

ST. JAMES

MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS GUIDE

Updated February 2024

www.sjmga.org



THE CLUBS
AT ST. JAMES PLANTATION

SJMGA

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Purpose

The St James Men's Golf Association (SJMGA) is dedicated to promoting fellowship, sportsmanship and interest in golf. The SJMGA operates within the context of the various St James Plantation Golf Clubs, offering a variety of weekly golf games, participation in league play, informal social occasions and several annual tournaments. The SJMGA is administered by an Executive Council consisting of four elected officers and two appointed officers (Tournament Director and Assistant Tournament Director) and two voting members (Past President and Advisor to the Executive Council).

The current officers are:

President	Jim Freudenberg	(910-622-5522)
Vice President	Jim York	(910-713-0027)
Treasurer	Jeff Haller	(612-518-8757)
Secretary	Mike Hayes	(908-268-1206)
Tournament Director	Kevin Lynch	(914-582-7370)
Assistant Tournament Director	Rich Hamilton	(630-258-6885)
Past President	Brian Smith	(910-253-6415)
Advisor to the Executive Council	Matt Dunne	(910-742-1938)

Membership

SJMGA membership is open to all male golf, sport or social members of the Clubs of St James Plantation, aged 21 or over. A Signature or Premier Membership option is not a requirement, but prospective members should weigh the fact that SJMGA events will be scheduled across The Founders Club, The Members Club, The Reserve Club and The Players Club Golf Courses. A Non-resident member classification is offered – see the constitution and by-laws for more detail. There is also a Membership Exclusion / Playing Rights Exception contained in the constitution pertaining to golf course members who have a direct or indirect business relationship with any of the St James enterprises.

Annual dues are \$60, payable upon joining; renewal dues should be paid by January 31st each year. Members who have not paid their annual dues by March 1 will be removed from the membership roll. New member dues will be \$60 prior to September 1 and \$45 on or after September 1. The Annual Dues pay for the Spring Kick-off meeting, the Annual Meeting and dinner, the Christmas party, the Hole-in-one fund, and supplies, bank fees, and miscellaneous expenses.

Annual Meeting

An annual meeting is held in November. The purpose of the meeting is to present the slate of candidates, elect the new officers for the coming year, and to conduct other business as deemed necessary. Following the annual meeting, either immediately or as scheduled by the Executive Council, a social function is held. The extent of the social function will be consistent with the annual dues level and the current operating expense balance. It is anticipated that the meeting will be late in the afternoon and that a dinner will follow. This will allow our working members to attend.

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Communication

SJMGA's primary communication vehicle will be the SJMGA Web Site (www.sjmga.org) and e-mails. Posting notices in Golf pro shops, POA Sports Newsletter, What's Up St James, Cat-Tales, and the Just-Judy newsletter will also be used as appropriate.

Tournaments / Events Participants

All participants in any SJMGA event must have a valid handicap and must be of amateur status. An exception to amateur status is that club pros participate in the ICMC and may be invited to participate in SJMGA events. In these situations, the pros do not qualify for SJMGA prizes or cash awards

The SJMGA membership strongly feels that our weekly competitions and other events rely upon the accurate handicaps of the competitors, and it has therefore instituted a 95% posting requirement to be eligible to play. The SJMGA Handicap Committee will compare rounds posted in GHIN versus rounds played in Chelsea. The USGA requirement is that all rounds should be posted when a golfer plays in accordance with the Rules of Golf, but the Committee realizes nonconforming games (such as scrambles) are often played; thus the SJMGA has established a 95% posting rate that must be met to qualify to be eligible to play in an SJMGA event.

Regular Thursday Organized Play

The SJMGA offers organized play on each Thursday 12 months a year, except for major holidays or special circumstances. Games will vary from week to week, but generally will be a team event - an individual event will be played occasionally. The Thursday events rotate each month from course to course.

