



TPMGC

Stephen Lee's PRESIDENT'S LETTER

January 2026



TPMGC Mission Statement

"The Torrey Pines Men's Golf Club strives to provide well organized tournaments and support our community through volunteerism and stewardship of the Torrey Pines golf courses."

To all our members - Welcome to 2026!

Your Board hopes that this year brings you more rounds than last year, fewer 3-putts and some new friends through our club. I want to say a big thank you to our immediate past President, Larry Prosi. Under his leadership, he has put our club in a great position, culminating with the recent renewal of our Special Use Permit (SUP) for the next 3 years through 2028. But there is always more to do. The Board has already been hard at work on multiple fronts to bring you a great year of golf. Settle in... There's a lot to report.

In 2026, we have a total of 92 tournaments scheduled! There are 70 tournaments at Torrey Pines GC (44 weekday, 26 weekend) and 22 away tournaments.

The Board has 10 committees to carry out the various functions of the club. The following are reports from selected committees, including a very important and newly formed committee for 2026: Code of Conduct Committee.

Tournament Committee, Chair Roy Burchill

A big change this year for our club is that we no longer have split Wednesday/Thursday weekday tournaments at Torrey Pines GC. We only play on Thursdays with most tournaments having fields of 64 players. Please note that we have the same exact number of tee times this year as in previous years, but without any on Wednesdays.

Unless you volunteer and obtain a priority entry, you can expect to play approximately every 3rd or 4th weekday tournament at Torrey Pines GC. If you want to play with your friends, plan ahead and make sure none of your group members play a tournament at Torrey Pines GC close to the one you want to play together.



How do we determine who gets to play in each tournament? For tournaments at Torrey Pines GC, it is simply based on the last date you played in a tournament at Torrey Pines GC. Those who played in a recent tournament at Torrey will probably not get in while those who last played at Torrey a few tournaments ago will have a better chance. Members with an identical last played date are randomized to determine priority order. For away tournaments that are over-subscribed, entry will be by randomization.

We want to remind you that any changes to the Golf Genius scorecard more than 15 minutes after your round's completion could lead to a DQ. Make sure you confirm scores with your foursome immediately after finishing the last hole and do it before you leave the course. If there are extenuating circumstances, contact the Tournament Coordinator ASAP.

Lastly, we sometimes have members show up early for Torrey tournaments hoping to get in a round (not included in the tournament) if there happens to be a no show. This affects the workflow for Torrey Pines GC staff so it is currently being revisited. Until we know more, please refrain from showing up early hoping to get into a no-show spot.

Volunteer Committee, Chair Sean Tucker

To help prep the course for the Farmer's Insurance Open, our club had a tremendous showing for the divot patrol and divot parties. We also had members engaged in the newly formed Gardening Club. Both Nico Sagala, Torrey's Golf Operations Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator, and Matty Reyes, Golf Course Manager, have recognized and expressed deep gratitude for our efforts.

This is what Nico had to say:

"It has been a busy week of volunteering here at the course. Please thank all of your club members who came out to volunteer. With their help, we were able to fill every fairway divot on both courses. The weather conditions are lining up well, so hopefully all of the pregerminated mix we spread will be sprouted and looking beautiful six days from now.... On Tuesday [Jan 20], we tackled the South Course which took from 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM. This day in particular, we had a lot of volunteers who stayed more than three hours. I believe Wednesday [Jan 21] marked the greatest number of volunteers we have hosted for a divot party, at least since I took over the program. With the large group, we were able to complete eight of the fourteen holes before 10:30 AM."



For those who are frustrated about being put on the waitlist for Torrey tournaments, consider volunteering. We have heard from many members that it is a fun and enjoyable experience walking the beautiful course, breathing fresh air, and doing it with others. Volunteering for 4 hours not only earns you a priority but also is a way to “give back” and support our commitment to stewardship of Torrey Pines GC. Additionally, if you use a volunteer priority for a two-person partner tournament, your partner will also get in based on your priority. There are numerous ways and opportunities to volunteer during the year. Check out the “Volunteering” section of our website for more details. The divoteer schedule for February 2026 has been released.

Being a marshal for our own tournaments is another great way to volunteer. And you get to ride around in a cart for 4 hours! Keep in mind that our Torrey tournament marshals are members of our own club and are volunteering to keep pace of play on target. And pace of play is a big deal. If a marshal asks you to speed up play or lets you know that your group is behind, please respond with courtesy.

Code of Conduct Committee, Chair Jamie Ogle

This newly formed committee is charged with investigating and adjudicating issues related to conduct and competition integrity. Conduct involves but is not limited to behaviors or actions related to the golf course or facilities, sportsmanship, and interaction between fellow golfers and golf course staff members. Competition integrity involves any issue that is suspected of compromising the integrity of our tournament competitions. The CoC committee will use various objective analyses such as in-the-money win rates and individual versus team event win rates to identify significant outliers who win at rates far beyond what is predicted. In conjunction with the Handicap Committee, potential enforcement actions may include handicap adjustments or splitting foursomes. More details to come...

Final thoughts

We are excited for a fun year of golf, but we also need to tackle some difficult issues, especially as it relates to how we interact with the city staff at Torrey Pines GC. Our club’s relationship with Torrey Pines GC is defined by the Special Use Permit (SUP), which allows us to schedule our entire year’s tournaments in advance and have our own marshals. And although our SUP has just been re-authorized for 3 more years, the city can terminate the SUP for any reason with a 30-day notice. There are specific things we can do to maintain a strong relationship. This is where you as individual TPMGC members play a crucial role.

First, volunteer as much as you can. The hours we put in to fill divots, marshal our events to keep up place of play, and aid in special events like the CIF tournaments is how the course justifies and “offsets” the loss of revenue with our events.



Second, when interacting with TPGC staff, try to maintain the highest level of etiquette. With 1100 members in our club, it is inevitable that some negative interactions will occur, and these are all reported to the Board. Unfortunately, they serve to wear down the “goodwill” that we all work so hard to build up. So, what can we do? If a situation comes up that is troubling, please do not engage with staff. Just let a Board member know and we can follow up on it. It is also important to keep in mind that the ONLY privilege we have as a member of TPMGC is to play in our tournaments. Please do not respond to TP staff by saying, “...but I am a TPMGC member so...” **There are no other special privileges extended to us by the golf course, so please do not expect any.** We are otherwise (rightly) treated like any other patron at the golf course.

On behalf of the entire TPMGC Board of Directors, we wish you a great 2026 on and off the golf course. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please reach out to me.

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