

# **RANCHO MONSERATE**

## **GOLF COURSE HANDBOOK**

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## 1. PREFACE

This handbook will be most useful to all residents and golfers. We hope it helps protect our course and increases everyone's enjoyment of the game.

"The Board" refers to Rancho Monserate Country Club Homeowners Association Board of Directors.

## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION

The golf course opens at 8:00 a.m.

### **Exceptions**

- The course is closed for a period of time due to frost, water or inclement weather.
- Mondays mornings - closed until 2:00 p.m. for maintenance, except on Holidays.
- Tuesday mornings - Golfing Senoras until play is completed. Depending on the number of players, the course may close until play is completed.
- Wednesday afternoon - Twilight 9 Hole Scramble winter 2:00-3:30 pm; summer

3:00-4:30 pm. Depending on the number of players, the course may close until play is completed.

- Thursday mornings - Men's 18 Hole group until play is completed. Depending on the number of players, the course may close until play is completed.
- Friday mornings at 11:00 am - Men's 9 Hole group. Depending on the number of players, the course may close until play is completed.
- At times all carts may be required to stay on paths due to the course conditions.
- During the hours of play, only golf carts involved with golfing are allowed on the course. Pets are not permitted on the golf course and may not be transported to the river walk while the course is open.
- Before the course opens, residents and accompanied guests may walk on the course, or use a golf cart to transport a pet or trash to the river road.

### **3. GOLF COURSE RULES**

Golf course Marshals will be responsible for the enforcement of all rules pertaining to the golf course, chipping green, putting green and the practice net area, including the lawn area between the cart path and the tennis courts.

The Board may revoke golf privileges of any person violating the Golf Course Rules.

#### **A. On the Course**

1. Non-transferable membership granting golf privileges will be issued to not more than two (2) resident persons in any one unit.
2. No more than a foursome is permitted on the course.

3. Golf events are listed monthly in the Las Noticias Calendar. Special tournaments, and park scrambles may have more than 4 players per team.
  
4. Putting Green, Practice Cage and Practice Area are considered a part of the golf course and are closed until 2:00 p.m. on Mondays. Chipping onto the Putting Green is not allowed.
  
5. Golfers playing a practice round may keep no more than two (2) balls in play. Only one ball is allowed if players behind are being held up.
  
6. No additional practice chipping, putting, etc., is allowed on the main course at any time except in the practice area located in the center of the golf course.

7. Golf lessons are not permitted on the golf course, except for events approved by the Board.
  
8. Retrieving balls that enter the lake is not allowed. Any person who causes damage to the lakeside rock dikes will be held responsible for their repair.
  
9. When removing your ball or replacing the pin, do not damage the rim of the cup. Please repair the cup if damaged by tamping down around the rim of cup.
  
10. If traffic ropes interfere with your swing, they may be dropped and immediately replaced. Do Not move the ropes.
  
11. Play to start at No. 1 Tee. If a backlog exists on the No. 1 Tee and holes ahead are available a “Common Sense Rule” shall apply. Example: If

holes No. 2 and No. 3 are open, go to hole No. 3, leaving an open hole between you and the group teeing off on hole No. 1.

## **B. Guests and Children**

1. All guests must be accompanied by a resident who will register guests on the registration sheet before play begins. The sheet is in the Clubhouse across from the Homeowner's Office.
2. Residents are responsible for the conduct and actions of their guests while on the golf course.
3. Guest fees will be established by the Board and are posted on a sign at the entrance to the 19th Hole Starters' Room.

4. All guest golfers must have their own bag and clubs.
  
5. Residents may invite guests, not to exceed two (2) foursomes per unit, including the resident. Special permission for a larger group requires advance permission from the Board Liaison to the Greens Committee or designee.
  
6. Children under the age of 16 years will not be permitted on the golf course unless they are accompanied by a resident, and they must remain in the golf cart at all times. Children under the age of 16 are not permitted to drive golf carts on the course.
  