Sign-up is by computer or smartphone beginning at 7am on the Thursday morning the week previous to the event. There are several ways to sign up:

- (1) You can sign up for a SJMGA event through the Clubs at St James website (www.theclubsatstjames.com). Just login ... along the top menu bar hit the "Golf" tab ... on the left side of the next screen hit the "Tournaments" tab ... on the next page click the button on the right side titled "Tournaments Sign Up" ... hit the "MGA" tab ... and register for the event.
- (2) You can sign up for a SJMGA event through the Golf Genius platform. Once logged in (www.golfgenius.com/users/sign_in) just click "Go to Portal" all the way to the right of the screen on the same line as St. James MGA... and register for the event.
- (3) You can sign up for a SJMGA event through the Clubs at St James app (available through device app stores). Open the app and hit the "Golf Tournament Sign Ups" menu item... hit the "MGA" tab... and register for the event.

Pairings are assigned, based on handicap, by the Clubs Tournament Director. Entry fees vary depending on the event and prizes are awarded in the form of pro shop credits. The entry fees each week pay for the prizes that are awarded. Non-members may play a maximum of 4 times in the Thursday event prior to becoming a SJMGA member. House guests and non-resident property owners are welcome provided there are openings on Wednesday prior to the event. Prior members must pay the current year's dues to play after March 1. If any nonmember participant does not have an established USGA handicap, he shall play with a scratch (zero) handicap.

SJMGA No Show Policy

In order to properly and efficiently organize and run weekly SJMGA golf events, all cancellations must be received before 11:00 AM the day prior to the event. The proper cancellation procedure is to e-mail the St. James Tournament Director Cole Grammen colegrammen@troon.com and copy the SJMGA Tournament Director Kevin Lynch kevilynch5@gmail.com.

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It is understood that unforeseen circumstances (e.g. unanticipated illness or injury), might necessitate a last-minute cancellation. If you have to cancel due to an unanticipated illness or injury the evening before or the morning of the event then you, your spouse or friend should call the golf shop of golf course where the event is being held the morning of the event and notify them.

If a golfer does not cancel per the above policy and is a "NO SHOW" at an SJMGA event, the golfer will be charged for the event. Also, that golfer will not be allowed to sign up for the next two events until the day prior to the event. The golfer will have to call the St. James Tournament Director or his representative and will only be admitted to the event if space is available.

Possibility of rain or cold temperature are not an unforeseen circumstance. The weather forecast is on all TV stations, on the internet and available via a smart phone. A golfer should make his decision prior to 11:00 AM the day prior to the event. If a person does not show up for an event then that team is at a disadvantage to the field because they need to play a player short and rely on a blind draw.

There is really no reason to be a "NO SHOW".

Tournaments

The SJMGA sanctions several tournaments / events, and is open to expanding to new suggested tournaments. Unless otherwise stated for the event, an entrance fee is to be paid by the entrant, rather than prepaid through the annual dues. The current slate includes the following:

Special Layered Events

Held periodically throughout the year.

Plantation Cup

The Plantation Cup is an annual fun event for home club bragging rights. This is an open tournament for all St. James men. The field will consist of 124 players made up of five teams 24 members from each club plus one golf professional per team, Members Club (2 teams), Players Club, Founders Club and The Reserve Club. The tournament format will be a "Modified Stableford"

Men's Stroke Play Championship

The SJMGA Stroke Play Championship is a two-day tournament for St James SJMGA members. The SJMGA tournament Director will decide how many places net and gross to pay based on the size of the field. The championship flight players and the twelve lowest gross score players from each flight will play the second day, and a trophy is awarded to the overall gross winner from each flight. The Championship Flight winner's name will be placed on a perennial trophy. A cookout with beer & soda will be served at the end of play on the first day.

