



MAY 2020

THE RIVER

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Our Coronavirus Action Plan & Rules

We have all been following the news on the recent and growing Coronavirus pandemic and you should know the club is taking extra precautions to help you stay healthy during this time. We are currently following the recommended precautions listed on the Center for Disease Control website. In addition, this year we allotted extra housekeeping staff and diverted much of the attention from projects that can be done throughout the year to cleaning and sanitizing the facilities. Additional housekeeping efforts beyond our normal practices will continue as we reopen with more frequent sanitizing of our restrooms and hard surfaces like doorknobs and light switches. We just want all of our members and all of the guests of Great River to know that we are taking this situation very seriously and will be doing everything possible to provide a safe place for you to spend your time.

GENERAL POLICIES

Hours of Operation:

Tue-Thu -- 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Fri-Sun -- 7:30 am - 8:00 pm*

*The first few hours of play on weekends are reserved for Members Only. Public golfers can book tee times for 12:30 pm and later.

- To best prepare for the safety of our golfers and staff, **tee times are required** and walk ups are not permitted.
- Please indicate at the time of booking if you will need a cart, pushcart or will be walking. See below for rules on cart use.
- We strongly recommend all patrons **wear a mask or face covering** when coming to the club. Our staff members are required to wear masks.
- Please use common sense and be respectful of social distancing guidelines. These rules apply not only to all golfers, but also to our staff. Players waiting to play should always practice social distancing.
- If you do not feel well – STAY HOME!



FACILITIES & SERVICES

- Carts and push carts will be thoroughly sanitized by our staff prior to your arrival and again once you are finished.
- **Bag Drop & Bag Storage services will not be available.** It is each golfer's responsibility to transport their own belongings to and from their vehicle. After your round we ask that you please take your bag home with you.
- **Locker rooms will not be accessible.** If you need something from your locker, a member of staff can assist you. After your round, please remember to take your shoes or other personal belongings with you. We apologize for this inconvenience and hope to open the locker room again soon.
- The driving range will be limited in setup to meet social distancing requirements. At this time, **the driving range will only be available for players with a same-day tee time.** Each golfer will be given one bag of balls to warm up. Practicing is currently not permitted.
- The Pro Shop is a retail establishment and therefore must remain closed. **If you need golf balls, gloves or**

any other item, please email Karin (karina@grgolfclub.com) or Jason (jloomis@grgolfclub.com) before your round, and we will have them ready for you before you go out to play. The golf staff can also help you with any items needed.

- Course restrooms will remain closed at this time. **The restrooms behind the snack bar will be the only ones available.**
- **We will be offering food & beverage through the Snack Bar.** See page 18 for the menu we will have available. Monty's River Grille will remain closed until state officials grant us permission to reopen.

COURSE PLAY

- Though **walking is highly encouraged**, carts will be offered on a limited basis.
 - **All players under the age of 25 must walk the course**, unless you have a doctor's note.
 - For those over 25 who CAN walk, we still encourage you to do so.
 - For those over 25 who CANNOT walk, carts are available on a first come, first serve basis.
 - **We will enforce a strict single-rider-only policy at all times.**
 - **"Hitching a ride" is prohibited.**
- **Cart Path Only** will be in effect and strictly enforced throughout the course.
- **Flagsticks are not to be touched or removed.** The putting cups are filled with styrofoam and hitting the cup will consider the ball holed.
- No sand bottles will be provided on the carts or the course. **Players are kindly asked to replace their divots.**
- Ball washers, rakes, benches, water coolers, used tee baskets and other commonly handled items on the course will not be available. Please smooth out the sand with your foot when in a bunker.



Thank you for your support and cooperation as we continue to adjust to these ever-changing regulations and guidelines. We will do our best to communicate all updates regarding golf in our state and here at Great River. We will continuously reevaluate the situation based on the climate and federal and state guidance. Please feel free to reach out to a staff member with any questions or concerns you may have.

See you out on the course!

- The Great River Golf Club Staff

Greens & Grounds

April has been a productive month for our department as we approach our growing season and get the course in premium condition. We have implemented a number of cultural practices that will pay dividends as the temperatures rise and the property continues to wake up and break out of dormancy.

