



New Prague
GOLF CLUB

NPGC - Men's Club 2018

**Handbook with History, Club Rules, Policies,
Guidelines & Weekend Event Descriptions**



New Prague Golf Club Men's Club Handbook – 2018

Now at New Prague Golf Club – A History of Perseverance

Written with the assistance of Harold Freeman – he has the most history!

The current edition of the NPGC Men's Club started back in the early 1980s at Edenvale in Eden Prairie. Our "Vision" then was to form a Men's Club with players of differing skills and to compete in various events throughout the golf season.

We looked at the club as a great way to get to know one another and to develop camaraderie within the club. Eventually, a Men's Club membership fee was established to simplify player entry and to provide for payout of tournament prizes.

When Edenvale transitioned into a private course (Bent Creek), many of the Men's Club members moved to Deer Run Golf Club in Victoria. In 1992, the Deer Run club pro asked several former Edenvale Men's Club players to form a Men's Golf Club. As a result, the Deer Run Men's Golf Club was formed and began operations that year.

First year Men's Club membership, at Deer Run, was a surprising 156 members. With a great concept and active membership, the popularity of the Club grew. After several years, the club numbered over 425 members at its peak. Unfortunately, the sheer size of the Men's Club was viewed as a negative by the Deer Run management. They asked the club to relocate, which caused the Club to disband in the fall of 2003.

In late 2003, several Men's Club members, who had been very involved at both Edenvale and Deer Run, approached the Valley View Golf Club management with the idea of starting a new Men's Club at their facility in Belle Plaine. This offer was enthusiastically received, and a new version of the Men's Club was formed with the help of the Club Pro and the golf course staff. As of 2013, we numbered 68 members.

Alas, changes were made at Valley View, causing the Men's Club membership to determine that we needed to look for a new "home" course. Our search brought us to the New Prague Golf Club in 2014, and the start of a new opportunity to thrive. The Management of NPGC welcomed us with great enthusiasm, and we continue to work with them in order to provide a great golf experience for all our members. We want to grow the club more in 2018. Our NPGC Men's Club gladly welcomes the current members of NPGC to join our men's club and enjoy the competition and good times we are able to experience together.

In the 26+ years that the Men's Club has been organized, we have strived to continue fostering and building on this "Vision": promoting a love and respect for the game of golf; playing in competitive golf events with our friends and family; and encouraging our members to socialize and support one another in golf and in life.

The NPGC Men's Club Board of Directors asks for your assistance in growing the membership of the Men's Club. Our members are encouraged to invite a friend or family member to join the club. The more members we have, the more we can spread the enjoyment of cordial and competitive golf. So please bring a friend or family member to try us out and help make the NPGC Men's Club the best golf experience in Minnesota.

"It is, nevertheless, a game of considerable passion, either of the explosive type, or that which burns inwardly and sears the soul."
-- Bobby Jones

NPGC Men's Club Code of Conduct

The goal of the NPGC Men's Club is to make our events continue to be enjoyable experience for all participants. Accordingly, we ask that event participants show respect for their fellow players. Coaching, unless requested, should be avoided. Keep in mind that every player is trying his best to help the team.

Slow play is not fun for any golfer. We believe that everyone should try to complete their round in 4 hours 15 minutes or less. Some helpful tips:

- **If your group is falling behind** – gently encourage everyone to speed up their pace of play.
- **If you think your ball may be lost or out of bounds** – play a provisional from the point of the original shot so you don't have to go back and re-hit.
- **Line up your putts while others are doing the same** – putt when ready please.
- **Mark scores on the next tee box** – not on the green.

Conduct Review Team

The NPGC Men's Club is dedicated to creating a positive and collegial golfing environment for all its members. When someone's conduct detracts from or affects that positive environment, that member may be warned, disciplined or asked to leave the club.

A three-member Conduct Review team comprised of members of the NPGC Men's Club Board of Directors will make all decisions concerning the consequences of questionable conduct of individual members, as well as any resulting disciplinary actions. These rules are to protect all members of the NPGC Men's Club and to ensure the continued enjoyment for every golfer in the Club.

Conduct that may lead to action on the part of the Conduct Review team includes but is not limited to:

1. Excessive use of offensive language, such that it makes other members uncomfortable and compromises the enjoyment of an event.
2. Repetitive club throwing or other equipment issues that not only demonstrate poor sportsmanship but pose a risk to playing partners.
3. Loud and excessive talking while other partners are engaged in the act of play.
4. Disregard for good sportsmanship and rules of the game that compromise the enjoyment of a member's playing partners.
5. Rude and belligerent behavior.

