



# **WEEKEND STRIKERS GOLF CLUB**

**Official Rules of Play**

**&**

**Player's Guide**

*Play Well. Play Fair. Play Fast. Have Fun!*

# 2026

## 1.0 Purpose:

The purpose of this official Guide is to publish the Weekend Strikers Golf Club's (WSGC) Rules of Play, Code of Conduct, on-course tournament policies, and most importantly define the club's overall style of golf playing in competition. The Club greatly strives to adhere to the numerous and well-defined rules of golf in every possible manner; however, the Club also realizes that the membership club is quite limited by the local golf course restrictions and conditions, availability of the Club's operational resources, and the actual time needed to sufficiently apply every known rule (and etiquette practice) of golf.

To this end, this Guide attempts to articulate the manner in which WSGC members *shall* play competitive golf without diminishing the many time-honored and binding rules of golf, while equally striving to uphold the very "spirit of the game" as it is intended to be played throughout the golfing world.

## 2.0 Code of Conduct and Golf Etiquette: The Five Golden Rules

- **Silence is Golden.** (As a courtesy, do not make any noise when a fellow player is up to strike their ball.)
- **Be Mindful of Time.** (When it's your turn, be ready to hit your ball.). Ready golf – it's ok for the driver of the cart to drop off the cart partner to their ball so both can be ready for their shot (especially if on opposite sides of the fairway)
- **Watch where you stand.** (As another courtesy, try your best not to be near or in front of your fellow players when they are striking their ball. Do not move around.)
- **Respect the Green and the Golf Course.** (Repair ball marks, divots, and please don't throw your clubs and damage the turf or green.)
- **Have Fun.** (Bad shots, high scores, and losing a game can be frustrating, but losing your cool is significantly worse.)

## 3.0 WSGC Modified Rules of Play and Conditions of Play:

In accordance with the Weekend Strikers By-Laws and in conjunction with the Official United States Golf Association (USGA) and the Royal & Ancient's (R&A) Rules of Golf, the following modified WSGC Rules of Play supersede certain well-established rules of golf for the sole purpose to optimize the Club's golf tournament activities and to maximize the individual member's overall golf playing experience. In essence, these modified Rules of Play encourage all Strikers to – "*Play Well, Play Fair, and Play Fast.*"

Specifically, USGA rules govern all play **EXCEPT** where the following WSGC Rule of Play or a particular golf course's local rule will apply.

**3.1 Designated Tee Box.** For most golf courses, the Club shall play from the White Tees. Lady (Female) Strikers may opt to play from the forward Red/Ladies Tees. Additionally,

Strikers above the age of 65 years old, may opt to play from the next forward tees from the White Tees.

**3.2 Play the Course as you Find it. Play where it lies. (Immoveable Objects and Ball Relief Exceptions):** In most instances, a ball shall be played where it lies. In certain instances, such as a ball resting in an unplayable area not marked as ground under repair (i.e. mud, water, near or on random stones or roots in or off the fairway, on dirt, mud or cement paths, on or near a man-made immovable object such as restrooms, telephone poles, split pole fences, utility boxes, ground water pipes, etc.) and in order, not to injure a golfer or damage a golf club, a golfer shall ask a fellow player for ball relief (no penalty) to determine if a ball can be relieved. If granted, the ball shall be lifted and placed to the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole, wherein a club strike will not damage a club or harm the player. Players using their clubs to move the ball to a preferred lie shall incur a one stroke penalty. **Key: Ask your group for “common sense” relief and stay within the same lie.**

**3.3 “Inside-the-Leather” Give-Me Rule.** If a ball near the golf hole is deemed to be inside the distance of the tip of a putter head to the beginning of the putter grip, it shall be considered *“inside the leather”* and the player may pick up and incur a single stroke. **If in doubt, drop the putter and measure before picking up.** This rule **only** applies to normal tournaments. **During Major Tournaments and the FedEx Cup final, all balls must be holed out regardless of distance to the hole.**

**3.4 Ready Golf.** When required, forego the etiquette of furthest player hitting first. When ready, practical, and safe, hit your ball. Playing fast is highly encouraged and slow players must be politely asked to pick up the pace. As previously stated, it is ok to ask your cart partner if they can be dropped off so the other player may go to their ball and prepare for their shot and then come back to pick up their golf cart partner after the shot. [Note: A group officially falls behind when the group is more than two (2) shots from the group in front of them.]

