



The Divot December 2019

The Official News Letter of the Sunflower Hills Patrons Club

The Staff at Sunflower Hills would like to congratulate the following:



**Men's Club Champion
Reece Nigh**



**Women's Club Champion
Pat Seber Bradley**



**Men's WyCo Open Champ
Steve Groom**



**Women's WyCo Open Champ
Pat Seber-Bradley**



**WyCo Sr Low Gross Champ
Jerry Reid**



**WyCo Sr Low Net Champ
Bill Sanders**



**Most Improved Golfer
Dan Crabtree**



**Distinguished Service
Frank Payne**



**Player of the Year
Jerry Reid**

As the 2019 golf season draws to a close, The Sunflower Hills staff would like to extend our thanks to all of our patron members for their support of the golf course! Without our members support, positive comments, and ideas our jobs just would not be the same! Sunflower Hills continues to strive to bring our patrons a great golf facility with outstanding service at the best value possible. We have plans to continue improvements to the course this winter, any ideas or suggestions that you may have please let us know.

Starting on November 1st, Sunflower Hills began offering discounted "winter rates". Twilite begins at 12:00pm six days a week and the Sunday Special (\$28 which includes green fee & cart) now begins at 11:00am. These rates are in effect until March 31, 2020. Winter rates are:

Weekday Rates	Standard	Winter Rate
Patron	\$22.00	\$15.00
WyCo Resident	\$23.00	\$16.00
Standard	\$27.00	\$17.00
Weekend Rates	Standard	Winter Rate
Patron	\$30.00	\$22.00
WyCo Resident	\$32.00	\$23.00
Standard	\$35.00	\$26.00

For the dedicated golfer the winter season offers some of the best opportunities for golf. When you are dressed for the cooler temperatures, golf can be more enjoyable than during the spring and summer. The course as a general rule is less crowded when temps range from 40 to 50 degrees. Rounds tend to be played faster, 3 ½ hours for 18 holes is not uncommon, for some reason people play faster when it is cold. However, there are some special rules to be aware of during the winter months:

1. Frost delays. Sunflower Hills will not compromise on frost delays. Frost coated grass blades are very fragile and susceptible to injury. We cannot allow foot traffic on frosted grass.
2. User friendly footwear. No metal spikes and no hunting boots! Soft spikes or other soft soled shoes only.
3. It is especially important that all ball marks be repaired on the greens.



4. Take special care to keep golf carts on the path whenever possible. During the winter months grass is continually thinned and cannot be replaced until warmer weather returns. Thinned turf can leave openings for Poa Annua and other weeds next spring. Keep golf carts on the path whenever possible.

Weather permitting, Sunflower Hills will be taking both Weekday and Weekend tee times until December 31, 2019. If you plan on playing it is always a good idea to call ahead and make a tee time whenever possible.

Memberships Available December 1, 2019

2020 Patron Cards & Season Passes will be available December 1st, there will be no price increase for both green fee and membership fees for the 2020 season. Golf carts will also remain the same. Please take a moment to review the rates listed below. Remember membership has its privileges. Our membership rates are very competitive and give you the following advantages:

1. The #1 advantage for Sunflower Hills patrons is tee times. Patrons can make tee times up to ten days in advance. The general public can make tee times up to seven days in advance. Standing Weekend tee times can be made for the entire season if the entire foursome are patron members (restrictions apply, ask for details)
2. Patron members receive up to \$6.00 off on Weekend fees and \$3.00 off on Twilite fees.
3. The Single Season pass includes all green fees.
4. A Senior Season pass includes all green fees Monday - Friday, excluding Holidays. Up to \$6.00 off on Weekends & Holidays.
5. Maintenance of a recognized USGA Handicap.
6. Sunflower Hills is a member of these golf organizations: Kansas City Golf Assn., Kansas Golf Assn., Greater Kansas City Public Links Golf Assn., Greater Kansas City Women's Public Links Golf Assn., & United States Golf Assn.
7. Members are eligible to play in all Patrons Club events, including the Wyandotte County Open.