Weather, Plant Growth, and Fertility

The month of April brought weather that was not conducive to strong plant growth. With little sunlight, consistent overnight temperatures in the low to high 30's, numerous morning frosts, and an average soil temperature of 47°F these past 3 weeks, the rate of growth and recovery across the entire property has been minimal compared to average seasonal weather. To combat these conditions and encourage plant metabolism, we have applied multiple fertility applications to all playing surfaces on the property. Our fairways received a heavy application of Gypsum and Potash to release nutrients locked in the soil profile, loosen compaction, promote water penetration & internal drainage, and increase cold weather stress defenses in the plant. The greens have received "starter" fertilizer nutrients in addition to Gypsum that will help kick start growth and healing as we approach warmer temperatures.



Mowing Lines & Definition

In addition to fertility applications on the playing surfaces, we have dotted the greens, collars, and step-cut mowing lines to establish uniform widths to the playing surfaces as we continue to grow in. It is important that we manage these edges early in the season to ensure the plant heals properly and provides crisp edges as we transition from each height of cut. In addition to the mowing lines, we have flagged out Fine Fescue lines with the intention of reestablishing our native areas across the property. We have begun spiking & seeding voids in our native areas and will allow these native grasses to begin growing again. Fine Fescue is a very slow-growing grass type, and the process of reestablishment & restoration of a hearty, uniform, and aesthetically pleasing stand of Fescue requires multiple consecutive growing seasons under best cultural practices. We will continue to guide their regrowth and development over the 2020 season and continued improvement into the 2021 season.





New Nursery Construction

Following the spring aerification, we repurposed the fresh plugs harvested from our putting greens during our Spring 2020 Aerification procedures to establish a sod nursery at the back of the driving range. To start the process, we cored out the existing space and shot grade to establish a level surface. Afterwards, we filled the cored-out space with six inches of USGA spec mix and topped the soil profile with the repurposed plugs. After the plugs were spread, we rolled the surface to even out imperfections and bind the plugs to the soil. Prior to this season, our total nursery space on property was limited to 500 square feet. With the construction of this new nursery and cultural practices throughout the season, we will have an additional 2,500 sq. ft. of established putting green sod. By recycling the plugs collected from our greens aerification, we will have a nursery comprised of the same grass types as our putting surfaces out on the golf course. When renovations and repairs are done with sod brought in from offsite, there is a high cost associated and a distinct difference in the grass types can directly impact both aesthetics and playability. Furthermore, with the USGA Specification Green Construction foundation, we will be able to strip the matured sod in late Fall and repeat the process every spring moving forward.



Irrigation and Drainage Systems Audit

Over the past two weeks, we have done full system audits of both the irrigation system and drainage infrastructure throughout the property. Auditing the irrigation system allows us to fully understand uniformity of sprinkler coverage, allowing us to identify and address areas in need of further attention. It is imperative that we have the ability to apply uniform moisture across all playing surfaces to ensure plant health and playability. We have made improvements to the irrigation system this past month, including the installation of 50 “quick coupler” hose connections. We now have full coverage throughout the property for the first time, providing our team the ability to hand water all playing surfaces. By identifying specific spots on playing surfaces in need of water and applying only the minimal amount of moisture necessary via hand watering, we are able to maintain uniformity across the property, reduce disease pressure, safely dry down the surfaces, drastically reduce our water consumption and inputs, and provide firm playing conditions.





Our drainage infrastructure also plays the major counter role of removing water from the playing surfaces following excessive rain events. The audit of the drainage system illustrated that many pathways were blocked and therefore not draining properly, and we have begun addressing the most problematic areas by clearing clogged pipes and making repairs to collapsed pipes. These continued improvements will pay dividends throughout the upcoming 2020 season, helping us to provide the driest, firmest, and fastest playing conditions possible.

