

A PLAYERS GUIDE TO THE ESQUAGUMA COUNTRY CLUB



Hole 1 - Velkommen



The key advice on this hole is that when considering whether to hit your approach shot short of the green, trying to run it on versus going for the green and risking going long, take the first option. Long is not good.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

When standing on the tee and seeing the driving range to the left and unfriendly rough to the right, be righteous citizens and go to the right. When you hit into the driving range, it really honks off the folks who still are of the belief that this game is supposed to be both fun AND friendly.

Hole 2- Short but not Sweet

Of all of the holes on the course, this green is the most accessible to all skill levels. But it is also the most challenging to putt. Your ultimate challenge is to get cross putts to hold their line or downhill putts to stop.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

If you insist on going left or right off the tee in lieu of using the fairway, go left. Those woods to the right are just a general pain to your scorecard.



Hole 3 - An Act of Tree-son



The key to this hole lies in how you handle the two trees that protect the green. You should be aware of the fact that they are about 70 yards short of the green.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

While those of you who are older and like to talk about how you used to “carry the trees” blame your current shortcomings on your age, you tend to forget that those pine trees keep getting taller every year. The course is now 100 years old. You do the math.



Hole 4- The Watering Hole



Course knowledge lies in the fact that lay-up shots that run through the fairway get about a 20 yard roll-out at the end, thereby leaving them perilously close to, or in, the hazard.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

Even when the creek is dry, this hole is a tough test of both your skill and your patience.



Hole 5 - The Horse Hole



The preferred line is to bring your tee shot in off the right bunker. Truth be told, for a skilled player this hole is a good test. The green is large and fair.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

The horse off to the left is actually dead ... and, as the story goes, no golfers were ever indicted.



Hole 6 - The Effing Gulley Hole.



The obvious hazards on this hole are the tree straight ahead of the tee and the tree off to the left up by the 150 yard marker. The green is one of the more challenging greens on the course. Beware of running through the green as it does not hold approach shots as well as the others.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

If you insist on thinking about that darn gulley, you can count on being in it. Remember: **THERE ARE NO GOOD SWING THOUGHTS.**



HOLE 7 - SONIA



The obvious area to avoid on this hole is the tall tree line to the right. While the hole is quite straight forward, the green is a classic par 5 green, i.e. it is small.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

This hole starts a three hole stretch where in every hole is out of bounds to the left. That is bad news for you and bad news for the homeowners. Please be respectful.



Hole 8 - Reg Parred it ... You Can Too



To keep the tree that protects to green to the left out of play, you want your tee shot on this angled par 4 to be to the right of the fairway. You might be better off just going for the 150 marker which is through the first fairway leg, in preference to cutting the corner and leaving you with tree troubles.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

This hole is a lot friendlier that it will be when it changes its name to hole 17.



Hole 9 - Car 54 Where Are You

A great risk reward par 3. The bunkers and the out of bounds area are both easily reachable. The big tree between the tee and the green is available for all to hit. The green is very puttable. When you write down your score, you can pretty much look in the mirror and take credit or blame.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

If you go into the bunker that is off to the right of the green, as you address your ball, you can often see (across the green) the homeowners that are proud of their property. Nuff sed.

But there is one more thing to consider: One of them is a doggone Judge. A 'big court' Judge.



Hole 10 - Let's Try This Again



The major difference between 1 and 10 is that 10 is straighter. Given that the fairway is wide, this is the place to let the Big Dog Hunt.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS

Still remain respectful of those folks over at the driving range. The group composition is different from when you were here 9 holes ago.

