

# **Stonebridge**

## **GOLF RULES & REGULATIONS**



**STONEBRIDGE**  
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**GOLF SHOP - (239) 592-5252**



## **I. Forward**

- A. Establishment and Amendment of Rules and Regulations. The Stonebridge Country Club Community Association Rules and Regulations are established by the Board of Directors under the authority of the Declarations, Article X, Section 3; and Bylaws, Paragraph 8.
- B. The Stonebridge Rules and Regulations currently consist of the following:
  - 1. Club Rules and Regulations;
  - 2. Golf Rules and Regulations; and
  - 3. Tennis, Fitness, and Pool Rules and Regulations
- C. The Board may, from time to time, adopt and amend these Rules and Regulations subject to any limits contained in the Declarations.
- D. This document covers the Rules & Regulations regarding the use of the Golf facilities.
  - 1. The Stonebridge Club Rules and Regulations define the terms “Family Guest(s),” “House Guest(s),” and Day Guest(s)” used throughout these Rules & Regulations. (See Stonebridge Club Rules & Regulations, Section IV, Guests.)
  - 2. These Rules & Regulations are subject to change from time to time by recommendation of the Golf Committee, and upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
  - 3. If any of these Rules & Regulations conflict with the governing Master Association Documents, the Master Association Documents shall take precedence. (See Stonebridge Club Rules & Regulations, Section I, SCCCA Rules & Regulations.)
- E. It is the duty of those using the Golf facilities to know the Rules & Regulations and to cooperate with the Officers, Directors and team members in its enforcement.

## **II. General Policy and Rules**

The following rules and regulations are not meant to limit or restrict the enjoyment obtained from playing the course. However, it is necessary to establish certain rules & regulations to assure maximum enjoyment and safety to all golfers.

- A. All Members and Guests’ are expected to familiarize themselves with the Clubs Rules and Regulations before using the facilities. Members are responsible for their Guests’ compliance with Club Rules.
- B. “Course Closed” or “Hole Closed” signs are to be adhered to without exception.
- C. Closing time for the golf course and practice facilities is at the discretion of the Golf Shop and may be directly influenced by inclement weather conditions.
- D. On days when Stonebridge utilizes shotgun starts, all golf carts must remain in the staging area. Carts are not allowed to be moved or driven to the range.

- E. Nine-Hole rounds are not permitted during the peak hours of the day, with the only exception being league play or as scheduled by the Golf Shop. Starting times for nine holes will be determined by the Golf Professional and/or Golf Committee. These times may vary according to the seasons of the year.
- F. Pin Placement: Stonebridge utilizes colored flags on the Flagstick to indicate the relative position of the cup on the green.
  - 1. Red Flag: Cup is located on the front 1/3 of the green. White Flag: Cup is located on the middle 1/3 of the green. Yellow Flag: Cup is located on the back 1/3 of the green.
- G. Cell phones must be set to vibrate or another non-audible alert. Any necessary use of such equipment must be minimal and in a courteous manner. In no case shall such use disturb other golfers or slow down play.

### **III. Golf Rules**

“The Rules of Golf” of the United States Golf Association (U.S.G.A.) and Decisions of the U.S.G.A., together with the Rules of Etiquette and Definitions as adopted by the U.S.G.A. shall apply, except when in conflict with local rules or with any rules herein.

#### **A. General Rules**

- 1. “Cutting-in” is not permitted at any time. All players must check in with the Golf Shop and/or the Starter. Under no circumstances are players permitted to start play on the course from their residences.
- 2. Practice is not allowed on the golf course. The practice facilities should be used for all practice. The use of range balls is not permitted on the golf course or practice green.
- 3. Any search for a lost ball, shall be limited to the three-minute rule, or less, so as not to hold up the group behind. A provisional ball shall be used whenever possible.
  - a. Looking for golf balls, other than your own or another member of your foursome (“Ball Hawking”), slows play and is not allowed on the course at any time.
- 4. All players who stop for any reason after playing nine holes must occupy the next tee before the following players arrive at the tee, or they will lose their position on the golf course.
- 5. Golf Rangers may be on duty to help regulate play & enforce the Golf Rules. The Golf Rangers have full authority on the golf course to enforce all rules, regulations, and speed of play. Stonebridge pace of play is 4 hours for 18 holes;

2 hours for 9 holes. If a Golf Ranger determines that a group is falling behind the normal Pace of Play, the Golf Ranger may require the players pick up and go to the next hole. The cooperation of all players in the group is required.

6. Each player must have his or her own bag and set of golf clubs. Players may not share clubs.
7. Appropriate golf attire is required for all players on both the golf course and practice facilities. Proper attire is discussed under the section on Dress Code.
8. If lightning is in the area, all play must cease.
9. Club management may close the golf course to play whenever the grounds could be damaged by play.
10. In order to provide the utmost playing pleasure for all Members, the Club reserves the right to establish starting times (Tee Times) and/or rules governing access to the golf course.
11. Jogging, bicycling, and walking are not permitted on the golf course or cart paths at any time.
12. Credit for "Discontinued Play" is as follows:
13. Less than 5 holes: Full Credit Voucher for round Purchased. Less than 14 holes: a nine (9) hole Credit Voucher. No beverage coolers are permitted on the course unless provided by the Club.
14. Singles and Twosomes should not expect to play through Foursomes and should not exert any pressure on the groups ahead. Foursomes shall have the right of way.
15. Singles and Twosomes will be grouped with other players, if available. If not, they should expect to maintain their place on the course.
16. Groups of five or more players shall only be permitted on the golf course with the permission of the Golf Shop.
17. Play may only begin from either hole number 1 or hole number 10, as directed by the starter or Golf Shop. An exception is "shotgun starts" as directed by the Golf Shop.

