

January 18, 2019

From the President

To: All Members of the River Ridge Men's Club

Happy New Year. 2018 was a good year for the Club with more than 200 people playing in our 2018 scheduled events, and more than 140 getting some of their money back. 2019 brings many changes in Golf and golf at River Ridge. As you already know High Tide & and Green Grass, Inc., the operators of River Ridge will not continue to operate the Golf Course after June 30, 2019. Hopefully, the City of Oxnard will have an RFP on the streets soon for a new operator of the Courses. The city has agreed to honor all tee time commitments through the end of 2019. We will be faced with developing agreements with the new operator along the lines we have had with High Tide & Green Grass, Inc. We will keep you informed of any information that comes to the club at this website [www.rrmgc.org](http://www.rrmgc.org). You can also join us at the monthly Board meeting held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at River Ridge; the meeting starts at 7pm.

2019 brings two new competitions for our members; Team Play which involves home and home matches with Rustic Canyon and Soule Park and the River Ridge Cup, a FedEx Cup like annual competition rewarding players for performance and participation. Information about these competitions and other events can be found on the website.

**Rules – old rules and new rules. Handicap system** – to be in compliance with the USGA Handicap System, which includes peer review of handicaps and education, we have added a link on the website to the bimonthly handicap update and current handicap posting rules. I wish to remind you that you are to post every round that you play according to the rules of Golf. You must post **all rounds played with another person** even if only 7 holes are played. **Yes, you must post match play rounds as well.** The USGA handicap rules can be found at <http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/handicap-manual.html#!rule-14367>.

**New definitions – The five defined areas that make up the course:** 1. the general area, 2. the teeing area the player must play from in starting the hole he or she is playing, 3. all penalty areas, 4. all bunkers, and 5. the putting green of the hole the player is playing.

**A penalty area is:** Any body of water on the course (whether or not marked by the Committee), including a sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or other open watercourse (even if not containing water), and any other part of the course the Committee defines as a penalty area.

There are two different types of penalty areas, distinguished by the colour used to mark them, yellow and red, if the colour of a penalty area has not been marked or indicated by the Committee, it is treated as a red penalty area. Relief options are different for the two colours (see rule 17.)

**Local rule E-5 Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds;** has been adopted, please see the explanation of the relief options under this local rule on the webpage or at the USGA website.

**Download the USGA Rules app** for **Android** and **iOS** and catch-up on all the new rules including leaving the flagstaff in the hole and dropping from knee height or check out the USGA website at <http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/videos/2018/12/21/usga-golf-journal-have-fun-learning-the-new-rules-of-golf-5982612697001.html>. Remember when in doubt play two balls and check with the Tournament Committee for the official interpretation of the rule before submitting your scorecard.

Play well, make new friends and introduce someone else to the game,

*Fred White*