



# St. Catherine's Men's Golf Rules for 2026

## League Secretary

Pat Larkin

Call or text: 269-744-1631

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## Course

Pine View Golf Course 269 279 5131

## Fees

League fees - \$25.00 per team player. Also, we will have a two-week special Ryder Event mid-season and the entry fee for the Ryder Cup is \$5.00. (pay league and Ryder Cup fee directly to Pat Larkin by the end of May).

Green fee - \$16.00 per week Cart fee - \$8.00 per person

## League Pre-Pay Options

The league prepay for greens fee & cart will be available for purchase in the pro shop.

Note: If you play early on league day, you cannot practice on the same nine-hole course that the league is playing that day.

## League Dates

Wednesday 4/29 — first week of competition.

Wednesday 6/17 — Last week of 8 session first half

Wednesday 6/24 & 7/1 — Two Week Ryder Cup Competition

Wednesday 7/8 — First week of second half competition

Wednesday 8/26 — Last week of 8 session second half.

Wednesday 9/2 & 9/9 — Playoffs 8 teams. Two from each half and four from the Comprehensive standings will play for championship (All other teams will play in a two-week fun tournament event TBD)

Wednesday 9/23 — Banquet and Awards

## Tee-off Times

Official tee times are between 3:45 pm to 5:15 pm.

All tee times are controlled by the starter. Matches will go off "First come – First serve".

As soon as your foursome is checked in with the starter, your group can get in line at the tee box.

Please do not make arrangements with your opponents to start your match before 4:00pm

***If you are going to be later than 5:00pm please contact your opponent for that week to let them know. If you have not arrived by 5:00pm and have not contacted your opponent, you will be considered a no-show and scoring will be done as if no sub or makeup round is planned.***

## Tee Box

Players 64 years old and younger tee off from the White tees. Players 65 years or older tee off from the Maize tees. *Any player with an 18 handicap going into the round may tee off from the Maize tees.*

## Inclement Weather

The league secretary in conjunction with Pine View staff will make the decision no later than 3:00 on the scheduled day of play about rainouts. If a cancelation is necessary, a text and/or email will be sent to league members. There are no rain make up dates built in the schedule.

## Scorecards

- The league secretary will provide scorecards. Each team's A and B player will be identified along with their handicaps. The strokes given to the higher handicap players will be indicated on the scorecard.
- The full name of any substitute(s) must be legibly written on the scorecard. The failure to complete this requirement will result in the substitute's score being entered as absent.
- This score card must be picked up at the club starter's table and must be turned into a league officer at the end of the round. *Failure to comply will result in zero points for both teams.*
- One team is responsible for the written scorecard. There is also electronic scoring required by each foursome. The other team will do the electronic scoring on their phone. Both teams' scorers are responsible to assure the electronic and written scoring are accurate before turning in the scorecard after the round to the secretary.
- If an opponent is absent and a player does not wish to have their scores visible to the opponent before their make-up round, on the electronic scorecard check the pending tab next to your name. This will hide your score until the Secretary "un-pending" it before the next week's round.

## Weekly Events

There will be two special events each week of regular play. The prize for each event is a sleeve of golf balls. These events will include both skill events and chance events so that all players will have an opportunity to win. Examples of events are:

Longest drive, closest to the pin, least puts, most 4s, 5s, 6's etc.

The event flags can be picked up at the starter shed. **The first group to tee-off needs to take the event flags and place them on the appropriate hole. The last group to tee off needs to pick up and bring the flags into the clubhouse after the round**

## Absenteeism, Forfeitures, Substitutes

**You must contact your opponent and text or email the league secretary no later than 3:30pm on the scheduled day of play if you are unable to make your match otherwise you will be considered a no show and scoring will be done as if no sub or makeup round is planned.**

If one member of the team is absent (*no sub is used and a makeup round is not planned*) that single player will play the A player on the opposing team for a maximum of 20 points for the team. The opposing players will each play the single for the full 40 points. The absent player will record (0) zero points for that week

If both players of a team are absent (*no subs are used and no makeup round is planned*) both players will record (0) zero points for that week. Their opponents will both play the course against their own handicaps.

**If a player is unable to play on the scheduled league night they can either:**

1. Have a substitute play in their place that evening. A substitute can only play once per match week.
2. Make arrangements to play the round at another time. See Make-up Rounds.

**Make-up Rounds**

If a schedule conflict will prevent a player or team from playing on league night the player or team can arrange to play their round at another time.

- They must notify their opponents and the league secretary no later than 3:30pm on the day of league play.
- The make-up round must be played on the same course as the scheduled round.
- The round can only be played within the week prior to the scheduled match or the week after the scheduled match before the end of day Tuesday. The makeup scorecard must be turned into the League Secretary by Tuesday evening so the handicaps can be in the system before league play on Wednesday

**Handicap System**

Handicaps are determined by using the “2019 USGA Handicap System” and will be calculated each week by the league program. Equitable stroke control (ESC) will be in effect. New handicaps will be established for all players to begin the season. Subs with no handicaps will establish their handicap that evening. For St Catherine Men's League, we will use the following rules.

