Golf Society
2026 Season Handout

Fellow Members,

On behalf of the Golf Society Committee we would like to extend a warm welcome to our Society.

We wish to extend our thanks to Jimmy Fay for agreeing to accept our scorecards all year long in order to maintain current handicaps. Also, thanks to Jimmy for entering our scores after each tournament to determine the winners.

We hope that this handout provides the information which will allow you to plan for our 2026 events and, in the case of new Members, gives sufficient information for you to understand the various procedures associated with registering, paying and attending events.

Please note that updates and general information relevant to the Golf Society can be located on the Irish Club of Mississauga website:

www.irishclubmississauga.ca

The handout contains the following:

- Season overview, Tournament Fee Information — page 2
- Prize structure & 2026 Tournament Schedule — page 2
- Names and Email addresses of the Golf Society Committee, Signup & Method and Timing of payment for events — page 3
- Contact information for the Golf Courses — page 4
- Match Play and Golfer of the Year details — pages 5 & 6
- Handicap and Rules information — pages 7 to 9

We all look forward to an enjoyable and successful 2025 golfing season.

Your Committee,
On behalf of the Golf Society

Overview of what is organized during the season

The Golf Society season starts on April 1 and finishes in October, weather permitting. One event is organized each month. Usually, we have made long-term arrangements with the Golf Courses to reserve 10-15 tee-off times, which means we can accommodate 60 golfers. To maintain a good relationship with the Golf Courses we agree to confirm the number of players one week before each event. To facilitate this the **closing date for signing-up is the Sunday before - 7 days before an event.**

For this year, and in order to give Members a reasonable opportunity to indicate their intention to play, the Captain of the Society will send out an email for Members to register by reply email. If you know of anyone who does not have email please let Pat Murray the Captain know so he can call to confirm their interest in participating.
(Pat's email address is pat.murray20@icloud.com)

Who do you play with?

For most events you can chose to make up your own 4 ball – you will need to identify that when registering by email. Otherwise, the Society Committee will assign 4 ball groups and advise by email prior to the Tournament.

Prizes will be awarded after each tournament either at the golf course or back at the Irish Club.

Please note that the Captain's Day Tournament is being held at Grey Silo on August 15.

What time do I tee-off?

Tee-off times are drawn at random. The draw is made on the Sunday before the Tournament. The draw will be emailed to the membership. Our aim is to have this available on the Monday before an event.

2026 Tournament Fees
Each Tournament may be a different cost. These fees will always include green fees and cart fees plus taxes, plus $3.00 for prize holes (Par 3`s).

Guests

At the 2018 AGM a motion was passed regarding guests playing in Society Tournaments. The motion is as follows: "a local person can golf as a guest at one tournament per year at the regular fee paid by current Society Members. If they would like to golf other tournaments that year, they are required to pay the $60 Membership Fee and then the regular fee paid for the tournament."

However, if guests are from distant places (i.e. Ireland, Scotland, Montreal, etc.) and they wish to play more then once per year they are welcome with no surcharge and no requirement to pay the Membership Fee.

Prizes open to guests are the Money Hole and all Par 3 closest to the Pins.

Prize Structure

The way prizes are determined will alternate at each tournament as follows:

At one tournament, the flight prize structure will be in effect whereby prizes are given to the three levels: Overall Winner, second and third. A Ladies Flight will be included in all tournaments when there are six or more Lady Members playing. Then for the next tournament, prizes will be given to the top 3 winners (not based on flights but on points).

If you need to contact a member of the Committee concerning a particular event, feel free to call Pat Murray at 416-520-4397 or Kevin Arey at 905-510-6320.

2026 Society Committee Members

Name	*Telephone*	***Email address***
Pat Murray – Captain	*416-520-4397*	*Pat.murray20@icloud.com*
Kevin Arey -Treasurer	*905-510-6320*	*karey_cga@rogers.com*
Peter Byrne	*416-801-7486*	*peter_byrne@sympatico.ca*
Bernadette O'Sullivan - Secretary	*647-225-3100*	*bosullivan@rogers.com*
Claire Hughes	*416-420-9611*	*Claire_downunder@hotmail.com*
Greg Johnston	*416-204-9144*	*greg@yourmortgageconnection.ca*

Method and Timing of Payments

Payment for an event **must be made seven days before the event**. **The bottom line is that if you haven't paid when the draw is being made then you will not be included in the draw.** The Society in many cases has to commit to a specific number of players PRIOR to the event and that includes financial commitment.

The following method of payment is available:

- **Email Transfer** – Please electronically send all fees (Membership, Green Fees, Cart Fees) to Kevin Arey at **karey_cga@rogers.com**. If you have any difficulties, please feel free to contact Kevin and he will be able to provide details on how the process works.
    - Note: If you are unable to make email transfers please arrange to have your cheque mailed to Kevin Arey's office in plenty of time before the Tournament.
        - 4939A Dundas Street West, Etobicoke, ON, M9A 1B6

If you pay for an event and don't play you may forfeit your deposit should the Golf Course charge the Golf Society. If the Golf Society is not charged the green fee, your payment will be offset against the next event you play in or refunded to you. The contract at most of the courses includes a clause that we will be charged for the number we confirm 8 days before an event. So, if you are not able to play, please let us know as soon as possible. As discussed at recent AGM there will be no refund for leaving the course the day of play.