Tee Boxes

Going into the spring season, the tee boxes (in particular the ones associated with the White & Blue yardages on the scorecard) had suffered extensive damage, if not reduced to bare soil in many areas. The protection & recovery of these tee boxes until they fully heal from this damage has been one of our primary responsibilities over the past several months, and we have performed a number of procedures to speed along their recovering health. Going into this late fall, we took several soil tests from teeing grounds and discovered that our nutrient levels have fallen very much out of balance. To address this we developed a unique granular fertility program and have made several applications in the late fall and early spring to make necessary corrections. Additionally, we successfully performed aggressive core aeration and verti-cutting operations on all tee boxes, followed by overseeding the tee boxes with a seed mix of Luminary & Pure Distinction Bentgrasses with the holes and channels still open before rolling the tee boxes flat. This seed-to-soil contact will prove to produce denser turfgrass surfaces once spring soil temperatures begin to reach 50-55°F.

We understand that it is a significant inconvenience to the membership and their guests to play from the current teeing distances, which are not typical to the Great River experience. However, this is a temporary protective measure to allow the badly damaged tee boxes to fully regain turfgrass coverage and recover in health. The late March through mid-April weather has been very cold, cloudy, and atypical to seasonal weather trends. Given these challenging weather factors and the recovering health of our tee boxes, we must take all measures necessary at this very early juncture of the season to ensure that we have full turfgrass coverage and can fully enjoy the best conditions possible throughout the peak months of the golfing season ahead of us. As temperatures rise and we begin seeing our growth rates begin to normalize, we are confident that we will quickly see our efforts of the past several months come to fruition as long as we make the right decisions for the golf course at this very early stage with it still being only April.

Our entire Greens & Grounds team is very excited for this spring and continuing to have the course ready and in the best condition possible for the upcoming 2020 season, and we look forward to seeing everyone out on the course.

- **Steve McDonald**, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

What's Hot in the Shop?

At this time, the Pro Shop doors must remain locked. However, we are happy to take special orders and will work with you to coordinate a contactless pick-up!

To place an order, contact Karin Attolino
(203) 876-8051 x111 or karina@grgolfclub.com



Bat Caddy X3R Remote Control Cart

\$799 Standard Battery
\$999 Lithium Battery



FootJoy Pro SL Carbon

\$199.99



FootJoy Flex XP Shoes

\$109

20% OFF

Greyson Apparel
Peter Millar Apparel
johnnie-O Apparel
Yeti Custom Logo Drinkware



To place an order, contact Karin Attolino
(203) 876-8051 x111 or karina@rgolfclub.com

Tournament Club

Wednesday Twilight League

The Great River Wednesday Night Twilight League will continue! We are hopeful to kick off the season Wednesday, May 27th. This year we have made some new improvements to build member camaraderie and add some friendly competition.

Three players will form a team, of which two play each week in a round-robin format. Matches are 9-hole Fourball matches and begin each week with a 5:15 pm shotgun start. Teams will play a fourball match against each team in the league, earning points each week. At the end of the season, a selected number of teams (based on participation) with the highest point total will make it into the playoffs. The playoffs will be a single elimination bracket to decide the champions.

An official registration email will be sent out May 1st, so start gathering your teammates now! Members may register as a single looking to join a team, a two-some looking for a third, or as a three-player team. Feel free to email me with any questions.



2020 Great River Open

Good Luck to all our players in this year's Great River Open! This might be one of the hardest titles to win at Great River and one that will etch you into the club's record book.

See the next page for the full bracket!

Round of 64 Match Deadline: June 14th
Round of 32 Match Deadline: July 19th
Round of 16 Match Deadline: August 23rd
Semi-Finals Match Deadline: September 13th
Finals Deadline: October 4th

Memorial Day Weekend Golf Events

Skins Game

Saturday, May 23rd

The Skins Game is an individual Stroke Play format. Players will record their net and gross score for each hole. A skin is won by a player who post the lowest score on any individual hole. There will be a separate payouts for gross and net skins. Tee Times starting at 7:00 am. Members can make their own groups or sign up individually and be paired up by the professional staff.

This event is open to members and their guests. A member can invite up to 3 guests. Each guest will be charged a flat rate that will include a reduced greens fee, entry into the skins game, and lunch at the turn or following play.

