

NEWPORT COUNTRY CLUB RULE BOOK

General Statement: These rules and regulations apply to all members, their families, and greens fee guests.

Club members and guests are asked to afford all golfers courtesy, consideration, and assistance. Anyone failing to follow these rules and regulations is subject to action deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, including but not limited to verbal and written warnings, suspension of playing/cart privileges, and/or revocation of membership. Decisions or actions leading to disciplinary action of a member or guest of Newport Country Club rest solely with the Board of Directors. These decisions may be appealed in person to the Board.

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

GENERAL CRITERIA: All persons joining Newport Country Club shall be deemed by the Membership Committee as individuals who:

1. will support the Club's programs and activities;
2. display a knowledge of golf and/ or willingness to learn proper golf etiquette and behavior;
3. will meet other appropriate criteria set by the Board of Directors and/or Membership Committee.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS:

Adult – Individual over 18 years of age who is not a full-time high school or college student.

Husband/Wife/ Domestic Partners –couples receive a special discounted rate.

Lifetime – Individual 62 or over: rate will be 10 times the pre-April 1st price in the year the membership is bought.

New – adults who have not been members in the two previous years receive a special discounted rate.

Young Adult – three categories – 19 to 24, 25 to 30, and 31 to 35 as of April 1. Proof of birth date required.

High School Student – Student 19 or younger enrolled in high school on April 1st of that golfing season. *

Junior – Student up to high school. *

**Note: Date of birth is required with all student and young adult membership applications*

Corporate. -Memberships at different levels available to businesses and corporations only.

MEMBERSHIP LIMITS:

1. The number of adult members is limited by the Board of Directors. Full Adult members are those described above in the first four categories.
2. When the adult membership level has been reached, a waiting list will be established for those individuals interested in becoming members.

WAITING LIST: A waiting list, when applicable, will be maintained and administered by the Membership Committee. The waiting list process will be administered without regard to race, gender, religion, country of natural origin, sexual orientation, or political persuasion.

Waiting List Categories:

Category I – Present member’s family including spouse, minor children who have been junior or college members prior to full-time membership application.

Category II – All other applicants according to postmark date of completed application.

Note: Persons in all categories will meet the general criteria.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR FILLING ALL VACANCIES: SEE MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

1. A winter mailing to all members will be done in January with all dues and fees (carts, lockers, etc.) to be paid before playing.

2. All adult voting members are required to own one share of Club stock (\$25).

3. All adult members, including young adult, are required to purchase a restaurant card (\$50)

4. *Refunds:* Valid requests, in writing, for a refund of dues will be honored as follows:

- Prior to the start of the season, full refund less \$25 processing fee;
- Prior to June 15, one-half (1/2) of the year’s membership, less the handicap fee;
- Prior to July 1, one-third (1/3) of the year’s membership, less the handicap fee.
- There will be no refunds issued after July 1st.
- At the Board’s discretion, partial or full memberships may be rolled over to the following year.

5. *Reciprocal benefits:* The Newport Country Club **generally** agrees to reciprocal benefits with Orleans Country Club, St. Johnsbury Country Club, Country Club of Barre, Enosburg Falls, Jay Peak, Colebrook Country Club, Bethlehem Country Club, The Maplewood Golf Club, Champlain Country Club, Richford Country Club, Owl's Head, Venice Golf Club, Dufferin Heights, and Bakersfield Country Club for each other’s’ members. *However, each year it is incumbent upon the golf professional to finalize participation with each Club. Therefore, reciprocal clubs may change.*

There are certain procedures our members must adhere to in order to receive this benefit:

1. Tee times must be reserved at the course to be visited, which are subject to availability.
2. Reservations must be made through the Newport Country Club golf pro or his/her designate.
3. Advance tee times are based on the reciprocal clubs’ policies and procedures.
4. Non-members may golf with members, but will not receive the discounted rate.
5. We will be providing membership cards or bag tags which may be asked for at the time of check-in.