**3.5 Out-of-Bounds (OB).** OB markers shall be played as Red Lateral Hazards. Once a ball has been hit out of bounds, the player shall proceed to the point of entry and drop a ball, **within two club lengths** from the point of entry or **further back, along the ball’s last seen flight path if necessary for a proper swing.** A one stroke penalty will then be incurred upon dropping the replacement ball. [Note: Any player’s ball found in the Out of Bounds area, regardless of it being playable, is deemed to be Out-of-Bounds, and the player shall incur a one (1) stroke penalty and drop a ball as directed above. **No golf ball shall be played from the Out-of-Bounds spot.**] If a player’s ball is located where their stance in addressing the ball, places the player in the out of bounds area, the player can play their ball, as long as their ball is considered in bounds. No penalty shall be applied to a player standing out of bounds and playing a ball determined to be in bounds.

**3.6 Lost Ball.** Maximum search time ruling is three (3) minutes. If a ball is not found in the allotted time, a player must declare a “Lost Ball” and be ready to play soon after the 3 minutes. A new ball shall be placed in a practical location within two club lengths (no closer

to the hole) of the last known point of entry of the lost ball and a one shot (1) penalty will be incurred. Once the new ball has been put in play, the lost ball is no longer playable even if subsequently found. Fellow players are to hit their respective ball soon after assisting in the search for the lost ball.

**3.7 Winter Rules. "Lift, Clean and Place" Rule.** The Club President (or a designated presiding Club Officer) shall announce prior to the tournament when Winter Rules are in effect. During inclement weather or when course conditions are affected by bad weather, such as incidental water, mud or debris when in the fairways, or near the approach area of the green, the ball may be lifted, cleaned, and placed back to the original spot, or if deemed impractical, to another spot not closer to the hole. This does not apply to balls in the rough. However, exceptions as listed in paragraph 3.2 still apply and can be exercised at any time.

**3.8 Ball movement prior to (or during) club address.** Inadvertently hitting the ball or causing ball movement prior to addressing the ball and with no intent to hit the ball is not considered a penalty. Slight ball movements caused by the address of the club behind the ball shall not incur a penalty. Ball movement caused by the wind or other natural cause shall not incur a penalty. A ball affected by any of the above, shall be placed back in its original position and played from there. A ball tee'd up on a tee box that falls off the tee prior to addressing and/or while prior striking will not incur a penalty stroke.

**3.9 Bunker Play.** No moving of a ball in a bunker due to an un-raked lie. [Note: This rule supersedes the old re-positioning of a ball due to the No-rake rule enacted during 2020's Covid Safety practice.]. Ball shall be played as is, when in a bunker.

**3.10 Identifying Balls.** Upon the need to lift a ball to identify, return it to its original lie. The ball cannot be placed in a better position than its original lie.

**3.11 Inadvertent Ball Strike.** No penalty for two (2) golfers who inadvertently hit each other's ball by mistake. Balls shall be immediately exchanged and proceed with next shot. [Note: If the situation occurs on the Green, players shall best estimate the location of their original ball, and re-putt from their true lie.]

**3.12 Perimeter Fences.** Fences that define the golf course boundaries and not marked with an OB marker are deemed as Out of Bounds. Additionally, relief is allowed for a golf swing if a ball is against or near a perimeter fence as long as the ball is considered in bounds. If the ball comes to rest outside the perimeter fence, refer to rule 3.5 above.

**3.13 Free Drop.** A player is entitled to a free drop when a ball is on maintenance paths and cart paths. Flower beds and mulched areas are also considered a free drop area. Balls are to be lifted and placed - "no-closer-to-the-hole" which will allow for the golfer to make a full swing. As a rule of thumb, ask a fellow player if a Free Drop is allowed due to the situation. Also, don't forget to read the scorecard for local rules.