A Sunflower Hills Season pass is one of the cheapest in town. If you are a frequent player, 40 or more rounds per year, you still receive all advantages of a Patron card but never have to pay a greens fee again. Once again for this year Sunflower Hills will offer the options of adding a range

pass and or golf carts allowing you to customize your season pass to fit you individual needs. Check with the ProShop for more information or for details on an Installment plan.

Down & Dirty Tournament

Saturday November 17, 2019

Low Gross Winners

tie 1st	80	Jerry Reid	\$60.00
	80	Ritch Nigh	\$60.00
3rd	81	Reece Nigh	\$40.00
4th	82	Tim Skorija	\$30.00

Low Net

1st	69	Moe Ryan	\$70.00
tie 2nd	71	Greg Loethen	\$45.00
	71	Roger DeLong	\$45.00
4th	72	Jay Sutera	\$30.00
5th	74	Charlie Maybrier	\$20.00
tie 6th	76	Bob Chatterton	\$5.00
	76	Mike McNellis	\$5.00
	76	Dan Crabtree	\$5.00

Proximity Prizes - \$15 each

- Closest #4 – Charlie Maybrier
- Longest Putt #9 – Dan Maskil
- Long Drive #10 – Steve Sirridge

Best Sob Story

Joe Sutera & Charlie Maybrier fantastic finish on #18

Biggest Whiner

Entire Field - "Too Many 3 Putts"

Is the Down & Dirty Fair? Yes!!!!

The annual Down & Dirty Tournament is historically the toughest tournament we have at Sunflower Hills. The average scores tend to be the highest of any tournament we have, even with the additional two strokes added to everyone's handicap. Is this tournament fair? Yes. American Heritage Dictionary defines one of the meanings of fair as "free of favoritism or bias, impartial, just to all parties". In that respect the Down & Dirty was fair because the conditions were the same for everybody! The intent of the Down & Dirty is not only to test the physical side of the entrants but more so to test the mental stability of the individual when misfortune strikes. In that respect the Down & Dirty was a fair and huge success.



2020 Green Fees *

	Weekday Mon. - Fri.	Weekend Sat. & Sun.	Twilite
Patron	\$22.00	\$30.00	\$16.00
WyCo Resident	\$23.00	\$32.00	\$17.00
Standard	\$27.00	\$35.00	\$18.00
Sr./Jr. Patron	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$16.00
Sr/Jr WyCo Res	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$17.00
Sr./Jr. Standard	\$18.00	\$35.00	\$18.00

* Walking fees. Golf carts an additional \$14 per rider.

Sunflower Hills Tee Time Policy

Weekday tee times may be made up to ten days in advance. Holiday tee times can also be made ten days in advance. Weekend tee times may be made under one of the four following procedures:

1. Participate in the phone lottery. Patrons may call up to ten days in advance to reserve times.
2. Come out in person on the day of play and put your name in with the starter as a walk-on.
3. Make a standing time for the season if everyone in the foursome has a patron card or season pass. All groups interested in making a standing time for the season must fill out an application form and return in to Sunflower Hills no later than December 31, 2019. At least one person must purchase their patron card at this time and will then become the group captain.

The privilege of having an opportunity to make reservations for Weekends and Holidays **does not guarantee that the time requested will be available.**

The Staff at Sunflower Hills would like to ask all of our Patrons to embrace the USGA's initiative to help speed up play by adhering to the 20 second rule. When it's your turn to play hit your shot within 20 seconds. Count your fellow players down and let them know how long it took them to hit. If they are over 20 seconds let them know and encourage them to be ready to play within the 20 second time frame. Also, try to avoid fivesomes. Even the fastest players at Sunflower take two hours to play nine holes when they are in a fivesome.

2020 Membership Rates & Information Sunflower Hills Patron Cards

Single Patron Card	\$110.00
Senior Patron Card	\$85.00
Junior Patron Card	\$85.00
Family Patron Card	\$135.00

Sunflower Hills Season Passes

	Walking Season Pass	† Including Golf Cart
Single Pass	\$1,350.00	\$2,225.00
Senior Pass	\$640.00	\$1,415.00
Family Pass	\$1,750.00	\$3,180.00
Twilite Pass	n/a	\$1,165.00
	Single	Family
Range Pass	\$450.00	\$595.00

† Valid driver's license is required to operate a golf cart.

