

Golf

Sun City Hilton Head

GOLFER'S HANDBOOK



2016

Sun City Hilton Head Golfer's Handbook

2016 Edition

Sun City Hilton Head (SCHH) offers a wide range of golf and fellowship opportunities for residents who play only occasionally as well as those who wish to play every day. In addition to individual tee times, which can be booked online, there are a number of golf associations for men, women, couples, and 9- and 18-hole players. Review the Chartered Club listings in *SunSations* for more information.

Resident discount golf packages are available to fit every need, and a United States Golf Association (USGA) handicap can be established and maintained online or at any Sun City golf shop. Ask a golf shop attendant for details about these programs.

This handbook provides general information and guidance for resident and guest use of the Sun City Hilton Head golf facilities. Course policies and golfer responsibilities are addressed under individual topic headings.

These policies and rules have been reviewed and approved by the Sun City Hilton Head Board of Directors. Any questions regarding these topics should be directed to the Head Golf Professionals or to golf course staff.

Playing golf is a rich part of the Sun City Hilton Head lifestyle. One only has to become involved in one or more of the activities to begin a lifetime of enjoyment.

On the cover: Hidden Cypress Golf Course. Photo by Rich de Asla.



Hidden Cypress.
Photo by Jack Davis, Hawkeye Concepts Photography

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Okatie Creek

I. Reservation/Tee Time Procedures: A resident tee time may be reserved via the Sun City online reservation system (Chelsea) at <http://hilthead.chelseareservations.com>. New residents must visit one of the golf shops to create a Chelsea account. *Note: Chelsea reservation details are available in each golf shop.*

II. Registration and Check-in: All golfers and their guests must check in with the golf shop prior to commencing play. Golfers are encouraged to arrive and check in with the golf shop well before their scheduled tee time; however, *golfers must check in at least 15 minutes prior to their scheduled tee time to avoid possible loss of tee time and/or a cancellation charge.*

III. Cancellations: Reserved tee times may be canceled by phoning the golf shop at least two hours prior to the scheduled tee time. Golfers are encouraged to cancel tee times as early as possible to allow the time to be assigned to other golfers. On days designated as cart path only, tee times may be canceled up to the time of reservation without penalty. *Golfers who do not check in or cancel a reservation are subject to a club charge for the round.*

IV. Rain Checks: If rain, lightning or high winds threaten play, a rain check will be issued to each golfer in accordance with the following schedule:

Rain begins before the 4th hole is completed: 18-hole rain check offered.

Rain begins after the 4th hole is completed: 9-hole rain check offered.

Rain begins after the 13th hole is completed: No rain check offered.

Rain checks are valid for 12 months from date of issue and may be presented for play at the golf course where issued.

V. Dress Code: The golf courses of Sun City Hilton Head maintain and enforce dress standards consistent with quality golf courses in the area. All residents and guests (including juniors) must conform to the stated dress standards at all times. Residents and guests not conforming to dress code standards will be asked to make the necessary changes before playing or using practice facilities.

- **Gentlemen/Boys:** Collared shirts or turtlenecks, Bermuda/golf shorts or slacks.
- **Ladies/Girls:** Collared shirts, sleeveless blouses with or without collar, Bermuda/golf shorts, crop pants and/or slacks.
- **Shoes:** Golf shoes with soft spikes (including golf sandals) or athletic shoes are required. *Metal spikes are not allowed on any Sun City golf courses.*
- **Prohibited:** Denim apparel, gym shorts, sweat pants, tank tops, swim suits and related attire are not acceptable on the golf courses or practice areas.

VI. Golf Etiquette: Playing golf at Sun City Hilton Head is intended to be a pleasant pastime for all participants.

Warm Up: Arrive early to give enough time to warm up properly.

Avoid Slow Play: Pace of Play is an important issue. It impacts the capacity of a golf course to optimize the rounds played and generally ensures the best possible golf experience for the golfing public. Currently, Pace of Play for each course is as follows:

- Argent Lakes: 3 hours and 53 minutes
- Hidden Cypress: 4 hours and 15 minutes
- Okatie Creek: 4 hours and 5 minutes

To maintain the times to play each course, golfers are encouraged to use the following guidelines for Pace of Play:

- Tee it forward.
- Keep visual contact with the group ahead.
- Walk at a reasonable speed between shots.
- Forget honors entirely; play ready golf at all times.
- Experiment with rounds in which continuous putting is mandatory.
- Begin planning your next shot as you approach the ball by studying the strength and direction of the wind.
- At the ball, check the lie, select a club, visualize the swing and then play the shot.
- Take no more than 30 to 45 seconds to hit a shot after selecting a club.
- Take no more than 15 seconds to putt after picking up the coin.
- If you are not ready to play during your turn, encourage one of your fellow golfers to play.
- Mark the scorecard at the next tee, not beside the green.
- Never park a golf cart on the front side of the green.
- After hitting a shot, hold on to the club. Return it to the bag after the cart reaches its next stop.



