

**Saint John's Golf Club**  
**The Men's Club Constitution**  
**Effective January 31, 2025**

**Article I Name**

The organization shall be known as the St. Johns Men's Club (SJMC).

**Article II Objectives**

1. To promote the amateur game of golf while playing in accordance with the USGA rules of golf.
2. To provide events on both weekday and weekends for members of the Club.
3. To promote the game of golf and encourage local golfers to participate.
4. To play golf in a pleasant atmosphere, with emphasis on fellowship and sportsmanship.
5. To promote Amateur & Scholastic Golf throughout St. Johns County.

**Article III Membership**

A golfer may become a member by completing the membership application, applying for membership, joining in the USGA GHIN System and paying his annual dues to the Men's Club. The golfer must be at least 16 years of age. Those members whose age is below 18 will not be allowed to participate in any competition where cash prizes are awarded. The Men's Club reserves the right to deny a new membership or revoke an existing membership to any individual. The membership year is from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues must be paid in full in order to participate. Any member who has not paid his dues by January 31 will be dropped from membership and his name will be deactivated on the USGA handicap system. Guests of members may play and participate in our games in accordance with the guidance contained in the Policies Governing Play and Operations detailed in Amendment C below. An individual may play with a member as an invited guest no more than 5 times per calendar year. A new member's membership is conditional until they record 5 consecutive scores with the league.

**Article IV**

**Board of Directors**

1. The Board of Directors (the Board) shall govern the activities of the Men's Club.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasury, and a Secretary.
3. A Golf Professional will act as an advisor to the Board of Directors

4. Officers, shall be elected for a two-year period, and shall serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office.
5. All officers shall serve until their successor has been elected by a vote of the membership. No person shall hold more than one office.
6. In the event an officer can no longer serve, his office may be filled by an appointment, for the remainder of the term, made by the remaining officers.
7. Elections will be held during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November when necessary. Any member in good standing may be nominated for a position. If multiple individuals are nominated for the same position, then a general election by the membership.
8. The Board of Directors shall receive and promptly act upon all recommendations from the Standing Committees. They shall also consider suggestions from the general membership submitted in writing or at the annual meeting of the general club membership.

### **Duties of Officers**

1. The President shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the Club and shall preside at all meetings. He shall appoint and also be an ex-officio member of all committees with the right to vote at all meetings.
2. The Vice President is a member of the Board and shall act for the President in his absence.
3. The Treasurer is a member of the Board and will collect dues, deposit monies, provide monthly reports to the Board and provide information to the IRS as needed.
4. The Secretary is a member of the Board and shall attend meetings, keep minutes and provide the membership with information on the activities of the Club to the current active membership roster via digital means.
5. The Golf Professional is an advisor to the Board and shall act as a link between the Men's Club and Golf Club of record. He will also lend his support in the running of all Men's Club events.

### **Article V Committees**

The President shall have the discretion to establish standing and ad hoc committees, as necessary. The President will seek out and appoint members to any proposed committees. Policy, Local Rules, Competition, Handicap, etc. Committees may be altered, consolidated, discontinued or have scope expanded, as needed.

### **Article VI Meetings, Quorums and Elections**

The members of the Board shall meet as requested by the President but no less frequently than once every quarter. Three members must be present, with one of the three being either the President or the Vice President, to constitute a quorum. The only other scheduled meeting will be an annual meeting of the membership during the month of January after league play. If applicable, an election of officers will be held. Voting will/can be exercised in person or via digital submission.

The order of business at meetings shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes of preceding meetings.
2. President's Report.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Committee Reports.
5. Old Business.
6. New Business.
7. Adjournment.

The Secretary shall notify the members of the Club of any changes in meeting schedules by posting them on the SJGC Clubhouse bulletin board, by E-mail or by mailer.

### **Article VII Dues and Fees**

Annual dues are \$40.00 and are due and payable by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Board may increase dues when deemed necessary. A \$5 late fee shall be assessed to any member that pays their dues after January 1 of the current year. Any member who does not pay his annual dues by January 31<sup>st</sup> shall be dropped from membership in the Club, and his USGA handicap will no longer be maintained by the St. Johns Golf Club. If you choose not to participate in the day's game (See Amendment C) a fee of \$3.00 will be collected at registration each game day morning, including guests. As the game fee considers \$3.00 of each entry to provide support funding for the league for annual competitions, lunches and philanthropic support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee and Amateur/Scholastic golf, in general.

### **Article VIII Compensation**

The officers of the Club hold honoree positions and, as such, will not be compensated for their duties. The Club may make or accept any donations approved by the Board.

## **Article IX Code of Conduct**

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:

1. Acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.
2. Showing consideration to members and the respective golf club through our efforts to complete our rounds +/- 4 hours. Adhering to ready golf (unless in Match Play Events). SJMC generated Pace of Play guidelines are in place for member guidance.
3. Showing consideration to others – looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player.
4. Taking good care of the course – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers, repairing ball-marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the course.
5. The Board may take disciplinary action and or terminate an individual's membership if they continually demonstrate evidence of above infraction or other disruptive behavior.

## **Article X Amendments**

The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors.

### **Amendment Section**

#### **Amendment A:**

GHIN Handicap Index will address handicap calculation based on chosen tee.

