**Early Bird Social Golf Club Local Rules:**

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1. Items 2 to 9. (Committee meeting in April 2022)
2. Ball In the Rough- No movement of the ball whilst in the rough. Unless a local rule has been enforced.
3. Ball in the Fairway- A One (1) Hand Span preferred lie on the fairway (mowed portion only), is allowed no nearer to the hole.
4. Gimmies- No “Gimmie” puts are allowed.
5. Ball close to boundary fence- If a ball comes to rest close to a boundary fence and the players normal swing is impeded, the player may take a two (2) club length drop no closer to the hole, without penalty unless stated differently on the card.
6. Ball on stones or tree roots- If a ball comes to rest on Stones or a Tree Root and there is a risk of damage to the players’ equipment, the player may seek a ruling from his marker to lift and drop at the nearest point of relief, no nearer to the hole and without penalty.
7. Lost Ball- A One (1) stroke penalty will apply for a lost ball.
8. Out of bounds- If a player suspects that his ball has gone out of bounds, he can elect to play a provisional ball (with a one stroke penalty) or play his 4th shot from the point. The provisional ball is in play until the player reaches the point where his original ball went out of bounds. If the original ball is found and in play, there is no penalty.  As a social club we do not have the opportunity of going back to the original place where the shot was played. A two (2) shot penalty occurs if a provisional ball was not hit.
9. Ball on a bare patch on the fairway- If a ball comes to rest on a bare patch on the fairway (mowed portion) only, the player may lift and drop the ball without penalty at the nearest point of relief no nearer to the hole.
10. Countback System-(Committee meeting 11/09/2023 @7:30pm @ St George Masonic Club)

* For 18-hole competition- If scores are tied at end of game. The winner is determined on the basis of the best score for the last nine holes. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, determine the winner on the basis of the last six holes, last three holes, and finally hole-by-hole from the 18th hole.
* If this method is used in a handicap stroke play competition, one-half, one-third, one-sixth, etc of the handicaps should be deducted. Fractions should not be disregarded.
* In a competition with a multiple-tee start, it is recommended that the “last nine holes, last six holes, etc” is considered to be holes 10-18, 13-18, etc.
* When the ENTIRE field commences its round from the same tee, the count-back holes are adjusted accordingly (e.g. if the entire field commences its round from the 10th tee, as holes 1-9 are the “back nine” in this instance, it is recommended that the “last nine holes, last six holes, etc” is considered to be holes 1-9, 3-9, etc).
* In 36, 54, and 72-hole events, the last 18 holes shall be used and if still tied count-back as per an 18-hole round.
* In 27-hole events, the 18-hole card shall be used in the first instance.
* In 9-hole events, the best score for the last 6 holes shall

1. What constitutes a game-(Committee meeting 11/09/2023 @7:30pm @ St George Masonic Club)

* It was also agreed by the Committee that to "Constitute a Game" all Members must be able to have the capacity to play, in other words if the course is playable but there are no carts available, then that circumstance does not constitute a game. In simple terms, "No Carts - No Game".
* In terms of the number of players available to constitute a game, this has been set at Eight players.

1. Handicap System- (Committee meeting 11/09/2023 @7:30pm @ St George Masonic Club)

• You must firstly identify the player’s most recent 8 scores,

• You then determine the ‘Sloped Played To’ value for each of these scores,

• You average the best 4 ‘Sloped Played To’ values,

• And finally you multiply this average by 0.93. The resultant figure (to one decimal place) is the player’s Handicap.

* If a player’s handicap record contains a lesser number than 8 scores, the number of scores used to calculate the player’s handicap is as listed in the table below.
* There is no requirement for a player’s most recent 8 scores to have been returned within a specific timeframe. For example, the most recent 8 scores may span a period of three years or they may span a period of three months.
* Once a player’s handicap record contains 8 scores, the next score they return will result in the oldest of the existing 8 scores being removed (to be replaced by the new score).
  + For new players, three cards must be handed in. From the three games a handicap is determined based on the best scores and then the handicap will be adjusted according to the table below.

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| **Number of Scores in Player's Handicap Record** | **Scores to be Used in the Calculation** |
| 3 to 4 | Best/Lowest 1 |
| 5 to 6 | Best/Lowest 2 |
| 7 | Best/Lowest 3 |
| 8 | Best/Lowest 4 |