Any member who feels that a playing partner is compromising the enjoyment of an event for the reasons above, or for any other incident or circumstance, may speak to a board member about his concerns.

The Conduct Review team will be brought in when necessary to review the incident(s) or behavior and will work out a solution beneficial to all members and the NPGC Men's Club.

New Prague Men's Club Guidelines for Participation

Weekend Event Registration - Important

Each participant **must properly register for the event no later than noon the Tuesday prior to the event. Sometimes plans change and we understand this.** Signup sheets will be posted in the Pro Shop several weeks prior to each event. This will insure proper registration and timely formation of groups and tee times. An alternate player sheet will also be posted (if applicable) when the regular signup sheets are taken down. Should you register for an event and then need to withdraw, you must notify the **Golf Shop at least 24 hours** prior to the event if at all possible. Failure to do so may result in a suspension from Men's Club events according to the following schedule:

- Your first "No Show" will result in suspension from the **next event.**
- Your second "No Show" may result in suspension from the **next two events.**
- Your third "No Show" may result in a suspension from participating in the **remainder of the Men's Club 2018 events golf season.**
 - Additionally, if you sign up for an event, you should attempt to complete the event or you will be considered a "No Show."
 - If you must leave in the middle of an event, your score to that point will be counted, if applicable. Your team will need to continue on shorthanded.

USGA/MGA Handicap Rules

To maintain a valid USGA handicap and be able to play in Men's Club and MGA events, you must comply with the following:

- 1) Accurately post all 9-hole rounds – home and away scores.
- 2) Accurately post all 18-hole rounds – home and away scores.

Failure to follow the established handicap recording rules may result in a handicap adjustment or suspension of play from Men's Club events.

Non-Conforming Golf Equipment

It is illegal to use any golf equipment, clubs or balls not approved by the USGA in any Men's Club event. Range finders are allowed. Range finders that also measure slope are prohibited. Violator's will be disqualified from the event. Repeat violations may result in disqualification from all future events.

NPGC Men's Club Rules and Directives

- **Putt everything out** – NO *GIMMIES*. (Unless specified in the event rules)
- **Summer rules** apply unless notified the day of an event.
- **Repair all ball marks and replace or repair divots. This is important.** Our course will appreciate it.
- **Obey the Freeman / Mead Rule** – Please wait until everyone in your group has hit their tee shots or fairway shots. Do not climb in your cart and race off forgetting your cart partner. Also, please show courtesy by not racing to the green 100+ yards ahead of your group.
- **Show courtesy to those who choose to walk.** Remember that NPGC is not a cart-only golf course. Players have every right to walk their rounds. Walkers have the same rights as those who ride in golf carts. **Please remember that walkers do not cause slow play – slow golfers cause slow play.**

2018 Men's Club Events

****Juggernaut Scramble (Saturday 4/28)**

This is a 4 person Team Event in an ABCD scramble format. The first 6 holes the A & B players and the C & D players play a 2 man scramble. Their scores are totaled together. The next 6 holes, the A & C players and the B & D players play a scramble and the scores are totaled. The last 6 holes, the A & D players and the B & C players play the scramble format and the scores are totaled.

All scores are then added for the total of the team over 18 holes.

****3 of 4 Net Event (Saturday 5/12)**

Four man teams with individual handicaps. Each member plays his own ball from tee to green. At the end of the hole, all scores recorded and the two low net scores are added together and count as the team score for that hole.

****2 Man No Scotch Format (Sunday 5/20)**

This is a 2 Man Team scramble Format. The teams may be flighted.

The 2 team members hit a drive. They then switch balls to play the second strokes (each hitting the other players drive). They then select the best position that resulted from each of the second shots. Beginning with the 3rd stroke, they play a scramble format to the hole from that spot.

****Red / White / Blue - ABCD Event (Saturday 6/9)**

All three sets of tees are used for this event: Information Coming Soon.

****If/ Only Event (Sunday 6/24)**

This will be an Individual Event, with handicaps. After playing 18 Holes, you will throw out your two highest scores to arrive at a 16 hole total score. This event may have flights.

****The Lee Cup - Two Day Team Event (Friday 7/6 & Saturday 7/7)**

The NPGC version of the Ryder Cup Event is made up of four 9-hole events, two events are played on Friday afternoon and two are played on Saturday morning. Each foursome will be made up of two partners from opposing teams, by handicap, so no handicap is used. Each event will be an individual or pairs game between opposing players or partners. On Day Two, foursomes will be rearranged for that day's play.

