

Stardust Men's Golf Club

Member Handbook

History

Stardust golf course opened for play in November, 1980. The Stardust Men's Golf Club was certified as a Chartered Club by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West (RCSCW) on February 28, 1983. The Club was certified by the United States Golf Association (USGA) in December, 2006, and re-certified periodically since then. The Club can and does issue USGA-approved handicaps for its members.

Definitions

The Club shall be known as the STARDUST MEN'S GOLF CLUB, according to the Club's ByLaws. Please see the ByLaws posted elsewhere on the website for details.

A NEW MEMBER is a person who joins the Club at any point during the year.

A CURRENT MEMBER is a person who joined the Club in a prior year, and has paid dues for the current year. Current Members are eligible to win Sweeps with the payment of Sweeps Fees to the starter at the time they play in Club play.

A PREVIOUS MEMBER is a person who has left the Club or who has not paid his dues for the current year.

A SOCIAL MEMBER is a person who has paid dues for the current year, but who does not desire to compete for Sweeps. The club will not keep a handicap record for social members. Social members also pay lower dues, and must pay the monitor fee weekly.

Policy

Members are not required to join an outside organization in order to participate in the Club's activities.

All events and rounds are governed by the USGA Rules of Golf and the rules in this Handbook. All club play will be according to the USGA Rules of Golf and Club Rules for Weekly Play, and members must observe them when playing and recording their scores. Players are encouraged to carry a USGA Rules of Golf book, which is available in the Pro Shop for purchase.

Courtesy among players is requested in order to maintain golfing pleasure for all members.

The Club will maintain Handicap Records for CURRENT MEMBERS, and will carry Handicap Records for PREVIOUS MEMBERS for one year after they cease to be CURRENT MEMBERS. The Club will purge Handicap Records periodically during the current year.

PREVIOUS MEMBERS who re-join the Club after more than one year's absence will be considered NEW MEMBERS, and will be given new handicaps according to the procedures described in this book.

SOCIAL MEMBERS can convert their membership to a regular membership by notifying the Club Membership Chairman. A handicap will be established for the member according to the procedures described later in this book.

Membership

Membership in the Club is open to residents of Sun City West, whether they are part-time or full-time residents.

Membership Fees are based on when a member joins or renews.

Membership fees for new members are based on when the new member joins the Club. If the new member joins between January 1st and May 31st, the fee is \$25.00. If they join between June 1st and September 30th, the fee is \$12.00. If they join between October 1st and December 31st, there is no fee, provided that they renew their membership for the following year.

Membership Dues for members who renew for the following year between October 1st and January 15th, are \$25.00. If the member renews later than the second Wednesday in January, a \$5.00 late penalty is charged, and added to the dues.

Social members pay \$20 before June 1st, and \$10 if they join after that.

Hole In One Fund

If a member opts to participate in the Hole In One Fund, there is a \$1.00 fee added to their dues for the year. Those members who score a hole in one during Club play or Club sponsored events during the calendar year of membership (1-1 through 12-31) will receive an even split of the fund at the Spring Beer Bust event the following year.

Tournaments and Special Events

The Club Championship is held over the first two weeks in March. Members do not have to sign up for the Club Championship. Regular groupings will be permitted. If there is a tie at the end of the Championship, special groupings may be arranged for the next week to decide the order of finish, or a 'scorecard playoff' will be used to break ties.

Members must play both days to be eligible for the Championship and awards. Awards will be given to the members who place 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each flight, based on their net scores for the championship. The overall Club Champion will be the member with the lowest gross score. During the Championship, normal Sweeps will be paid on the rounds played.

Members must have at least five scores recorded in the Handicap System if they are playing for net score awards by flight. Members may play for the Club Championship (low gross) without five or more scores. The scores will be considered as 'tournament' play according to USGA Rules of Golf.

The Tournament Chairman schedules special events and games. These are designed for your pleasure and enjoyment, and to add variety to our schedule. All members are eligible to play in these events and games. The events are typically advertised at least 2 weeks in advance. The rules and procedures for the event are available at the Clubhouse on the day of the event, and on the Club's website.

