



## TOMGC Rules and Greens

March 2020

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What I liked most about the Star Wars Movies, was the effort everyone was making to try and provide a little uniformity and order to their Universe. Well, I would like to think we should be making the same strides with relation to our little Universe. Our little Universe, is of course, Twin Oaks Golf Course on Wednesdays. As you know, there are people and carts moving around the golf course all of the time. And, when you least expect it, someone will be attempting to get by you when you are either waiting on the tee box, or spending some time on our fantastic greens. As such, please try to remember

to use the turnouts provided at the tees and the greens to allow maintenance and others enough room to negotiate the cartpath in that location. Many times there is room for them to get by your speeder without a problem, but just as often, they are forced to drive up on a part of the course where a cart should not be driven and/or where they might even be causing damage to our course with their off-road maneuvers, eh? Food for thought.

With some of the recent changes to the rules of golf, which are meant to make the game a little easier to understand and assist in our efforts to help maintain a reasonable pace of play, we should not forget that we are still subject to the rules of the game, along with any penalties associated with breaching these rules. Now that we are allowed to leave the flagstick in the hole while we are putting, which I think is brilliant, we should not forget that there is still proper protocol when we've all reached the putting green. First, we should all mark the position of our golf ball, and repair any ball mark we might have made. (It is a good practice, if time allows, to fix your ball mark and another one as well.) You might think that a ball left on the green until your turn to putt is not going to bother anyone, but the brain is a funny thing, and just the sight of that ball may influence the person who is putting. Secondly, if there is a chance that you might putt and hit a ball on the green, you are the one who will be assessed the two stroke penalty, not the guy who left his ball unmarked. So, if there is the remotest chance that you might hit another ball on the green, you should kindly ask your playing partner to mark his ball. Additionally, let's remember to use good golf etiquette when on the greens. Don't stand directly in front of or behind someone who is putting. It is distracting, and may be a violation of the rules. You may move in behind the ball once the player has made his stroke to determine what sort of influence the green might have on the path of his putt. Enjoy the company and the game. Good day, and good golf.