This is match play tournament, so "gimmies" are expected as a sign of good sportsmanship and will help with speed of play. The Lee Cup is routinely rated the finest event of the year. (we will hope there is no rain like 2014 – luckily no one was lost in the deluge)

Friday Format (shotgun start at approximately 1:15 PM with a catered dinner to follow)

Best-ball (9 holes)

Scramble (9 holes) same playing partners

Dinner cost of \$3.00 payable at sign in for the Friday event. (Pre-event fun putting and chipping contests)

Saturday Format

Alternate Shot (9 holes)

Singles (9 holes)

At the completion of play, stay and have fun socializing and rooting for your team as they finish play on hole 18! Then let's all gather at the 19th hole and toast our good fortunes.

****2-3-4 ABCD Event (Sunday 7/29)**

This is a 4 man ABCD event where scores counts as follows:

Par 3 holes - 4 scores count:

Par 4 holes - 3 scores count:

Par 5 holes - 2 scores count

Handicaps will be used for the ABCD individual players.

****Championship Warm-Up (Saturday 8/4)**

This is an individual stroke-play event within flights. All play is from the white tees (and gold tees where applicable for some players) with difficult pin positions. This event is a good test for all players and serves as a warm up to the NPGC Club Championship the following week.

****Two Man Best Ball (Sunday 8/26)**

This is a 2-man event with the field split into two fields. The lower 50% handicaps will have two-man teams formed and a play a best-ball event. The same goes for the upper 50% of handicaps.

Each person will play his own ball: the lower score of the two-man team will count. Handicaps will be used.

****6-6-6 Event (Sunday 9/9)**

This is a 2-man event. Pairings will be made by the Pro Shop with flights set by handicap. Holes #1-6 are played as a 2-man scramble. Holes #7-12 are played as a 2-man best ball. Holes #13-18 are played by alternate shot format. Each player tees off on all the holes with the alternate shot format taking over from the tee shot selected the better of the two.

Everyone will compete within his flight so no handicaps will be used.

****The Memorial Derby (Saturday 9/22)**

We play this event while remembering the members who are no longer with us to enjoy our great game.

This is a 27-hole, 3-man team event. The first 18 holes are played as a Scramble. Depending on the number of players in the field, a cut will be established to include the low 10 teams. After a tasty catered lunch, the 10 teams making the "cut" begin the Derby. The Derby consists of 9 holes played in an alternate shot format starting on #10. Each team declares a hitting rotation prior to the first tee shot. That rotation remains the same throughout the Derby afternoon.

The team with the highest score on each hole is eliminated from the event. If two or more teams tie with the highest score, those teams play a chip-off to determine which team is eliminated. For the chip-off, each team designates one member to chip or putt against the other team's member. The individual who is farthest from the hole is eliminated along with his team. The last team "standing", after completing the 9 holes, is the winner. If there is a tie score at the last hole, a sudden-death playoff will take place. The 18th hole will be played again to determine the winner.

****Closing Shamble Event Member/Guest/Women (Saturday 10/6)**

This will be a Member-Guest event. We encourage you to invite friends, wives, girlfriends and family to participate for a fun time. This will be a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Standard green fees apply. A sit-down dinner and the season-ending NPGC Men's Club Awards Banquet will follow this event. Cost is estimated at \$13-14 per person for dinner.

Some Basic Guidelines on the Rules of Golf

On the tee, in the fairway, and in the rough:

- 1). A player can only carry fourteen (14) or fewer clubs, including your putter.
- 2). Announce your golf ball's brand name and number before you tee off. It is a good idea to mark your golf ball so it won't be confused with another golfer's ball.
- 3). Tee off between the tee markers and up to two (2) club-lengths behind them. (Never in front of the tee a marker as that is subject to stroke penalty.) Note: a golf ball knocked off the tee while you are preparing to swing is not a penalty.

Play the Ball as it Lies (Except)

1) If your ball is **lost** outside a water hazard or **out of bounds**, you must play another ball from the spot where the last shot was played, under penalty of one stroke, i.e. stroke and distance. You are allowed 5 minutes to search for a ball, after which, if it is not found or identified, it is lost. If, after playing a shot, you think your ball may be lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you should play a provisional ball. You must state that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball. If it happens that the original ball is lost or out of bounds, you must continue with the provisional ball, under penalty of one stroke. If the original ball is not lost or out of bounds, you must continue play of the hole with it and the provisional ball must be abandoned.

