



April 2022 Newsletter



Moving on . . .

Lupe Miranda took over head groundskeeping duties in September, 2021, and in a short time has worked wonders with our course, but he's leaving for a job at Chateau St. Jean Winery. Lupe, married (Aurea) with three young daughters (14, 10 and 5) previously worked at Stonetree GC in Novato. Lupe, 36, is the main reason our course looks and plays so good and we wish him the best. He'll be missed.

USGA's "most misunderstood rules: . . .

The USGA has published a list of its "10 most misunderstood rules" and here is one of them. We will publish more in subsequent newsletters.

**Your ball doesn't have to be touching an immovable obstruction to get relief
([Rule 16.1](#))**

Where and how to take proper relief anywhere on the course can be confusing, but one area in particular that trips up players is immovable obstructions. We're talking about sprinkler heads, drains, cart paths or any other man-made object that cannot be moved without "unreasonable effort" or causing damage to the course.

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Part of the reason for this, says the USGA, is that golfers have a misperception that a ball must be touching the obstruction to receive relief. In fact, you can take relief if the obstruction merely interferes with the area of your swing or your stance.

One important thing to remember when taking said relief is that you must take “complete” relief from the obstruction. In other words, if you’re standing on a cart path, you must make sure that after taking relief, the cart path is no longer impeding your stance, swing or lie before hitting your next shot.

One more thing: You can take relief from immovable obstructions anywhere on the course *except* if your ball is in a penalty area or when your ball is in a lie that is clearly unreasonable to be played (such as if it's nestled in a bush).

Rain not a problem . . .

We recently got some much-needed precipitation although not nearly as much as we had hoped for, but even though the recent storm dropped about an inch of rain, Fairgrounds GC was playable soon after.

In fact, our course is arguably the best in the area when it comes to draining, drying out and becoming playable soon after most storms – that drenching last October being a notable exception.

We hope we get a few more inches before our so-called rainy season is over, and if it does rain, give us a call (707-284-3520) and we’ll give you an honest answer when you ask “is the course playable?”

Driving range . . .

Our driving range is closed most Tuesdays – but not *EVERY* Tuesday – for mowing. For various reasons, we sometimes don’t mow, so if you’d like to hit balls early Tuesday, call us and we will let you know the situation. And don’t forget our range has lights so you might want to come out after work or dinner and work on your game.

