



2019 Tournament Handbook

Stono Ferry Men's Golf Association

2019 MAJOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Mar. 23 - 24	Stono Cup
Apr. 22	President's Cup Match Play Opens
May 3 - 5	2019 Member - Guest
May 15	MGA Sponsor Appreciation
June 8	MGA/WGA Yellow Ball
Sep. 14 - 15	Stono Ferry Club Championship
Oct. 12	Superintendent's Revenge
Nov. 1 - 3	2019 Member - Member
Nov. 23	Stag Team Event



TO THE STONO FERRY MEMBERSHIP

The Men's Golf Association Board is looking forward to our 2019 golf season. Throughout 2018, the Board evaluated each major tournament, made refinements as needed, and is ready to offer you a varied and exciting tournament schedule for the upcoming year.

This is our 1st annual tournament book which will help you schedule and plan for the upcoming golf season. The Men's Golf Association Board works for all of the golfers of Stono Ferry. We encourage you to let us know what golf events you enjoyed and what tournaments we need to refine, add, or exclude for next season.

Please review the tournament schedule as we've made date or format changes to some of the tournaments based on your input. We hope the changes will offer more of you a chance to play in those events.

No matter how much planning we do, there are always new issues that require us to make decisions during the year that affect the tournaments. Take note of our policies regarding cancellations, as well as being current with the Club on your Membership account and our tournament entry fees.

All tournaments are available for registration through the provided Golf Genius websites. Like in 2018, all registration will take place online in 2019. The Board will notify all Members via email when registration is open for each event.

Please remember that the Tournament Book is used as a guide for informational purposes and is subject to change, as determined by the Men's Golf Association Board. Any changes to our tournaments will be communicated via email notification.

I want to again thank the entire Men's Golf Association Board and Stono Ferry Golf Professional Staff for their hard work and advice in helping plan for the 2019 season.

MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION BOARD & TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Barry Coffey - President
Chuck Bryden
Larry Drolet
Jim Garrett
Henry Opiekun
Bob Quillinan
Andrew Smith
Scott Glaze, Head Golf Professional
Greg Wood, General Manager

LOCAL RULES

USGA rules will govern all tournament play at The Links at Stono Ferry. Local rules that govern play can be found on the back of the Club scorecard. Dependent upon weather and course conditions, we may also have additional rules in place for specific tournaments, such as lift clean and place or special drop zones for ground under repair and/or casual water. Those rules will be identified in the specified tournament rule sheet provided by the Golf Professional Staff for each tournament. When participating in Club tournaments, please take a moment to read the rules sheet prior to the start of play, so you are aware of special rules and formats in place for each event. In 2019, we will also implement the new USGA Local Rule regarding the "Alternative to Stroke and Distance for a Ball that is Lost or Out of Bounds". The USGA recommended wording for the rule is as follows:

“When a player’s ball cannot be found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or a *substituted ball* in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball:

- Is estimated to have come to rest on the *course*, or
- Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.

b. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the *hole* being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, **but** is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (or within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (or within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the *general area*, and
- Must not be nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

But, the player may not use this option when:

- The ball is *known or virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).”

STONO FERRY TOURNAMENT PAYOUT POLICY

Tournament payouts will be based on the size of field or the size of flight for each tournament. Whenever possible, 25% of the field or flight will be paid out.

All flights will be established by handicap. The Players and/or teams are eligible to win one prize **based on the higher prize**, either gross or net, not both. In our team events such as the Member-Guest and Member-Member, the Overall Champion is not eligible to win a flight prize. Subsequently, all teams in the flight of the Overall Champion will move up one position.

When payouts are the same for gross and net prizes, the low gross score will be determined first (by playoff if necessary) eliminating that player and/or team from net prizes. Then, the low net score will be determined next and this process will be continued until all payouts have been awarded.