Two-Man Match Play Championship (SJMGA Tournament Director Appointee)

This event is open to all SJMGA members. Members will select their partners for this two-man better ball event. This is a single elimination match play tournament. Matches are played during the following weeks once the tournament begins. The first week will be the qualifying week and

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the lowest net score teams (number based on the total number of teams in the event) move on to week two. After the second week the field will be reduced until the final week when the two remaining teams will play for the Championship. The winners will be awarded their trophies at our year-end dinner.

Father & Son Tournament (SJMGA Tournament Director)

The St James SJMGA Father Son Tournament is open to all male St James Property Owners. This is a two-day tournament held this year at two clubs. The field will be split into 3 to 5 flights depending on the number of participants. The entry fee will be approximately \$300 per team. In addition, non-Premier/Signature Golf Members will be responsible for appropriate golf fees. Flights will be set up by handicap. If a guest does not have a USGA handicap we use the Callaway handicap system and assign the player a handicap based on the players first day's score. Flight winners receive Father & Son Trophies and merchandise prizes, 2nd place merchandise prizes. Friday will include an optional practice round at any St James course. Saturday will be an 18 holes two-man scramble format and Sunday will be an 18 holes better ball format.

The Don Lasko Memorial Ageless Tournament (Chairman – Matt Dunne)

The SJMGA Ageless Tournament is a Stableford format tournament for St James SJMGA members. The flights are arranged by age (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors & super seniors). In each flight a minimum of 3 places will be awarded for both gross and net with pro shop credits. A special "Elders" trophy will be awarded to the "most senior" participant with a minimum of three consecutive years as a member of SJMGA in good standing (past winners excluded). This has grown to be one of our most popular events. Refreshments will be available and awards will be presented at the end of play.

The Directors Cup (SJMGA Tournament Director)

The Directors Cup Tournament will use a modified Ryder Cup format as determined by the SJMGA Tournament Director. The current Tournament Director and past SJMGA Tournament Director will be the Captains. The players will be selected for each team based on handicaps.

White and Blue Tournament (SJMGA Tournament Director)

The White and Blue Tournaments will be held periodically throughout the year. The format is individual match play or two-man match play within the two teams. Players will be assigned to teams based on handicaps. Players will be divided into four flights. Each foursome will consist of two players from each team with like handicaps. Player or Team A from the White Team will play player or Team A from the Blue team and Player or Team B from the White Team will Play Player or Team B from the Blue Team. The match scoring will be three points (the same as the IGA events). The team with the most points will win the event and any prizes.

Home & Away Events

IGA - Intercoastal Golf Association

(Coordinator - Jim York – (910) 713-0027, jyorksouthport@aol.com)

The Intercoastal Golf Association (IGA) is a loosely organized league whose primary mission is to provide a format for friendly competition between Men's Golf Associations in Brunswick

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County. The league currently consists of St James Plantation, Sea Trail, Meadowlands, Lockwood Folly, Carolina National and Rivers Edge.

The season, which runs from early spring to October consists of a home and away match with each participating club resulting in a twelve match season. In addition, there is a year-end stroke play championship with all clubs participating. Players of all handicaps are welcome to play. The format for the home/away events is head-to-head match play with full handicap; each club has sixteen golfers at these events. The first sixteen members to sign up, when the matches are posted on The Clubs of St James website, comprise the team. This is an opportunity for members to play at the above courses for a discounted rate (2024 rate: \$60 (\$28 for home events)) which includes cart and green fees, lunch, bag drop gratuity, and a gift certificate at the Pro Shop for the team winner at each event.

2024 IGA Schedule:

Captain Jim York, jjorksouthport@aol.com

3/18 at Lockwood Folly 8:30

3/25 vs Carolina National at Founders 8:30

4/17 vs Sea Trail at Members 8:30

5/15 at Meadowlands 8:00

5/20 at Carolina National 8:00

5/24 vs Rivers Edge at Reserve 8:00

5/29 at Sea Trail 8:00

7/22 at Rivers Edge 8:00

7/24 vs Lockwood Folly at Members 8:00

9/4 vs Meadowlands at Players

10/30 Year End Tournament at Carolina National

ICMC Intracoastal Members Competition (Coordinator-Tom Dionisio, dionisiogolf@gmail.com)

There are six participating clubs – St. James Plantation, Compass Pointe, Porter's Neck Country Club, Pine Valley, Country Club of Land Fall, and River Landing. There will be six events beginning in June and continuing through October. Our team will participate in every event. The cost for each participant will be \$70 per event (not applicable for the home event).