Rain or Frost Delay

Any rain or frost delay will be handled by the Starter in accordance with RCSCW policy. Typically, a frost delay is declared at least an hour before the first tee time, and a message is posted on the Weather Hotline or transmitted by text from Golf Operations. Members are encouraged to register for texts from Golf Operations or call Golf Operations in advance: 544-6175, option 6. In case of rain, the Starter will determine whether play will be delayed, suspended or canceled. Any refunds or credits for greens fees will be handled by the Starter according to RCSCW policy. If a round is canceled during play, any Sweeps fees will not be refunded. If an equitable distribution cannot be made, then the fees will be carried over to the next regular event.

General Meetings

The Club holds regular monthly Board meetings from September through April. The dates, times and place of the meetings are posted on the Club's bulletin board at the course. All members are welcome to attend.

Club Bylaws

RCSCW requires that each Chartered Club have ByLaws that conform to its requirements and that are approved by the Club's membership. The Club's ByLaws are filed with RCSCW and a copy is available on the club's website. Members can print the document or portions of it from the website or ask one of the Board for a copy.

Club Rules for Weekly Play

Only paid MEMBERS of the Club may be scheduled to play by the Club monitor.

All members must abide by the USGA Rules of Golf and the Club Rules for Weekly Play.

Tee time registration for weekly play may be made one week in advance with the team captain or the Club monitor. Arrangements for future play, such as a return to Sun city West in the fall, or from a trip or vacation, may be made through the Club monitor.

Check-in time is at least 20 minutes before a member's scheduled tee time. Members who sign up and who do not appear or do not cancel their tee time 60 minutes in advance through the Golf Operations or the Starter will be considered a 'no show'. Penalty for a 'no show' will be a one-week suspension, at the discretion of the President.

The Club monitor has the discretion to rotate players or groups to different tee times either when asked to do so or for other reasons.

Members who sign up late with the Starter or Golf Operations (after Friday of the week prior to play) will be assigned a tee time.

There is no guarantee that all members can be accommodated on a given Wednesday. Should it happen that there are more members than tee time slots, the Club monitor will determine how best to accommodate those members who could not play into the schedule for the next week.

Members are required to pay the Club Monitor Fee at the beginning of their round. The first member listed in the group's tee time (Team Captain) is responsible for collecting the Fee from the other members and giving it to the Club Monitor at the end of the round, along with the score card for the round. The score card must be attested to by two of the players in the group. The Club Monitor has the authority to disqualify any members whose scorecard is not filled out properly.

New members will be given a temporary handicap when they play their first rounds until the Handicap System has enough scores recorded to calculate one for them. The procedure used to calculate a temporary handicap is described later in this book.

The Club Monitor will determine if the groups are playing their rounds in an appropriate time frame. If the Club monitor determines that a group has exceeded the norms for normal playing time, they may warn the group for 'slow play'. If a group is warned twice, then the Club monitor may reassign its players to other groups in order to resolve 'slow play' problems.

Common Rules

NOTE: the USGA implemented the World Handicap System in 2020. The Club has not adopted that system, and continues to observe the 2019 USGA Rules of Golf

NO FREE DROPS FROM ADJOINING PROPERTY WALLS. Exception: If the ball is behind a box that protrudes onto a course, and your ball is in bounds, you are entitled to a free drop in line with the hole and no closer to it.

OUT OF BOUNDS. White out-of-bounds stakes mark the boundaries of the course and the driving range. Following USGA Rule 27-1, if your ball goes out of bounds, you must take a 1 stroke penalty and hit another ball from the spot where you hit the ball out-of-bounds (stroke and distance).

LOST BALLS. If you cannot locate your ball and it may have gone out-of-bounds, then you may return to the spot where you hit it and play a provisional ball. Following the USGA 27-1, if you cannot locate the first ball, then you will play the provisional ball and take a 1 stroke penalty.

TREE WELLS. There is no free drop from a tree well unless the tree is staked or banded. Following USGA Rules of Golf, you are entitled to declare an unplayable lie and drop your ball within two club lengths and no closer to the hole with a 1 stroke penalty.

SAND TRAPS. You may not ground your club or touch the ball in the sand trap prior to stroking the ball. Grounding your club is a 1 stroke penalty.

PUTTING. Following USGA Rules of Play, the ball must be holed using a club. If you pick up your ball or do not hole it before proceeding to the next tee, you are disqualified.