7. Players under 16 years of age are allowed to play after 2:00 p.m. on Fridays, and on Saturdays, and Sundays after 4:00 pm during the months of June, July and August when accompanied by a resident



## **C. Carts and Hand Carts**

1. Powered Carts must stay on the cart paths during wet conditions.
2. Powered Carts may not be driven on the Greens, Approaches, Pavers, or the Tee Boxes at any time.
3. All Golfers should adhere to the 90-degree rule. You may drive to your ball and when finished return to the cart path. Wet conditions, sprinklers or ground under repair are to be avoided.
4. Keep golf carts a minimum of 20 feet from any green.

5. Do not pull Hand Carts across Greens, Approaches, Pavers, or Tee Boxes.
  
6. All golf carts on the golf course must have the resident's space number on both sides of the cart by the seat. This is for your protection if you require medical assistance. Numbers are available at the office.

#### **D. Golf Bags and Cart Tags**

1. All golfers must play with their own set of clubs.
  
2. Rancho Monserate tags issued by the office must be displayed on the golf bag or pull cart, at all times.

#### **E. Golf Shoes and Clothing**

1. Golf shoes with metal spikes and bare feet are prohibited. Only soft spiked golf footwear or soft shoes such as tennis shoes are allowed.
2. All players must dress appropriately when using the golf course. Tank, halter, or similar top types are not permitted.

#### **4. RMCC LOCAL RULES**

The following rules are exceptions to the USGA Rules of Golf to accommodate our players and/or our course. For Official USGA rules, visit their web site at [www.usga.com](http://www.usga.com)

1. Lies may be improved anywhere on the course, except in hazards and on greens, by moving the ball not more than six inches, no nearer the hole, with no penalty. Balls may be cleaned in the process.

2. Bare Ground at any place on the course, except between the rocks on hole #5, is considered ground under repair. Balls may be placed at the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole, keeping any hazard or object in line of flight.  
No penalty.
  
3. Hillsides ... Holes #1, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9: If a ball is hit onto a hillside, it may be played as it lies or, upon penalty of one stroke, placed on level ground, directly below the hillside where the ball is declared by all players deemed to have come to rest, not nearer to the hole. Because of hillside dangers, it is not necessary to find the ball. It may also be replayed from the tee box for a one stroke penalty.
  
4. Barrancas ... Holes # 2, 7, 8 & 9: Balls hit into the barrancas may be played as they lie or may be declared unplayable or lost and replayed from the tee, or from the flat ground away from the green, for a one stroke penalty.

5. Bridges ... Holes #2, 7, 8 & 9: If a ball comes to rest on a bridge, it may be played where it lies or moved to flat ground away from the green, no closer to the hole. No penalty.
  
6. Hole #5 ... Balls hit into the water or out of bounds may be replayed from the tee box using a tee, or taken to the drop zone, which is at the end of the pond near the shack. Balls unplayable in the rocks along the pond, are considered "in the water" and may be placed two (2) club lengths, no closer to the hole or taken to the drop zone. A ball in the rocks next to the green, if unplayable, can be dropped, in the line of flight, no closer to the hole or taken to the drop zone. Each placement occurring is a one stroke penalty.
  
7. Fairway Markers ... Holes #2, 3, & 7: Arborvitae bushes are 100 yards to center of the green. Most fairways have red discs 50 yards from the center of the green. Black discs are 120 yards

from the center of green and are used for the ladies in a scramble format.

8. Out of bounds ... Balls hit OB may be moved to fairway lateral to where it went out of bounds with a 2-stroke penalty or hit from original location with 1 stroke penalty.

## **5. GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE**

- Please be respectful of course Marshals. They are responsible for your safety, enforcement of our golf course rules, and for expediting play.
  
- Golfers starting their play on hole # 1 will extend courtesy to golfers who have finished play on the 9th green if they are going to continue their play.

- If a backlog exists on any hole, move ahead, and leave at least one hole open behind you.
  
- Do not speak or move when near another player who is about to make a shot.
  
- Do not stand close to or directly behind another player who is addressing the ball.
  
