



# RAKE & FIX YOUR DIVOTS

JANUARY 2024

## Cart Path Only Means ...

“Cart Path Only” signs signify that driving golf carts on the fairways is not allowed. It is important to remember that all four tires on the cart must remain on the cement path. In the images here, you can see what happens when drivers veer off the cart path when grass is wet.

When cart tires meet frosted grass, the immediate damage, not seen until about 48 to 72 hours (about three days) later, causes the grass to turn brown and die.



Wet grass following rains



Frost damage to grass

This destruction opens the door for weeds and disease, thus compounding the issue and further degrading the overall condition of the course.

## RULES CORNER

### Who Putts First?

Continue your putting while others are on the green. The general rule of thumb is that the player farthest from the hole putts first; you progress until the person closest to the hole putts. However, you always have the option to finish out as long as you are not standing in another player’s line of play. As shown during TV events, the pro will either reach for a ball mark after their first putt or announce “I’ll finish”; then continue putting until finishing out.



### Root Rule

Remember the local rule that allows free relief from a tree root that is in the path of your swing.

To take relief, find the nearest point where the root doesn’t interfere with your swing and take one club length from that point, making sure you are no nearer to the hole.

This is only for interference with your swing and not your stance, as it is only allowed to save players from injury.



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## Tee Time Is *Not* Check-in Time

The Laguna Woods Village golf course is a very busy place. Therefore, it's important to remember that your tee time is not the same as your check-in time. Please arrive at the course and check in with the starter about 15 or 20 minutes prior to your tee time. If nonresident guests are joining your tee time, please ensure they know they must also arrive early. If you or your guests are late to check-in, you may not be able to play.



## CUSTOM CLUB FITTING

With the new year comes new equipment from the major golf club companies. Here at Laguna Woods Village, we have a great relationship with these vendors and provide fitting days on a regular basis. These events are promoted via email and are in high demand. If you are interested in adding something to your bag, we highly encourage you to attend one of these. Reasons include:

- Pricing is the same low price available to our residents, but the items are fit and ordered based on your needs
- Most people who don't go through this process have golf equipment that is not right for them. During these fitting days there are professional fitters who will allow you to ensure the proper equipment at no additional cost
- If you are unsure that you have the right set, these days will allow you to compare yours to the newest equipment to see if you can do better
- Not everyone is the same; some variables exist like:
  - Height
  - Hand size
  - Health limitations
  - Comfortable swing speed
  - Current swing shape

Be sure to check the emails promoting these events and sign up. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the golf professionals on staff.

### A Note From Tom McCray

With the arrival of snowbirds to our golfing population, we have seen a significant increase in the demand for tee times. It is very important for the overall enjoyment of all our residents that when reserving times, you do so with great care and attention to detail.

For example:

- Always cancel unneeded spots in your group to allow for others to play.
- Only one person from each group should log in to establish a time to ensure there are not too many

times booked for one group.

- List all players before you arrive to speed the check-in process and allow staff to provide service to other residents.
- Arrive 15 to 20 minutes prior to your starting time and wait for the starter to call you to the tee. We want to avoid issues with players checking in and going straight to the tee even though there are other groups signed up to play ahead of them. This creates confusion and lessens the enjoyment for all.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.