## B. Local Rules

Stonebridge Country Club is unique in that there are many penalty areas, out of bounds areas, gopher tortoise preserves, planted areas, and coquina cart paths. These areas may change from time to time by the posting of signs or red and white stakes. Therefore, Stonebridge has developed several Local Rules to help improve speed of play and player enjoyment.

1. U.S.G.A. Rules Govern All Play, except where Local Rules apply.
2. Wooden Bulkheads are considered an integral part of the golf course and define the margin of the hazard.
3. If any player has a question pertaining to a rule, he/she should play a second ball and consult with a member of the professional team at the completion of the round, prior to signing the scorecard.
4. OB Stroke and Distance Local Rule E-5
5. When a player's ball has not been found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.
  - a. For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3).
6. Out of Bounds (OB) and Penalty Areas that are irregular in shape are very difficult to mark and present a challenge as to where the actual line is.
  - a. If an actual white line or red line has been marked on the ground, then there is no question of intent, and normal U.S.G.A. Rules should be followed. The stakes indicate the OB or penalty area, and the line defines the OB or penalty area.
  - b. At Stonebridge, the edge of the penalty area is defined as the "line" at the edge of the cart path, or where the height of the grass, type of grass or mowing height noticeably changes. The taller grass is inside the penalty area, and the shorter grass is outside the penalty area.
  - c. If no white line is painted on the ground, use line of sight between the "white" stakes.
  - d. Ball drop areas have been placed on holes numbers 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 18, and are appropriately marked. They may be used when a ball is hit into a penalty area that precedes the ball drop area. The ball drop area may not be used for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or hit OB.



- e. The Flower Beds through the green (not in a penalty area), are to be played as Ground under Repair; from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take a free drop within one-club length of nearest point of relief no nearer the hole. (See USGA Rule 16.1)
  - f. The curbing along the cart path, through the green, is considered an immovable obstruction and therefore relief is allowed.
7. Coquina cart paths are to be played as an Immovable Obstruction (See USGA Rule 16.1). The rocks around the drains are to be played as an Immovable Obstruction. (See USGA Rule 16.1)
8. Temporary Conditions (Mud, Wetness, etc.). The Director of Grounds, Golf Professional and/or General Manager may at times deem the course to be muddy, wet, in poor condition or requiring protection. At such times, signs will be posted in the Golf Shop and/or on the course, and the following will be allowed.
- a. Lifting and Cleaning an Embedded Ball — Temporary conditions which might interfere with proper playing of the game, including mud and extreme wetness, warrant relief for an embedded ball anywhere through the green, or permit lifting, cleaning, and replacing a ball anywhere through the green or on a closely mown area through the green.
  - b. "Preferred Lies" — Adverse conditions, including the poor condition of the course or the existence of mud, are sometimes so general that the Committee may decide to grant relief to either protect the course or to promote fair and pleasant play. Such Local Rule shall be withdrawn as soon as the conditions warrant.
  - c. Exception: A player may not obtain relief under this Local Rule if it is clearly unreasonable for them to play a stroke because of interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule.
9. Relief from a Sprinkler Head: Where there are sprinkler heads on the aprons surrounding the greens, the Local Rule allows a free drop if there is a sprinkler head within two club-lengths of the green that interferes on the line of play. The ball must be within two club-lengths of the sprinkler head, and obviously not in a penalty area. The ball may be cleaned when it is lifted, and it must be dropped at the **nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole** and avoids the interference of the sprinkler head.

#### C. Guest Rules

1. See the Stonebridge Club Rules & Regulations, Section IV Guests for definitions of and specific rules for "Day Guest(s)" and "House Guest(s)".
2. Guest use of Golf facilities is subject to Club Rules & Regulations, Section IV Guests and Guest Use of Club Facilities.

3. A Member's House Guests will be entitled to use the facilities unaccompanied by the member in accordance with the rules set by the Club. A member's Day Guest(s) must be accompanied by a member while using the practice areas, golf course, or any facility of the Club. A Tenant (Lessee) member's Day or House Guest(s) must always be accompanied by the Tenant (Lessee) member.
4. Guests will be charged Guest fees for the use of club facilities as determined, from time to time, by the Club.
5. During the months of January, February and March, Guests are not allowed to reserve tee times or play before 12 noon, unless there is a vacancy after the Tee Time Sheet has been posted.
6. Guest privileges may be limited by the Club, from time to time, at the sole discretion of the Club.
7. The sponsoring member shall be responsible for the conduct of any Guest while at the Club. If the deportment or appearance of any Guest is deemed to be unsatisfactory, the sponsoring Member shall, at the request of the Club, cause such Guest to leave the premises of the Club.
8. Members are responsible for informing their Guests of Club Policies.
9. The Club reserves the right to modify Guest Policies, as it deems appropriate, from time to time.

#### D. Junior Golfer Rules

The following restrictions apply to Junior golfers:

1. Junior players, under 16 years of age, are not allowed to start play or use the practice area unless accompanied by an adult golfing member and under the direct supervision of that adult.
2. All participants in any Stonebridge-sponsored Tournament must be 21 years of age, unless such tournament is specifically intended for Juniors, children of Members or otherwise approved by the Head Golf Professional.
3. The foregoing shall not apply to special events held at the club, specifically designed to include young children.
4. Each operator of a golf cart must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and must have a valid automobile driver's permit.

5. Junior players are encouraged to play during non-prime times.

Waiver: The Head Golf Professional may waive these playing restrictions for a junior player, provided they are able to assure the Golf Professional that they have adequate ability, knowledge of golf and golf etiquette.