Each club will have 12 members playing plus one pro. There are two separate competitions in each event: The players for each competition are chosen by a random draw.

- (1) St. James players will be competing in a four ball event against all other clubs for points toward the ICMC Trophy awarded at the end of the year. The format is "four ball" stroke play with each pro playing scratch and amateurs playing with 85% of the course handicap. Four Ball is a match pitting two teams of two players against each other using better ball scoring. Teams will be aligned by handicap (low to high) to allow competition against like handicaps. The strokes given in the match will be off the low ball of the foursome. Team One (#1 & #2 seeds), Team Two (#3 & #4 seeds), etc. Competition will be against all clubs in same handicap class. Cumulative points will be maintained for the season and the club with the most points will be the Champion and hold the trophy for one year.

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(2) The host club will also run a second competition for gift certificate prizes. It will be played concurrently with the interclub matches and will consist of two best net balls of the foursome using 100% of handicap. Winning foursomes will receive club house credit in the sponsoring club's Pro Shop.

2024 ICMC Schedule:

Captain Tom Dionisio
St James Pro = Lee Doiron

June 3 at Pine Valley
June 24 at Compass Pointe (date change)
July 15 at St James (Founders)
August 14 at Porters Neck
September 9 at Landfall
October 30 at River Landing

CCIA – Coastal Carolina Interclub Association (Coordinator-Tom Lawruk - (717) 507-4496, tomlawruk@gmail.com).

The CCIA offers interclub play between Ocean Ridge, Carolina National, Compass Pointe, Crow Creek, and two teams from St. James. Participation is limited to SJMGA members. There are six events per season – one per month at each location and two at St. James. Each Club Team has 7 two-man teams. The maximum allowable USGA Index for each player is 16. Players with a USGA Index above 16 will be assigned an index of 16. Handicaps will be based on 85% of the slope of the Home course. The format is a Net Better Ball of partners.

Courses will be set up at around 5,800 yards.

Each event will be conducted as a stand-alone competition with prizes distributed to the first and second place teams in the form of gift cards at the host club pro shop and presented following play. Clubs total score for each event will be based on the 6 best scores of the seven 2 man teams.

There is a traveling trophy given at the end of the season to the Team that has the best cumulative scoring for the 6 matches.

Sign-up will be posted the Clubs at St James website for 1 day approximately 30 days prior to each event. Each 14 man team will then be randomly selected from the list of people who signed up. The cost is approximately \$50 for guest players and \$12 for host players. The fee includes golf and cart, gratuities and prizes

2024 CCIA Schedule:

5/28 at Ocean Ridge
6/19 at Crow Creek (date change)
7/22 at St James Players
8/19 at Compass Pointe
9/4 at Carolina National
10/14 at St James Founders

If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please contact Tom Lawruk

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SJMGA Away Trip (Dave Zentmayer– 919-721-0887)

The Away Trip is set up to allow only members of the SJMGA to enjoy some of the great golf courses in North and South Carolina at reduced rates. Each year one outing is planned for a three day trip. The Away Trip schedule will be emailed to the SJMGA membership and posted on the SJMGA web site (www.sjmga.org). Sign up will be for Foursomes, Twosomes, and Singles. For more information contact Dave Zentmayer (jdzent@atmc.net).

