



Vespra Hills Golf Club

Member Handbook 2021

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“A Unique Concept In Private Golf”

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HISTORY OF VESPRA HILLS GOLF CLUB

The land which is the core of our property was once the home of the Pratt family. The Homestead nine is so named because it is where Mac's wife, Beth Frost (nee Pratt) grew up. Mac and Beth's daughter, Cinder, manages the golf club today. Fred and Pearl Pratt farmed the 100 acres of the Homestead nine and Fred purchased another 170 acres behind that (now parts of the Sand Hills and Still Valley nines) and put it in Beth's name when she was a small child. That property has remained in the family's hands to this day.

When time permits, Beth can be counted on to regale us with stories of life on the "old home place". We hope to capture some of these to share with our members as we carry on enjoying the land as we know it now.

When Mac designed and began working on the golf course, he bought back the "front field" which had changed hands, and a property on either side of the original Pratt place, and began construction of the Sand Hills and Homestead nines. When his health deteriorated in 2002 his daughter Cinder stepped in to oversee the design and construction of the Still Valley nine, the Pro Shop, and in the 2010 season opened the new clubhouse on the hill. With a loyal and talented staff to support her efforts, the "family business" has a warm welcoming atmosphere at Vespra Hills.

Our membership has grown each season and all our members are welcomed as part of our growing extended family. With the passing of time we have preserved the family's traditional approach to Private a-la-carte golf as well as some new membership options which have come into place as we get to know more about current trends in golf, and in our local marketplace.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Members assume no financial responsibility for the operation of the Club and agree to pay fees and dues as set out.
2. Members agree to pay for all charges incurred by them and their guests at the Club. The Member also assumes responsibility for damages (i.e. cart damage) for themselves and their guests.
3. Memberships are not transferable, and Entrance and Annual fees are non refundable if the member resigns from the club.
4. Members and their guests will abide by the dress codes and observe the rules of the Club.
5. Management shall have sole right to terminate any membership upon a pro rata refund of annual fees paid. Upon termination, entrance fees (that have been paid in full) would be refunded on a pro rated basis up to the end of the fifth year of Membership including the year in which the entrance fee was paid. No refund will be made if the member abandons /resigns membership.
6. For the application of charges made at the Club, all members must present a valid Visa, MasterCard, Debit or Gift Card at the point of sale for any transaction along with their member card. Members may put money on account (up to a \$1000.00 maximum) or use The Moneris Vault draw from during the season. Any balance remaining in the cash account at the end of one season will simply remain on account to be used by the member during the following season at Vespra Hills.
7. Each member must re-apply by January 15th each year or may be deemed to have resigned with a new entrance fee required to rejoin.
8. Members are responsible for keeping their membership in an active status and in good standing. Effective August 2018 - Members wishing to change their membership type may be subject to a \$75.00+ HST administration fee.
9. The Club officially opens and closes May 1st and October 31st each season.

*Conditions of Membership taken from the New Membership Application Form and Membership Renewal Forms.

RATES & FEES

See 2021 Membership Package for more details.

REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES

The following policies are designed to produce a club atmosphere that serves the needs of our members in a courteous and efficient manner. Please take a few minutes to read and digest them. This will help to make things run smoothly during the season.

MEMBER CARD

Member cards will be required for all check-in and club purchases. Members must present their card and register in the Golf Shop before each game. Each member must present his/her own card. If the member has guests, he/she should not register for golf until the guests are all present in the Golf Shop. Members will also present their membership card before ordering food or beverages. Lost or stolen cards are subject to a card replacement fee of \$15.00 + HST.

GUESTS

There is no limit on the number of times a member may bring the same guest. A member may bring a maximum of three guests at a time, unless they have arranged in advance, such as for a member hosted shotgun event. Please be available to meet your guests when they arrive. Members are ultimately responsible for their guests. Guests will be able to buy merchandise in the Golf Shop as well as pay for their game fees and rental carts by use of their personal Debit, Visa, or MasterCard once the member has signed them into the system using their member card. Members please advise guests of our dress code, as well as informing them that they will not be able to use the driving range or the golf course until a hosting member has arrived and signed them in.

SPECTATORS & WALK/RIDE ALONG GUESTS

For safety and liability reasons Spectators and Walk/Ride along guests are not permitted on the course except by prior clearance and the signing of a waiver for liability, this waiver can be found in the golf shop and on our website.

JUNIOR ASSOCIATE GOLF & JUNIOR GUESTS

See 2021 Junior Program for more details and information.