# of Rounds	# of Handicap Differentials to use
1	Recursively determine handicap until net score does not change
2	to 19 Lowest 50% (rounded down)
20 or more	lowest 10 of most recent 20

**Scoring**

- Each team will consist of a player A and a player B. Player A is the player with the lowest handicap.
- Each team's player A plays against player A for 20 points and player B plays against player B for 20 points.
- Important: If both players on a team have the same handicap or if one player does not have a handicap, you must declare who will be the A players before teeing off. It is the scorekeeper's responsibility to enter the names properly on the scorecard.
- Strokes are given to the player with the higher handicap.
- The number of strokes given/received is determined by subtracting the difference between the A and B opponent's handicaps.

- Strokes are applied on the hardest (Lowest handicap) holes first.
- The maximum handicap index is 18.2. This limits the maximum handicap to 18 on Hemlock courses and 19 on Spruce courses.
- Two (2) points are awarded to the player that wins a hole - One (1) point is awarded to each player if they tie the hole.
- Two (2) points are awarded to the player that wins low net - One (1) point is awarded to each player if they tie the net score.
- Two points are awarded for the team low net. One (1) point is awarded to each team if they tie the team net score.

If one member of a team is absent (*no sub is used and a makeup round is not planned*), that team will record (0) zero low net team points for that week. For determining the low net team points for the opposing team, the course par is used as the missing player's net score.

-There is a "Double Par" Pick Up Rule. After double par strokes are taken, pick up your ball, and add one to your score for the hole. For example, on a par 3, after your 6<sup>th</sup> stroke, pick up your ball and score a 7 for that hole. On a par 4, pick up your ball after 8 strokes, and score a 9. On a Par 5, after 10 strokes, pick up your ball and score an 11. For points, on holes that someone picks up their ball on, the handicap strokes will be applied like every other hole.

## Standings

Online program for scorekeeping and posting: <https://stcatherine.ssebastian.com>

## Rules on the Course

All USGA rules will apply with the following exceptions:

- All OB/Lost balls will be dropped 2 club lengths from the point of entry or anywhere in the line of flight between where the shot was hit and the point of entry with a one (1) stroke penalty. (One in, One out) Limit your search for a lost ball to 3 minutes maximum.
- If your ball lands near a staked tree and the stake or the line from the stake to the tree obstructs your stance or swing you may take a free drop two club lengths away from where the ball lies (not closer to the hole).
- You can pick, wipe, and place the ball (no closer to the hole) to improve the lie in the fairway and the rough, but not in a hazard. You can move your ball six inches away from tree roots, sprinkler heads and standing water not closer to the hole.
- No Fivesomes.

Gimmies - Gimmies are to be granted by your opponent only.

## Special Drop Rules for Water Hazards

If you hit your ball into the water, drop on the other side (in the drop area) and take a one stroke penalty.

Exception to this rule is on the tee shot for Spruce hole 13:

Number 13 Spruce – Only one tee shot is allowed. If you hit your tee shot into the marsh or creek , or the nearby woods in front of the tee box, you will drop in the fairway just over the bridge. If you hit your tee shot into the marsh or creek along the right side of the fairway, drop the ball at the point of entry. In either case, take your penalty and you are hitting three.

## Rules Committee

Keeping in mind this is a recreational league, competing teams should first try to resolve any issues between themselves in a civil manner related to conflicts or confusion about the rules, scoring discrepancies and eligibility issues. If a resolution cannot be made, they may consult with the three member Rules Committee to determine the resolution of any conflicts or confusion about the rules, scoring discrepancies and eligibility issues. The Rules Committee would then have final say to resolve the issue.

## Playoff and Prizes

The last two weeks of league play will be “Championship playoff” between the 8 teams that qualify. The First Place and Second Place teams from each half and the top four teams in the Comprehensive Standings qualify for the playoffs.

If the same team(s) win /place in both halves or are also in the top four Comprehensive Standings, the alternate team(s) selected to qualify for the playoff will be the highest ranked available teams from the Comprehensive Standings.

There will also be a “fun” event for the remaining teams.

The eight-team playoff format will be as follows:

- The points reset to zero.
- Each team’s score will be matched against the other seven teams. The team that accumulates the most points against the other seven teams will be the league champion.
- If necessary, a playoff tiebreaker will be determined by head-to-head match. If still tied then by net score, then by hole to hole using the lowest handicap holes first and moving down.
- If needed a sub or a member of a team not in playoffs that has played a minimum of four rounds during the regular season can be used in the playoffs.
- Each team is limited to one sub each week of playoffs.
- There are no make ups for missed playoffs. Each team must play the week of the playoffs.

League champions’ names will be engraved on the traveling trophy which will be presented at the banquet.

**Ryder Cup** : The special two week competition is defined in a separate document.

The event is a team competition made up of teams formed by handicap for competitive balance. The play will be 9 hole match play featuring two man alternate shot, best ball, and scramble. The teams will have a Captain ( lowest handicap player). The Captain is responsible for determining the Team Name , Dress Code and setting up his team's pairings for each week. The League Secretary will set up the random matches. To register to play, you need to pay a \$5.00 nonrefundable entry fee to the league Secretary by June 1.

The entry fees will be the prize pot that is awarded to the winning team.