

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.

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 our website (sdmensgolf.scwclubs.com) for details.

A NEW MEMBER is a person who is not a previous member and joins the Club at any point during the year. New members are not eligible to compete in "low net tournaments", Sweeps or KP until they have obtained a club handicap.

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 play in Sweeps with the payment of a Sweeps Fee to the starter at the time they pay Greens Fees for play that day. Members are not eligible to compete in "low net tournaments", Sweeps or KP until they have obtained a club handicap.

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 pays reduced dues and does not desire to compete for Sweeps or KP. Social members will not have scores recorded into the system, will not have a Club Handicap, and will only be able to schedule tee times.

Policy

All events and rounds are governed by the most current 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, plus any club-specific rules, and members must abide by them when playing and recording their scores for handicaps.

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

The Club will maintain active Handicap Records for current members, and will carry Handicap Records for previous members for one year after they cease to be current members.

Membership

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

Membership in the Club is on a calendar year basis, starting January 1st and ending December 31st.

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 full yearly fee is charged. If they join between June 1st and November 30th, a pro-rated fee is charged for the remainder of the year; December would be free.

If a member renews later than the second Wednesday in January, he is charged a \$5.00 late fee.

Social members can convert their membership to a regular membership by notifying the Club Membership Chairman and paying the difference in Club Dues. They may sign up for the Hole in One fund at that time, also. A handicap will be established for the member according to the procedures described later in this Handbook.

Hole In One Fund

If a member opts to participate in the Hole in One Fund, he pays a \$1.00 fee, added to the Club dues for that year. Those members who score a Hole in One during Club play or Club sponsored events, during the calendar year of membership, will receive a portion of the fund at the General Membership Meeting the following year. The portion is dependent on how many Holes in One have been scored in that year. If no Hole in One is scored by a participating member during that year, the fund is rolled over to the next year.

Tournaments and Special Events

The Club Championship is scheduled 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 following week to decide the order of finish, or a 'scorecard playoff' will be used to break ties. Members must play two days to be eligible for the awards.

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

Members must have at least five scores recorded in the Club 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 World Handicap System Rules of Golf.

During the year, the Board schedules occasional 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, a message is posted on the Weather Hotline and texted to golfers who have signed up for texts. Members are encouraged to register for texts from Golf Operations or call Golf Operations in advance: 623-544-6175, 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 Fee will not be refunded. If an equitable distribution cannot be made, then the fees will be carried over to the next regular event.

Meetings

The Club holds regular monthly Board meetings from September through April and in May through August as needed. The dates, times and place of the meetings are posted on the Club's bulletin board at the course and on the Club's website. All members are welcome to attend. General Membership meetings are held at least twice a year, usually in April and November.

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 website. Members can print the document or portions of it from the website.

Club Rules for Weekly Play

Only paid members, or Guests as provided for in the Bylaws of the Club, may be scheduled to play by the Club Monitor.

All members must abide by the USGA Rules of Golf, World Handicap System, and the Club Rules and abide by them while playing and recording scores for Weekly Play.

Tee time scheduling for weekly play may be made one week in advance by a team captain or with the Club Monitor. Arrangements for future play, such as a return to Sun City West in the fall, or from a trip or vacation, must 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 do not appear or do not cancel their tee time at least 5 days in advance with the Club Monitor will be considered a 'no show'. A 'no show' penalty is the requirement to pay the \$2 Monitor fee, which is assessed at the discretion of the Monitor.

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.

There is no guarantee that all members can be accommodated on a given Wednesday. Should there be more members desiring to play than tee time slots available to the Club, the Club Monitor will determine how best to accommodate those members, if possible.

Members who sign up late with the Monitor (after Friday of the week prior to play) may be assigned a tee time by the Monitor, providing there is one available.

The first member listed in the group's tee time (Team Captain) is responsible for collecting the Club Monitor 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. Members are required to pay the Monitor fee of \$2 to the Team Captain at the beginning

of 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.

A new Club Member will obtain a Club Handicap after five (5) rounds of golf with the club. An alternate method of obtaining a Club Handicap would be to either provide the Handicap Chair a GHIN Number, or to provide between eight and twenty recent and verified score cards to the Handicap Chair for processing. A Club Handicap is required for participation in Sweeps, KP and Tournament "Net Scoring". Tournament "Low Gross" scoring does not require a handicap.

Common Rules of Golf

Adapted from and updated from the USGA Rules of Golf and the World Handicap System. Not a complete list: refer to the USGA Rules of Golf and the World Handicap System for situations not covered below.

PERMITTED RELIEF. You may take two club lengths relief without penalty from a cart path or curb, the yardage markers or stakes, any sprinkler head, irrigation cover or drip line that interferes with your swing or stance, but no closer to the hole. The same applies if your ball is in bounds, but your swing or stance is interfered with by adjoining walls/fences, obstructions along the boundary line or if your ball is behind a box that protrudes into the course.

