

COURSE UPDATE – July 2013

With the major work completed on the course our attention is now focused on the Bunkers. Yes, I have heard the cries and we are on the case. To assist going forward with maintaining the bunkers in playable condition, below please find instructions of perhaps the best way to rake the bunker if you are unfortunate to find your ball in one.

So you have landed in the Bunker! On arriving at the bunker, locate the lowest spot around the edge of the bunker that is convenient to your golf ball. This will be your entry and exit point. Identifying this spot keeps you from walking down a steep facing (possibly damaging the turf), stepping off a higher rim (leaving deeper footprints), or having to walk a longer distance which would require raking a greater area of sand.

Once you've identified the most convenient low spot from which to enter and exit the bunker. Notice that the golfer is carrying the rake into the bunker with him. Contrary to what some golfers believe, it is not only within the rules to take a rake into a bunker with you, it is advisable to do so because it speeds up the process. (Note: Be sure you do not allow the rake to touch the sand, except when you drop it before playing the shot. If you do anything with the rake - or your club - that can be construed as "testing the condition of the hazard," then you *are* in violation of the rules



Play the shot. Notice that the golfer has dropped the rake directly behind the area where he has taken his stance. You should drop the rake at a convenient spot, within reaching distance. Otherwise, in retrieving the rake, you'll just add more area of sand that needs to be tended.



Begin raking over the signs of play from the sand - the area where your club made contact with the sand, and your footprints. Pull the tines of the rake toward you as you begin moving back to the rim of the bunker. But be careful not to pull *too* much sand toward you. The idea is to restore an even surface to the sand without displacing too much sand. If you are pulling too much sand toward you, try pushing the tines outward a few times, too. All the while, you should be progressing back to the edge of the bunker.



To complete the raking, step out of the bunker and make your final few passes over the sand with the rake. Unless otherwise instructed replace the rake inside the bunker parallel to the line of play



When you are finished the sand surface should be evened out with no signs of divots or footprints. No excess sand will have been pulled toward the bunker edge but there will be little furrows left from the tines of the rake.

The important thing is the sand should be in as good or better condition than that which you found it in. Make sure golfers behind you have a good quality bunker from which to play any necessary sand shots.