If payouts are not the same for gross and net prizes, the higher payout prize will be determined first (by playoff if necessary) eliminating that player and/or team from additional payouts. Then, the opposite low prize will be determined next and this process will be continued until all payouts have been awarded.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY & WITHDRAWAL POLICY

In 2019, the entry deadline for *all tournaments* will be **5:00 PM three days** before the event (i.e. Wednesday for Saturday start). You may enter tournaments by registering online at the unique web address given for each event. **Calling into the Pro Shop Staff does not guarantee that you are signed up for an event.** **It is each individual's responsibility to register themselves for tournaments.** The minimum age for participation in all Club tournaments is 18 years of age, unless specified in the tournament description. If sign-ups for a specific flight are insufficient to warrant a separate flight, players/teams may be moved into another available flight for play.

We have made the tournament deadlines as late as possible to allow our members enough time to decide whether they will be able to participate in tournaments. **Anyone withdrawing from a tournament after the deadline, but before the start of the tournament (without an emergency or medical reason) will forfeit the entry fee.**

The Staff and Tournament Committee go to great lengths to make our tournaments run smoothly and professionally. Withdrawing from a tournament after pairings have been made places an unnecessary burden on the golf staff to make last-minute changes and also affects flighting and pairings for players already registered.

Golfers who are forced to withdraw due to an emergency or unusual circumstance *may appeal* to the Tournament Committee to have the penalty waived. Exceptions may be made in the case of inclement weather, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

STONO FERRY INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Inclement weather will occasionally occur during the play of our tournaments. Members and Guests who participate in Club Tournaments should expect to play through inclement weather (Rain, Wind, Heat, etc.) from time to time. The Tournament Committee/Golf Staff will determine if play should be suspended due to weather related issues and *under Rule 6-8(ii)*, a player may discontinue play if "*he believes there is danger from lightning*". In these circumstances, every effort will be made to complete the tournament round as scheduled, which may result in a delay in the start and/or completion of play for that round.

If the committee determines that the completion of play is unlikely on the scheduled tournament date, the committee will make a determination on how best to proceed using the following guidelines:

- 1) For all tournaments (except for the Member-Guest) every effort will be made to reschedule and replay or resume these tournaments ASAP to complete all rounds of play. If the first day of a two-day tournament has already been successfully completed,

scores from that day will be counted and applied when the second day's play has been resumed or rescheduled. If the tournament cannot be resumed or rescheduled, the first day's scores (plus any additional second round holes completed by all players in a flight), will be declared to be the final result. Rain dates will be established for these events in the tournament book and will be used if the completion of play as originally scheduled is not possible. The rescheduling of these tournaments takes precedence over other, less important events, and a change of schedule may be required, resulting in the elimination of a less important event or outing.

- 2) When a cancellation occurs for tournaments, results will be determined by calculating scores on all holes completed by all players in a flight. This process allows the completion of the maximum number of holes by all players in one flight.

Tiebreakers for less than a “stipulated round” of 18 holes will follow the USGA guidelines for a stipulated round of golf:

- 1) If a competition is less than 9 holes, ties will be broken by using the last 3 holes first; then the last hole played back to the first hole played.
- 2) If a competition is more than 9 holes but less than 15, ties will be broken by using the last 6 holes first; then the last 3; then the last hole played back to the first hole played.
- 3) If a competition is more than 15 holes but less than 18, ties will be broken by using the last 9 holes first; then the last 6; the last 3, etc.

Suspension of Play Due to Dangerous and Inclement Weather:

Each situation will be evaluated individually and will be resolved by discussions between the Tournament Committee, Tournament Chairman and the Stono Ferry Professional Staff. **Members' and Guests' safety is never to be jeopardized by returning to the course prematurely.** When play has been suspended due to weather, the decision of when to resume play will depend upon the projected forecast for that day and the time of day of the interruption.



STONO FERRY PACE OF PLAY POLICY

Pace of Play Guidelines

Rule 6-7 states, in part: “The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the committee.” The following pace of play guidelines and penalties for stroke play are in place.

Allotted Time

A group of four will be required to play at a 4-hour and 20 minute pace for the 18 hole round. If play is “Cart Path Only” then 30 minutes will be added to the allotted pace of play.

Definition of “Out of Position”

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the pace of play time chart.

