We couldn't be more excited to introduce the new Rules ahead of their education and implementation."

David Rickman, Executive Director – Governance at The R&A, said, "We are pleased to be introducing the new Rules of Golf after a collaborative and wide-ranging review process which has embraced the views of golfers, Rules experts and administrators worldwide. We believe that the new Rules are more in tune with what golfers would like and are easier to understand and apply for everyone who enjoys playing this great game."

Major proposals introduced in 2017 that have been incorporated into the modernized Rules include:

Elimination or reduction of "ball moved" penalties: There will be no penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the putting green or in searching for a ball; and a player will not be responsible for causing a ball to move unless it is "virtually certain" that he or she did so.

Relaxed putting green rules: There will be no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits an unattended flagstick in the hole; players may putt without having the flagstick attended or removed. Players may repair spike marks and other damage made by shoes, animal damage and other damage on the putting green and there is no penalty for merely touching the line of putt.

Relaxed rules for "penalty areas" (currently called "water hazards"): Red- and yellow-marked penalty areas may cover areas of desert, jungle, lava rock, etc., in addition to areas of water; expanded use of red penalty areas where lateral relief is allowed; and there will be no penalty for moving loose impediments or touching the ground or water in a penalty area.

Relaxed bunker rules: There will be no penalty for moving loose impediments in a bunker or for generally



touching the sand with a hand or club. A limited set of restrictions (such as not grounding the club right next to the ball) is kept to preserve the challenge of playing from the sand; however, an extra relief option is added for an unplayable ball in a bunker, allowing the ball to be played from outside the bunker with a two-stroke penalty.

Relying on player integrity: A player's "reasonable judgment" when estimating or measuring a spot, point, line, area or distance will be upheld, even if video evidence later shows it to be wrong; and elimination of announcement procedures when lifting a ball to identify it or to see if it is damaged.

Pace-of-play support: Reduced time for searching for a lost ball (from five minutes to three); affirmative encouragement of "ready golf" in stroke play; recommending that players take no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke and other changes intended to help with pace of play.

Presented in digital, text-based form today, the new Rules will also now be translated into more than 30 languages and readied for final delivery via print and digital formats, including searchable Rules of Golf official apps developed by the USGA and The R&A.

Three important publications, to be distributed this fall, will help players as well as officials and provide interpretation and guidance in how the Rules are applied:

The Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf: An abridged, user-friendly set of the Rules with shorter sentences, commonly used phrases, and diagrams. Written in the "second person," The Player's Edition is intended to be the primary publication for golfers.

The Rules of Golf: The full edition of the Rules will be written in the third person and include illustrations. It is intended to be a more thorough version of the revised Rules.

The Official Guide to the Rules of Golf: This "guidebook" replaces the Decisions book and will contain information to best support committees and officials. It includes interpretations of the Rules, Committee procedures (available Local Rules and information on establishing the terms of the competition), and the Modified Rules of Golf for Players with Disabilities. It is a comprehensive resource document intended as a supplementary publication.

More than 30 "how-to-apply" videos and a summary of the principal changes are now available at

usga.org/rules. Additional educational tools will be released in September.

Players are reminded that the current edition of the Rules of Golf (2016) must be applied when playing, posting scores or competing for the remainder of 2018. The Rules of Amateur Status and the Rules of Equipment Standards were not part of this review process.

Just a Little FYI

The following is not meant to offend hockey, tennis, basketball, football or soccer fans. It is, rather, an attempt to put everything in its proper perspective. Ever wonder why golf is growing in popularity and why people who don't even play go to tournaments or watch it on TV? These truisms may shed light:

- Golf is an honorable game, with the overwhelming majority of players being honorable people who don't need referees.
- Golfers don't have some of their players in jail every week.
- Golfers don't beat up on each other during the game.
- In golf you cannot fail 70% of the time and make \$20 million a season, like the best baseball hitters (.300 batting average). Professional golfers are compensated in direct proportion to how well they play.
- Golfers don't hold out for more money, or demand new contracts, because of another player's deal.
- Professional golfers don't demand that the taxpayers pay for the courses on which they play.
- You can watch the best golfers in the world up close, at any tournament, including the majors, all day, every day for under \$100. The cost for a seat in the nosebleed section at the Super Bowl will cost around \$1000 or more. When golfers make a mistake, nobody is there to cover for them or back them up.
- The PGA Tour raises more money for charity in one year than the National Football League does in two.
- Golfers have to adapt to an entirely new playing area each week.
- Golf doesn't have free agency.
- You can hear birds chirping on the golf course during a tournament.
- Dustin Johnson can hit golf ball three times as far as Mike Trout can hit a baseball.

Finally, here's a slice of golf history you might enjoy. Why do full-length golf courses have 18 holes, and not 20, or 10 or an even dozen? During a discussion among the club's membership board at St. Andrews in 1858, one of the members pointed out that it takes exactly 18 shots to polish off a fifth of Scotch. By limiting himself to



only one shot of Scotch per hole, the Scot figured a round of golf was finished when the Scotch ran out. Now you know!

Have a great March!

We hope to see you soon!

e-mail us (info@sunflowerhillsgolfcourse.com)

You Can Also Find Sunflower Hills:

www.sunflowerhillsgolfcourse.com



Looking for a Full Featured Golf App? Give GolfStatus a try!

**A Full-Featured Mobile App
To Take Your Game To The Next Level**

- Check in at your favorite courses
- Free hole-by-hole GPS
- Earn rewards (complimentary rounds, merchandise, food, and more)
- Post and track scores and personal bests
- Compete against friends and share your game

GOLFSTATUS

Download on the App Store