2020 Patron Tournaments

Saturday March 14th	Mudders Tournament
Saturday & Sunday April 11th & 12th	Masters Pro-Am
Saturday May 2nd	Two Man Scramble
Saturday May 23rd	Memorial Stroke Play
Saturday June 20th	Two Man Best Ball
Saturday July 18th	Club Championship
Saturday & Sunday August 8th & 9th	44th Annual WyCo Open
Saturday September 12th	Two Man Tri-Play
TBD	37th Annual WyCo Senior Championship
Saturday October 10th	Red, White & Blue
Saturday November 14th	Down & Dirty

The New World Handicap System is Coming for 2020

What is the World Handicap System (WHS) all about? Golf already has a single set of playing Rules, a single set of equipment Rules and a single set of Rules of Amateur Status governed by the USGA and The R&A. Yet, today there are six different handicap systems used around the world. Each is well developed and successfully provides



equity for play locally, but each of the different systems produces slightly differing results when calculating players' handicaps. The WHS will unify these six existing systems into a single system that will:

- enable golfers of different abilities to play and compete on a fair and equal basis, in any format, on any course, anywhere around the world;
- Be easy to understand and implement, without sacrificing accuracy; and meet the varied needs and expectations of golfers, golf clubs and golf authorities all around the world and be adaptable to suit all golfing cultures.

After significant engagement and collaboration with the existing handicapping authorities and other National Associations, it has been agreed that the time is right to bring the different handicapping systems together as a fourth set of Rules, to support the global game. In addition, this project has provided an opportunity for the existing handicapping authorities to come together and share their combined experiences to produce a system which is modern and relevant for the way the game is played today around the world. The WHS will encompass both the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System (formerly known as the USGA Course Rating and Slope System).

Finally, due to the billing practices of the KCGA, we will be forced to drop those patrons from the handicap roster who have not purchased their 2020 patron card by December 31, 2019. If you have not purchased your new membership by this date never fear, none of your handicap information will be lost and handicap can be reinstated as soon as you purchase your 2020 membership.

If You're Not Playing By The Rules... You're Not Playing Golf!

Substitution of Ball Always Allowed When Taking Relief

Previous Rule: A player is allowed to substitute a ball only when taking relief under certain Rules:

- Substitution is allowed when taking penalty relief, such as when a ball is in a water hazard, is unplayable or is lost or out of bounds (Rules 26-1, 27-1, 28).

- Substitution is not allowed when taking free relief, such as relief from obstructions or abnormal ground conditions (Rules 24-2 and 25-1); this means the player must use the original ball (except when that ball is not immediately recoverable).

New Rule: Under Rule 14.3, when taking relief, the player will always be allowed the choice to substitute a ball or to use the original ball, including:

- When taking penalty relief as well as when taking free relief (Rules 15-19), and
- Any other time the player is required to drop and play a ball, such as when returning to play from where a previous stroke was made after the stroke is cancelled.

Reasons for Change:

- The requirement to use the original ball in some relief situations but not others is confusing, hard to remember and leads to unnecessary penalties. Taking a consistent approach that always allows a player taking relief the choice to substitute a ball or use the original ball is much simpler.
- There is no need for a different procedure based on whether the player is taking relief with penalty or without penalty:
 1. The penalty is applied for reasons having to do with where the ball ended up (lost, out of bounds, in a penalty area or unplayable), not with which ball is played next.
 2. For example, if a ball lies in easy reach of the player, there is no reason to require the original ball to be used when taking relief because of interference by an animal hole, while allowing substitution when taking relief because the ball is unplayable.
- This change will eliminate the need when taking free relief to decide whether the original ball is "not immediately recoverable", which can raise questions in various cases such as when the ball is in a few inches of temporary water or is under a prickly bush.
- This will also draw a clearer and more intuitive line between when substitution is allowed in returning a ball to play and when the original ball must be returned to play:



1. Substitution will be allowed only when a player is taking relief under any Rule – that is, when the player is required or allowed to play the next stroke from somewhere other than where the original ball came to rest.
2. Substitution will not be allowed when a ball was lifted or moved, and the Rules require it to be replaced on its original spot – in that case, the original ball must still be used (unless it cannot be recovered with reasonable effort and in a few seconds)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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