

Golfing Privileges:

A little courtesy can get you almost anywhere!

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For most of us a round of golf can be a relaxing, enjoyable, mind-erasing of work responsibilities experience. That is if it is being played somewhere other than our own course. Getting out and seeing the work of our peers throughout the area or even nationally can be a great privilege, especially when that course allows you complimentary green fees.

As a new golfing season begins, it is a good time to discuss with your golf professional and club or course officials, your facility's policies dealing with Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent and maintenance staff guest play. Everyone should remember there is no master policy that applies to all. Each course has its own guidelines that work for them.

The best protocol to follow when trying to play as a guest somewhere is to contact the host Superintendent and to have your membership card available for identification at the course if required.

I also need to discuss a misconception that seems to be circulated out there. Membership in GCSAA does not carry with it any guest golfing privileges; however, many courses will allow within some time and space availability restrictions, GCSAA member play on their course. The best protocol to follow when trying to play as a guest somewhere is to contact the host Superintendent and to have your membership card available for identification at the course if required. When discussing playing privileges for

GCSAA member guests at your facility with your pro shop staff, remind them that only class A, B & C (Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent) should be considered for playing privileges if it is the intent of your facility to recognize those persons directly involved in golf course management. There are other GCSAA membership categories (e.g. Affiliates, Educators) who are also given membership cards that are colored green. Class A, B & C cards are gold with the classification noted on them. I believe this is an important area to stress because of the potential for abuse of obtaining golfing privileges through GCSAA membership by those not directly involved in golf course management.

In the Billings, Mont. area all courses allow not only Superintendents and Assistants guest play but also staff play as well. This play is subject to each course's rules as to time and number of players, but the major rule we enforce is that all staff play is arranged and verified by the Superintendent or Assistant. The conduct of those players is the responsibility of their Superintendent while they are the guest of another facility. This is a great benefit that is extended to us and by giving it respect, it continues to be a privilege everyone enjoys.

The key to maintaining any privilege is to not abuse it. The enjoyable round of golf we can all have is one worth working for. In closing, please take the time to discuss these ideas with the Superintendents, Golf Professionals and Course Officials in your areas. Encourage all areas of the game of golf to work together to make all our jobs more enjoyable.

1995 MGCSA MONTHLY MEETINGS

June 12	Bemidji Town & Country Club Host Superintendent - Thomas Johanns
July 10	Stillwater Country Club Host Superintendent - Kevin Clunis and TBA (Garske Scramble)
August 14	Baker National Golf Course Host Superintendent - Keith Greeninger (MGCSA Amateur Championship)
Sept. 11	Minikahda Club & Town & Country Club Host Superintendents - Douglas Mahal and Bill Larson (Stodola Scramble)
October 9	Chisago Lakes Golf Estates Host Superintendent - David Zimmer
Dec. 6, 7 & 8	MTGF/MGCSA Conference and Trade Show Minneapolis Convention Center

Did You Know?

According to a USGA study, the average golfer takes 56 paces per green. With 12 spikes on the average golf shoe, that means 672 impressions left on each green for each player. By this calculation, take into account 18 greens and you have 12,096 impressions per round per player. And to take it a couple of steps further, assume a course receives a daily average of 200 rounds. That means the greens receive 2,419,200 impressions every day - which comes to more than 72.5 million spike marks each month.