TEE TIMES

See 2021 Membership Package for more details on booking tee times.

The Club reserves the right to add players to make up foursomes. At Vespra Hills, we will make every effort to honour requests for which of the 3 nines members would like to combine for an 18 hole booking where conditions permit. This will apply to member walk-ins as well. We do not book consecutive groups on one phone call. All groups should have equal access to the tee. There must be a Vespra Hills or Spring Lakes member in each foursome. Please have your member # and the names of your guests you'll be bringing available when you call for your time. We do not book times for a single player. The starter will fit them in.

CANCELLATION/NO SHOW POLICY

Non-weather based cancellations must be made no less than 24 hours prior to the booked tee time. Voice and/or email messages will not be accepted as a form of cancellation.

No Show Fee in Effect: The Main Reserver will maintain full responsibility for the reservation. Should the group not show, or if a reservation is made for more players than the amount that show up to play, the No Show Fee of \$89.00 + HST per missing player will be billed to the Main Reserver.

Power Cart No Show or not cancelled prior to 24 hours from booked time: If power carts were part of the reservation and not cancelled 24 hours prior to the tee time, the full power cart fee(s) will be billed to the Main Reserver of the time. Members with cart plans are subject to this penalty as well.

PRACTICE FACILITIES

Guests who are registered to play golf may use the practice facilities with the host member before teeing off. Spectators or non-registered guests are not permitted on the practice facilities. This applies to family guests as well. Vespra Hills members may use the practice facilities at anytime that they are open. Vespra Hills members may use the practice facilities at Spring Lakes only when warming up for a round of golf. Players may not practice or hit extra balls on any regular fairway, bunker, green, or lawns around the Golf Shop. Practice must be confined to the designated practice facilities. Range balls are provided for use only on the range and the chipping green. The driving range will be open 30 minutes prior to the first tee-off time. The driving range may be closed one or two mornings per week for maintenance. The range will close 30 minutes prior to dark to allow for final clean up to prepare for the next day. The driving range may be closed one or two evenings per week for maintenance.

As a member, you are required to check in with the Golf Shop Staff if going to the practice facilities without a booked tee time.

POWER CARTS

Cart drivers must have a valid driver's license. **Juniors may not operate power carts at any time.** Members are responsible for, and will be charged for all damage to carts assigned to them or their guests, any injuries resulting from cart operation, or damage to the course or property of the club resulting from the use of a cart. No more than two golf bags will be carried on one power cart, and no more than two people may ride at one time. **Keep power carts on cart paths near all greens and tees.** Please keep carts out of the fescue grass. Power carts may not be used to go to the practice facilities after a round. Our staff will be happy to give you a ride to the practice facilities and back up to the Golf Shop when you're finished. **Power carts must be returned to the Golf Shop area before dark.** If necessary, our staff will go onto the course to retrieve carts if the players have not returned carts as darkness approaches. **Under no circumstances may a pull cart be towed by a power cart.**

Pull carts are available at no charge.

SPEED OF PLAY

Members should attempt to play fast enough to keep up with the group ahead without crowding or hitting into them. We suggest you play “Ready Golf”. After putting out do not linger at the green to mark your scores but proceed to the next tee and hit when ready if the group ahead is clear. The golfer who is “away” is the one who is ready to hit, not necessarily the one with the lowest score on the last hole. If there is an open hole ahead of you and the group behind you catches up, stand aside and allow them to play through, and don’t start again until they are clear (This applies even if it is a twosome or single that catches up). A foursome should play 18 holes in no more than 4 hours and 15 minutes. Twosomes or single players should not expect to play through multiple foursomes at busy times when the field is full, provided that the foursome is keeping up with groups ahead, as outlined above.

RAIN CHECKS

If rain causes an 18 hole round to be given up after nine holes or less have been played, a rain check for nine holes will be issued. If a player does not tee off, but has already signed in, a rain check for 18 holes will be issued. Rain checks do not apply to prepaid members. Guest rain checks will be issued to their representing member.

PLEASE “KEEP IT BEAUTIFUL”

Repair ball marks on greens

Repair all divots

Avoid scuffing the greens. (Always pick up your feet)

Don’t use your putter to scoop the ball out of the cup

Please take care when replacing flags.

Don’t take multiple divots or practice swings on the tee

Rake sand bunkers and place (not throw) the rake into the bunker. A 90 degree angle from the less steep edge is the best placement.