CLUBHOUSE RULES:

1. Unless otherwise posted, the clubhouse and locker rooms will be open between 7am & 9pm. Members are responsible for their children at all times and shall not expect the pro shop staff or clubhouse staff to act as “babysitters.”
2. Proper attire, preferably a collared shirt, slacks or shorts of proper length, and suitable footwear with proper soles must be worn at all times. No tank tops, clothing with offensive or lewd messages, cutoffs, jogging shorts, or swimsuits are to be worn in the clubhouse or on the course.
3. All persons will refrain at all times from loud outbursts, profanity, and vulgar or abusive language in the clubhouse or on the course.
4. The responsibility for controlling excessive drinking lies with each and every individual, as well as the clubhouse staff.
5. Abusive conduct or misuse of the course or clubhouse facilities and services **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**, and will result in appropriate action by the Board of Directors as outlined in the *General Statement*.
6. All laws and regulations of the *Vermont Department of Liquor Control* pertaining to the **display, sale, serving, and consumption of alcoholic beverages will be STRICTLY FOLLOWED AT ALL TIMES. In particular, you are prohibited by Vermont state law from bringing your own alcoholic beverages onto Newport Country Club property.**
7. All requests for use of the clubhouse will be directed to the Chair of the Clubhouse Committee who shall process such requests.

PLAYING RULES:

1. **All players are required to check into the pro shop prior to playing a round of golf.**
2. It is the responsibility of all players to observe the etiquette of golf at all times. Replace your divots, repair your ball marks, and rake your footprints from sand traps. Take care not to spike the greens, observe all cart signs, and maintain proper distances from the greens and tees. Because we value the condition of our course, ALL PLAYERS are encouraged to repair ball marks and spike marks, replace divots, or rake traps neglected by less considerate players.
3. At the start of golf season, the golf course shall be open for play by 7 a.m. and will close to play at sunset or 9 p.m., whichever comes first.
4. Members may reserve a tee time ten days in advance. Non-members may reserve a tee time seven days in advance.
5. Each player must have his/her own clubs.
6. Players are permitted to leave the flagstick in the hole while playing a shot on the green
7. Groups of less than four individuals shall have the authority to join single players and twosomes on the first tee. EXCEPTION: Club matches may be played in twosomes with prior approval of the golf professional.
8. Slow players shall let faster golfers play though. If any group fails to keep pace for more than two consecutive holes, it must allow the following group to play through. Players may be asked by the ranger to speed up play. *A single player has no standing and should give way to a match of any kind.*
9. **THREE MINUTES IS THE ACCEPTED TIME ALLOWED TO LOOK FOR A LOST BALL.** Players searching for a lost ball should signal the group behind them to play through as soon as it is apparent that the ball will not be easily found. Players are encouraged to hit a provisional ball if the first ball is thought to be lost. NOTE: For casual play, instead of hitting a provisional ball, a golfer may estimate the spot where the ball is lost or went out of bounds, find the nearest fairway edge no closer to the hole, and drop the ball from the knee, within two club-lengths of that fairway edge point, or anywhere between there and where the ball was lost or went out of bounds. This is a two-stroke penalty.

10. *Cutting in is prohibited*, especially on the tenth tee. Please refer to the sign on that tee. Any players stopping in the clubhouse for refreshments must occupy the tenth tee before the trailing or next group arrives, or they will lose their position and may not continue play without the permission of the golf professional or starter.

11. All play must start on the first tee unless approved by the pro shop staff.

Handicap rules: Newport Country Club has been licensed by the USGA under the auspices of the VGA and the VSWGGA. Two basic premises underlie the USGA/WORLD Handicap System.

1. Every player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played.
2. The player will post every acceptable round for peer review.

Additionally,

3. League play will be posted by a League Representative or Pro Shop
4. Tournament Play is to be posted by the Pro Shop
5. Major Events are to be posted by the Pro Shop in conjunction with someone from the Handicap Committee or designee

The handicap committee ensures the integrity of the Handicap Index. This committee must make certain that the members comply with the USGA/WORLD Handicap System and thus, is solely responsible for any handicap decisions made at Newport Country Club. Below are the guidelines this committee has established for the club:

