



## *SPOOK ROCK GOLF CLUB*

Joe Tarangelo - President

Golf Course #

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Fellow Members:

After a brutally cold and snowy winter it's time to start thinking about the 2026 golf season. The Spook Rock Men's Club had another successful season in 2025 and we look forward to an even better 2026 season! Due to the welcoming nature and camaraderie of our members there continues to be tremendous interest in joining the Men's Club year after year. Our goal every year is for all of our members to enjoy a positive experience and have everyone return for the upcoming season. **Our annual in person meeting will take place Thursday, March 19th at 7pm in the Chalet at Spook Rock.** Please try to attend if possible.

The board is pleased to attach to this email the 2026 Membership Application, the Tournament Schedule, the Men's Club roster, tournament rules and Mid Week League application. **We have simplified the Application Form for 2026. Our membership fees will remain the same as last season. We want everyone to fill out the Application Form this year so we have up to date information for all of our members. That means both existing members and new members.**

I want to thank our Head Golf Professional Jim McCann for providing the Men's Club with his time and his support. Jim provides us with the tee times needed to get all of us on the golf course in a timely manner. We are looking forward to 2026 and working with Jim, Assistant Pro Chris Cohen and the rest of the staff to keep improving our Men's Club experience. Spook Rock continues to make course improvements since Troon management took over. You will continue to see Superintendent Burgess (Trapper) Van Dunk and his staff working hard to improve course conditions daily. Trapper is a proud Suffern High School and Penn State University graduate with a BS in Turfgrass Science. He has 19 years experience as a superintendent and has contributed his expertise to various golf courses in the Metropolitan area.

One of the changes we made last season was increasing the prize money for our team and individual tournaments. I'm happy to say it will remain the same this season as each tournament will pay out \$75pp for 1st place, \$50pp for 2nd place and \$25pp for 3rd place in pro shop credit. The pro shop credit is for merchandise and equipment only. It is not for greens fees or range balls.

A new feature for tournament play that the Men's Club is adding this season is live scoring during each tournament so you can see up to the minute standings and results. **In order to make this successful we need everyone to download the Golf Genius app and one person in each foursome will be responsible for entering the scores. All you need to do is enter the gross score for each member of the foursome after every hole and Golf Genius will update the rest so you can see a live leaderboard.** If it is done correctly it will enhance our tournament experience and take some of the Sunday work load off of Brian Pickell and Tom Demont. You will not have to wait for results, they will be updated hole by hole.

The Men's Club uses text messaging (including the GroupMe App) and email for communication and to send out important club and tournament information. This includes inclement weather notifications, "day of" rule changes, pairing changes, openings, etc. It is imperative that if you did not receive this letter by email, either we do not have your correct email address, or you have a SPAM filter blocking it. It is your responsibility to provide us with a valid email account. It will be your loss not to be informed. Please carefully review your information on last year's roster (telephone number and email address) and let us know if any changes are needed.

Please review the 2026 Application form that is attached carefully. Early sign up is important for all existing members along with registration fees because of the number of members in the club and the waiting list to become a new member. Please have all fees paid by **April 15th** or risk being in jeopardy of losing your spot. You can pay by **Venmo (@Andy-Firestone-1)** or by check. **This is important: If you are paying using Venmo, to protect the Men's Club from any possible tax implications make sure before you hit "Pay" for the final time, the "Turn on for Purchases" button is to the left and gray so it sends as "Payment between Friends."** If you are paying by check please make the check out to **Spook Rock Golf Club**. The Men's Club will cover the costs of our legacy members (over 80 years old and a paying member for the past 10 years ). Also to recognize the exceptional service the men's club receives from the pro shop staff, a \$10 pp year end gratuity is included in the annual dues. Please complete your applications and mail them (include your payment if you do not use Venmo) to:

**Spook Rock Golf Club  
C/O Andy Firestone  
28 Juniper Circle  
Middletown NY 10940**

**Please check the schedule carefully as some tournaments have been moved to different dates. After holding our Club Championship in September the last couple of years it will be moving to July this season because of a conflict with Rosh Hashanah in September. The**

**Qualifying rounds will be played on July 11th and 12th.** We will hold the match play portion on 2 successive weekends following the qualifying tournament. **These dates are mandatory. If you qualify and are not able to play on those dates please inform the committee so we can give the next qualifier the chance to compete.** Review the schedule for the dates of the match play portion of The Club Championship. Keep in mind playing in the qualifying rounds is still important since you can earn points for the interclub matches even if you cannot play in the match play portion of the Club Championship. The Championship Flight will be a 36 Hole Final with 18 played on Saturday and 18 Sunday. The rest of the flights will be an 18 Hole Sunday Final. To guarantee we get two qualifying rounds completed in the event of inclement weather, the rain date will be Saturday July 18th and match play will begin the next day and continue the following Saturday and Sunday. Congratulations to our 2025 Club Champion Frank Grasiola in his 1st season as a member of the Men's Club!

