

**MADRONA LINKS
MEN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP
HANDBOOK**

2023

A Message from the President

Over the years Madrona Links Men's Club has consistently ranked among the largest member clubs associated with the WGA. This handbook is an outline of the many benefits available to our membership. From the beginner to the old timers, the scratch golfers to the casual weekend player, our club is designed to make the game of golf fun, challenging and enjoyable for all.

The club sponsors monthly tournaments with both individual and team formats. In addition, the Pro Shop sponsors two scrambles, one in February and one in October which are open to members and nonmembers. Field days are held the second Wednesday of April, July and October featuring a shotgun start with a team format, followed by dinner. In addition, a season long match play tournament begins in early May and runs into August. And then we finish up the year with our annual Christmas Party in December which is always very well attended.

And don't forget about the games available almost every day of the week. You shouldn't have a problem finding a game.

We could use your help!!

With over 400 members last year, monthly tournaments with fields of 100+ for most events, field days the annual Christmas party and maintaining handicaps there is a lot going on behind the scenes. Annually the President appoints a tournament chairman, handicap chairman and a social chairman to make sure all our events run as smoothly as possible. Now I don't expect them to do it all by themselves, that is where you come in. Each chairman will need committee members to assist in the various tasks required in planning and executing each event. If you would like to help, please contact myself or one of the board members, I'm sure we could use your help.

Feel free to contact me or any of our board members with any questions or suggestions on how we can improve our men's club. We are always looking to get better at what we do. To our current members I want to thank you for your continued support, and to those considering joining, we extend a very cordial invitation to become part of our group.

Respectfully,

Russell Lee

President

2023 Men's Club Board Members

Russell Lee, President

Andy Fabrizio, Vice President

Rob Edwards Secretary/Treas.

Directors:

Larry Miller

Michael Day, Jr.

Scott Bush

Sam Scott

Chris Tovey

Tre James

Congratulations

Your membership in the Madrona Links Men's Club provides you with the opportunity to regularly play one of the best conditioned and playable golf courses in the Puget Sound area. We are excited you have joined us.

The goals of the Men's Club are:

1. To stimulate interest in golf by bringing together a group of golfers to form and maintain a golfing organization.
2. To promote and foster among the members a close bond and fraternity for their joint and mutual benefit, and to conserve the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions.
3. To encourage conformance to the USGA Rules of Golf by creating a representative authority.
4. To maintain a uniform system of handicapping as set forth in the USGA Handicap System and issue USGA Handicap Indexes to our members.
5. To provide an authoritative body to govern and conduct club competitions.

We hope that you will enjoy your membership and become an active participant in the club's tournaments, meetings, and other activities, and consider serving on a committee or on the Board. It is only with active member participation that the club can grow, not only in numbers but in the stature of its tournaments and the social camaraderie of its members.

This membership handbook is intended to provide you with general information concerning the Men's Club. Should you have any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, do not hesitate to ask your fellow members, club board members, or the professional staff at Madrona Links.

Your membership entitles you to several benefits:

- Memberships in the Washington Golf Association and The Pacific Northwest Golf Association
- Computerized GHIN Handicap service
- Weekday, Saturday, and Sunday play with preferred Tee-Times
- Monthly Tournaments
- Annual two-day Club Championship Tournament
- Annual two-day Senior Club Championship Tournament (Seniors Only, 60 and up)
- Field Day Events (with meal) in April, July, and October
- Free subscription to Pacific Northwest Golfer Magazine (Quarterly)

Now that I have joined, how do I get into the weekly games?

Regular Saturday and Sunday Play. The sign-up sheet is maintained in the Pro Shop. Tee Times are limited to one hour each day (starting at 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. depending on the season) so sign-ups should be made as early as possible the week prior to play. There is a \$5.00 entry fee. The entry fee is for low gross and net score prizes. (The number of payouts depends on the number of members playing). Guests may play with

members but are not eligible for the daily game without a GHIN number. The format is typically individual stroke play.