#### **Amendment B:**

### **Club Events Games & Competition**

#### **GHIN POLICY/GUIDELINE ON COMPETITIONS**

The Board may appoint committees to assist in rules and competition. A maximum Handicap Index for entry or use in any competition is 36. Handicap Index will remain unchanged for the duration of the competition. The Committee in charge of a competition may reserve the right to:  
Adjust the Playing Handicap of an entrant within the Terms of the Competition where there is evidence that the player's Handicap Index does not reflect their demonstrated ability. Determine that when course conditions are exceptionally poor, the submission of scores for handicap purposes should be suspended.

### **The Men's Club Championship**

1. The club will conduct an annual competition to determine club champions, as established by the Board.
2. The champions will be established for individual Gross score and individual Net score.
3. Qualifying members will be able to participate after having completed 3 league rounds within the previous 6 months of the membership year.
4. The committee established for the club championship shall be responsible for recommending to the Board the guidelines and policies governing St. Johns Men's Club Championship.

### **Sol-Ryder Competition**

1. A competition with the St. John's Ladies Golf Association to advance and celebrate the game of golf.
2. Net Better Ball of Partners- 6 Teams (12 players from each league).
3. Handicap strokes will be allocated as follows: The player with the lowest handicap in the foursome will not receive any strokes. The other three players will receive the difference between the low handicap player and their individual handicap. This is referred to as "stroking off the low ball."
4. Notice will be sent to the membership prior to the competition. The first 12 responding participants will be chosen.

### **Match Play Competition**

1. USGA Rules Apply.
2. All matches must be played within specified time period, as established by the Match Play Committee.
3. The handicaps revision as determined by the Committee will stand throughout the competition; each player's official handicap will be listed after his name.
4. The difference between the players handicaps will be the strokes given for the match, i.e. player A has a 20 handicap and play B has a 12 handicap. Player A will receive a stroke on each of the first eight handicapped holes. Player B receives no strokes.

### **Amendment C:**

### **Policies Governing Play**

1. The Men's Club shall meet at the designated day and time for club play. Each member must sign up for the Game of the Day. Only after registering for the Game of the Day game, are members then eligible to sign up for Gross Skins, Net Skins and For Closest to the Pin. Prize money for the Game of the Day, Net Skins, Gross Skins and Closest to the Pin is paid in cash to the winners following completion of play. New members with no verified USGA handicap must complete five rounds of play with the club before being eligible to compete in handicapped events. During this period, they may compete in the Gross Skins (if applicable) and Closest to the Pin contests. A guest of a member may only enter the Gross Skins (if applicable) and the competition for closest to the pin.
2. Play formats will be individual and team events set each day by a person designated by the Board.
3. Member sign up procedure:
  - Notice will be sent via Golf Genius for next league play date following completion of each round.
  - Members should sign up immediately upon receiving notice
  - Members who sign up after 10pm on Sunday for Tuesday's game or 10pm on Thursday for Saturday's games are not guaranteed to participate on those days regardless of available tee times.
  - Once sign ups exceed allotted tee times, all subsequent sign ups move to a waitlist.
  - Guests of members are moved to waitlist to make room for members who signed up prior to above mention times.
  - Members and then guests are moved from waitlist based on when they signed up if space becomes available.
  - Members should arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the assigned tee time and be prepared for an earlier start if possible.
  - Any member who does not notify a league officer by 6:30 am of day of play of their inability to play that day is subject to the \$3 league fee. 3 absences without proper notification in a year may result in dismissal from the league.
4. Players will be placed in pairings by the Board's designated person who oversees setting up play for that day. Any specific playing requests must be made during signup. If a request to play with a specific member is made during a team event and that team is receiving more stokes then the highest low/high team, their team's playing handicap will be lowered to that low/high team handicap.
5. Scoring procedure:
  - During organized games and competitions, scores will be recorded electronically, and on a paper scorecard that provides space for a scorer & an attested signature/initial.
  - The playing group shall assign a separate electronic and paper scorekeeper for each round.
  - Only those individuals should enter scores. It is that group's responsibility to ensure the scores are accurate for each player and agree with each other prior to ending the round.
  - If there is a discrepancy between the electronic and paper scorecard, the higher of the two scores will become the official score.
  - Any player who knowingly submits an inaccurate score for themselves may be subject to league disciplinary action.

6. The club will award a prize of \$100.00 cash to any member who scores a Hole-In-One during a club sanctioned round of golf. A sanctioned round is defined as Men's Club play on any scheduled day, or any club sponsored tournament. The scoring of the Hole-In-One should be attested to by another club member, along with date, club selection and yardage.
7. For the Net Skins game, a member's handicap is limited to 80 percent of the player's USGA handicap. In addition, no player may have a handicap for net skins that exceeds 18 strokes.
8. Prize money payouts will be governed by the guidance contained in the four payout tables.

### **Amendment D:**

#### **Rules of Play**

1. The Rules of Play as established by the USGA shall be observed, except as modified by the Local Rules as published by the St Johns Golf Club and The Men's Club from time to time.
2. Local Rules – The following local rules are currently in effect:
  - Free relief from ant hills, burrowing animal holes, tire marks, staked trees, or ground under repair.
  - Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage including areas where wet conditions have altered the ground surface materially to cause surface to be uneven, also known as washout area. Free relief may be taken.
  - “Two plus Two rule “this rule allows relief from man-made obstructions (sprinkler heads and drains, etc.) that are 1. On the line of intended play, and 2. Within two club lengths of the putting green, and 3. The ball is within two club lengths of the obstruction. This local rule only applies when putting from off the green. There is no relief under this local rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable. Before taking relief, obtain the concurrence of the other player in your foursome.
3. League Rule – A maximum of 4 strokes over par on any hole.

Approved by the Board of Directors on January 31, 2025.

Certified by Vince Costable, President