TEEING THE BALL. The tee box is a rectangle bounded by the tee markers on the front and a line two club lengths behind the markers. The penalty for teeing the ball outside the tee box is 2 strokes and a re-tee within the tee box.

WET LIE. You may take a free drop to the nearest dry area, no closer to the hole. If the ball is in a sand trap in casual water, USGA rule 13-4 and 25-2 govern movement and placement of the ball.

DROP. Per USGA Rule 20-2, a ball is dropped from your hand at knee height, and not placed by hand or club.

WATER HAZARDS. All lakes and creeks shall be played as lateral water hazards per USGA Rule 26.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR. See USGA Rule 25-1.

PERMITTED RELIEF. You may take two club lengths' relief without penalty from a cart path or curb, the yardage markers and stakes, any sprinkler head, irrigation cover or drip line that interferes with your swing or stance, but no closer to the hole.

Per 2019 USGA Rules of Golf, if a player observes or commits a rule violation, they are obligated to raise the issue. If it's determined that a violation was committed and not raised, the group is disqualified.

Golf Etiquette

PLAY READY GOLF:

On the tee: The player who is ready should hit. Shorter hitters should hit when it is clear ahead.

Tee to Green: Take appropriate clubs when approaching your ball. Be ready to hit when it's your turn or you can hit safely. Don't wait until someone directs you to hit if your shot is not in line with someone else. Limit your practice strokes. Don't sit in the cart waiting for someone else to hit.

On the green: Continuous putting speeds up play. If you miss your first putt, finish out.

Short Cuts: Mark your scores at the next tee. When you are driving the cart, drop your partner at his ball, then continue on to yours.

Lost Balls: USGA Rules give you 5 minutes to look for lost balls. The time starts when the first person starts looking for the ball.

Keep Up With The Group In Front Of Yours: Always try to keep up with the group ahead – just don't hit into them. Don't worry about the group behind.

Scoring: Each member is responsible for reporting his score to the member(s) who is keeping score. If there is an adjustment, it should be reported to the scorer promptly. Check your score before the card is turned in. An error could penalize you or disqualify your round.

Sand Traps: Rake the sand trap after you finish. If you will be the last person to hit, try to persuade another member in your group who has completed the hole to rake the trap for you, so you don't slow down play.

SAFETY: Don't hit into the group in front of you. When approaching the green, wait until the group in front is in their cards and underway, and/or those walking have cleared the area.

Scoring

Two members of the group must sign the score card, attesting to its accuracy. If the score card is not signed or inaccurate, the group may be disqualified. The Club monitor has the authority to disqualify ANY score card that is not filled out properly, dated and signed by at least two members.

Scorecards MUST BE LEGIBLE, preferably printed, and list the last name of the members and their first name initial. Erase errors – do not cross them out and write the correction on a different line. Show adjustments clearly, add scores, deduct handicaps and show net and adjusted scores clearly. If you play any games within your group, such as 'greenies' or 'skins', use a separate scorecard. The Club monitor wants to read your score, not interpret it.

Erroneous scores can result in penalties such as disqualification from Sweeps and/or reduction in handicap for the following week.

Handicaps and Score Adjustments

The Club uses computer software that had been approved by the USGA for determining member handicaps prior to the implementation of the World Handicap System. All valid rounds played in the Club's weekly matches are recorded in the system and used to determine a member's USGA handicap. Additional scores from other golf courses or golf clubs can be reported to the Club monitor for entry, provided that the rounds were played in accordance with USGA Rules of Golf. A new member can supply the club Monitor either with a copy of his last 10 scores, including the course names, locations and ratings or with his GHIN Handicap Index. Our computer software will create that member's handicap for Stardust.

2019 USGA Score Adjustments are built into the Handicap System

For new members who do not wish to/cannot supply his GHIN Handicap Index, or cannot furnish 10 scores, a temporary handicap will be assigned, based on the score the member shoots in his first five rounds. This permits the new member to participate in Sweeps from his first round.

- The first round handicap will be calculated using the member's gross score, subtracting the course par (60) and taking 85% of the difference.
- The second round will utilize this handicap also.
- The third, fourth and fifth round will use the lowest gross score from the previous rounds, subtract the course par (60) and take 90% of the difference.
- After five rounds, the member will be issued a Club handicap that will be adjusted by the software every two weeks when handicaps are re-calculated.