VI. Golf Etiquette *(continued)*

Maintain the Course:

- Practice the three “Rs”: Repair, Replace and Rake.
 - **Repair** ball marks on greens.
 - **Replace** your divots. On tee boxes, use sand provided. In fairways, replace the divot or use sand.
 - **Rake** traps or bunkers. Wherever possible, enter traps from the low side of the bunker. After taking a shot, rake your footsteps and any others within reach and leave rakes on the sides or edge of bunkers.
- Be alert for wet conditions and avoid driving into or over them.
- Observe all signage on the course or around the clubhouse.
- Smoking is prohibited in all clubhouses and on all practice facilities.
- Do not throw cigarette or cigar butts on the course.

Adopt-a-Hole: Sun City’s golf staff created an “Adopt-A-Hole” program in which golfers are asked to make extra efforts to maintain and repair certain holes during their round. Participation in Adopt-A-Hole will help ensure that the community’s golf courses are always in top condition for every golfer.

Hole Assignments (based on the first letter of the last name)

1: A-Ba	7: Gs-He	13: P-Q
2: Bb-Bz	8: Hi-I	14: Ra-Ro
3: Ca-Co	9: J-K	15: Ru-Si
4: Cr-D	10: L	16: Sk-Th
5: E-F	11: Ma-Me	17: Ti-V
6: Ga-Gr	12: Mi-O	18: W-Z



VII. Golf Course Safety: Golfers are encouraged to utilize good judgment and common sense during play. Particular caution should be exercised regarding (but not limited to) the following conditions:

- **Excessive speeding:** Many of the golf carts owned by residents are capable of operating at speeds far in excess of what is safe on the course. Golfers are required to maintain speeds of 12 mph or less in all course areas, around clubhouses and in bag drop areas.
- **Unsafe golf cart operation:** Golf carts should not be driven along steep side hills or onto the face of bunkers. Caution should be used driving near water. Carts must exit fairways at designated signs and never approach closer than 20 yards to greens (except for handicap carts).
- **Threatening weather:** The Lowcountry is subject to sudden and violent weather conditions. It is the responsibility of individual golfers to remain alert to changing weather conditions and exit the course or seek shelter in the event of threatening weather. Lightning, violent wind, hail and similar events are considered threatening weather. *Note: Sun City Hilton Head does not maintain or operate any type of warning alarm or siren.*
- **Danger from wildlife:** Sun City golf courses are home to a wide range of wildlife including alligators, snakes, foxes, armadillos, squirrels and raccoons. Golfers must exercise caution around native wildlife. Never feed, approach or attempt to pet wildlife. Use particular caution when approaching lagoons where alligators may be present. Do not, under any circumstances, enter the water or high brush around lagoons. Use caution when entering wooded areas to retrieve a ball.
- Restrooms, ice, water fountains and AED machines (emergency defibrillators) are located throughout the golf courses. See the course information in this handbook for details.

VIII. Accommodation of Disabilities: Golfers with qualifying disabilities that limit their ability to walk from their golf cart to teeing and putting areas may obtain a “handicap” flag at time of check-in at the golf shop. This flag allows the golf cart to be driven closer to (but not onto) the teeing area and closer to (but not onto) the putting greens. All carts must remain a minimum of 20 yards from teeing areas, bunkers and putting surfaces. The handicap flag must be returned to the golf shop upon completion of play. Handicap flags will not be issued under cart-path-only conditions.

Note: The golf shop can supply a list of disabilities and outline the process to qualify for a handicap flag.

IX. Practice Facilities: Range balls and baskets are the property of the facility and may not be removed from the practice areas for any reason.

Range plans are not transferrable and plan holders may not share balls.

All practice facilities, Driving Ranges, Putting Greens and short game areas are non-smoking at all times.

Golf instruction is limited to our practice facilities only by Sun City Hilton Head golf staff (see the Community Rules for more information).

X. Golf Course Staff Authority and Responsibility: The staff at each Sun City golf course are empowered and required to monitor and ensure that all golfers and guests are in compliance with the standards noted in this manual. The staff members can inform and assist golfers and guests to ensure that compliance. The ultimate cooperation and responsibility, however, resides with golfers and guests. Golfers and guests who cannot or will not comply with instructions from staff will be denied access to the course or removed if already in play.

Questions and disputes regarding enforcement of standards should be referred to the Head Professional at each golf course.



Photo by Rick Taylor.

XI. Helpful Information

Online reservations (Chelsea reservation system)

<http://hilthead.chelseareservations.com>

Handicap Reporting

www.ghin.com

GHIN also has a reporting app for Android phones and iPhones. Visit the GHIN website above for more information.

SCHH Golf Club Websites: There are a number of websites accessible through the Sun City Hilton Head Community Association website, www.SunCityHiltonHead.org. Click on the “Golf” link for golf news, course descriptions and more.