Sunday Black Tee Game

Sunday, May 24th

Most of you have got a lot of practice from the Black Tees these last few weeks, so let's put that practice to the test! The Sunday Black Tee Game will be tee times between 7:00 – 7:30 am. This will be a One Best Ball of Four competition, the team with the lowest GROSS score wining the pot (possible other payouts based on participation). The entry fee will be \$10 cash per player. The professional staff will create the pairings and email out teams and starting times on Saturday afternoon.

Memorial Day Mixer

Sunday, May 24th

In the Memorial Day Mixer, couples will join forces to compete in a 9-hole team scramble. We are hopeful that the event will begin with a 4:00 pm shotgun start. However, if necessary, will go to tee times starting at 3:30 pm. Entry fee for these events will include golf, dinner, and prizes. There will be no additional green fees for your spouse/other.

Team Stableford

Monday, May 25th

The final game for Memorial Day Weekend will be a Team Stableford. In a stableford, points are rewarded for the net score of each hole. The team will count everyone's points per hole for their team score.

Point System:

Net Par = 1pt // Net Birdie = 3pts // Net Eagle = 5 pts // Net Double Eagle = 8pts

Teams and tee times will be created by the golf staff. Requests may be made for pairings and tee times. Members can invite a guest if they wish. This will be a cash game with cash payouts. The entry fee will be \$10 per player.

**Look for the Clubster Posts to sign up for these events
or email jlloomis@rggolfclub.com**

From the Pro's Desk

No Scorecards? Use TaylorMade's 'My Round Pro' App



I know some of you have been asking about scorecards, but unfortunately at this time we have been told we cannot hand out scorecards and pencils (or towels and tees). My personal recommendation for you is to use TaylorMade's FREE app, 'My Round Pro'. It will give you GPS yardage, track your stats (optional, but highly recommend), and can keep up to 4 golfers' scores per round.

This app is highly recommended for anyone that is trying to improve their golf game. The app can calculate your stroke gained stats which gives a much clearer overview of your game versus the outdated total putts, fairways hit, ups and downs, and greens in regulation stats we were all taught.

To download the app, go to the App Store on your phone and search: My Round Pro

If you need help installing and setting up your app, or would like a tutorial on how to use it, contact Jason at jlloomis@rgolfclub.com

Hazards, Penalty Areas, & Relief Options

With our tournament schedule kicking off this month, we will be marking the course's penalty areas and boundary lines. *Remember, with the new rules of golf, we no longer use the word hazard -- they are now called 'penalty areas'!*

Red Stakes With Green Caps

These penalty areas are to indicate environmentally sensitive areas that are treated as red penalty areas. The only difference is in a red and green penalty area you cannot retrieve the ball or play it where it lies. The ball must be abandoned and a new ball must be put into play. These penalty areas can be found on the left side of holes 6 - 9, 15 and the right side of holes 16 -18.

White Stakes & Boundary Markers

White stakes, white lines, or objects used to mark course boundaries (fence on 3 and 15, rock wall behind 5 green, etc.) are used to indicate out-of-bounds. Out-of-bounds brings the dreaded stroke-and-distance penalty: a golfer must apply a one-stroke penalty, return to the spot of the previous shot and hit it again. Of course, that's time consuming. If you believe your ball may be OB, it is a good idea to hit a provisional ball.

Yellow Penalty Area

A yellow marked penalty area indicates a penalty area you are forced to hit over (example, creek in front of 3 green). If your ball comes to rest in a yellow penalty area you have the following options:

Play it as it lies with no penalty. Or under a one stroke penalty, return to the spot from which the previous stroke was played and hit it again, or take a drop.

When a golfer takes a drop out of a yellow penalty area, he must drop behind the point where his ball crossed the margin of the penalty area. The drop can be made at any point, as far back as the golfer wishes, so long as the point where the ball crossed into the penalty area is kept between the point of the drop and the hole.



Red Penalty Area

Referred to as lateral penalty area, these area penalty areas that can (and should be) avoided while playing the hole (example, water on right side of hole 7). If your ball comes to rest in the red penalty area you have all the same options of a yellow penalty area, but you also have the option to drop the ball two club lengths from where the ball entered the penalty area.