E. Stonebridge Women's Golf Association (SWGA-18 & SLGA-9)

1. Purpose:

- a. Promote good friendship and sportsmanship among its members.
- b. To represent Stonebridge Country Club in Inter-Club Competition and Events.
- c. To act in an advisory role to the Board of Directors, Golf Committee and the Golf Professional Staff in women's golf competitions and events.
- d. Each year, the current SWGA-18 and SLGA Niners Presidents will be members of the Golf Committee.
- e. Assist members in learning and observing the rules of golf as established by the USGA and Stonebridge.

2. Membership:

- a. Membership shall be open to all women golfers, who are in good standing as prescribed in the Stonebridge Country Club Rules & Regulations.
- b. Members, including Tenant (Lessee) Members and Invitational Members, are eligible for membership in SWGA.
- c. At the time of application, a member must indicate whether she is joining the eighteen (18) or nine (9) hole group.
- d. Members are expected to familiarize themselves with the Rules of Golf as set down by the USGA as well as the Stonebridge Golf Rules & Regulations.
- e. Required Handicaps
  - a. Eighteen (18) hole players must have a current handicap of forty (40) or less, to compete in all trophy tournaments.
  - b. Nine (9) hole players must have a current handicap of fifty-four (54) or less, to compete in stroke play events.
- f. Annual Dues for SWGA
  - a. Annual dues in the SWGA-18 and SLGA-Niners shall be determined yearly by the applicable SWGA Board and payable to the SWGA Treasurer.

### 3. Annual SWGA Meetings

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Spring.

### 4. Other Information:

#### a. Trophy Tournaments

- a. To participate, a player must be a Member of the Stonebridge Country Club Community Association and have a U.S.G.A. approved handicap established.

#### b. Interclub Play

- a. SWGA membership is required to participate in Interclub.
- b. The make-up of the team will be determined by the Interclub Chairperson and the President of the SWGA in consultation with the Golf Club Professional.

### 5. Reminder

Sign up by noon on Friday for Women's Day on Tuesday. All women will be able to play in the Tuesdays Women's Day, in either the morning or afternoon. Those who sign up later will be able to play if there are still spots available.

*(For more information contact the SWGA-18 or SLGA-Niners President; or the Golf Club Professionals)*

### F. Stonebridge Mens Interclub Team

#### 1. Team Qualifications & Selection:

##### a. Team Members must:

- i. Be a male Owner Member of Stonebridge Country Club;
- ii. Have an established USGA Handicap; and
- iii. Be a winner of one of the Stonebridge Tournaments listed below playing from the III, II, or I tee:

(A.) Men's Partner-Partner - (3 Flight Winners)

(B.) Men's President's Cup - (3 Flight Winners)

(C.) Men's Invitational - (1 Winner)

(D.) Men's Club Championship - (2 Flight Winners "Gross" & 2 Flight Winners "Net")

(E.) Men's Member-Member - (2 Winners)

##### b. Team Captain is a Team Member - (1 player)

- c. Team members qualifying as above are members of the team until the following year's tournament is completed.

#### 2. Alternate Qualifications & Selection:

- a. Alternates are regular members of the Stonebridge Mens Interclub Team for the balance of the current Interclub season and are selected by the Captain to play in interclub matches when the

Captain is not able to field a complete team from the regular members of the team. They must be male Members of Stonebridge Country Club and have established USGA handicap.

b. Number of alternates taken will be on an as needed basis.

3. Team Captain must:

- a. Be a male owner member of Stonebridge Country Club;
- b. Be knowledgeable of the USGA Rules of Golf;
- c. Have an established USGA Handicap;
- d. Have good organizational skills and the time to devote to the position; and
- e. Be selected by the Head Golf Professional.

#### **IV. Use of Golf Course by Non-Players**

The golf course, ponds, and cart paths are for the exclusive use of golfers, even if the "course is closed" or there are no players evident.

- A. Jogging, bicycling or walking is not permitted on the golf course or cart paths at any time, with the exception of designated club sponsored events.
- B. If a non-player wishes to accompany a playing group during a round of golf, this person must obtain permission and may, at the discretion of the Golf Shop, be charged the appropriate cart fee.
- C. No pets are allowed on the golf course at any time.
- D. Fishing in Stonebridge ponds is allowed subject to the restrictions contained in Club Rules & Regulations, Section XI, General Rules.

#### **V. Golf Cart Rules**

Only golf carts owned/leased by Stonebridge Country Club may be used on the golf course. The Director of Grounds and/or Professional Team shall determine when golf cart operation is prohibited or restricted to cart paths only. Golf carts shall not be used by a Member or Guest without proper assignment and registration in the Golf Shop.

##### **A. Golf Cart Rental Agreement**

For and in consideration of the rental of any Golf Cart owned by or leased by the Stonebridge Country Club Community Association, the person signing for such rental shall return the same immediately following its use in as good condition as they received same, normal wear being excepted.

In consideration for the rental of said Golf Cart, the Renter, on behalf of themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns; release Stonebridge Country Club, Lessee, and Owner, the Lessee, from any and all liability, loss or damage to the renter or their property arising from or through their use of said Golf Cart; and further agree to hold aforementioned Lessee and Owner, the Lessee, free and harmless from any claims, liability, or damage of any nature whatsoever that may arise

from or through their use of said Golf Cart due to their negligence, except resulting from mechanical failure or defect.

## B. Cart Rental and Assumption of Responsibility

1. A member may be requested to sign a Cart Rental Agreement in the Golf Shop for each golf cart used by themselves and their Guests.
2. Operation of a golf cart is at the risk of the operator and passenger.
3. Golf carts shall not be used by a Member or Guest on the property of the Club without proper assignment and registration in the Golf Shop.
4. Any action by a Member or Guest, determined to be inappropriate or dangerous use of a golf cart, may result in denial of golf cart privileges by the Golf Committee.
5. Cost of repair to a golf cart damaged by a member will be charged to the member. In the case of damage caused by a Guest, the cost of repairs will be charged to the sponsoring Member.
6. Members using golf carts will be held fully responsible for any and all damages to the golf cart, private property, or Club property that is caused by misuse of the golf cart by the Members, their family, or their Guests.
7. Members and Tenants shall reimburse the Association for any and all damages the Association may sustain, for any reason, resulting from the golf cart operation.