2026 TOURMNAMENT COURSE INFORMATION

If you have a problem on the day of the event and you cannot play, please contact the Golf Course or Pat Murray

Event Date	Course Name	Address	Web site & phone #
May 2	Hidden Lake Old Course	1137 1 Side Rd, Burlington, ON L7P 0T1	https://hiddenlake.clublink.ca (905) 336-3660
May 30	King's Forest	100 Greenhill Ave Hamilton, ON, L8P 4S8	905-521-3970
June 20	Victoria Park	1096 Victoria Rd South Puslinch, ON, N0B 2J0	https://victoriaparkgolf.com (519) 821-2211
July 18	Victoria Park	1096 Victoria Rd South Puslinch, ON, N0B 2J0	https://victoriaparkgolf.com (519) 821-2211
August 15	Grey Silo	2001 University Avenue Waterloo, On, N2K 4K4	Grey Silo Golf Course – GolfNorth
September 11	Carlisle	523 Carlisle Road, Carlisle, ON, L0R 1H0	https://kaneffgolf.com/golf/courses/carlisle/
October 3	King's Forest	100 Greenhill Ave Hamilton, ON, L8P 4S8	905-521-3970

2026 MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry Fee $10.00 Maximum 32 draw

SHOULD A MATCH NOT BE PLAYED BY THE SCHEDULED DATE,

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE SHALL DECIDE WHO ADVANCES TO THE NEXT ROUND.

Brendan Baragwanath and Jimmy Fay will organize the event this year.

The match play for 2026 is based on a strictly knock-out format from start to finish.

First round matches will be made by an open draw with no handicap seeding.

If there are less than 32 players initially, the requisite byes will be by open draw.

Full details including schedules will be available by email to all Members and also on the Golf Section of the Club website. Once the Club is open the draw-sheet will also be on the Golf Society Noticeboard in the Club.

All players have equal responsibility in contacting their opponent to arrange to play the match at a mutually agreed course. It is the responsibility of all players to make every effort to get the game in on time.

Matches will be played from the white tees with the exception of **designated super seniors and ladies.**

Ladies will play from the Red Tees. Super-Seniors (those 75 years of age or older) please refer to the Handicap Policy Section for tee options.

Should a problem arise and the match is postponed or cancelled, please contact either Brendan Baragwanath at (519)-404-5500 or Jimmy Fay at (905) 616-4869.

PRIZES. There will be prizes for the Winner and Runner-up.

HANDICAPS: Play off the handicap as shown on the handicap website.
The player with the higher handicap will receive the full difference between the two handicaps.

GOLFER OF THE YEAR (GOY) CHAMPIONSHIP

The rules of the Championship are as follows:

Championship points will be awarded on the basis of a player's best results obtained in 4 out of 7 tournaments during the year.

At the end of the 2026 Season the Golf Society Champion will be the golfer who accumulates the highest number of Stableford points from the qualifying Society events played during the season.

In the event of a tie, the Golfer of the Year will be decided by a tiebreaker played at a venue to be agreed by the competitors involved. Should the competitors be unable to agree on a venue, the Committee will decide on the venue.

Handicap and Rules Administration

A Committee appointed by the Society Committee will manage the Society Handicaps and issues pertaining to this topic, together with Rules for Society Tournaments.

The Committee for 2026 is comprised of Peter Byrne, Brendan Baragwanath, Jimmy Fay and Kevin Barry.

Handicap Season

The handicap season is now open all year round.

Cards should be submitted for all rounds played.

The Handicap Committee will meet after each Society event to address any issues arising.

Entering Scores

The options available to get scores entered on to the system are:

- Leave the completed card in the payments box provided at the end of the bar in the Irish Club of Mississauga.
- Please take a photo of your score card and send it by e-mail to jimmyfay461@gmail.com (See e-mail requirements below).
- All names must be clear and identifiable.
- The tees played must be clearly marked. (If they are not, the championship tees, and associated slope and rating, will be assumed).
- The date the round was played should be entered on the card.
- Draw a line through the names of players who are not ICMGS members
- Cards that are not clear will be excluded.

e-mail Requirements

- Provide the date, tees played, course name, course rating and course slope.
- Provide the scores on a hole-by-hole basis.

Super-Seniors (those 75 years of age or older) have three choices when playing their round:

1) Play from the same tees as everybody else with full handicap.

2) Play from the next set of tees forward from those being played by everybody else. The Super-Senior handicaps will be adjusted downward on the day according to the tees from which they elect to play.

3) Play from the same tees as everybody else with full handicap but with the option to play from forward tees at holes of their choosing incurring a penalty shot at each such hole played.

These accommodations for Super Seniors are only intended to help those with higher handicaps who still have difficulty playing to their handicaps.

The intent is to do what is best for the Super Seniors to level the playing field in as fair a manner as possible.

HANDICAP SYSTEM

The current system, introduced in 2021, adheres to the World Handicap System.

