



# NORTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

PRIVATE

## ETIQUETTE MANUAL

### **The Spirit of the Game**

Golf is played for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

### **Pace of Play**

Players should play at a good pace. The Committee may establish pace of play guidelines that all players should follow.

It is the group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If it loses a clear hole and it is delaying the group behind, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group.

Should the Player's Assistant (Marshal, Ranger) tell your group they are playing slowly and are out of position to where they should be, please keep in mind, he is doing his job and do not take it personally. At some point, if your group is out of position, despite a warning, and continues to play slowly, the Player's Assistant may direct your group not finish the hole you are playing, and to immediately proceed to the next tee; OR, to step aside and allow the group behind to play through. You must comply with this directive. Please keep in mind, at no time should a member verbally abuse, or confront another member or any staff member of the club.

*Committee's comment: Some members seem to believe that four hours is an acceptable amount of time to play our golf course. The committee does not accept that premise. There are certain days where four hours is acceptable and other days when it is not. There are other circumstances which determine Pace of Play for that day. Long rough, no caddies, rain, etc. are all variables which affect Pace of Play. Also, in accordance with our "Regular Members Tournament Schedule, General Rules, 10) When there is an open hole in front, slow foursomes must invite faster foursomes to play through."*

## Ways to Improve Pace of Play

1. Move promptly: Proceed quickly to your ball and be ready when it's your turn to hit.
2. Play promptly: Take 30 seconds, maximum, to hit your shot. Limit practice strokes. No more than two at most if any at all.
3. When waiting on the tee for the group in front to clear out, let the shorter hitter, who can't reach the group ahead, proceed to hit first.
4. Always play "ready golf".
5. Be quicker on the greens: read it, hit the putt, tap it in. Go to next tee.
6. Treat the rules with discretion: Take no more than 3 minutes to look for balls and take relief.
7. Do your housekeeping on your own time: Start the round with tees, markers, balls and a ball-mark repair tool in your pocket. Replace head covers while you walk or ride. Write down scores on the next tee. Don't make others wait.
8. Be cart smart: **Drop off your partner and drive to your ball.** When you leave the cart, take three clubs, not one. Take divot mix with you when playing out of restricted areas. Park in appropriate parking area by the green.
9. Be a good teammate: Know you're playing partners' strengths and weaknesses; help them when it's convenient, move on when it's not. Watch each player's shot to know where their ball went to save time in looking for balls.
10. Play the right course for your ability level.
11. Accept responsibility and realize slow play is not always the other player in your group.
12. When stopping at the 10th hole, do not linger or take excessive time. Too much time is lost here.

## Consideration for Other Players: No Disturbance or Distraction

Players should always show consideration for other players on the course and should not disturb their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise. Players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players. Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or directly behind the hole, when a player is about to play. On the putting green do not stand on another player's line of putt or, when the player is making a stroke, cast a shadow over the line of the putt.

## Care of the Course:

**We just spent a lot of money to better our course. Take ownership, take pride, follow the rules, do the right thing, do not be lazy, make our investment a showcase for all to be proud.**

**Bunkers (sand traps) – RAKES SHOULD BE TINES DOWN IN BUNKER, WITH HANDLES OUTSIDE OF TRAP**  
When entering or exiting a bunker it should be at the low side, **NEVER up/down the face of the bunker.** Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and foot prints made by them and any nearby made by others. When exiting the bunker, **remember to bang your spikes with a golf club** to leave the sand in the trap before you walk on the green.

**Repair of Divots, Ball Marks**

Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any player to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether or not made by the player). Divots in the fairway should either be replaced or filled in with the divot mix on the side of the golf cart. Divots in the rough, should be replaced whenever possible. They should **NOT** be filled in with divot mix. The rough is a different grass than the fairway grass and the **divot mix is for fairway usage only**. When playing from a golf cart restricted area, beyond the ropes, or near the green, remember to take the divot mix bottle with you so you can fill in divot holes.

**Observe all ropes and signs**

**Do not drive your cart in any restricted area even if you have a “handicap” “blue flag”;** any violation may result in loss of cart privileges. This means YOU!

Remember, one of the worst things on the golf course is waiting to hit every shot because the group or groups, in front are playing slowly. It can ruin a nice day of golf!