## C. Operation on the Golf Course

1. Each operator of a golf cart must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and must have a valid automobile driver's permit.
2. Golf carts cannot be used off the golf course, except in the case of a shotgun start, and then only on the roads to get to a specific hole or back.
3. Carts must be kept on the fairways or rough as indicated and are not to be driven into the St. Augustine grass around homes and condos.
4. Only two persons and two sets of golf clubs are permitted per golf cart.
5. All cart traffic signs must be obeyed, including where white lines, signs and/ or stakes indicate exit to the fairway or return to the cart path.
6. Roads should be crossed with CAUTION. Stop and Look before crossing.
7. Golf cart paths should always be used where provided, especially near tees and greens. At tees and greens, all carts are to be parked with all four (4) wheels on the cart path.
8. Fairways should be crossed at right angles, using the ninety-degree rule.

9. Golf Carts are required to remain on the golf cart paths on all Par 3 holes, with the exception of Golf Carts used by Golfers designed under paragraph D. as a "Golfer with Physical Limitations" and properly so designated.
10. At certain times of the year and on specific holes, signs may be posted requesting that carts be driven on the fairway and not in the rough. You are required to obey all signs.
11. Except on cart paths, golf carts should not be driven beyond the green and white top posts approaching the green. The exception is a cart designated to carry a golfer with a physical limitation, which may not be driven within thirty (30) feet of the green. When approaching the green, all carts are to be parked on the cart path adjacent to the green. At some greens a specific area may be designated for stopping and cart parking.
12. Be careful to avoid soft areas on the fairways and rough, especially after rains. Use the roughs wherever possible.
13. When the "Carts in Rough Only - No Crossover" or "Carts on Path Only" signs are posted, they must be strictly followed.
14. When "Carts in Rough Only" (without no-crossover restriction) sign is posted, a crossover may be made once, and once only, on that hole.
15. Golf carts shall be driven on the golf course only when the course is open for play, unless authorized by the Golf Shop.
16. Golf carts are not permitted in the parking lot area, unless accompanied by a golf cart attendant.
17. Violations of the golf cart rules may result in loss of golf cart privileges and/ or playing privileges.
18. The use of a golf cart is mandatory for all golfers during the season, from January through April, except as approved by the Golf Shop (designated walking times).

#### D. Golfers with Physical Limitations

Stonebridge Country Club will issue a Blue Flag to any golfers with Physical Limitations, allowing them special access to the golf course. The Blue Flag policy was established to help handicapped Members enjoy golf by easing some rules and regulations. Members with Blue Flags have special privileges and a corresponding responsibility not to abuse these privileges. This exemption applies only to the person for which the flag is displayed and not the cart.

1. If one of the two golfers in a cart is a handicap flag user, he/she only, is allowed to drive to a ball on the course where carts are not otherwise permitted.
2. Any other player in the cart is to respect all cart signs, and not be

dropped off in a cart restricted area.

3. If two users of the handicap flag are in a foursome they must drive in the same cart.
4. No carts will be allowed on the 11th hole.
5. No cart can come within 30 feet of any green (10 paces).
6. Golf carts must not be driven on the green or apron
7. Golf carts may never be driven between the green and green side bunkers or between greens and lakes.
8. Golf carts must not be driven in planted areas or in areas that are noticeably wet.
9. Golf carts should be driven so as not to cause any damage to the course.
10. Please observe the 90 Degree Rule when going to and from your ball.
11. Any violation of the rules stated above may result in revocation of the privilege of using a blue handicap flag.
12. Every handicap flag user must sign a statement, indicating an understanding of these rules and a promise to abide by them.
13. Should a member think that there are special circumstances which would entitle him/her to use a blue handicap flag, he/she may ask the Head Golf Professional for permission.

E. Times for Golf Carts Only and Walking

1. Members and Guests using golf carts will be given priority for tee times during most of the day.
2. During Season tee times during the morning and the afternoon before 3 pm, will be reserved for players using golf carts.
3. The rental of golf carts may be mandatory at certain times, as determined by the Club.
4. Walking will only be allowed at times determined by the Golf Shop.
5. All pull carts must remain at least 10 feet off of the putting surface, tees, and bunkers, or on the cart path.
6. Walking players must sign in at the Golf Shop and obtain a "Walking Pass." Play must begin on either hole 1 or 10, as directed by the Golf Shop.
7. Walking players must obtain and carry a portable sand container and repair any divots they make on the golf course.

**VI Enforcement of Rules & Regulations**

- A. The Board of Directors has the authority and responsibility to enforce these Rules & Regulations. See Club Rules & Regulations, Section VI, Restrictions, Suspensions and/or Termination of Membership Privileges.
- B. Violators of the Rules and Regulations could be fined or their privileges to use common property, including all Club facilities, suspended.



- C. Members who condone violations by their family, Tenants, or Guests are subject to the same disciplinary procedure.
- D. All employees of the Association have full authority to enforce these Rules and Regulations, and any infractions will be reported to management.
- E. If you are requested by a Ranger, Starter, Golf Shop employee or Golf Professional to observe a rule or regulation, your cheerful cooperation and understanding is mandatory.
- F. Any member who observes unauthorized activity (walking, bicycling, ball hawking, practicing, etc.) on the golf course should report such activity to the Ranger, Golf Shop, General Manager, or Security Patrol.

## **VII Hours of Play**

The hours that the golf course is open will depend on several factors, including but not limited to: length of daylight, season, number of players, and weather.