- No one should make a shot when other players are within range. Always yell "FORE" if your ball is headed towards another player or homes bordering the course.
  
- Minimize lost balls and prevent being struck by watching each player's shots.
  
- Let faster players play through if there is an open hole in front of your group.

- Repair ball marks immediately upon reaching the green.
  
- Repair divots on tees only when sand is provided by maintenance.
  
- Rake smooth all club marks and foot prints before leaving the bunker. Leave the rake in the bunker, one on each side, handle parallel to the fairway
  
- Avoid walking on a player's putting line.
  
- Do not allow your shadow to fall over the cup or across the line of another player's putt.
  
- After holing out, remove your ball from the cup before other player's putt.



- Check your score and mark your card at the next tee.

## **6. RMCC CART RULES**

1. **ALL GOLFERS** can utilize the "90 Degree Rule", (drive directly across the fairway to your ball, play the ball or pick it up and return directly to the cart path). Driving down the fairway is not allowed. You may drive into the rough to retrieve or play your shot unless the course has been posted as "Wet Conditions Apply". Under these conditions, no one may leave the cart path.
2. Under certain weather or turf-grass conditions, golfers may be temporarily restricted from using the 90-degree rule and certain types of assistive devices.

3. Hole #9, the area between the fairway and pool, is not considered rough and carts are not allowed. The area is steep, considered dangerous and all golfers should take special precautions on the hill.
  
4. Golfers may not drive onto the tee boxes under any circumstances. Provisions to aid players on holes #5, #6 and #7 are stated as follows:
  - Hole #5, golfers who are unable to walk up the hill may drive their carts to the turnabout behind the restrooms.
  
  - Hole #6, golfers who are unable to climb the stairs may use the alternate gold tee markers to the right of the cart path.

- Hole #7, golfers who are unable to walk up the hill may drive their cart to the left of tee box and return by the same path as entering.
5. Avoid driving over wet areas, sprinkler heads and control valves.
  6. Under no circumstances should motorized carts come closer than 20 feet of the green.

## **7. PENALTIES**

Golfers observed not adhering to any of the rules will be notified in writing by the RMCC Marshals and the broken rule referenced.

1. The first offense will generate a written warning citing the offense(s) and a warning issued not to repeat the stated infraction.

2. The second offense may result in a hearing before the Board and may result in loss of golfing privileges, and/or a fine.

## **8. MARSHALS**

Golf course Marshals are responsible for the enforcement of all rules and regulations pertaining to the golf course, chipping green, putting green, and the practice net area, including the lawn area between the cart path and the tennis courts.

1. An appropriate number of Marshals will be appointed for sufficient coverage of the above areas. Marshals are identified by Red Flags prominently mounted on their golf carts. The Marshals are appointed by the Greens Committee.
2. Marshals will report any violations to the office.

## **9. GREENS COMMITTEE**

The Greens Committee, consists of five voting members and alternates, all of whom must be a full-time onsite owner of RMCC and are appointed as follows:

One person is appointed from the Senoras 18 Hole Golfers and one person from the Senoras 9 Hole Golfers.

One person is appointed from the Men's 18 Hole Golfers and one person from the Men's 9 Hole Golfers.

Each person will be appointed from the active membership of the above clubs by said clubs.

The fifth person is appointed by the Board Liaison.

The Board Liaison will not have a vote on the Committee. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board, in matters involving golf course operations. Duties include landscape and maintenance review, golf course rules and regulations, greens fee evaluation and capital improvement suggestions.

## **10. FHA and ADA RULES ACCOMMODATIONS**

Both the Fair Housing Act (“FHA”) and Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) seek to provide persons with disabilities with the same or similar ability to use and enjoy community amenities such as the golf course and related facilities. In this regard, the Board shall have the power upon written application of an owner to grant accommodations to the rules in order to permit a person with a proven disability to better utilize and enjoy the golf course in some instances. All such accommodations granted shall be in writing by the Board and shall continue to exist for so long as the accommodation is necessary.