SJMGA Hole-In-One Fund

The SJMGA has instituted a Hole-In-One Fund. Payment of your annual dues qualifies you for enrollment in the Hole-In-One fund. When a SJMGA member gets a hole-in-one in a qualifying event, the SJMGA will pick up the bar bill for one drink per person (beer, wine or soda) for participating players immediately after the event. The annual SJMGA budget will accommodate 4 to 5 holes-in-one. If the budget is exceeded, a hole-in-one insurance fund or some other policy will be considered. The sanctioned events include: SJMGA Thursday play, Thursday & Saturday Layered Events, The SJMGA Two-Man Match Play Championship, The SJMGA Ageless Cup, The SJMGA Stroke Play Tournament.

Tee Selection

The Default Tee Selection for SJMGA Competition (tournament) Play for all St. James Courses are the III Tees.

Any Competitor wishing to play from a different set of tees must have an established Handicap for those tees.

An Established Handicap is to be comprised of a minimum of 60% of their past 20 Scores.

At the beginning of each year, SJMGA members should let the Clubs Tournament Director, Cole Grammen (colegrammen@troon.com), know if they want to change their tee selection. A competitor must petition the Tournament Director in writing to change tees for SJMGA Events. The election date is by March 1st.

Special Events (IGA, ICL, CCIA, Father/Son Etc.): Individuals or Committees appointed by the Tournament Director to oversee Special Events may establish different guidelines for those events under USGA Guidelines.

World Handicap System

Handicap Posting: The USGA has adopted the World Handicap System for all golfers. All SJMGA members are required to post their scores in accordance with the rules of the World Handicap System. These rules can be accessed through www.GHIN.com. It is the member's responsibility to be aware of these rules.

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On The Golf Course

The SJMGA expects members to be aware of proper golf course etiquette and always to observe the highest standard of behavior, respecting their fellow golfers, the golf course staffs, and the golf course itself.

The SJMGA expects members to maintain a crisp rate of play. We believe that all members, regardless of skill level, are capable of completing a round of golf in four hours and 15 minutes plus 15 minutes to get to and from the course during shot gun starts. Remember, your proper position on the golf course is directly behind the group in front of you, not directly in front of the group behind you.

USGA Rule 6-7. Undue Delay; Slow Play

The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish.

SJMGA RULE FOR 6-7:

Between completion of a hole and playing from the next tee box, the players must not unduly delay play. Each group must keep pace with the group in front of them. If there is more than one hole open between groups, the group behind pace will receive a warning and the group has two holes to catch up with the pace of play. **The marshal will stay with this group for the two holes. If the group hasn't made a substantial improvement in their position then the group will receive a two stroke penalty and the group must move up to the next hole to be back on the proper pace. All players in the group will receive their ESC score for that hole.**

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 6-7

Match play — Loss of hole; Stroke play — Two strokes.

SJMGA SLOW PLAY GUIDELINES

We know everyone has heard all the ways to try and avoid slow play but we sometimes forget and need a refresher course. The following is a list of ideas received from members of the SJMGA.

1. Single tee the par 4 after the par three.
2. If any player hits a ball into the woods, **he should play the USGA lost ball rule.** All four players **should not** go and look for the ball. Only the person whose ball it is and his cart partner should look for the ball. The players in the other cart should play their second shots. If the ball is not found by the time the other players have hit their second shots, the player's ball should be deemed lost and he then drops his ball on the edge of the fairway in the vicinity of where the ball was lost or went out of bounds. Play that ball and add two penalty strokes. Example: if the ball from a drive off the tee was lost or went out of bounds the new ball would be dropped and the player would be hitting four. The provisional rule can also be used but must be decided on the tee.

Players in the same cart should drive to the shorter of their drives and drop off the player with the club he is going to use. The other player should proceed to the area of his ball and prepare to play his shot.