- A. The hours the course is open will be posted in the Golf Shop and at several places inside the clubhouse.
- B. The Director of Grounds is authorized to determine when the golf course is fit for play. His decision is final.
- C. In his absence, the Golf Professional on duty shall make this decision in consultation with the General Manager.

## **VIII Establishing and Managing Tee Times**

- A. All golfers must have a designated tee time in the Chelsea System or register in the Golf Shop and pay all required greens fees and cart fees before beginning play.
- B. Instructions for using the Chelsea Tee Time System are available from the Club Administrative Office or the Pro Shop.
- C. Cancellations. Reserved tee times must be cancelled at least 24 hours prior to the tee time, or the member may, at the discretion of the Head Golf Professional, be held responsible for all charges.

## **IX Dress Code**

The dress code is mandatory for all players using the practice areas and on the golf course. Improperly dressed golfers will be asked to change before playing. If you are in doubt concerning your attire, please check with the Golf Shop prior to your tee time. Any misuse or disregard of these rules may cause privileges to be revoked or suspended.

- A. Men... Mens golfing apparel shall follow fashion industry standards.
  1. Shirts with collars and sleeves, mock turtlenecks, slacks, golf length shorts or walking shorts are considered appropriate attire.
  2. Tank tops, tee shirts, fishnet tops, cut-offs, sweatpants, blue jeans,

cargo shorts/pants, bathing suits, tennis shorts, elastic bicycle shorts, or other athletic shorts are not permitted.

- B. Women... Women's golfing apparel shall follow fashion industry standards.
  - 1. Dresses, skirts, slacks, golf length shorts, mid-length shorts and blouses with collars and/or sleeves are considered appropriate.
  - 2. Shirts can be collarless and sleeveless with an appropriate scoop, mock or V-neck.
  - 3. Halter tops, tank tops, tube shirts, tee shirts, fishnet tops, bathing suits, sweatpants, blue jeans, tennis dresses, cut-offs, elastic bicycle shorts, or other athletic shorts are not permitted.
- C. Shoes... Appropriate spike-less or soft spike golf shoes, or approved shoes are required on the golf course and practice areas. Use of shoes other than golf shoes must be approved by the Golf Shop.
- D. Members and Guests, including juniors, are always required to keep their shirt tails tucked into their golf pants or golf shorts. Banded bottom shirts, may be worn out or tucked in.
- E. Anyone not conforming to the Dress Code outlined above will be asked to change before they will be allowed to play on the course or use the practice area.

## **X Use of Practice Facility**

The practice facility is maintained for the enjoyment of all Members and Guests. Please use these facilities responsibly and safely, so as not to endanger others.

- A. Members and Guests may use the practice facilities when open, but only during posted operating hours.
- B. Members and Guests with tee times always take priority over those without tee times.
- C. Proper dress as defined in the section on "Dress Code" is required for anyone using any of the practice areas.
- D. The Golf Shop has the right to close the practice area for operational reasons.
- E. Chipping is allowed only in the area designated for chipping. Do not chip onto the designated putting green.
- F. The Range may be closed at certain times for maintenance and/or Golf

Clinics.

- G. The hours that the Range and practice areas are open change by season and will be posted in the Golf Shop.
- H. Balls must be hit only from the designated tee box areas. On some days of the week you are required to use the Mats on the practice tees. Times are posted in the Golf Shop.
- I. The separate tee box at the right end of the driving range is for the use of the Golf Professionals only.
- J. The range balls provided are for use on the practice facility only. Range Balls are not to be removed from the practice area and are not permitted on the practice green or the golf course.
- K. Our Driving Range is only 230 yards long. Do not use any club that you could possibly hit a distance, greater than 230 yards.
- L. No smoking is permitted on the practice facility.

## **XI Conduct on the Golf Course**

Please be respectful of private property surrounding the golf course. Under no circumstances shall golf carts be driven on, or any shot played, from another's property.

### A. Etiquette

You are responsible for any damage that your golf ball does to any property within the Stonebridge community. Should you hit an errant shot that does any damage, or breaks a window or screen;

1. You must contact the homeowner directly or,
2. Give details to  
the Golf Shop at the end of your round.
3. You are responsible for any damage caused by your Guests.
4. We ask that you take this responsibility seriously.

### B. Safety

The following infractions will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for disciplinary action:

1. Members or Guests requesting special services from employees who are on duty.

2. Any Member or Guest who abuses or disrespects any employee, verbally or otherwise.
3. A Member or Guest who disciplines any employee or requests an employee to leave the club facilities for any purpose whatsoever.
4. Repeated violations of club rules or knowingly violating a club rule.
5. Display of temper or other discourteous conduct resulting in damage.
6. Intentionally hitting a golf ball into the group ahead.

#### C. Speed of Play

Expected Pace of Play is Four (4) Hours for 18 holes and Two (2) Hours for 9 holes.

#### D. Ranger Responsibilities

##### 1. Ranger's Duty

**The** Ranger has a wide range of responsibilities. **The** Ranger's primary duties are the timely flow of golfing groups and enforcement of Golf Rules and Regulations.

- a. **The** Ranger is authorized to take any necessary action to eliminate backups, slow play, and other rule violations.
  - b. Members and groups causing the problem should expect the Ranger to make personal contact to request action by the group to alleviate the problem.
  - c. Chronic slow players will be requested to institute the Stonebridge speed of play rules.
- ##### 2. Flag System

In order to improve speed of play, the Rangers at Stonebridge will display a colored flag to indicate your pace of play.

- a. Green Flag - Means your group is doing okay, and no additional action is required.
  - b. Yellow Flag - Means your group has fallen behind and needs to catch up with the group in front.
  - c. Red Flag - Means your group has fallen too far behind, and all players in your group must pick-up immediately and move to your correct position on the course, or to the next tee as directed.
- ##### 3. Additional Information

Abusive behavior towards a Ranger is a grievance, and the abuser will receive a written warning.