However, it should not be assumed that a handicap from this new system would be accepted as equivalent to an official WHS™ Handicap for entry into events outside of our Society.

Broadly speaking, the system works a s follows:

- A “Differential” is calculated for each round played.
- The exact handicap will be the average of the best eight Differentials out of the last 20 scores.
- There are no handicap increases of 0.1 shots for a single round.
- There are no sharp handicap decreases of more than 2 shots for a single round.
- The maximum handicap Index is now 54.0 - regardless of gender.

Players will be provided with their **Playing Handicap** for the course to be played each tournament and the match-play competition.

Please visit the Society handicap website if you would like to familiarize yourself with the handicap system.

Handicaps will be closely monitored by the Handicap Committee during the season and any anomalies will be rectified promptly.

Any disputes regarding handicaps should be addressed to the Handicap Committee for resolution.

Please let us know if you have any feedback, questions, or concerns regarding the system.

Your Handicap Committee

IN ADDITION……..

The Handicap Committee will have the discretion to adjust system-generated handicaps when they have reason to believe that a member has not been submitting scores for all rounds (except match play rounds).

They also have the discretion to adjust handicaps when they have good reason to feel that the system-generated one is not appropriate.

We hope these provisions will make for keen and equitable competition in the coming season.

Local rules of the course we play will be applied (e.g. a rule regarding environmental areas, drop zones or fescue).

RULES

It was agreed that our Society will adopt local rules to align us more with the general Canadian playing public and the Tuesday/Thursday players. The agreed changes and clarifications of existing rules are:

Changes:
Penalty for a lost ball, within the course, is now 1-Stroke (previously was a 2-Stroke penalty). The point of relief is the nearest point of the next level of playing surface, not nearer the hole. (Examples: if your ball was lost in the deep rough your point of relief is the next level of rough. If your ball was lost in the first cut your next level of relief is the fairway.) The ball can be dropped within two club lengths of this point of relief, not nearer the hole. This eliminates the issue of areas that maybe should be staked, not being so.

Unplayable lies are unchanged in regard to the penalty – it remains a 1-Stroke penalty. However, what is new is encompassed within the remedy. In the past, when you declared your ball unplayable you are allowed to go back as far as you want in a straight line away from the hole and drop the ball. You are also allowed to drop within 2 club lengths of the unplayable ball in any direction not nearer the hole. Those are still the remedies, but when those remedies do not provide for a suitable location to drop your ball you are now allowed to go to the next level of playing surface such as identified for a lost ball remedy, not nearer the hole, and drop your ball for the 1-Stroke penalty.

Relief is allowed for balls *in the fairway* in divot holes, bare patches, wheel ruts or other lies considered by the playing group to be unfair. In this case, lift, clean and place rules are allowed. No penalty.

Clarification:
Penalty for out-of-bounds balls remains a 2-stroke penalty. Point of relief is the point of exit. Drop within two club lengths of that point of relief.
A ball lifted for identification, must be returned to its original position. No gimmies! All balls must be putted into the hole.

Score Cards: Scorecards must be complete and signed or initialled by the scorekeeper(s). However, please verify your scores before the card is submitted.
Anchored Clubs: As of January 1, 2016, the new Rule 14-1b prohibits anchoring the club either "directly" or by use of an "anchor point" in making a stroke. Anchoring occurs when a player has the club (usually, but not necessarily, a putter) in direct contact with the body or when a forearm is held firmly against the body establishing a stable point or anchor point.
The penalty is loss of hole in match play or 2 strokes in stroke play.

Note: Any putter is legal and allowed by ICMGS. *What is now prohibited is anchoring the club.*

Please see http://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/images/rules/anchoring/814RevFINAL.pdf

Topic	Available Relief
Dropping the Ball	Drop ball from knee height.
Accidental hitting and moving ball	No Penalty – Must replace ball
Embedded (plugged) ball	Anywhere on the course, not including bunkers or penalty areas, lift and drop ball, 1 club length, No Penalty

Unplayable in bunker	Drop in bunker for 1 stroke penalty; drop behind bunker for 2 stroke penalty
Penalty areas: • Bunker • Other Penalty Areas	May remove loose impediments but no grounding of the club when addressing the ball; no hitting sand during practice swings. Club may contact the sand in a bunker, prior to playing, only if away from the ball for example leaning on the club. May remove loose impediments and can ground the club, including grounding when taking a practice swing.
Pin In	May leave the pin in even when putting on the green
Double hit	No Penalty, just count the one stroke played
Repairing the green	May repair spike marks as well as plug marks and old hole impediments.
Sequence of Play	May play "ready golf" – except in Match Play

Please watch this video as an easy way to familiarize yourself with the new rules from 2019.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chPOtfLUHC0

This link will provide you with a bit more detail on the new rules:
http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/major-changes.html

Finally, this is a printable Summary Chart of the New Rules for 2019:
https://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/images/rules/rules-modernization/New-Rules/summary-of-main/sSummary%20of%20Main%20Changes_2019%20Rules%20of%20Golf_FINAL.pdf

It is not expected that a player will know all rules; it is just asked that they learn more where possible.

Have fun and enjoy the company of your playing partners this year.