

# BAKER NATIONAL HOLE-BY-HOLE PLAYER'S GUIDE

site of the 1995 MGCSA Amateur Championship

## #1 • Par 4

A strong starting hole, it demands a long, accurate tee shot with OB the entire right side of the hole. On the downhill approach, the player must be careful of the OB near the green. Shots hit over this deep green have been known to get favorable kicks off the barn behind the green.

## #2 — Par 3

This hole plays to its yardage. However, club selection is important to find the right level on this large, two-tiered green. The green is in a bit of a bowl; shots hit slightly left or right may bounce onto the green.

## #3 — Par 4

The landing area for tee shots slopes right to left. The green slopes away from the player; play your approach shots toward the front third of the green. Pay particular attention to the five pine trees short of the green; they are not as close to the green as they appear. Shots missed short and right face extremely difficult recoveries.

## #4 — Par 5

This hole is straightforward; the player faces a wide, yet well-protected landing area which drops off steeply on both sides. The sand and grass bunkers guarding this two-tiered green are actually 10 yards short of it. The back right pin position is the most difficult.

## #5 — Par 4

A short hole protected off the tee by a gaping bunker on the left. A well-positioned tee shot will leave a short approach to a somewhat blind two-level green. Beware of the right side pin placement; the green slopes away and balls tend to kick to the right. A birdie hole.

## #6 — Par 5

This double dog-leg is a true gambler's hole. From the tee, the player must avoid Lake Spurzem on the right and wooded hillside on the left. A long drive near the water will entice the player to go for the green on the second shot; watch out, the green is shallow and only well-struck shots will hold the green and not roll into the water behind it. The safe lay-up to the right side of the fairway will avoid an approach over the left bunker. The left pin position is most difficult; the green is very shallow here and slopes away from the player slightly.



## #7 — Par 3

Club selection is crucial on this short hole; three putts are common if you find your ball on the wrong tier. This large, roller coaster green can cause problems for even the best putters.

## #8 — Par 4

Probably the most demanding tee shot on the course. Generally into the wind, the landing area slopes right to left. Players who draw the ball down the middle will hope that the containment bunker will catch their ball before it runs down into the natural (read: knee-high) rough. The green is protected by a sand bunker left and a deep grass bunker short right. The back two-thirds of the green slopes away from the player, demanding a high approach shot.

## #9 — Par 4

An uphill, dogleg left which plays its full yardage. The landing area is guarded by bunkers left and OB right. The narrow green, flanked by bunkers, is open in the front to accept run-up shots.

## #10 — Par 5

A straightaway par five, this hole is generally into the wind. The second shot is downhill with OB and bunkers right and a bunker on the left, 40 yards short of the green. The third shot is a short iron to a large, undulating, well-bunkered green.

## #11 — Par 4

Hit the tee shot to the right side of the fairway because the green opens up to the right. The second shot is uphill and into the wind to a green flanked by three bunkers. Club selection to this deep green can vary as much as three clubs.

## #12 — Par 3

This hole, downhill and generally downwind, will play shorter than its yardage. The green slopes from right to left with a pot bunker guarding the right and a dropoff to the left.

## #13 — Par 5

A dogleg right downwind from an elevated tee. Tee shots must be straight to avoid wetland hazards left and right. The second landing area and green are guarded by deep bunkers and mounds. The right side skirts a wetland hazard. This green slopes away from the player making the front pin positions the toughest.

## #14 — Par 4

Possibly the toughest hole on this nine. From the tee, the player should aim at the left greenside bunker. The tee shot must carry a wetland hazard to a deceptively large peninsula landing area. The approach shot must carry another wetland hazard to an undulating green.

## #15 — Par 3

A long carry, generally into the wind, across a wetland hazard to a shallow, hog-back green. Club selection is crucial, with the green angling away from the player, right to left.

## #16 — Par 4

A short hole guarded off the tee by a wetland and OB. A drive hit down the middle will leave the player with a short iron to a two-tiered green. A good birdie hole.

## #17 — Par 4

Another birdie hole. The left side of the fairway is protected by a deep bunker. The player should drive as close to the bunker as possible to afford the best view of the green. The second shot is uphill to a green guarded by mounds.

## #18 — Par 4

A demanding finishing hole. From the tee, the landing area is protected by bunkers and OB, and the fairway slopes on both sides making accuracy the paramount concern. The player will hope for a following wind on this long, uphill hole. The two-tiered green is tightly guarded by bunkers and mounds.

*NOTE: Baker National affords the opportunity to lose golf balls on many of its holes. Keep it in play and you'll finish with the same ball you started with. But, if you tend to hit the ball a little crooked, you may need to use most of the balls in your bag.*