DRESS CODE REGULATIONS

The golf attire that Members and their Guests wear for playing or practicing golf directly influences our club's image, atmosphere and culture. Vespra Hills is a progressive club that thrives on its relaxed atmosphere while maintaining a healthy respect for the game. We expect our Members and their Guests to dress and act in a way that does not offend your fellow Members. Typically, clothing that is for sale in the Golf Shop, or current PGA/LPGA Tour fashions would be considered good examples of how to dress for your round of golf.

Smart denim pants may be worn in the Clubhouse and on the adjacent patios, but not on the Golf Course or practice facilities. Vespra Hills reserves the right to refuse privileges if a persons attire is not in keeping with Vespra Hills standards.

Members are reminded that they are responsible for the dress code of their Guests.

Here are some examples of inappropriate attire:

Hats on Backwards
T-shirts
Beach Wear
Crop or Halter Tops
Spaghetti Strap Tops
Leggings
Metal Spikes
Tracksuits

SOFT SPIKES

Only soft spikes are allowed on the course. Golf shoes are available for sale in the Golf Shop. Please, no golf shoes in the Dining Room after 5:00pm. Take care at all times to brush the grass, etc off your golf shoes before entering the building.

CELL PHONES

As a courtesy to all members and guests of the club, cell phones should be turned off when on the golf course, or in the Dining Room. If it is absolutely necessary for you to be on-call, please use the vibrating feature and don't raise your voice when responding to the call. Please, be aware of and considerate of those around you.

DESIGNATED NON-SMOKING

All Vespra Hills buildings are designated Non-Smoking. An area with patio tables and chairs has been provided to the west side of the clubhouse on the lawn for smokers. Please be very careful when smoking on the golf course.

COURSE OPENING TIMES

Refer to the website and email newsletter or ask the Golf Shop staff for changes to starting times throughout the season.

GOLF SHOP

The Golf Shop will open one hour prior to the first tee time. The Golf Shop is now located in the Clubhouse. Golf event information is available in the Golf Events Brochure and will be made available in the Golf Shop throughout the season. Merchandise will be available for purchase, and we would like to remind members that clubs or any other merchandise not stocked may be ordered.

LESSONS BY THE TEACHING PRO

Members may book lessons with our Teaching Pro in advance. Lessons must be booked directly with our Teaching Pro either by email: ben@vesprahillsgolfclub.com, or phone: 705-721-3303 ext. 320. Lesson rates are available upon request from Ben Groome. All lessons must be paid through the Golf Shop. Cash is not accepted for lessons. Failure to abide by this policy will be done at the member's own risk.
Cash or E-transfer are not accepted for lessons.

ON COURSE WASHROOMS

Washroom/rain shelters are available on the fourth tee Sand Hills, fifth tee Homestead, and fourth tee Still Valley. These facilities will automatically lock approximately 3 1/2 hours after the last 18 hole tee off to discourage vandalism. You'll be able to release the lock to get out but not in after that time.

SNACK BAR/LAWN SERVICE

The Snack Bar is located in the old Golf Shop with access through the west doors. The Snack Bar opens 30 minutes before the first tee time. The Lawn opens at 11:00am with our lunch menu. The Snack Bar and Lawn close at 7:00pm. These hours are subject to change throughout the season and will be communicated through email.

SPOUSAL PRIVILEGES

A member's spouse is a guest, and has no membership privileges. If a member's spouse would like to be able to use the food and beverage facilities independently, they should consider a Social or Associate Membership.

Details are available at the office or on our website.

CLUB STORAGE

The club storage area is strictly staff only. The new club storage area is located in the old Golf Shop building. We do not re-charge batteries for electric walking carts. We have limited spaces to store clubs and clubs on cart.

LOCKER RENTALS

Please enquire at the office for availability, sizes, and fees for seasonal locker rentals for members, and daily locker rentals if desired for guests.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal forms for the following year will be available during the month of October. Renewals and post dated cheques should be returned by January 15th as stated on the renewal form. Members not returning renewals or indicating their intentions by this date may be deemed to have re-signed.

Membership changes will be prorated on a biannual basis only. Members are responsible for keeping their membership in an active status. No reminders will be issued in advance of these dates. For renewing members with outstanding entrance fees, these fees are due on the anniversary of the date of joining. Members are encouraged to ensure their entrance fee status is up to date to remain in good standing.

EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

If a Member or their Guests, at any time, does not comply with the rules and regulations of the Club as are in force, or if the conduct or behaviour of any such person, whether inside or outside the Club, is in the opinion of the Club, injurious or detrimental to the character, reputation and image of the Club and its Members, the Club may call upon the Member to resign.

If the Member refuses to resign within seven days of a request to do so, the Club may expel the Member and upon expulsion shall cease to be a Member of the Club and the Membership shall be forfeited.

Instead of calling on the Member to resign, the Club may, at its discretion, suspend the offending member from use of the Club and from all of the rights and privileges of Membership for such a period as determined by the Club.

It is specifically provided and acknowledged that non-compliance with the rules and regulations of the Club shall be cause for the Club to expel or suspend the member.

HOLDING POLICY

Holding Policy is only available for members who have paid their entrance fee in full. For more information, please refer to our website or ask the main office.

END OF DAY

The Golf Course is closed for play 2 1/2 hours after the last available tee time. You may be asked to end your game early and come in from the Golf Course if you are still on the course beyond this time.

MONERIS VAULT

Vespra Hills will now be processing money on account purchases for our members through The Moneris Vault. Members can set up an account that is linked to your credit card with a limit set by you and payments are processed by Vespra Hills on the 15th and 30th of each month. Your member card is linked to your account and can be used for making purchases for green fees and merchandise in our Golf Shop and food & beverage in our Snack Bar or Dining Room. Sign up forms are available in our main office. Contact nancy@vesprahillsgolfclub.com for more information.

ADDING CREDIT TO A MEMBER ACCOUNT

If they wish to do so, a member may deposit up to \$1000.00 to their member account at the main office. All members must present their member card for a money on account transaction. Subsequent transactions will be drawn from that account until it reaches \$0.00 at which time they may either bump up the balance again, or switch to using their debit/credit card. This money on account may be used for golf, merchandise, or in the food and beverage areas.

SPRING LAKES ACCESS

Our members will be permitted to use the facilities at Spring Lakes Golf Club in Stouffville, upon presentation of their current membership card from Vespra Hills, and Visa or MasterCard. A Vespra Hills member may be turned away from their tee time at Spring Lakes if they fail to present a current Vespra Hills membership card. A Vespra Hills member will be charged a guest game fee for their golf. All tee times for Spring Lakes must be made directly through the Vespra Hills Golf Shop 7 days in advance.

DINING ROOM

Dining Room hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday from 5:00pm-close. These hours may vary throughout the season. Please refer to section "Dress Code Regulations" on Page 10 for appropriate attire. Reservations can be made by calling the Dining Room at ext. 231. Reservations are required on Friday's and Saturday's. Please inform the Dining Room in advance if possible for reservations of groups over eight guests. Our Dining Room menu is able to accommodate dietary concerns and restriction; please ask your server for details on these items.

MUSIC ON THE COURSE

Members and their Guests are welcome to enjoy music on our Golf Course. We request that Members and their Guests use discretion to respect the needs of others who may not wish to hear music on the course and manage the volume of their device accordingly. Music should be at a volume that can only be heard by your group. All Members and their Guests should be mindful of areas on the course where your music can be easily overheard by other golfers.

GOLFER SAFETY & ETIQUETTE

SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

At the Vespra Hills Golf Club we are committed to the prevention of golf ball injuries while fostering good relations between members and on-course staff. We need your help to ensure a safe environment for you to enjoy and for our workers who maintain the golf course.

FOR EARLY MORNING GOLFERS

Our Maintenance Staff begins work early in the morning and they are committed to providing a quality product for your golfing enjoyment. In order to accomplish this task, our greens mowers and hole changer need to work efficiently and stay ahead of the players. If you are an early morning golfer and you encounter our staff cutting a green or changing the flagstick location for the day, we ask that you have some patience, wait a few moments, let them finish their task and move out of the way.

Do not hit onto the green if the flagstick is out.

Once our workers are out of the way or have waived you up it is safe to hit on to the green.

DURING YOUR ROUND OF GOLF

Maintenance equipment and workers have the right-of-way on the golf course. The equipment operator will stop the machine and wait for your shot. If there seems to be some confusion, please wait for the worker to wave for play to continue or move away from the area.

YOU NEED TO KNOW

Golfers may be held responsible for any personal injury or damage to equipment and property (Vespra Hills or privately owned) as a result of not adhering to these safety procedures.