1. To ensure fairness all 9- OR 18-hole scores, including league play, must be recorded in order to maintain your handicap. Scores entered may be verified with rounds played by the handicap committee and will be adjusted if necessary. These scores must be entered promptly – preferably the day the game is played, but no later than five days after play and always before the revisions are made the 1st and 15th of the month.
2. Scores may be posted at the club in the entryway to the right of the door or on-line at <http://www.ghin.com/scorePosting.aspx> . Away scores (which include scores from other clubs when NCC is inactive) should be posted at that club's computer (if possible) or on the internet using either slope and rating or the state index for the club.
3. All handicaps will be posted for peer review after each revision on the handicap/rules bulletin board on the ground floor of the club.
4. The Handicap Committee will conduct random checks of postings and tee times and has the responsibility to adjust scores and handicaps if necessary.
5. The penalty for failure to post will be one of the following: post the actual score, post a penalty score deducting 2 strokes from member's handicap.
6. The Handicap Committee has the authority and responsibility to adjust handicaps and must give the player an opportunity to explain the circumstances surrounding the proposed adjustment, either in writing or by coming before the Handicap Committee. Some of the possible reasons for the above are –
 - a. improving faster than the system can react
 - b. numerous away scores make the handicap too high
 - c. a temporary disability such as recent surgery
 - d. manipulating a score: some examples of this would be not adjusting a score, posting erroneous information, stopping play prior to seven holes to intentionally avoid posting, repeatedly playing more than

one ball to avoid posting, deliberately taking extra strokes to inflate a score, not observing the basic premises that underlie the handicap system.

8. In addition to dues, each Newport Country Club player may purchase a handicap card, and must have a handicap card to compete in tournaments, leagues, and scrambles. To be set up with a handicap or to withdraw and make your handicap inactive, you must see the pro shop staff.

9. The following will be designated major event tournament scores for the purpose of handicap. The Green Mountain Classic, the Club Championship, and the first day of the Kingdom Classic.

LOCAL RULES

1. Free drop no closer to the hole from all flower beds only.

2. When playing seven, free drop in the designated area for a ball resting against the fence, in the fence, or obstructed by the fence.

3. Free drop no closer to the hole from all drainage ditches.

4. Parking lot on 18 is out-of-bounds.

5. White stakes indicate out-of-bounds.

6. All Penalty Areas are designated as RED penalty areas. A player can take lateral relief within two club lengths of the spot where the ball crossed the penalty area, no closer to the hole. Also, a penalty stroke is added.

7. Removal of loose impediments from bunkers, even if lifting the ball is required, is allowed without incurring a penalty.

8. In-Stroke Play a maximum of two times (2x's) Par is adopted for casual play.

CART RULES: All members, guests, and greens fee players shall respect and follow all rules relating to cart paths, cart usage, and cart restrictions. All cart signs, ropes, and markings must be strictly obeyed. These rules shall also include verbal instructions regarding restrictions given to a member or guest by the golf professional, starter or ranger, or golf course superintendent who shall have the final say.

1. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE MAY NOT DRIVE ANY GOLF CART – PRIVATE OR RENTAL – ON THE CLUB PROPERTY UNLESS APPROVED BY THE PRO.

2. Only two players and two sets of golf clubs are permitted per motorized rental golf cart, unless prior permission is granted by the golf professional.

3. Owners of private motorized carts may not allow their carts to be used by anyone other than IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, defined as a spouse or any child. Extended family such as uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and in-laws are not entitled to drive said cart unless registered as an owner. There shall never be more than two persons registered as the owners of either a private or leased rental cart.

4. Rider Fees- There are currently no rider fees. The guest of a private cart owner can ride a private cart at no cost. However, the philosophy behind rider fees is one of wear-and-tear on the course. Additional riders cause increased area to be covered on the course as the cart advances to each player's shot, and thus increased wear-and-tear. The Board may institute rider fees in the future without review by the Rule Committee.

5. Persons operating a motorized cart do so at their own risk. Drivers (members, guests, or greens fee players) will be held responsible for any and all damages and/or injuries caused by such carts, including damages to the Club's rental carts. Reimbursement shall be required for damages the Club may sustain by misuse of any motorized cart. Members will NOT LEAVE THEIR KEYS in their carts. Reckless use of a motorized cart will result in action deemed appropriate by the Board.

6. Private motorized cart owners should be able to provide proof of insurance for their carts if requested or required. The Club bears no responsibility for privately owned carts.