**3.14 Powerlines.** If your ball strikes a powerline, you must cancel the stroke, no penalty, and replay within one club length of the original lie, no closer to the hole.

**3.15 Player Clubs.** Each player must have their own set of clubs and bag. No sharing of clubs is allowed.

**3.16 Maximum Allowed Strokes per Hole.** As another method to help with speed of play and to prevent possible handicap manipulation, the maximum number of strokes a player may take is defined as “double par +1” and should be scored as follows:

- a. Par 5. Maximum strokes allowed regardless of handicap is 11. Once a player has reached 11 strokes on a Par 5 hole, they shall pick up their ball and mark a score of 11 on their scorecard for that hole.
- b. Par 4. Maximum strokes allowed regardless of handicap is 9. Once a player has reached 9 strokes on a Par 4 hole, they shall pick up their ball and mark a score of 9 on their scorecard for that hole.
- c. Par 3. Maximum strokes allowed regardless of handicap is 7. Once a player has reached 7 strokes on a Par 3 hole, they shall pick up their ball and mark a score of 7 on their scorecard for the hole.

**3.17 Player Assistance and Providing Tips.** Per USGA Rules of Play, assisting another player during competitive play is not allowed. During friendly competitive WSGC play, please use common sense and courtesy when assisting a fellow competitor. For example, providing distances and making fellow players aware of unseen hazards are good acts of courtesy, anything further may be deemed as an advantage and unfair to other competitors. Further, during intramural President’s Cup tournaments, players who are teammates are highly encouraged to assist each other with advice such as club selection or understanding the course and/or Greens conditions.

## 4.0 WSGC Specific Rules and Best Practices:

**4.1 Playing Group Scoring Accountability and On-Course Rulings:** Each Playing Group (Foursome, Threesome or Twosome) will be responsible for scoring, clarifying, and auditing fellow players scores as well as making on-course rulings after each hole prior to writing down on the score card. All players must be respectful and mindful that a fellow player may politely inquire, question, and if needed interpret a score or ruling as reasonably required. Players should not feel that such actions by a fellow player are “knit-picky”, “unnecessary” or “adversarial” in nature. All scores shall be resolved after each hole, and prior to playing the next hole. All playing group decisions are made with a simple majority of fellow players deciding the final score and/or the applying the appropriate on-course ruling. [Note: Twosome decisions must be resolved through mutual consent.]

**4.2 Weekend Striker Logo Clothing and Other Gear:** Full-fledged Club members are highly encouraged to wear a shirt, sweater, jacket, or ball cap with the official WSGC logo. Additionally, during other competitions such as the President’s Cup or External Club Challenges, Strikers may be required to wear other team spirit clothing, matching colors, and gear as directed. [Note: The Club may impose a friendly penalty or fine, if a player is

not wearing a WSGC logo during tournament play. This is simply to help enforce this best practice and further promote Club pride.]

**4.3 Official Score Card Submission:** The official score card shall be submitted and signed by the foursome's scorer and additionally a fellow player from the foursome shall attest (by signing) to the scoring. [Note: The Club Score Keeper and Handicap Monitor may not accept a score card if a card is not properly signed and attested]. Any score cards not submitted at the end of a round, shall render those players in the group ineligible for tournament prizes.

**4.4 Pace of Play. (Rule of Thumb):** A typical golf round should be completed in a total 4:15 hours. Regardless of actual pace during the tournament please stay within two (2) strokes of the group in front. Fellow players and other groups will be encouraged to politely remind a player if they are not keeping up with the required pace of play. Such courtesy reminders should not be considered "rude", "pressuring", or "aggressive" in any manner, as it is simply intended to keep the Club's tournament play flowing for all.