We will once again have **4 flights for the Club Championship.** Last year's Champs will get a bye into the match-play portion for this year. The flights for the Club Championship will be determined based upon the **handicap revision the Sunday before the Qualifier.** The handicaps for the Governor's cup matches will lock based upon your effective handicap on the day you play your match. The handicap for flight placement for the Challenge and Friendship Cups will be determined based upon the **June 1st handicap revision.**

The first round of the Governor's Cup and the 1st and 2nd rounds of the Club Championship Qualifier **MUST** be played on the dates indicated on the schedule prior to sign up. In the event of a situation forcing cancellation of a particular date (rainout, course becomes unavailable, for example), the Tournament Committee will reschedule and set new dates. **Once again this year we will not be allowing "side by side" playing of matches. If the only day you can schedule a match in the match play portion of the tournament is the day of another tournament you will not be allowed to participate in that week's tournament while playing your match.**

The Governor's Cup is one of our most popular tournaments and I would like everyone to make an effort to complete your matches in a timely manner. My goal is to have all matches in all flights completed by the end of July. That gives us two and a half months after the initial matches to complete 3 matches in each flight. The Competition Committee will be contacting the winners of each match to make sure you are scheduling your next match ASAP. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to change dates due to unforeseen circumstances (which don't include personal inconvenience), but absent those, these are hard and fast dates for matches.

The Ryder Cup, another popular tournament, will be open to any 2 man teams that would like to participate as long as you meet the tournament guidelines. Some teams may receive a 1st round bye based on the draw. We plan on having a Ryder Cup weekend for the Round of 32 matches on

September 19th and 20th with everyone playing on the 19th and the winners playing again on the 20th. If you advance please try your best to schedule your matches ASAP so we can complete this tournament in a reasonable time frame.

**Head Professional Jim McCann and his staff will be hosting another Member Guest Weekend this June.** The tournament has been very successful in past seasons and enjoyed by all who participated. The 3-day member guest event will be held June 26-28th. The event will feature 9 holes of practice golf on Friday evening, matches over 27 holes on Saturday and 18 holes on Sunday. Each flight will consist of six 2-man teams playing 9 holes of match play against each team in their flight. There will be meals with an open bar included all weekend long. Keep an eye out for emails as we get closer to the date.

The Spook Rock **Member-Guest** Tournament will be held on Saturday October 10th. We had another successful tournament last year and raised money for the Men's Club support of Junior Golf. The proceeds are used to sponsor scholarships for the local school golf teams and we are now contributing golf equipment to them as well. Please help support the event. We hope more members will participate and bring guests. If you have a suggestion to improve the day's event, please share it with us. Our hope is to make this day a feel-good day about our club and our course. It gives the members a valuable opportunity to entertain a business associate, friend or family member. Please support it. Please let us know if you want to be part of the **Member-Guest** committee. We would be happy to have any help we can, making arrangements, raising money, etc.

We have scheduled our 2026 team matches against the Rotella and Patriot Hills Golf Clubs. The dates have been confirmed. We will have 10 qualifying event rounds to make the Rotella Challenge Cup match, noted with **\*\*\*\*** on the schedule, and 6 noted with **+++** for the Patriot Hills Friendship Cup match. The size of the teams may be changing as well as the cost to play. We will announce it as soon as we know. Key tournaments have a weighted value of points. In the event a qualifying tournament is canceled because of weather or similar reasons, every effort will be made to reschedule, however we all will have to accept the results of the events which are completed if we cannot reschedule.