- a. If a team in a tournament is asked to skip a hole, under this system they are disqualified for that competition.
- b. Slow play during tournaments may be addressed by other

options:

- i. Invoking U.S.G.A. rules.
- ii. Clocking players.
- iii. Being Red Flagged twice.

#### E. Proper Repair of Ball Marks

One of the biggest complaints heard around all Golf Shops is that golfers are not repairing their ball marks when they reach the green. The result is an uneven putting surface and brown spots all over the green, giving it a worn, beaten-up appearance. Here is how you should and should not repair your ball mark.

A good general rule is to repair your ball mark, plus one more. A ball mark repaired correctly will heal in a few days. If not repaired, it may take weeks

1. What you should not do:
  - a. Do not pull up from the center or the side of the mark. This damages the roots and delays the healing process.
  - b. Do not lift or twist the repair tool in the turf.
  - c. Do not simply tap the mark flat with your putter because you are too lazy to go back to your bag and get something to repair the mark.
  - d. Do not use a golf tee to repair ball marks. Use the proper tool.
  - e. Do not reuse the displaced turf in the repair; it will not grow back.
2. What you should do:
  - a. Insert the tool on the high side behind the ball mark and push the back of the ball mark toward the center.
  - b. Close the hole by pushing all other remaining sides of the ball mark into the center.
  - c. Gently tap the surface down with your putter.

## **XII Golf Course Safety**

- A. Alligators, Ants, Etc. BE ALERT!
  1. Be alert to the presence of wildlife on and adjacent to the golf course, cart paths and natural areas.
  2. NEVER approach an alligator or snake in an attempt to retrieve your golf ball. Keep a safe distance between you and the alligators, snakes, or any other animal, for your safety. Do not try to make the animal move off the golf course yourself.
  3. Feeding or harassing of alligators is against Florida Law, and is strictly prohibited. This will make them more aggressive and a

danger to the entire community.

4. Do not feed ducks, birds, or any other wildlife.
5. During mating season, animals may be especially aggressive. It is better to skip a hole than to risk serious injury or worse.
6. Please notify the Ranger, Golf Shop, or General Manager of the presence of animals if they are situated on the golf course proper or cart paths and are acting in a strange or threatening manner.
7. All persons are responsible for their own safety and should take all necessary measures to protect themselves. Any Member, Guest, or other person who, in any manner, makes use of or accepts the use of any apparatus, appliance, facility, privilege, or service whatsoever owned, leased, or operated by the club, or who engages in any contest, game function, exercise, competition, or other activity operated, organized, arranged or sponsored by the club, either on or off the club premises, shall do so at his or her own risk, and shall release and hold the Club, their operators, officers, employees, representatives, and agents harmless from any and all loss, cost, claim, injury, damage or liability sustained or incurred by him or her, resulting from encounters with alligators, snakes or other native wildlife while on Club property.

#### B. Dangerous Situations:

Dangerous by "Local Rule" shall be defined as alligators, snakes, fire ants, bees or any other questionable wildlife. If it is unreasonable for a player to play from such a dangerous situation, the player may without penalty, drop a ball on the nearest spot not nearer the hole that is not considered dangerous. If the ball lies in a hazard, it should be dropped, if possible, in the same hazard and, if not, in a similar nearby hazard; but in either case, not nearer the hole. If it is not possible for the player to drop the ball in a hazard, the player may drop it, under penalty of one stroke, outside the hazard, keeping the point where the original ball lay between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped.

#### C. Lightning

1. Weather Warning — Stonebridge Country Club does NOT feature a Lightning Detection System. You are responsible for observing upcoming severe weather conditions. In the event of threatening weather, please return to the clubhouse immediately.
2. If sudden close lightning does not permit evacuation to a safer place, crouch in a baseball catcher's position with feet together and hands on knees.

### 3. USGA Lightning

Tips: Avoid

Solitary tree

Small rain & sun shelters

Large, open areas

Wet areas

Elevated areas

All metal objects

including: golf clubs, golf carts, fences, electrical and maintenance machinery and power lines.

Seek

Large, permanent buildings

Fully enclosed metal

vehicle: car, van,

SUV or pickup

Dense areas of trees or bushes

Lowest elevated area

Note: The USGA emphasizes that players in a competition have the right to stop play if they think lightning threatens them, even though the committee may not have authorized it specifically by signal. (Rules 6-8 and 33-2d)

### D. Medical Emergency Procedures

Although “use” of a cell phone on the golf course is prohibited, golfers should carry cell phones for emergencies on the Golf Course. The phone should be kept in the “Silent Mode” or “Turned-off” until needed for an emergency.

Should a fellow golfer become ill or have an accident on the Golf Course follow this procedure:

#### 1. In an EMERGENCY:

- a. First call 911
- b. Give emergency information.
- c. Respond to 911 Dispatcher.
- d. Call for help from others on the golf course or near-by homes.
- e. Have another golfer contact the Golf-Shop (**592-5252**).
- f. Continue following 911 Dispatcher instructions until EMS arrives.
- g. Provide emergency details to EMS upon arrival.
- h. Stay on scene to assist EMS.

#### 2. Non-Emergency Injury or Accident

- a. Call the Golf Shop (592-5252).
- b. Ensure that the injured individual is in a safe, secure and comfortable position until help arrives.
- c. Call for help from others on the golf course or near-by homes.
- d. The Stonebridge Emergency Team is trained in First Aid, CPR and the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and will respond to the scene.