**4.5 Club Competition and Side Bet Wagering.** The Club mostly plays tournament golf competitions. During these competitions, the Club has adopted a year-round scoring system that replicates the PGA tour's – FedEx Cup Competition. The specific rules are outlined in the Club By-Laws. Further, the Club has a tournament side bet system that is called – "Closest to the Pin" (CTP), "Front/Back/Overall" (FBO), and "Best Performance of the Day" (POD). Currently, this friendly side bet (\$15 for the FBO and POD, and \$5 for the CTP for a total of \$20) allows members to enter into a money pool. This money pool is awarded and disbursed based on the following:

1. CTP - There are typically 4 Closest to the Pins which are awarded to the player whose ball is closest to the hole on any given Par 3.
2. FBO - Winners with the best net handicap scores. These scores consist of the individual Front 9, Back 9, and Overall 18 hole scores.
3. POD – Best Performance of the Day is awarded to the player that shoots the best score in relation to his/her own established club handicap, calculated as a percentage. This prize is meant to reward a performance that may not be recognized in a net handicap competition format.
4. Participation is highly encouraged but is not mandatory. Guests and establishing new members may only participate in the CTP side bet. Major tournaments: prizes are awarded based on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes and not to the front/back/overall, but best performance of the day winners will also be awarded at Major tournaments.

#### **4.5.1 Payout of Side Bet Wagering.**

- 4.5.1.1** The CTP side bet is paid out based on the player(s) deemed to have been closest to the hole on the four Par 3 holes (if there are more than four, the first four will be used). Payouts for the CTP contest will be 25% of available money for each CTP winner.
- 4.5.1.2** The FBO side bet is paid out based on handicap net scoring. The person with the lowest handicap net score on the front nine, back nine, and

overall 18 will be awarded the respective prize money. If a player is the lowest net handicap score on the front nine and overall 18, they will only be awarded the overall 18 prize money. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place low net handicap player on the front nine will be awarded the front nine prize money. Same goes for winning the back nine and overall 18. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place low net handicap player will be awarded the back nine prize money, and the overall 18 winner will be awarded that prize money. However, if a player is overall low net handicap score on the front nine, back nine, and overall 18, they will be awarded the entire prize money for all three. This is called the “Striker Sweep”. Payouts for the FBO contest will be: Overall 40%, Front 20%, Back 20% of available money.

- 4.5.1.3** The POD side bet is paid out based on the player who finishes with a score that is calculated as the smallest percentage of his/her established club handicap. For example: Player A is a 28 handicap (HC) and shoots 20 over par ( $20/28 = 71.4\%$  of HC), Player B is a 6 handicap and shoots 4 over par ( $4/6 = 66.7\%$  of HC). In this scenario Player B would win the POD side bet. As with the FBO side bet, if a player wins both the Overall and POD, only the Overall prize money will be awarded, and the POD prize money will be awarded to the player finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in % of HC. If a player wins POD and also a Front or Back, the Front or Back will be awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers. Payout for the POD contest will be 20% of available money.
- 4.5.1.4** Payouts of prize money awarded will be completed in cash or an online payment system such as Venmo after the event and presented by the President (or other board member if not present). All members are encouraged to remain at the course for the awarding of prizes.

- 4.5.2 Payout of Side Bets at Major Tournaments.** Unlike normal tournament payouts mentioned in para 4.5.1 above, Major Tournament (Master's, Open Championship, PGA Championship, and Player's Championship, FedEx Club Championship) payouts will be paid in a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place manner. The top three players score, adjusted for handicap, will be awarded the payout prizes based on the following algorithm. 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive 40% of prize monies collected, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive 25%, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive 15%. POD winner will receive 20% of money collected. (Ex: \$400 prize money collected: 1<sup>st</sup> place receives \$160, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive \$100, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive \$60. POD winner will receive \$80)

- 4.5.3 Payment for Golf Course Green Fees and Side Bet Wagering.** The WSGC Club Treasurer (CT) or the Club President will typically pay the green fees for tournament players with one transaction to the host golf course (if required, some courses may require/allow individual payments to the golf course). When the Club President opens up the tournament for sign ups (typically two weeks prior to the tournament, the President will inform everyone what method of payment will apply for that specific tournament). In order to allow the CT to complete this, WSGC players shall sign up for one of

the two authorized payment methods. Those methods are Zelle® or Venmo®. This will also allow for better accountability of funds. Tournament Fees and Side Bet Wagering shall be made no later than midnight, the **Tuesday before the scheduled event**. This will allow sufficient time for the transaction to complete prior to the start of the event. Cash from guests is acceptable the day of the tournament but is *highly* discouraged. **Whenever possible, a guest's host shall pay for their green fees and CTP participation using the authorized payment methods.**

**4.6 Club House and Restroom Stop(s).** Players need to be very mindful that every minute counts for the tournament to properly flow. Players need to be fast and efficient when using the club house facilities, ordering food and drinks, or going to their vehicles in the middle of the round.