2) If your ball is in a **water hazard** follow these rules:

- Ball in a DIRECT water hazard (marked by yellow stakes)

(a) Play the ball as it lies or, under penalty of one stroke, (b) drop any distance behind the water hazard keeping a straight line between the hole, the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard and spot on which the ball is dropped, or (c) play again from where you hit the ball into the hazard.

- Ball in LATERAL water hazard (marked by red stakes)

In addition to the options for a ball in the direct water hazard (see above), under penalty of one stroke, you may drop within two club-lengths of (a) the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard, or (b) a point on the opposite side of the hazard equidistant from the hole.

Note: When hitting into either type of water hazard, it is NOT permissible to play a provisional ball. If you do, it will be considered your ball in play.

3) If your ball is in **casual water** (any temporary accumulation of water on the course that is not in a water hazard and is visible before or after you take your stance), **ground under repair** or **a hole or cast made by a burrowing animal**, you may drop without penalty within one club-length of the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole.

4) If you believe your ball has an **unplayable lie** outside a water hazard (you are the sole judge), you may under penalty of one stroke (a) drop within two club-lengths of where the ball lies not nearer the hole, (b) drop any distance behind the point where the ball lies keeping a straight line between the hole, the point where the ball lies and the spot on which the ball is dropped, or (c) replay the shot. If your ball is in a bunker you may proceed under (a), (b) or (c). However, if you elect to proceed under (a) or (b) you must drop in the bunker.

On The Green

- 1) If any part of the ball touches the green, it is considered to be “on the green.” You have the choice of either removing the flagstick or having it tended by another player. If your ball hits the flagstick by a stroke taken on the green it is a two-stroke penalty.
- 2) You can repair ball marks and old hole marks but not spike marks. Repairing spike marks is a two-stroke penalty.
- 3) Mark your ball with a coin or marker **before** moving it, and clean it if necessary. If your marker obstructs the putting line of another player, it is common etiquette to move it out of the way. If you forget to put it back in the original spot, it is a one-stroke penalty.
- 4) You may remove loose impediments such as leaves, sand or loose earth by picking them up or brushing them aside with your club or hand, without pressing anything down, from your line of putt to the hole.
- 5) Do not brush the green in any way to test the direction of the grain. Also, never wipe your ball on the green, which is a one-stroke penalty.

When In Doubt

When you are in an unfamiliar situation and do not know the proper ruling, take the most conservative interpretation of the rules and play within the spirit of the game. You always have the option of playing a second ball and seeking an opinion when returning to the clubhouse and consulting with the event committee or the Club Pro.

Addendum for 2017 - New Rules regarding the “play” in events:

- All Men’s Club events are to be played under the Rules of Golf established by the USGA unless noted deviations are allowed for a specific event. (such as the Scramble, Derby, Shamble etc where a ball can be placed for play or fall leaves come into play – an exception can be made before the start of play for certain events.) If any doubts on the rules of play that day, ask a question.
- Gold Tee Rule: Upon reaching the age of 70 and if the player also has an MGA handicap index of at least 18.0 or above the day of the event – they are permitted to play from the Gold Tee **in certain** Men’s Club events. The player is in charge of tracking his MGA index, for this option, in each event.
- If during an event, there is a rule of golf question or violation, noted by players playing in the event, or in the groups playing in that particular event, the violation should be brought to light and discussed within the playing group.

If no resolution to the violation can be made in the group, then the Golf Shop Committee needs to be consulted in order for a ruling determination/penalty to be applied. This rule was made so all players, in each Men’s Club event, are competing on an even and uniform basis – everyone follows the same rules of golf for each event.



New Prague Men's Club – Board of Directors and Auxiliary Positions for 2018

President: Doug Snyder

Vice President: ??

Communication Officer: ??

Treasurer: Pat Ollhoff

Past President: Steve Stromberg

Directors at Large:

Scott Sides, Andy Fitch
Bob Hoeke, Don Zeyen, Frank Mahoney, TJ Wallin

Advisor to the Board: Bruce Beaty

New Prague Golf Club Representative: Kurt Ruehling, PGA

Tournament Directors:

Steve Smith
John Karlberg

We look forward to a Great 2018 Season of Golf at the New Prague Golf Club and with our Men's Club members! Thank you for all of your continuing support!

Golf is assuredly a mystifying game. It would seem that if a person has hit a golf ball correctly a thousand times, he should be able to duplicate the performance at will. But such is certainly not the case.
-- Bobby Jones

Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening -- and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented.
-- Arnold Palmer

"The NPGC Men's Golf Club has helped me become a better golfer and better teammate, someone who respects the opponent and the game more."
-- A valued member