Each member who signs up for weekend play is expected to show up unless he has cancelled by calling the course by the prior Thursday at 5:00 PM. (Currently we do not assess a no-show penalty but that is subject to re-consideration by the Board)

Major Tournament Play. The Club hosts one major tournament per month. (This is in addition to the Club Championship and the Senior Club Championship). Major Tournaments have entry fees, and are typically organized into two, three or four flights, depending on the number of participants. Flighted major tournaments are typically scored for gross and net prizes. Many tournaments also have optional “Skins” competitions. Tournaments are open to amateur members in good standing.

Sign up for the major tournaments is done through the Pro Shop on a first-come, first-serve basis. Sign-ups usually begin about three weeks prior to the tournament and close by the Wednesday before the tournament. (Late sign-ups may be taken on a space available basis)

Tournaments may be set up for tee times or shotgun formats. Tee time events will try to accommodate requests for early, mid or late tee times.

Qualifications for the Club Championship and Senior Club Championship are as follows:

- 5 paid events (Weekend or Monthly Games)
- Age for Senior Club Championship is 60 or older by the date of the event
- Exception: If a member is unable to play five counting rounds for eligibility, he may appeal to the Board to be included. Long term membership, consistent participation and an established level of play will be minimum requirements. Health and injury issues with the member or his family, and/or job or other economic difficulties may be among those considered acceptable. Final decision will be at the sole discretion of the Board.

Prizes: Tournament payout will be via “Book Money Credit” in the Madrona Links Pro Shop. The Men’s Club strives to pay out one-third of the field in each event/tournament. Results and payouts are posted on the website and on bulletin boards in the Club House. Book Money may be used for Pro Shop merchandise off the shelf or otherwise available from Pro Shop Vendors. It is preferred and recommended that book money be used within 12 months of earning it. The Pro Shop reserves the right to request that any unclaimed book money be used within a given timeframe or any balance may be forfeited. Other forms of prizes such as gift certificates, door prizes, and trophies are also occasionally awarded during tournament play including

Guests: With the exception of tournament play, any member may bring a guest(s) if space is available. Tee time preferences will be given to regular club members first. A member with a guest is eligible to be in the individual game, but must have a current USGA handicap or play with a zero (0) if they have no handicap. A guest is generally limited to 3 plays during the regular season program. After three plays he should be encouraged to join our club if he wishes to continue participating. Guests are not allowed to play in any of the Major Tournaments.

Men’s Club Board Meetings: The Men’s Club Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month during the year. A General Membership meeting is scheduled in the Fall, primarily for the purpose of electing Board Members for the coming year.

Men’s Club Rules Information: It is understandable that a golfer may not be completely knowledgeable of the Rules of Golf. Therefore, in doubtful situations where no one in your group of play offers satisfactory resolution, play two balls if applicable, declaring your intentions as recommended under the rules. Keep score on both balls and get a ruling after the round is completed. In addition, if you have a grievance you must state it on the hole being played and bring it to the attention of a club official at the end of the round.

Remember these three points:

1. Report to the Tee Box ten minutes prior to your start time.

2. Play ready golf. When finished putting, go to the next tee and tee off if clear. Each player is responsible for his timely play and the timely play of his group. If slow play becomes an issue the Board reserves the right to implement a monitoring system which may include penalties as a condition of tournament play. Keep pace with the group in front.
3. The Men's Club is a member of the USGA and local affiliated organizations. As such, we subscribe to the USGA Rules of Golf. Putt out all putts unless you are playing match play and the hole is conceded.

Playing U.S.G.A. Rules of Golf: Members are expected to play USGA Rules of Golf. We play the ball "down" (as it lies) unless the committee has determined that preferred lies will be allowed. Follow rules pertaining to all yellow, red, or white posts/stakes. Note that the lake behind 16 and along 17 is played as a lateral hazard.

Some important **local rules** are:

Relief without penalty is allowed for a ball that lands in an ornamental flower bed.

On hole four, balls stopping on the "cart path" on the left side of the fairway are granted relief by dropping them to the right of the "cart path."

