



WESTMANSTOWN GOLF CLUB

GOLF MANUAL FOR JUNIOR & YOUTH MEMBERS

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2020



FOREWORD

Golfers are encouraged to play the game in an atmosphere of "fair play", which includes qualities of integrity, friendship, respect for others and best effort.

We want you to play golf in a fun environment at Westmanstown Golf Club so that you will continue to play the game for as long as you like and at a level at which you feel comfortable. Whichever way you choose to play golf we want you to enjoy it and play it for life.

It is important that adults, parents and club officials provide a safe and fun environment in which young golfers can thrive. We hope this manual will provide information to parents and young people on participating in junior golf at the club.

We encourage all young golfers to become active participants in the club.



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COMPETITION PLAYING FACILITIES

Junior members are defined as being from 10 years old and less than 18 years old

Youth Category 1 are defined as being 18 years old to 21 years old

Youth Category 2 are defined as being 22 years old and less than 24 years old

All ages measured on the Jan 1st of the current year.

1. Youth Members Categories 1 & 2

These members are eligible to play in all competitions including Captain's prize, President's prize and monthly medals **but are only eligible to win gross or class prizes in these competitions.**

2. Junior Members

Junior members with a handicap of 18 or less and aged 15 or more can play in all domestic competitions including Captain's prize, President's prize and monthly medals **but are only eligible to win gross or class prizes in these competitions.**

Junior members playing in adult competitions must play alongside at least one adult member.

3. Covid 19 provisions

In recognition of the limited competition playing arrangements for junior members with handicaps > 18 during the Covid 19 crisis, the club will permit a limited number of developing junior golfers in this handicap range play in adult competitions.

These junior golfers will be selected by our PGA professionals, based on their current ability and development potential. Candidates must be aged 12 **and must play in the adult competitions with a handicap of 18 or less.**

They may play in all competitions including Captain's prize, President's prize and monthly medals **but are only eligible to win gross or class prizes.**

They must play alongside an adult member at all times.

4. Junior girls with a handicap of 36 and who have reached acceptable proficiencies in the game may play in Lady's Competitions on Tuesdays, subject to conditions agreed with the Junior Secretary.

5. Juniors must write "Junior" in all adult competitions. This is to assist the Competitions Secretary in identifying the junior players participating. Failure to do so will mean disqualification from the competition.

6. Juniors competing in any competition other than Junior Competitions must play with an adult (No adult – No game**).**

7. Juniors **may not book a full line in an adult Open, Semi-Open, Four-ball or Invitational competition. Juniors in such competitions are eligible to win all prizes.**

8. Juniors wishing to play in the Wednesday Invitational Competitions may fill **only one position per line i.e. per team.**

9. Juniors are ***not allowed*** to bring visitors onto the course. However, they are allowed to bring a parent/guardian at a reduced rate.

PLAYING TIMES – SUBJECT TO CHECK-IN AT THE GOLF SHOP

1. **SATURDAY**; - Group golf lessons under the guidance of the Golf Professional are provided for Junior and Student members -from 12 noon to 1pm each Saturday from March to November.
2. **SATURDAY, SUNDAY, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**; - In addition to above, Junior members aged 14 years and over may play from after the timesheet for the day has expired, and only then subject to availability of the course.
3. **MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY**; - Junior members aged 14 years and over may, subject to course availability, play from 8am.
4. **TUESDAY**; - The Course is reserved for the Lady's Club. Junior girls may play as determined by the Lady's Committee.
5. **JUNIORS MEMBERS AGED 10 TO 13 YEARS** inclusive may play as outlined at (1) to (5) above ***ONLY*** when they are accompanied by an adult member of the club (18 years and over). However, juniors may be allowed to bring a parent/guardian at a reduced rate.