To access information about Sun City’s golf clubs, log in to the website by clicking on “Member Login” in the right-hand corner. Enter your member ID (activity card number) and password and click “Login.” From the Resident Central homepage, click on “Community Groups.” Use the alphabetical lookup or search tool to find and join the following groups:

- Men’s 18-Hole Golf Association (MGA)
- Men’s 9-Hole Golf
- Women’s 18-Hole Golf Association (WGA)
- Couples Golf (both 9-hole and 18-hole)
- Golf Advisory Committee

For contact information for the Head Professionals or the Golf Course Maintenance Department, see the Resident Directory or the Community Directory in *SunSations*.

XII. Frequently Asked Questions

1) My 12-year-old grandson likes to play golf with me when he visits. Is it acceptable for him to drive the cart while on the course?

No. Only licensed drivers are allowed to operate golf carts within Sun City, including on golf courses.

2) How many individuals may occupy a golf cart while on the course?

Only two individuals are allowed to occupy a cart while on the course. This is for the safety of passengers traveling on uneven surfaces.

3) What is the Golf Advisory Committee?

The Golf Advisory Committee is a Board Appointed Committee made up of residents who provide evaluation, assistance and recommendations to the Board of Directors as necessary regarding all golf matters.

XII. Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

4) How do I establish a SC handicap?

Sun City Hilton Head is a member of the U.S. Golf Association. Membership may be obtained by visiting the Okatie Creek Pro Shop. A staff member will be happy to explain how to post your scores and obtain your handicap.

5) Can I walk on the golf course at any time when not playing golf?

No. This is strictly prohibited by our Community Rules and Governing Documents.

6) Are there discounted rates for residents?

Yes, there are several packages available that may be customized to your needs. Visit any golf shop for more details.

7) How do I make a tee time?

Tee time reservation can be made online at <http://hilthead.chelseareservations.com> or via telephone within 24 hours of the desired tee time.

8) I am new to Sun City. How do I get into the “swing of things?”

Sun City has several golf organizations for men, women, couples, and 9- and 18-hole play. Ask a golf shop staff member about these clubs or see the Chartered Club News section of *SunSations*.

9) Can I get golf instruction at our courses?

Group clinics as well as individual instruction are available at each golf course. Contact any golf shop for details.

10) The ranger keeps telling me I need to speed up. I want to play at my own pace.

Keep in mind that one slow group delays every foursome behind them and reduces their enjoyment of the game. The Sun City golf staff want every golfer to enjoy their round, and cooperation in keeping pace is a necessity that every player must support.

11) Can I walk the course when playing golf?

Due to the Pace of Play concerns, walking the golf course during play will be at the discretion of the golf staff.

12) I just moved into our neighborhood and want to start a new golf group. How do I get this started?

Speak with your Neighborhood Representative. Contact information can be found in the Neighborhood News section of *SunSations*.

XIII. Questions, Comments and Suggestions: Input or inquiries for improving golf at Sun City Hilton Head can be referred to the golf course staff or Head Golf Professional at each course. Residents are also encouraged to attend Golf Advisory Committee meetings. Meeting times and committee contact information can be found in the BAC News section of *SunSations*.

XIV. Golf Course Information



Argent Lakes Golf Course

1291 Sgt. William Jasper Blvd. North
Hardeeville, SC 29927
(843) 645-0507

ARGENT LAKES

Restroom/AED locations: In the clubhouse, and between holes 6 and 7. No restrooms on back 9 holes.

Ice/Water fountains: In the clubhouse, and between holes 6 and 7. Water available on hole 13.



HIDDEN CYPRESS
Golf Club

Hidden Cypress Golf Course

671 Cypress Hills Drive
Bluffton, SC 29909
(843) 705-4999

Restrooms/AED locations: In the clubhouse, and between holes 3 and 4, and holes 13 and 14.

Ice/Water fountains: In the clubhouse, and between holes 3 and 4, and holes 13 and 14.



Okatie Creek

Okatie Creek Golf Course

60 Sun City Club Lane
Bluffton, SC 29909
(843) 705-4653

Restrooms/AED locations: In the clubhouse, and between holes 5 and 6, and holes 13 and 14.

Ice/Water fountains: In the clubhouse, and between holes 5 and 6, and holes 13 and 14.

The logo features a stylized red and white circular emblem on the left, resembling a camera shutter or a golf ball's dimples. To its right, the word "Golf" is written in a large, black, serif font. Below "Golf", the words "Sun City Hilton Head" are written in a smaller, red, serif font.

Golf

Sun City Hilton Head

www.SunCityHiltonHead.org

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Hidden Cypress Golf Course: (843) 705-4999

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Online reservations

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Handicap Reporting

<http://www.ghin.com/>

<http://schmga.ghinclub.com/club>