

Yellow Stakes on the Edges of the Fairways.... Part 2

Do I Drive in Fairways or in the Roughs?!?!

The yellow traffic stakes continue to be a topic of discussion. Most golfers want to do the right thing while others get frustrated with the request of trying to do the right thing.

Understand.... I'm a golfer. And... as a golfer... I get frustrated after 3-putting, shanking a shot, hitting one OB, missing the green, hitting into a bunker... whatever. When I get back into my cart, the focus of driving the golf cart takes a backseat to the priority of me explaining to my golf partner what I did wrong.... I came over the top, I lifted my head, I chose the wrong club, why were you talking in my back-swing... the list of excuses is endless. This reflective diatribe results in me driving away from my location and not paying attention to where I'm driving my cart. I get focused on where my terrible shot ended up and/or where my partner's golf ball finished. **My request for golfers is.... DO NOT LOSE FOCUS of where you are driving.** 😊



I'm asked constantly... where should we drive our golf carts.... in the **fairway** or in the **dormant roughs**? This is an interesting question that isn't simple to answer. As I stated above, my request is for golfers to take ownership of where they are driving. If there are noticeable wear patterns from cart traffic, let's do what we can to avoid these areas. Typically, wear areas are seen at the first entry point onto the fairway or the last exit point by the yellow stakes.



After rain events, or a nightly irrigation cycle that was done to flush 'salts', overly wet - saturated areas can become evident. Don't drive through these areas and avoid 'tire-rutting' and increased compaction.

The yellow directional stakes have been requested by the Golf Committee and Golf Maintenance to designate where we should begin making our way back to the cart path, typically to the left....(*Not to the right side of the green at hole 1 CW* 😊). The Par 3's are suggested as 'Cart Path ONLY' holes. Please stay on the cart path on these short holes unless personal health issues deem necessary to drive to an errant shot. Be respectful of the golf course, and fellow Members, by adhering to these requests.



Most golf courses have a '90-degree' policy defined as.... from the cart path, to your golf ball, and back to the cart path. Again... I golf, and this mindset isn't practical when working to maintain pace of play and trying to be considerate to those behind you. Let's get back to the initial question above... should we drive in fairways or drive in the dormant roughs during the winter? My suggestion would be to drive **IN** the fairway to avoid cart traffic wear on grass that isn't able to recover because of it being dormant'. But it's 100% okay to drive in the dormant rough if the turf isn't matted down and/or traffic wear patterns don't exist. So... the long answer to the question is.... use the uncommon, '**Common-Sense**' approach to where you should be driving. If everyone does their part and adopts this mindset, there won't be an issue....

Happy Golfing!!!!