DRESS CODE

1. When on the golf course or in the club-house, dress in keeping with the approved junior dress code. Also comply with dress codes, standards and rules when visiting other clubs.
2. Golf shoes with soft spikes or runners must be worn on the course. Footwear worn on the course must not be worn in the clubhouse except in the locker room.
3. Slacks, tailored shorts or skirts are acceptable.
4. Sweaters, golf caps, rain gear and hats are recognised as golf attire.
5. The following are considered unsuitable; sports or football shorts, football shirts, sleeveless/collarless shirts. The wearing of hoodies is not permitted.
6. The wearing of golf caps is not permitted in the bar/restaurant/reception areas.

COURSE MANAGEMENT - GUIDELINES WHEN PLAYING GOLF

1. Be organised and on time for events. Obey at all times course safety, etiquette and behaviour. The use of mobile phones is prohibited on the golf course.

2. Juniors when playing at the Club are required to carry divot bags and use them as appropriate. Respect the course; - carefully rake all bunkers, repair all divot holes made and any damage made to the putting green by the impact of a ball, whether or not made by yourself.
3. Never swing a club if there is anyone standing close to you.
4. One practice swing is enough.
5. Don't talk. Stand still when another golfer in your group is about to hit. Stand facing the player while keeping out of his eye line and sight.
6. Your place on the course is keeping up with the players ahead of you, not staying ahead of the players behind you.
7. Start planning your next shot as soon as you have played your last one and be ready to play when it is your turn.
8. If possible, after each long shot, keep your ball in sight until it stops rolling.
9. If you are off the fairway and cannot find your ball – you have got five minutes only to find it. If you are holding up players behind you, let them through.
10. Do not throw clubs. It is dangerous and will not help you to play better golf.
11. Leave your golf bag on the side of the green closest to the next teeing box.
12. Do not waste time on the greens surveying the lie of the green.
13. Do not walk on another player's line on the putting green.
14. Never touch the the flagpole with your hands.
15. Mark your scorecard on the next tee box not on the green. Count all your strokes, even your missed ones. Golf is a game of honour, there is no referee watching you. The game is about playing to the rules.

PERSONAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Have arrangements in place for a timely pick-up at the end of your game or practice session.
2. Check into the Golf-Shop before going onto the golf course. Tell someone if you have to leave the Club or a competition.

3. Look out for yourself and for the welfare of others. Do not engage with strangers. If you notice anything suspicious alert staff at the Pro-Shop.
4. Observe instructions required by the Rules of the Club and appropriate members of staff, which include the handicap and age restrictions applicable to you.
5. Comply with safety notices governing the use of the course and other facilities and the safety guidelines for Club Members, Guests and Visitors.
6. Juniors aged 10 to 13 years inclusive are not permitted to be in changing rooms unless under responsible supervision or accompanied by a parent of similar gender.
7. For safety reasons, loitering around the course, club-house, putting greens and practice areas or in the changing rooms is not permitted.
8. Respect the privacy of all people in changing rooms, showers and toilets.
9. The inappropriate use of mobile phones, particularly the camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. in the changing rooms.
10. If you receive any offensive photo, email or message do not reply to it, make a note of times, and dates, tell a parent or the Junior Welfare Officer.
11. Challenge or report if you observe any form of discrimination and prejudice.
12. Speak out if you consider that you or others have been poorly treated.
13. Report behaviour that appears to fall below the expected standards of the club.

COURSE SPECIFIC SAFETY GUIDELINES

It is your responsibility as a golfer, caddie or spectator at the Club to ensure that you take care of your own safety and that of other persons accompanying you or over whom you exercise authority. The following guidelines are intended to protect the safety of all users and spectators at the club;

1. Respect all notices governing safety and directional signage.
2. The Green Staff are regularly working on the course when play is in progress. Please be careful and courteous to them. Green staff have right of way in all circumstances.
3. Golf practice is limited to the designated practice areas; -
PUTTING GREEN; - Pitching/chipping onto the putting green is prohibited.

PRACTICE RANGE; - Users are reminded that the 2nd fairway and playing pitches lie beyond the “*out of bounds markers*” at the practice range. Select the appropriate clubs to keep balls within the area of play.