### **XIII Handicaps, Tournaments, and Leagues**

As an authorized golf club using the USGA Handicap System, Stonebridge adheres to the basic premises that underlie the system. Namely **that each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review.**

#### **A. Handicaps**

1. The Stonebridge Handicap Committee is responsible for all aspects of the USGA Handicap System, including the computation of each member's Handicap Index. The Handicap Committee must verify that all acceptable scores are reported for handicap purposes, and that recorded scores are available for peer review
2. Only Members with a USGA approved Handicap Index may participate in Club and Association Tournaments.
3. All handicaps submitted may be reviewed by the Golf Professional.
4. All players must meet eligibility rules set forth by the Tournament Committee, Golf and Green Committee and/or the Club, to participate in any event for which prizes are given.
5. All Tournaments must be approved by the Golf and Green Committee.
6. Incomplete or illegible score cards submitted in tournament play, Men's and Women's Days included, will exclude those players who submit such cards from any winnings. All cards must be totaled, dated, and signed by both the scorer and person attesting to the scores.
7. Only Owner Members are allowed to play in the following Major Tournaments:
  - a. The Club Championship(s)
  - b. President's Cup
  - c. Partner/Partner(s)
  - d. Member/Member(s)
  - e. Men's Invitational



- f. Women's Member Guest
  - g. Stone-Bridge Tournament
8. Tenant (Lessee) Members may only compete in the Men's Invitational or the Women's Member Guest as a Guest, not a Member.
  9. To be able to compete in any Club Event, including any of the Majors, a member must have an established USGA Handicap Index that has been kept current, i.e., at least one score has been posted in the last 6 months unless there is a medical issue.
  10. All scores from the Women's and Men's Club Championships, Partner-Partner (qualifier & matches), President's Cup (qualifier & matches) will be posted by the Golf Shop Team as a Tournament (T) score.
  11. The following is the Stonebridge Handicap Review System:
    - a. Handicaps will be audited by comparing Chelsea requests and posted scores.
    - b. Any golfer whose audit does not reflect the posting of all his/her "acceptable" scores (as that term is used in Section 5 of the USGA Handicap System Manual) may receive a letter of non-compliance from the Handicap Committee. This letter shall include: a list of dates of scores which were not posted, a request to post said scores, a statement of the committee's ability to adjust the handicap, and notification of the potential future actions(s) if their non-compliance continues.
    - c. The golfer's Handicap Index will be adjusted by the posting of a penalty score (lowest score of the last 20) for each unposted score.
    - d. The Handicap Committee will continue to audit the non-compliant golfer's scores. If the golfer continues not to post his/her scores, another letter will be sent stating he/she is no longer eligible to enter any club sponsored tournaments or events or receive sweeps or other prizes. Ineligibility will continue until the golfer has brought his/her handicap into compliance.
  12. Scores from other courses should be posted, using the appropriate course slope and rating.

13. The Golf Shop will assist Members needing help with the posting procedures.
14. Accurate records of “acceptable” scores (as that term is used in Section 5 of the USGA Handicap System Manual) are to be kept in the GHIN system. The Handicap Committee will determine if there are intentional violations by Members posting inaccurate scores.

## B. Tournament and Leagues

Stonebridge is unique in that we have many Leagues and Tournaments open to all Members. Registration for all Stonebridge events is available on the Golf Calendar located on the Stonebridge website. You are encouraged to enjoy and play in these events.

1. These events will be established by the Golf Committee and/or Golf Professional, during which the golf course shall be reserved for registered players.
2. To participate in these events, you will need to sign up in advance.
3. During certain Couples Leagues, Fun Day Tournaments, etc., the Tournament criteria and dress code may be relaxed at the discretion of the Golf Committee and/or Head Golf Professional.
4. **The** Golf Shop may enter late players to “fill in” or may remove players’ names who have canceled. The Golf Professional shall not change team assignments, hole assignments, nor tee time assignments to accommodate individual players.
5. If there are more entrants signed up than spaces available, the Golf Committee and/or Golf Professional shall have the final decision on who may play. Players who did not “make the cut” will be given priority in the next similar event.
6. In case of inclement weather, the Head Golf Professional is authorized to determine whether an event will be suspended, rescheduled or canceled.
7. If on the day of play an event is canceled due to inclement weather, we will still hold the social portion of the event. The member will only be charged for the food and beverage component of the event.
8. Major Tournaments – Registration for all Major Tournaments will be available on the Golf Calendar located on the Stonebridge website.
  - a. Registration for Majors **opens** a month in advance with the exception of the Men’s Invitational & Women’s Member Guest. The Men’s Invitational registration is on the first Tuesday in November. The Women’s Member-Guest is on the first Wednesday in November.

- b. All major tournament registration is on a first come, first served basis with the exception of the Men's Invitational and Women's Member Guest. The members who register on the set date will be placed in a hat and drawn randomly.
- c. No member may pre-register unless they were placed on the waitlist the year before. These members are guaranteed a spot in the tournament.

#### **XIV. Reciprocal Play**

- A. Reciprocal golf and dining facilities are available to Stonebridge Members during the summer season; this generally runs from May 1 to October 31. A list of reciprocal clubs will be available in the Golf Shop.
  
- B. Golfing tee time requests in this program must be made only through our Stonebridge Golf Shop, three days in advance.
- C. Dining reservations can, in most cases, be made by calling the reciprocal club directly. Check the reciprocal list for information.
- D. Members delinquent in Club financial obligations are not eligible to use the reciprocal program.
- E. All rules established by the reciprocal club must be followed.
- F. Not all reciprocal clubs have service charges, so you may need to remember to tip accordingly.
- G. Remember, while visiting a reciprocal club that you are representing Stonebridge and our club will be judged in part by your actions. Please act responsibly and do not jeopardize our reciprocal program.