Because we have 3 flights for the team matches with Rotella/Patriot and 4 flights for the Club Championship we do have some players who are in the A flight for the interclub matches and B flight for the Club Championship. All A flight players will have to play the same tees as everyone else in their flight to accumulate points. For example, If you are an A flight player for the Challenge Cup but a B flight player for the Club Championship qualifier you will not be eligible for Challenge Cup points unless you play in the A flight. You can play the Club Championship in the B flight but you will not receive Challenge Cup points. This goes for any tournament where the A flight players play the Blue tees.

**The Officers for Spook Rock Men's Club in 2026 are:**

President	Joe Tarangelo
Handicap Chairman	Dave Singleton
Treasurer	Andy Firestone
Rules Chairman	Jeff Reissman
Tournament Chairman	Robert Handler
Secretary	Jeff Reissman
Technology Chairman	Brian Pickell
Technology Assistant	Tom Demont
Member Guest Chair	Rich Nolte
Member/Guest Committee	Rich Nolte, Dennis Nelson, Harold Spector, Robert Handler
InterClub Competition Chairs	Brian Pickell & Dennis Nelson
Competition Committee	Dave Singleton, John Leonard, Harold Spector.

**2026 Men's Club Tournament Requirements**

In our continuing effort to make our tournaments fair for all we will require the following:

- All members must have active and updated handicaps.
- For all tournaments and league scores please hand your scorecard to the pro shop after you have completed your round and they will post your scores. What that means is, you turn in the printed scorecard we provide and we will post all scores.
- If you miss your tee time or sign an incorrect scorecard you will be DQ'd from the tournament. This will be enforced to protect the field. Before you leave the course make sure all scores and information is correct.
- GHIN rules require **ALL** scores to be posted. That includes only playing nine holes. If you play 10-17 holes you must post your score using the hole-by-hole method. This allows the use of expected score for a hole not played. **This also includes match play rounds (Ex: Governor's Cup, Club Championship, Ryder Cup). When you make your tee time with the pro shop for your match play round let them know you are playing a match so we can give you an official scorecard. Whether you have an official scorecard or not the round must be posted.** The only exceptions are Scramble and Shamble type events where you don't play your own ball, or if your round does not follow the prescribed USGA rules of golf. Please adhere to the rules. If you have any questions regarding posting scores, please see Dave Singleton, Jeff Reissman or one of

the officers. **If we know someone is not posting scores, or manipulating scores, the handicap chair will take the appropriate action.**

The club will use handicapping rules set forth by the USGA and MGA. In addition, for the 2nd straight year we used Cap Patrol last season which is a handicap management system. We will be using Cap Patrol again this season. Some of Cap Patrol's features include:

- A player's potential or ability in recent play and tournament rounds
- Variance in Home vs Away rounds
- The disparity in casual vs competitive play
- Placement in tournaments/events

You can go to **[cappatrol.com](http://cappatrol.com)** to learn more about all of their features.

Jeff Reissman will be the Rules Chairman. We also are enclosing the club tournament rules with this mailing.

### **General Tournament Policy/Sign Up Rules**

The Men's club has adopted the "Play it Forward" concept promoted by the USGA. We encourage our members to play the tournament from the gold tees when their combined age and handicap give them the opportunity to do so. Keep in mind your handicap will be adjusted accordingly, and the scores need to be posted as played from the gold tees. When you sign up please indicate that you elect to play from the gold tees, so the handicaps on the tournament card can be calculated. To be eligible to play the Gold Tees, your Age+Handicap from the Gold tees must equal 83 or higher. All of the weekly tournaments that are handicap tournaments including The President's Cup and Governor's Cup can be played from the Gold Tees.

One of the most critical issues for an organization to run smoothly is communication. Brian Pickell, Tom Demont and Dave Singleton circulate email blasts for tournament sign ups, inclement weather rules, pairings and last-minute tournament openings. **Remember if the course is open we play the scheduled tournament. Make sure we have a current email address, and you read our emails regularly. We sign up for tournaments electronically using Golf Genius through the email you receive from Brian Pickell or Tom Demont. Doing this keeps everything much simpler for everyone involved. Remember to hit confirm when you sign up for a tournament. You will receive an email confirmation when you sign up so if you do not get the confirmation you did something wrong.** It is your responsibility to sign up for tournaments in a timely manner and remember to pay for the tournaments and to show up for the tournaments on time. The officers spend a lot of time and effort to form schedules, list pairings, and post future tournaments and outings so please don't mess it up for everyone else.