Any following group will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach any place where there is an open hole. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

Group Out of Position

All players in a group that is out of position shall be informed that they are being timed. Such a warning to a group will be given after all players have left the teeing ground and prior to play any subsequent strokes.

Timing

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player’s stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark, other ball marks and remove loose impediments on his line of putt.

Time spent determining yardages and line of putt will count as part of the time taken to the next stroke.

A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an extra 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for:

- (a) the first player to play a stroke on a Par 3 hole;
- (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a Par 4 or Par 5 hole;
- (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a Par 5 hole;
- (d) the first player to play on or around the putting green;

Pace of Play Penalties

If a player exceeds the time limit on one occasion, he will then be cautioned that if he exceeds the time limit on one more occasion (total of two), he will automatically incur a penalty of one stroke. If a player exceeds the time limit on one more occasion (total of three), he will incur an additional two stroke penalty. If a player exceeds the time limit a total of four times, the penalty is disqualification.

When a group in question regains its proper position, timing will discontinue. However, any previous exceeding times will be carried over for the remainder of that round in the event of additional monitoring.

Appeals

Any appeal of penalty incurred by a player must be referred to the Rules Committee immediately upon completion of the round. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final. If a player in question does not appeal, any penalties shall stand.



CADDIES & SPECTATORS

In an effort to create an equal playing field for all tournament participants, **Caddies WILL NOT BE PERMITTED during the play of Member tournaments**, unless specified in the tournament description. Spectators are allowed to follow play and are especially encouraged in Shootout and Playoff situations.

We look forward to a continued increase in participation and hope that these rules and policies will further enhance our events.

Thank you,

*The Stono Ferry Men's Golf
Association Board & Tournament
Committee*



2019 HANDICAP **COMMITTEE**

Chuck Bryden - Chairman
Scott Glaze, Head Golf Professional
Greg Wood, General Manager

THE HANDICAP **COMMITTEE**

An essential element of the *USGA Handicap System* is the *Handicap Committee*. Each Golf Club utilizing the *USGA Handicap System* **must** have a *Handicap Committee* to ensure the integrity of the *USGA Handicap System*.

The *Handicap Committee* sees that scores are posted, all elements of the *USGA Handicap System* are followed, and that the integrity of each *Handicap Index* issued is maintained.

An *authorized golf association* or *golf club* must obtain a license from the USGA in order to utilize the *USGA Handicap System*, to use the USGA marks, and to issue a *Handicap Index*.

If a *golf club* or *golf association* does not follow all of the procedures of the *USGA Handicap System*, it is not permitted to use any part of the system or to refer to any handicap that it issues or certifies as a *Handicap Index* or as a handicap authorized by the USGA.

HANDICAP ELIGIBILITY **REQUIREMENTS**

To play in any Major Tournament, each player must have a *Certifiable Current Handicap* and a maximum handicap of 36 for Men and 40 for Women will be used for all events. If a certifiable handicap is not in effect, the Member will be allowed to play with a *Tournament Handicap* assigned by the Tournament and Handicap Committees.

NOTE: For 2 player Men's Best Ball tournaments (four-ball stroke play), the recommended reduction by the USGA of an additional 10% for each player will be applied for teams whose handicaps differ by more than 8 shots (after allowance).

From the USGA Handicap Manual: "It is recommended that the committee considers it a condition of four-ball stroke play competitions that the *Course Handicap* (after allowance) of the members of a side may not differ by more than eight strokes. A side with a large difference has an advantage over a side with a small *Course Handicap* difference. If a difference of more than eight strokes cannot be avoided, it is suggested that an additional 10 percent reduction be applied to the *Course Handicap* of each member of the advantaged side."

TOURNAMENT HANDICAP REQUIREMENTS

In order to compete in any Stono Ferry Tournament, Members and Guests must have at least 10 verifiable scores posted within the last 12 months prior to the tournament date. “Back-Posting” (when multiple past scores are posted on the same date) will not be tolerated and doing so will result in a peer review. Any unusual activity in terms of posting scores based on the player’s history and trends may be subject to peer review. Please remember that the USGA does not allow posting of scores recorded while playing alone.