7. Members owning motorized carts may not store their carts on club property without proper space rental payment and a valid cart storage sticker. Members who purchase a rental space and fail to occupy that space by July 1st will lose that space. Members may NOT RENT, LOAN OUT, OR SELL cart spaces. Owners of private motorized carts may retain the same reserved space each season by notifying the Club in writing of their intention to do so, and by paying for their cart storage in advance of the season as noted in the annual membership letter. The sale of a member's motorized cart to another member DOES NOT CONVEY cart storage or use privileges to the new owner.

8. Members who own motorized carts that do not store their carts on club property may bring their cart to the course. Other than on leased carts, there are no rider fees or trail fees. However, the philosophy behind rider fees and trail fees is one of wear-and-tear on the course. Additional carts and their riders cause increased area to be covered on the course as the cart is driven onto the course and as the cart advances to each player's shot, thus increased wear-and-tear occurs. The Board may institute rider fees and trail fees in the future without review by the Rule Committee.

9. No more than one motorized cart will be allowed for two persons playing together, and no more than two motorized carts will be allowed for four persons playing together.

10. Members and/or guests who have a disability preventing them from walking comfortably may obtain a handicap pennant from the pro shop. Players displaying such pennants are permitted to park as close as 25' from the green, but NO CLOSER. Carts must always be parked in the rough on the sides or at the back of the green, NEVER on the front approach of the green. The use of a handicap pennant is a privilege based on the honor system, and it is expected that all will treat it as such. When the need for such pennant no longer exists, players are expected to stop displaying it and resume abiding by the regular course rules for carts.

11. Carts will not be used on the course after November 1, our closing date, or as determined by the Course Superintendent. On November 15 the lock on the cart pen will be changed and carts will not be available for removal.

12. The Board of Directors may decide to lease carts for the season. If two members who have leased carts are playing together, they should ride together. If a person rides with a lessee, that person must pay the current rate for renting a cart.

COURSE RANGER AND/OR STARTER:

1. The course ranger and/or starter has full authority to enforce all rules of the Club as they apply to play, including:

- the makeup of each group,
- the speed of play,
- the conduct of play, and
- the care of the golf course.

2. The ranger may in the exercise of his duties:

- instruct players to pick up the pace of play;
- instruct groups to step aside for faster groups;

- advise players on the care of the course;
 - report infractions directly to the golf professional or Board of Directors, and
 - remove a player from the course for foul or abusive treatment or language, and/or abuse of the course.
3. The Board of Directors will take disciplinary action against any member or guest failing to obey the course ranger, the starter, or the golf professional, or anyone who abuses such personnel.

RESTRICTIONS ON COURSE USE:

(The golf professional may waive any of the restrictions below during periods of light play.)

1. Green fees may be restricted during periods of heavy play.
2. All players must be off the golf course by 5:00 PM on Tuesdays during league season. Greens fee players and non-league members shall be allowed to play on other league nights on the part of the course not being used by the league.
3. League players must be members of the Newport Country Club. Exceptions: one member of the couple may be a greens fee guest player in couple's league. Lady's league players and substitutes may be greens fee guest players. Men's league substitutes must be members.
4. Junior members playing alone or with fellow junior members shall not play between noon and 6 PM on Fridays. However, any junior member 13 or older who has successfully completed the Club's junior lesson program, or who can clearly demonstrate an ability to play golf and follow its rules, may be invited to play with an adult member at any time, with PRIOR PERMISSION of the golf professional. The adult member will be responsible for the conduct of the junior member during such rounds.
5. AT NO TIME shall a member or greens fee guest player allow a non-golfer to accompany a group WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION of the golf professional.
6. Infants, toddlers, and young children are NOT allowed on the golf course at any time. EXCEPTION: Junior members or youngsters involved with the Club's junior golf program and high school or junior high school players granted temporary playing privileges by the Board are allowed on the course.
Note: Where applicable, the term golf professional shall also refer to any person so designated by the golf professional.

THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NEWPORT COUNTRY CLUB. THEY REMAIN IN FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL AMENDED BY SAID BOARD.

The NCC rules and regulations have been created for the benefit of our members and guests. The Board of Directors welcomes constructive suggestions to alter, change, add, eliminate, or exempt our members from the current rules. Any changes or exemptions shall be at the discretion of the Board, as amended 2017, 2019 and Restaurant Card provision added 2021.