PRACTICE NETS, 1ST TEE-BOX; - Players using these practice nets should only use clubs which cannot strike the frame of the nets while the player is swinging the club. Practice is prohibited elsewhere on the course apart from the above areas.

4. Only the player hitting the ball should be in the immediate area of play. Players are responsible for the safety of others around them and should always check their surroundings before swinging a club. It is not advisable to play a shot if any doubt exists as to your safety or that of others as a result of playing that shot.
5. No player should play a shot until it is established that the players in front of them are well out of range. If a miss-hit shot is heading in the direction of other golfers, spectators, shout “**FORE**” in a loud voice to alert them of possible danger. If “**FORE**” is heard when playing, take evasive action immediately.
6. Exercise care at all times on the course in identifying areas where you may be a potential risk of being hit by another golfer’s ball. Particular care should be taken on all holes that run parallel or are adjacent to other holes.
7. Care is advised when near the lakes on the 6/15th 10/11th 17th and 18th fairways. Lifebuoys (*include the pole, throw-line and floatation unit*) placed by the lakes are deemed *immovable obstructions* and should not be tampered with. Rule 24 of the Rules of Golf applies. You are also advised not to climb into drainage ditches and to exercise care when using scoops to retrieve golf balls from these hazards.
8. On the 10th hole the net along the roadside is designed to keep balls in the playing area. The player is responsible for an errant shot that may cause damage or injury.
9. Exercise care when going up or down steep slopes on the course, particularly when using golf buggies or trolleys. Take extra care in wet or frosty conditions as steps, mats, paths, slopes and entrances to bunkers may be slippery.
10. You are advised to approach all trees and spinneys on the course with caution, particularly during windy or other adverse weather conditions.
11. Avoid oral contact with anything that comes into contact with the golf course particularly when “*caution signs*” indicate that chemicals have recently been sprayed on the course.
12. Climbing over boundary fences into adjoining properties is prohibited.
13. Pressurised air guns provided for players to clean their golf equipment should be used only for that purpose, taking care not to direct the air jets towards one’s face or that of anyone in your vicinity. Doing so may result in serious eye injury.

14. Suspension of play in adverse weather conditions is signalled by one prolonged note of the hooter.
15. All club members, guests and visitors are invited to bring to the attention of the Director of Golf any hazards they feel have not been addressed.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PARENTS

Children learn best by example. Ideally parents and Club organisers will work in partnership to promote good practice in the game of golf and support efforts in providing a safe environment. To assist with the promotion of good practice, parents are encouraged to;

1. Take an interest in your child's activity and progress but always remember that young people play sport for their enjoyment, not for that of their parents.
2. Be a role model for all children and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with young people, other parents, officials and organisers.
3. Recognise the value and importance of the volunteer leaders who provide sporting and recreational opportunities for your children and liaise with them in relation to times, locations of training sessions, medical conditions or any requirement for your child's safety.
4. Ensure that you and your child sign up to the "Club's Regulations for Junior Members", Go through the Regulations with your child and encourage him/her to always play by the rules of the game, work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
5. Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning, so that the result of a game is accepted without disappointment.
6. Set good example by applauding good play on both sides.
7. Never ridicule, humiliate or remonstrate with juniors for making mistakes or loosing.
8. When leaving your child at the Club, make sure you have made the necessary provisions for their requirements and for the weather conditions.
9. Ensure that you have all necessary contact telephone numbers for the Club.
10. Ensure that the Club has a contact telephone number when you are away from the Club – a mobile phone number would be preferable – and ensure that it is switched on so that you can be contacted in an emergency.

11. The Club is not a “crèche” for youngsters at a loose end – especially during holidays. To assist in this matter, make sure that you have punctual set down and pick up arrangements for your child to ensure that s/he is not left waiting around at the Golf Club for prolonged periods.
12. Encourage your child to tell you about anyone causing him/her harm;
13. Discuss any concerns regarding the organisation of activities or the behaviour of adults towards your child with the Junior Liaison Officers or the Golf Welfare Officer.