#### **XV. Hole-in-One Club**

- A. The purpose of the Hole-In-One Club is to provide due recognition and some added fun to scoring a hole in one.
- B. You must sign up in advance in the clubhouse to be a member of the Hole-In- One Club.
- C. The Hole-in-One must be at Stonebridge and must be witnessed.
- D. When a person in the Club scores a Hole-in-One, everyone in the Club will have \$5.00 billed to their account.
- E. The total amount billed to the Club Members will be distributed to the winner in the following manner;
  - 1. Half - Applied to your Sweeps Account
  - 2. Half - Applied to your Member Account

#### **XVI. Additional Information**

- A. General Information

The additional information printed below will hopefully add to your enjoyment while playing golf at Stonebridge.

1. Golf Shop Sweep Credits: Any Sweeps Credits being held by the Golf Shop, must be used by April 30 of each year or be forfeited. A new year begins May 1.
2. Other Services Information can be obtained in the Golf Shop or Administrative Offices.
3. Stonebridge is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged golf clubs, golf bags, golf shoes or other equipment.
4. Club storage is available on a monthly or yearly basis.
5. Locker rental is available on a monthly or yearly basis.
6. Shoe service – cleaning, spike replacement, and laces are available.

## B. Tipping of Bag Handlers

The Stonebridge golf bag handlers are performing a vital and important task for Stonebridge Members, Guests and visitors from other clubs playing the Stonebridge Golf Course.

Tipping of the Golf Bag Handlers should be handled in a courteous, appreciative manner and without any expectations from the Bag Handlers. Tipping is at the sole discretion of the Member or Guest based on the service they receive.

Guidelines for Tipping Bag Handlers:

### 1. Shotgun Days and other club events

For club events and other times when a Shotgun start is being used, each Member or Guest is charged a club cleaning fee in the cost of their round of golf. The Bag Handler is required to inform a Member or Guest that a tip is included in their round of golf. If the Member or Guest feels that they have received exceptional service from the Bag Handler, they may, at their discretion, give the Bag Handler an additional tip.

### 2. Tee Time Days

On days when individual Tee Times are being used, the club cleaning fee is not charged with your round of golf. It is appropriate for Members and Guests, at their discretion after receiving good service to "Tip" the Bag Handlers for their services.

Tipping of Bag Handlers is considered a discretionary reward and recognition by a Member or Guest for services provided.

## Appendix A

### A Brief History of the Stonebridge Country Club Golf Course

In March 1989, Weiner Homes Corporation began development of the property we now know as Stonebridge Country Club Community Association, Inc. The Planned Use Development (PUD) was filed in March of 1991 under Southampton Development Corporation, Inc. naming the property Southampton of Naples. Gene Bates, formerly with the Jack Nicklaus Design Group, was hired to design the new Southampton Golf Course.

The original Southampton Golf Course was a par 72 course. This course was opened to the public for play in 1992, using a temporary Golf Shop consisting of a mobile home type structure. Mike Moser, who would later become the first General Manager of Stonebridge Country Club, was hired as the Head Golf Professional of the Southampton Golf Course. Although deposits were taken by Southampton Development Corporation for the sale of lots, condominiums, etc., the original developer's financial situation resulted in no construction other than the golf course. In late 1994 Taylor Woodrow Communities purchased the community, and in February 1995 Stonebridge Country Club Community Association, Inc. was born when Taylor Woodrow filed with Collier County to among other things, change the community's name.

Over the next six years, Stonebridge was built out to its completion. As a seven hundred and ninety-nine home community, various changes were made to the golf course. The most noticeable was the change of hole number six, from a par-five to a par-four hole, due to changes to the master plan.

Taylor Woodrow Communities turned over the ownership and operation of Stonebridge Country Club Community Association, Inc. to the homeowners on November 1, 2001. Soon after the turnover the newly established Golf Committee began looking into a possible renovation plan aimed at making the golf course fairer, more playable, and easier to maintain in the best possible condition. The committee's resulting ideas were given to Gene Bates, the original course architect, who at the time was a partner in Couples/Bates Golf Design. Mr. Bates then produced an outline for a renovation that was revised through further input from the Golf Committee. The resulting renovation plan was approved by the Board of Directors in March 2003 and the renovation was completed that summer.

A strong commitment to providing a quality golf course and to improve members' satisfaction led the Golf Committee and the Board of Directors to undergo a multi-million-dollar renovation project during the summer of 2010. Golf course architect Gordon Lewis was hired to design a master plan with emphasis on replacing all greens, re-designing deficiencies in the current course, replanting all fairways and roughs, reducing water usage, adding color, and providing a more player friendly golf course, while still keeping it enjoyable for the low handicapper. Mr. Lewis used these criteria to develop a design that accomplished the objectives while emphasizing the need to conserve our water resource and reduce maintenance, by adding natural areas throughout the course that would include native grasses and ornamentals. The natural areas, which are

not in play, utilize less water, reduce maintenance, and add character and color to the course.

The 2010 Project in Summation:

- Replaced the entire irrigation system by installing an efficient system designed to reduce water consumption by adding HDPE pipe, new pumps, controllers and irrigation heads and reducing the areas of irrigation.
- Replaced and rebuilt to USGA specifications all greens and re-grassing with a modern and proven TifEagle Bermuda Grass.
- Re-grassed all tees, fairways and roughs with Celebration Bermuda Grass.
- Replaced and tripled the size of the Practice Green.

During the summer of 2013 several additional improvements were made to the golf course, including;

- The asphalt cart paths were replaced with concrete in all areas that abutted grass.
- Some of the coquina cart paths were removed and replaced with grass.
- In conjunction with this project, a few fairways were extended, and a couple of new tees were built.
- The tee complexes were rerated and renamed (I, II, III, Black Ball, IV, Gold Ball and V).
- A small bulkhead was added to the new IV Tee on hole #15.
- A multi-year project was initiated to remove some of the native grasses in front of the tees and add color throughout the entire golf course.