**4.7 Carts.** Golf carts shall not be driven within 50 feet of the Green (Disabled Placard users are exempt). Park golf carts adjacent to the Tee Boxes and Greens.

**4.8 No Ball Hawking and Fishing.** Players shall refrain from looking for balls other than their own.

**4.9 Music Playing.** Players who desire to play music should first ask their fellow players if it is permissible for them. Music should always be played at a reasonable and acceptable level.

**4.10 Individual Handicap Monitoring.** Players are responsible for closely monitoring their own individual scores and their Club established handicap as they are posted on the Club's website. If a discrepancy is found, inform the President or the Handicap Monitor for immediate resolution.

**4.11 Establishment and Management of Handicaps.** WSGC uses its own handicap system established by playing in WSGC tournaments. Club Handicaps will be capped at 28. Here is a summary:

New Members: Must have at least 8 tournament scores with the club before a Club Handicap is established

Club Handicap will be an average of:

- Best 4 scores from the first 8 and 9 tournaments played
- Best 5 scores from the first 10 and 11 tournaments played
- Best 6 scores from the first 12 and 13 tournaments played
- Best 7 scores from the first 14 and 15 tournaments played
- Best 8 scores from the first 16 through 20 tournaments played and continue with
- Best 8 scores from the latest 20 tournaments played

**4.12 Recruitment and New Members.** The Club has experienced a tremendous growth in its total membership but we have struggled to field 40 golfers per tournament. As such, the Club's Board has decided to increase the total membership to **seventy five (75) members**. This will allow us to keep our agreement with the golf course and guarantee the course 10 tee times for weekend tournament play. From time to time, Club members leave for a variety of reasons and a membership becomes available. A Club member may sponsor a guest to play with the Club to assess and determine if the member is eligible for membership. **The President and Board shall make the final determination only after two active members (sponsor and one other) have vouched for the prospective member.**

## **5.0 Membership Acknowledgment and Acceptance:**

The Weekend Strikers Golf Club is comprised of a fun-loving and competitive group of friends that are fully dedicated to playing the greatest game of all. As such, this Official Rule of Play and Player's Guide along with the Club's By-Laws serves as functional instruments to help ensure a more standardized, effective, efficient, and fun playing environment for all members.

Therefore, each WSGC member must fully acknowledge, accept, and familiarize themselves with this Player's Guide to further guarantee the Club's future success.

## **6.0 Periodic Document Review:**

This document shall be reviewed periodically and when required, will be revised to best suit the Weekend Strikers Golf Club.

### **Official References:**

**Weekend Strikers Golf Club By-Laws** (Dated - 01 January 2026)

**United States Golf Association** – [www.usga.org/rules-hub.html](http://www.usga.org/rules-hub.html)

**Royal & Ancient Golf** - [www.randa.org/en/rog/2019/pages/the-rules-of-golf](http://www.randa.org/en/rog/2019/pages/the-rules-of-golf)

**Drafted and Reviewed by the Rules Committee:**

Reviewed and acknowledged via email on record 1/1/26

Rob Roberts Vice President/Tournament Coordinator Date

Reviewed and acknowledged via email on record 1/1/26

Garreth Germono, Gear Coordinator Date

Reviewed and acknowledged via email on record 1/1/26

Jeff Lim, Club Treasurer Date

Reviewed and acknowledged via email on record 1/1/26

Steve Choy, Handicap Monitor / Score Keeper Date

**Approved by:**

Rob Hemby, electronic approval via email on record

1/1/26

Rob Hemby, Club President

Date