



Dear Highland Springs Golf Member,

We are excited to report that we are getting 60 new **Club Car Tempo Lithium-Ion Golf Carts** for Highland Springs. We are expecting the new carts will be delivered on or about May 1<sup>st</sup>. The new carts will have all of the amenities as our current fleet, with the addition of upgraded **premium seating and Comfort-Grip steering wheels**. We are also pleased to announce that our golf cart usage fees will not be increasing in 2021.

We are also getting two new Café Express (Goodie Cart) vehicles. Our new golf cart fleet and Café Express vehicles will surely add to everyone's enjoyable golf experience at Highland Springs.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the use of single rider golf carts grew exponentially in 2020. During that year it was necessary to allow, if not promote, the use of single rider carts for obvious safety reasons. The number of rounds recorded in 2020 exceeded 21,000 for the first time in Highland Springs 30+ year history. Most of these rounds were played using golf carts, and most were single rider carts. As a result, there were some consequences that were realized.

1. The golf cart fleet took nearly two years of use in one year. As the year went on, and given the age of our fleet, cart breakdowns became more frequent than usual, adding unanticipated expenses for repairs and occasionally a shortage of available carts to meet member needs. This caused us to have to trade in our current fleet 1 year earlier than originally planned.
2. The golf course experienced increased cart traffic. This has resulted in compaction issues that have been identified by our course Superintendent. Steps to remedy the damage caused by increased traffic will be taken in 2021, steps that might not have otherwise been necessary. This will add more work to an already packed course maintenance workload and add additional expenses to the maintenance budget and will be visible to golfers until the areas are fully restored.

As we move into the 2021 golf season, we must consider a policy that, first and foremost, protects the health and well-being of our members, and second protects the assets of our club, namely the golf carts and golf course. **With that in mind the 2020 Golf Committee and Board of Directors has adopted the following policies in regards to single rider golf cart use.**

**A. Single Rider Club Owned Cart will be offered for the following:**

1. A single golfer playing alone.
2. An odd number of golfers in a group, (3 or 5 players).
3. A pre-approved, or approved on that day medical reason for a member to have a single rider cart \*

\*Approval would be given by the Director of Golf and the General Manager and, after one or possibly two such situations by the same player, that player will need Doctor documentation.

**B. Single Rider Club Owned Cart Option, (outside of medical reasons):**

1. A member may pay for both seats in the cart, totaling \$36, (as it is \$18 per rider for 18-holes). If it is a 9-hole rental the total fee will be \$22, (as it is \$11 per rider for 9-holes) \*\*

\*\*This is meant to both provide the opportunity, should someone feel strongly about being in a cart with another rider, and to limit casual single rider use for its own sake.

**C. Guests of A Member:**

1. In the case where a member brings a guest to play golf, that guest will be required to ride in a cart with the member, unless provision **A** or **B** are in play.

All approved single rider carts, (that are not in a group of 3 or 5 golfers), shall be issued a colored flag which will remain in the cart that day. **The flag will be for that day's use only and must be returned with the golf cart at the completion of the round.** A flag check-out log will be kept by the golf department team. If neither **A** nor **B** above are involved, all club owned golf carts must be used to full capacity, meaning two riders.

Provisions **A** and **B** do not apply to member owned golf carts, with the exception of the guest policy portion, **C** as stated above.

**Implementation:      The Single Rider cart policies will take effect with the delivery of our new cart fleet, (on or about May 1, 2021).**

1. All members are expected to adhere to the golf cart use policies, meaning that whenever possible, the carts will convey 2-riders as intended. This will minimize damage and wear to the vehicles and golf course, providing all members with the best possible playing conditions and experience.
2. It is a member's responsibility to communicate with the Golf Shop staff if he/she will be using a single rider golf cart on a given day.
3. If individuals are observed in a single rider carts, and have not communicated with the Golf Shop staff, they will be charged the full \$36 amount, (or \$22 for 9-hole play), for the day. If a member chooses to continually violate the above policy by not communicating with the Golf staff, he/she will be contacted by the General Manager informing the member of the violation(s).
4. Following that communication, if another violation occurs the member will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including the possible suspension of golf cart privileges for a minimum of 30 days.

We are asking that all members understand and embrace the golf cart use policies. The golf operation is run for the enjoyment of the membership; however, it is prudent to protect the assets of the club, both now and for years to come. The golf course and the golf cart fleet will be kept in the best possible condition, long term, if they are used as intended.

We look forward to a great 2021 season at Highland Springs Country Club.