SAFETY TIPS

If at any time you or another member of your group loses control or sight of a shot, warn others by shouting, *fore*. If you hear someone yell *fore*, take appropriate steps to protect yourself as quickly as possible. Always stand well behind the person hitting their ball. Know your clubs. Take the time to know how far you tend to hit a ball with each club in your bag. Do not hit until the group ahead is safely out of range.

WEATHER SAFETY

During inclement weather and lightning risk, the following areas should be avoided:

- Bodies of Water
- Golf Carts
- Open Areas
- Isolated Trees
- Wire Fences
- Hilltops & High Places

Please be advised that under wet conditions the ground may become slippery and appropriate pre-cautions should be taken.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

In the event of a medical emergency dial 911.

If you call 911 please inform Golf Shop staff of arriving Emergency Personnel. There are four Automatic External Defibrillator on site; they are located in each of the course washrooms (3) as well as the main area outside of our office, next to the north exit of the clubhouse (1).

FIRE EMERGENCY

In the event of fire please call 911 and proceed to the nearest exit of the building.

Please make your way to the reassembly area across the driveway to the east of the old Golf Shop

Emergency route maps showing nearest exits are posted throughout the building.

AODA

(Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act)

As per Ontario Regulation 420/07 of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 Vespra Hills Golf Club has policies and procedures in place governing the provision of goods and services to persons with disabilities.

More information regarding Vespra Hills Golf Club AODA policies and procedures can be requested by email, written letter or verbally at the Vespra Hills office.

ALCOHOL POLICY

A part of our business is selling food and beverages in a bar, restaurant, banquet hall and golf course setting. We are dedicated to our members' pleasure and satisfaction. However, when it comes to the sale and service of alcohol, by law, we will not permit drunkenness, nor will we serve patrons who are troublesome, dangerous or under the legal drinking age. To support this position, our house policy is as follows:

All alcohol must be purchased from Vespra Hills Golf Club.
No Outside alcohol will be permitted anywhere on the Vespra Hills Golf Club property.

PERMITTED LOCATIONS FOR ALCOHOL USE

Alcohol can only be consumed in the following licensed locations:

The Dining Room
The Banquet Hall
The Attic
The Snack Bar
The Lawn
The Balcony
The Golf Course

All locations outside of the above listed are unlicensed locations. For reference, alcohol cannot be consumed in but are not limited to the following locations:

Parking Lot
Driveway
Clubhouse Locker Rooms
Clubhouse Storage Areas
All Washrooms

and all other areas that are not licensed for alcohol use.

If any Member of guest does not follow our Alcohol policy, they may be asked to leave and disciplinary action may be taken.

UNDERAGE CUSTOMERS

You must be 19 years and older to be served alcohol.
ID will be checked.

The following forms of ID will be accepted:

Ontario Driver's Licence
Canadian Armed Forces I.D. card
Canadian passport or a Canadian Citizenship card

Parental declaration of their child's age is not valid.

Parents or age of majority escorts are prohibited from purchasing, giving or sharing alcoholic drinks with underage guests.

CUSTOMER ALCOHOL USE

Staff will not serve anyone to the point of intoxication.

Staff will not serve anyone who appears intoxicated.

Drinking any beverage is not permitted on the dance floor.

In the last one hour of an event, only one standard drink per person will be permitted.

There may be no last call. A posted bar schedule will be made available at the start of each event.

The use of illegal drugs is prohibited by law.

FOOD & NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

Staff will offer competitively priced non-alcohol and low alcohol beverages.

Staff will encourage patrons to eat food when drinking alcohol.

We offer a wide-variety menu at all times.

MANAGING THE INTOXICATED

In the event that a customer becomes intoxicated or is acting dangerously, staff will carefully and politely deal with that person and if necessary seek outside assistance from police.

TRANSPORTATION

Anyone deemed unsafe to drive will not be permitted to drive away from the golf course. Our staff will gladly assist patrons to find a safe way home.
Please ask for assistance.

Our staff are Smart Serve trained in the legal and safe service of alcohol. They recognize signs of intoxication and know how to intervene to keep customers safe.

WAIVER, VARIATION AND INTERPRETATION OF RULES & REGULATIONS

Notwithstanding, anything set forth in any of the Rules and Regulations, the Management may, at its discretion, waive or vary any or all of the said Rules and Regulations in any particular case. Interpretation of these Rules and Regulations by the management or by any authorized Vespra Hills Golf Club official or employee to whom such authority is delegated by the management, is conclusive.

QR CODE

Open up your phone camera to scan the below code and access all of the documents mentioned in this handbook.