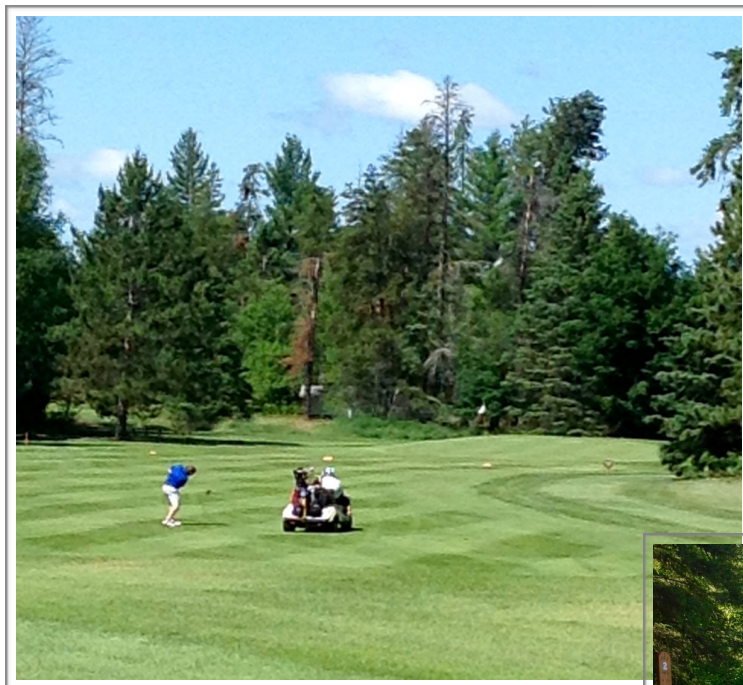


Hole 11- The Home of the Heroes

This is about 50 yards longer than hole 2, but that 50 yards forces you to keep your tee shot a touch to the left so as to take the tree line on the right off your checklist when assessing your approach shot.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS;

If you want to have some fun, go for the green off the tee. It can be done. Just don't use an expensive new ball.





Hole 12- Long and Gnatsy (sic)



Probably the best opportunity for an eagle on a par 5, due to the fact that the green is good sized, and the fact that there is enough room between the protective trees and the green to allow you to reach and hold the green in two.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

If your tee shot goes off to the right into the wooded area (even the sparsely wooded area) your pleasure level will suffer immediate deflation.



Hole 13 - Take Five



A long par 4 protected by water close to the green is a real challenge. A par on this acreage is A Day Well Spent. You are either accurate with your irons or not.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

Ring the bell down on the fairway. There is no reason for leaving the group behind you in limbo.



Hole 14- Whinny The Pooh



Unless 10 yards or so are important to your game, this plays the same as it did as Hole 5. It is a challenging par 3.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

We guarantee that it gets better after this one.





Hole 15 - Let's Head For Home



Just keep it straight and you will get a good rollout on a good tee shot. Beware of going long into the green as it does not hold your shots as much as you would like.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

If you insist on placing your tee shot into the rough on the right, you will soon enough come to realize that that was not a great idea. There is a reason why the call is "rough".



Hole 16 - The Driving Range



This, along with hole 10 (and Hole 7), is where you might just as well bring out the Big Dog. The green is small, but the hole is quite straight forward.

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

In addition to Out Of Bounds Left, there is real rough to the right off of the tee (as well as unfriendly trees to the right). It is strongly recommended that you “hit is straight down the middle” on this hole.



Hole 17 - The Comeback Hole

Nasty. Nasty. Nasty. Keep within the tree line to the right. Keep away from the tree that protects the green on the left. And deal with a small and “subtle” putting surface.



BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

There is a golf adage which states “aim for the tree, it is 80% air”. The rebuttal to this adage is “So are screen doors”. The woods to the right of the fairway are one very large “screen door”.

If you do well on this hole, you should come back and play this course again ... thus the name of the hole.

Hole 18 - Sayonara



From the back tee the large tree to the right of center becomes a real concern. Guide yourself carefully.



BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS:

As soon as you finish this hole, add up your score, clean your clubs, visit a proper restroom, and go have your drink of choice. You earned it, because you have just played a round on the oldest course in Minnesota north of Duluth.

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