OUT OF BOUNDS/LOST BALL. White out-of-bounds stakes mark the boundaries of the course and the driving range. You may take a 1 stroke penalty and hit another ball from the spot where you hit the ball out-of-bounds (stroke and distance). **LOCAL RULE:** You may elect to take two penalty strokes and estimate the spot where your ball was lost or went out of bounds and then find the nearest fairway edge that is not nearer the hole than the estimated spot. You can drop a ball in the fairway within two club-lengths of that fairway edge point, or anywhere between there and the estimated spot where your ball is lost or went out of bounds.

TREE WELLS. There is no free drop from a tree well unless the tree is staked or banded. You may 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/BUNKERS. 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. 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. Relief as described in USGA Rule 25-1.

Per World Handicap System and 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.

Procedure for addressing suspected rules infractions during SMGC play

By obtaining membership in the Stardust Men's Golf Club (SMGC), it is the member's Implied Consent that they will play in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf, and the policies of the SMGC. Golf is a game of honor, honesty and integrity, and it shall be assumed that all members know the rules and are conducting their play, and that of their guests, accordingly.

In order to protect the integrity of our contests, keep our play fair to all players, and avoid escalating misunderstandings, the following policy has been adopted by the Board of the SMGC.

1. If a suspected breach of the Rules of Golf is witnessed, the person making the claim (the Claimant) should address the situation directly. If this is not possible, the Claimant shall notify a member of the Board, or the Monitor, of the suspected infraction at the end of play. If the Monitor is notified, the Monitor will notify the Board.
2. Claims not made within 24 hours after close of play will not be considered.
3. The Claimant shall prepare a brief written description of the suspected infraction, with as much detail as possible, to identify the infraction, the location, identify other witnesses and the individual(s) suspected of the breach.
4. At least three Board members will review the claim and determine its merit and severity.
5. If the claim does have merit, at least three Board members will attempt to discuss it, in person, with the individual(s) as soon as possible in a non-confrontational manner.
 - a. Example: "What can you tell us about what happened on hole #x"
6. If the explanation shows that the claim is without merit, the Board members will thank the individuals and drop the matter.
7. If the explanation shows that the claim does have merit, the Board will confer and determine the next steps.
 - a. The Board members may decide to:
 - i. Drop the matter with no action.
 - ii. Counsel the player(s) in the correct application of the rule in question.
 - iii. Issue a verbal warning to the player(s).
 - iv. Disqualify the player(s) from the round or tournament.
 - v. Have the player(s) forfeit any winnings resulting from the breach.
 - vi. Issue a written warning to the player(s).
 - vii. Temporarily suspend member(s) from club activities for two weeks maximum for subsequent breaches.
 - b. Enforce the penalties for rule violations prescribed in the USGA Rules of Golf.
 - c. Pursue a CR-16 disciplinary action with the RCSCW.
8. The decision of the Board will be final.

TEMPORARY NOTICES

Temporary rules and information such as Lift, Clean & Replace, Ground Under Repair, Bees, Tree Down, etc., will be posted either on the Club Bulletin Board at the Club House and/or the Website.

Golf Etiquette

PLAY READY GOLF

On the tee: The player who is ready should hit. Shorter hitters should hit when it is clear ahead, rather than wait for the green to clear.

Tee to Green: Take appropriate clubs when approaching your ball. Be ready to hit when it's your turn or you can hit safely.

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 cart partner at his ball, then continue on to yours.

Lost Balls: USGA Rules give you 3 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) keeping score. If there is an adjustment, it should be reported to the scorer(s) 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 hit their shot 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 carts and underway, and/or those walking have cleared the area.

Scoring

The Monitor will supply each team with a pre-printed score card for that week's play. WRITING MUST BE LEGIBLE. Erase errors – do not cross them out and write the correction on a different line.

One member of the group must sign the score card, in addition to the scorer, 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.

Erroneous scores can result in penalties such as disqualification from Sweeps awards.

Handicaps and Score Adjustments

The Club will maintain handicap records for all current members in good standing. The Club uses computer software for determining a member's handicap. All valid rounds played in the Club's weekly competitions are recorded in the system and used to determine a member's handicap.

Our handicapping information is partially available to absolutely everyone on the Internet by accessing the URL below.

<https://stardust.golfclub.net/cm/web/site/page.html?clubId=11395>

Once accessed via this URL, if you click on "VIEW GOLFERS", you'll be presented with a list of all active members of our club. At this point, you can select any golfer and you will be presented with his handicaps for any of our seven SCW golf courses from any tee location. If you click on "SCORES", you will see his last twenty scores, and the scores that are being used for determining his handicap are highlighted. If you go back to the prior page and click on "HOW ARE HANDICAPS CALCULATED?", you will see the formula the program is using for calculations. If you go back to the prior page again, you also have the ability to find out his handicap for absolutely any golf course by clicking on "HANDICAP FOR ANY COURSE/TEE" and entering the "RATING, SLOPE AND PAR" for the course.

The Club Handicap System, while calculating a handicap using World Handicap Standards, is valid only for play with the Stardust Men's Golf Club as we are not members of the USGA and do not utilize the GHIN System.

Club Calendar

Meetings and events will be posted to the Club Bulletin Board.

This handbook adopted by the Board of Directors on September 12, 2023.