Pay attention to the mailings and the schedule in advance. Doing this will help keep the tournaments fair for everyone.

As far as tee time requests we try to honor them when possible. We have a lot of members in the club so generally your tee time will be between 8am and 12:30pm. Please do not request a tee time if there is no reason involved (wedding, family event, etc.) **We will NOT be honoring requests for no reason.** Our goal is to spread the tee times around as fairly as possible between all our members. If you feel you are always getting late tee times please say something to me, Tom Demont or Brian Pickell so we can address it.

**The No Show Policy is still in effect.** It allows the guilty player to pay a \$40 fine to avoid suspension. If you do not show up for your tee time and do not have a valid reason you have hurt the other members of your tournament team. Also if you walk off the course during a round because you are playing badly that also hurts your team and you will be fined the same \$40. The committee can remove you from future tournaments if the fine is not paid.

**Once again we will have a Competition Committee to oversee disputes and rules infractions.** The committee will consist of Dave Singleton, John Leonard, and Harold Spector. The job of the committee is to investigate the circumstances of the infraction if the foursome cannot come to an agreement on if there should or should not be a penalty and make a final ruling of matters brought to their attention by the membership for not following the rules of golf.

**Play in the bunkers will remain the same this year. The board has agreed it is in the best interest of competition that we are able to rake and get 6 inches relief no closer to the hole in sand traps for all tournaments. Everywhere else on the course we will play the ball as it lies unless otherwise directed before play begins.**

**Pace-Of-Play** is discussed every year. Keeping the course moving makes the game more enjoyable. Try and play your round in 4 hours. In no case should a group play in more than 4 ½ hours. This starts at the First Tee, you must check-in and be ready to tee off 15 minutes before your tee time. Keep pace with the group in front. Pay attention to the others in your foursome and help them play efficiently. If you are the player away, get ready to take your next shot **before** starting a conversation. Try to putt out when possible.

Don't forget the **Hole-In-One Pool** when paying your dues. We did not have a winner of the Hole-in-One pool last year so the Hole in One prize money will carry over this season. The fee is \$20 pp to participate for everyone who participated last season. **If you did not participate last year and want to participate this year the fee will be \$40.** All Men's Club Tournaments will be Hole-in-One tournaments, except if otherwise noted on the schedule. Also, if you start the day

playing a match play event (Governor's Cup, Club Championship) all Hole-in-Ones will count even if the match is over. The pool will be split with all those making a qualifying Hole-in-One during the 2026 tournament season. **It is NOT a first in payout, it runs the entire season.** Please read the enclosed tournament policy for additional information. The money will be paid at the awards breakfast if there is a winner.

### **NOTICE Thursday Night League**

**ALL** Thursday night league money must be paid prior to the start of the league. You can pay at the meeting, mail it in or Venmo Andy Firestone (use above address). Dave Singleton continues to run the league. If you haven't paid for the league by **April 15**, you will **lose** your spot. There is a lot of demand to get into the league. Dave will announce the format at the annual meeting.

Please notify Joe Tarangelo, Brian Pickell or Harold Spector of any incorrect information on the attached roster.

Last year Tom Demont reactivated the Spook Rock website. Thanks to the hard work of Tom [www.spookrockgolf.com](http://www.spookrockgolf.com) will be active once again. You will have access to all kinds of information including the schedule, calendar of events, and tournament results from this season and past seasons. In addition as the season moves forward we will have the opportunity to add tee times, photos from events, and live tournament results as they are being posted. Users will need to register with the site in order to get full access.

I want to recognize and thank our Board members for the time and effort they put in to plan, coordinate, and schedule events all with the goal of improving our golfing experience. The work that all of us put in is to enhance the experience for all the members of the Men's Club, not just a select few. **That is because the real strength of our club comes through our members.** Spook Rock is a place where lifelong friendships and good memories are made every season, and because of that our membership continues to grow every year. Our goal is to have every individual play with as many members as possible during the season to get the full experience of our club. As a member you will make new friends every year. One of my main goals each season is to continue the tradition of great golf, camaraderie and building relationships. If anyone has any suggestions or thoughts during the year about our events and tournaments and any ideas you may have for improvements I'm available at the course, by email or text to listen to what you have to say.

I'm looking forward to another great season of golf in 2026 and keeping Spook Rock Men's Club the great experience it has always been for everyone involved!

Regards,  
Joe Tarangelo