Scores made when a Local Rule for **preferred lies** is in effect must be posted for handicap purposes unless the Committee (preferably the Handicap Committee in consultation with the Committee in charge of the course) determines that course conditions are so poor that such scores are not acceptable and should not be posted. Individual players playing the course do not independently decide whether scores are acceptable because of conditions. If an individual decides to apply some form of this Local Rule, and the Committee has not invoked such a rule, the player’s score is acceptable and must be posted for handicap purposes.

All scores are expected to be posted on the day of play and scorecards are expected to be returned to the MGA scorecard drawer in the Pro Shop. If a player is a part of an organized “blitz” group and does not post the score on the day of play, the Handicap Committee has the authority to post said score after obtaining the scorecard from the blitz organizer.

GUEST HANDICAP REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to participate in a Stono Ferry Tournament, each guest must have a *USGA Handicap* issued by a Golf Club or Association acceptable to the committees. The name and phone number of the Club must be provided for verification purposes. If the Guest is not a member of a Club but has a verifiable handicap through GHIN or any other reputable source, all information must be provided. If a certifiable handicap is not in effect, the Guest will be allowed to play with a *Tournament Handicap* assigned by the Tournament and Handicap Committees. If there is no form of handicap information provided, the Guest will play with a handicap of zero (0) and the team will be placed in an “Open” flight. ***Golf Professionals are not eligible to play in Club tournaments where guests are permitted.***

COMPETITION FROM DIFFERENT TEES

The Tournament Committee uses The USGA handicap rules to determine the appropriate handicap adjustment when players are participating in a tournament and playing from different tees. These adjustments occur when competing for a net prize within a flight or an overall net prize in tournaments **when comparing net scores from different tees**. Different Tees usually have different Ratings. Because a USGA Course Rating reflects the probable score of a scratch golfer, the higher rated set of tees is more difficult and as a result, players competing with each other from different sets of tees require handicap adjustments to balance the competition. The handicap adjustment is the difference between each Course Rating, with .5 or greater rounded upward. The adjustment in handicap strokes may be subtracted from the Course Handicap of the player playing from the tees with the lower USGA Course Rating or it may be added to the Course Handicap of the player playing from the higher-rated set of tees. At Stono Ferry, we normally have a “main” tee. This tee will be the tee played by the majority of the field. Tournament tee boxes are determined by which tees the majority of Members scores are posted from. Guest tees are determined by the Slope and Course Rating of the Guest’s home Club. There will be no adjustments made to the Course Handicaps of players competing from the “main” tee. Strokes will be subtracted from the Course Handicaps of players playing tees with lower Course Ratings and strokes will be added to the Course Handicaps of players competing from tees with higher Course Ratings than the “main” tee. Listed below is an example of handicap adjustments for competition from different sets of tees:

*If men playing from the Black tees at Stono (69.0 rating) are competing with men playing the Silver tees (64.3 rating) the difference in ratings is FIVE strokes ($69.0 - 64.3 = 4.7$ rounded to 5). In this example, you would subtract five strokes from the **course handicaps** for the men playing the Silver tees.*

The course ratings for the different tees at Stono may be obtained from the handicap conversion table. Full details on the handicap system can be found in *The USGA Handicap System* book.

RULES FOR TOURNAMENT SCORE CARDS

USGA Rules will apply to the filling out and the submission of Score Cards including, but not limited to, the following:

After completion of the round, the competitor should check his or her score for each hole. He or she must ensure that the marker has correctly entered the scores, and has signed the card. The competitor must then sign the score card and return it to the committee as soon as possible. No alteration may be made to a score, by the competitor or the committee, after the score card has been returned. The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole. If he or she returns a hole score lower than actually taken, the competitor is disqualified. If the competitor returns a hole score higher than actually taken, the score stands.

NOTE: The committee is responsible for the correct addition of the scores and the application of the handicap. Postable tournament scores will be posted by the Stono Ferry Professional Staff at the completion of the event.