Membership Update



We would like to warmly welcome the following new members to Great River Golf Club in 2020:

Connor Anstis

Eric Davidson

Max Kozower

John O'Brien

Steven Tanzer

We are looking forward to having you as members!

A special thank you goes out to our members and their family members who are battling on the front lines of the current health crisis. You are true heroes and our appreciation for you is larger than words can express!

Practicing at Home

A Simple Pivot Drill

This is a drill that is commonly seen and is one that I've used for over 25 years. The purpose of explaining this drill is to ensure that the drill is done properly. If done properly, a player can change the way he or she performs the backswing. I will explain in detail the drill and how to perform it correctly.

First you'll need two alignment sticks. Place one 2 inches inside the right heel coming straight out 90° to the target line, the other, crisscross your arms and place it on your shoulders (Figure 1). The first move is to move the left shoulder back across the chest (Figure 2) while sliding the shoulder under the chin until it gets to a point where it matches up with the stick on the ground (Figure 3). If done correctly, you will engage your torso to complete the backswing and the torso will simply drag the lower body along with it. When you arrive at the full turn, the lead shoulder will be slightly lower than the trail shoulder and the torso rotation will allow a shift in weight to the right thigh and the inside part your right heel (Figure 3). To accomplish this you need to have your right knee remain over the right foot and the right hip will be slightly inside the right ankle (Figure 4). Lastly, you should look for the head to be swiveled about 20° to the right to allow sufficient torso rotation (Figure 4).

To do this drill properly you will need a mirror to watch yourself perform the movement. Once you get really good at the motion, you could perform this drill on the range and even on the course. It's a great way to wake up the body after a long off-season and with the cold temperatures and the layers of clothes, we need to get the body moving and loose. Also, perform this motion in the gym. I've seen people do it with a weighted body bar. It's a great way to train this movement.

I wish everyone well and look forward to working with everyone as we get back to normal. Hopefully, playing golf can bring us some joy during these unique times and I hope some of my tips can make you a better player.

Best Regards,
Tom Rosati
Director of Golf Instruction
tom@grgolfclub.com

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Event Planner Corner

Hello!

I hope this message finds you well, safe, and healthy. The Events Team has been busy managing event cancellations and postponements due to COVID-19.

With events on hold for the time being, and face-to-face interactions on pause, we have been meeting with clients virtually. This new way of meeting has been received positively and greatly appreciated by our clients who also have been working from home. While we patiently anticipate the safe reopening of our banquet facility for social gatherings, we have been sharpening our sales, marketing and communication skills with many informative webinars.

Additionally, if you or anyone you know of has had their wedding cancelled or postponed but would still like to exchange vows during this time, the gazebo area can be rented for a socially distant ceremony.

We can't wait for our events to start up again and look forward to hosting special events, and seeing you all again very soon!

- **The GRGC Events Team**

Gail Hunt | Social & Corporate Event Sales Manager | ghunt@grgolfclub.com
Erin Grady | Assistant Event Planner | egrady@grgolfclub.com



Food & Beverage



Dear Members,

We are excited to bring service back to our Snack Bar for your enjoyment! We will have a limited menu of sandwiches, wraps, snacks, and beverages available. You can view the menu on the next page.

While the dining room at Monty's River Grille must remain closed, we are hopeful that our state is getting closer every day to allowing sit-down restaurants to reopen. We will keep you all informed with the latest updates as we have them.

We hope those of you who had the opportunity to dine with us after our soft renovation enjoyed the refreshed atmosphere. For those of you who have yet to see it, we can't wait to serve you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Monty's River Grille & Great River Golf Club Staff

GREAT RIVER GOLF CLUB

SNACKS

\$2...GRANOLA BAR

\$2...CHIPS

\$2...CANDY

\$2...PRETZELS

NON-ALCOHOL

\$2...BOTTLED WATER

\$3...GATORADE

BEER/WINE

\$6...BUD/BUD LIGHT

\$6...MILLER LITE

\$6...COORS LITE

\$8...2ROADS LIL HEAVEN

FOOD

\$8.50...ASSORTED SANDWICHES/WRAPPS