On hole 13 players are allowed two club lengths relief from the fence on the left side of the fairway without penalty.

Preferred Lies/Winter Rules and Adverse Course Conditions: Under normal course play the Pro Shop determines and posts whether regular or winter rules are in effect. For Men's Club sanctioned play, the Tournament Committee will determine whether winter or regular rules are in effect and will be declared prior to the beginning of play.

If preferred lies are allowed, lift, clean and place the ball within 36 inches in the closely mown areas (the fairway), no closer to the hole. In all other areas, except the green, you are allowed to lift, clean, and place the ball within 6 inches of its original location.

Exceptions:

A ball in a penalty area (hazard) or bunker may not be lifted, it must be played as it lies.

Lift, clean and place a ball in a GUR (ground under repair) within a club length of point of entry, no closer to the hole, or as indicated by the USGA Rules of Golf.

Handicaps: The Handicap Committee, appointed by the Board, is responsible for implementing all aspects of the USGA Handicap System. We are obligated and committed to ensure the integrity of each Handicap Index we issue. As stated in the USGA Handbook, the Handicap System assumes that a player will play every shot with the goal of making the lowest score possible on that hole.

The Handicap Committee has set forth the following policies and procedures for all members carrying USGA Handicap Indexes:

- All acceptable rounds must be posted for peer review, including 9-hole scores
- Scores should be posted within three (3) days of the round being played. Scores for major tournaments will generally be posted by the Tournament Committee
- Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) must be applied to all scores for the posting purposes
- The principles of the Rules Of Golf must be followed
- Rounds may be posted at the Madrona Links Pro Shop computer, a designated computer where the rounds were played or on the USGA Website

Disciplinary Actions for failure to post or player manipulating their handicap Index:

1. The USGA requires that an affiliated Men's Club will police the Handicap System
2. Failure to post or manipulation of your score will result in an E-Mailed warning and a request for immediate reparation
3. An additional reminder E-Mail will be sent should a member fail to act in a timely manner
4. If not corrected, the Handicap Committee will take corrective action in accordance with the USGA Handbook

Dues: Dues are used to benefit the members at large by the following: Membership in the USGA and affiliates, including handicap maintenance; expenses, including added prize money for certain events; and expenses incurred for administrative purposes. Dues are subject to change as approved by the Board. Applications are available on the website (www.Madronalinks.com) or in the Pro Shop.

The status of the Men's Club Budget and a detailed accounting of revenues and expenditures is presented and discussed at every monthly meeting of the Board. If you are interested in how your Men's Club is spending and accounting your funds we encourage and welcome members to attend regular Board Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

Member Responsibilities. Members are expected to play and conduct themselves in accordance with the Rules of Golf, the USGA Handicap System and the policies and procedures issued by the Board. Common courtesies are expected to be followed before, during and after play. Members are also expected to keep their member information current.

Bylaws: Men's Club Bylaws may be found on the Madrona Links website, www.madronalinks.com

Board Of Directors: A Board Of Directors is elected by the membership at large in accordance with the bylaws. Elections are held at the annual meeting in November.

Disciplinary Action of a Member: It is our desire never to have to discipline a member. However, disciplinary action may be warranted, including expulsion, for good cause. In the event disciplinary action is deemed warranted the following procedures will be followed:

By unanimous vote of the board, any member may be suspended and/or expelled from the Men's Club for good cause, including, but not limited to, violations of rules, handicap infractions or any conduct which reflects adversely on the Club. Disciplinary action of a member may occur via electronic vote, teleconference of the Board or at a monthly scheduled Board Meeting. At the next regular Board meeting, the matter of suspension shall be affirmed or modified according to the merits of the case. Expulsion of a member may only occur after action at a regular Board Meeting. The member being disciplined shall have the opportunity to present a case for modification of the action taken or proposed by the Board. The action taken may be shared with the membership as deemed appropriate by the board. In the event a member is expelled, that member shall forfeit his right to vote and shall be suspended from the activities of the Men's Club for the period of time designated by the Board.