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3. **Do not put your clubs** away after hitting. Hold the club(s) until you get into the position for your next shot. At that time, put them away and select the club you are going use for your next shot.
4. **When you reach your ESC** or you are out of the hole, pick up your ball and score the most likely score you would have made on that hole. Example: You are hitting your 6th shot and at least two of your playing partners are on the green in 3 and 4. Since your score will not be used you should record the score you would have most likely made if you continued to play, but not greater than your ESC. **Do not record the scores** at the green but move to the next tee box and record the scores while the other players are teeing off.
5. **Play ready golf on the tee box.** While the drivers are recording the scores from the previous hole the riders should tee off.
6. **NO BALL HAWKING ALLOWED**--If you hit your ball into the water and you are able to retrieve it, do so and move on. **Do not stay and look for other balls.**
7. **If you hit into a sand bunker,** bring the rake with you.
8. Remember we are playing to have fun but nobody wants to stand around waiting to play and have to listen to “bad jokes” all day.

Preserving the Condition of the Golf Course

Please fill all divots with the sand provided on the golf carts. Divots cut from Bermuda grass turf do not re-root – always have your sand bottle handy.

Always rake the sand traps, including areas left by less conscientious golfers preceding you. Remember that at St James the rakes are left half in and half out of the sand traps with the handle pointing out of the sand bunker.

Always repair your ball mark, and any others that you find, on the green. When you repair ball marks, always use a repair tool to pull the outer edges of the ball mark to the center. Do not place the tool under the ball mark and try to lift the ball mark up as this will leave a bare spot on the green. This can be done while others are putting without delaying play. The USGA has determined that a ball mark repaired within 15 minutes will heal in 24 hours – a ball mark repaired after 24 hours requires 15 days to heal. So, if you were sick and could choose between remedies that would heal in 1 day or 15 days, which would you pick?

Protect all areas of the green, particularly around the hole. Take care in removing and replacing the pin. The pin should either be laid on the fringe or placed gently on the green – do not allow the pin to topple on the green. **DO NOT REMOVE THE BALL FROM THE HOLE WITH YOUR PUTTER** – if you can lean over to put a ball on a tee you can also lean over to retrieve the ball from the hole by hand. Likewise, if you have a rubber suction cup attached to your putter, never use it when the ball is on the green – this leaves a depression on the green similar to a ball mark, and worse yet – hard to see and almost always near the hole!

NEVER SWING YOUR PUTTER IN ANGER OR DISGUST ON THE GREEN. This may create severe damage, is poor sportsmanship, and may create a hardship for fellow golfers and greens-keepers!

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This could be grounds for possible suspension from the SJMGA. This action will be grounds for a two week suspension from the SJMGA.

Always observe the cart rules that are in effect for the day.

Only swing golf clubs on the course or the driving range, and never around the cart staging area for shotgun starts. Don't be timid and remind those who might forget to exercise this practice.

Rules Of Play

All competition shall be played in accordance with the rules of golf as adopted by the USGA, or that have been adopted by the St. James Clubs' local rules and the SJMGA. Seasonal and weather conditions shall be taken into account.

St. James Plantation Clubs Local Rules

The St. James local rules will apply to all SJMGA Events The reason for these rules is to help insure an acceptable pace of play.

All St James Courses

1. **Landscaped Areas** – Landscaped Areas are identified by a white pole with a green cap. Players must drop one club length outside the landscaped area no closer to the hole without penalty.
2. **Fan Rule** - The fans located around several greens are considered temporary immovable obstructions. If the fan interferes with swing, stance or line of flight, the ball may be dropped within one club length no closer to the hole without penalty.
3. **Provisional Ball** – A player may opt to hit a provisional ball without penalty when there is a question as to whether the ball is playable in a penalty area .
4. **Sandy Areas With Blue Stakes** - These areas are considered waste areas and a player whose ball lies in a blue staked area may ground his club in or remove loose impediments.

The Players Club

1. **Hole #6** - If after your drive your shot goes into the penalty area, you may take a penalty stroke and hit your next shot from the drop area on the bridge.
2. **Hole #7** - The drop area is from the forward tee located on the bridge.