

UTGCC HOA Fine and Enforcement Policy

This UTGCC HOA Fine and Enforcement Policy (the "Policy"), is created pursuant to the authority set forth in section 1, below, and is hereby adopted by the University of Texas Golf Club Community Homeowners Association ("UTGCC HOA") and its Board of Directors for implementation within the University of Texas Golf Club Community (the "UTGCC"), effective immediately.

1. Background. Steiner Ranch is subject to that certain Master Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Steiner Ranch recorded under Volume 13008, Page 756, Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas, as amended ("Master Declaration"). In accordance with the Master Declaration, the Steiner Ranch Master Association, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation (the "Association") was created to administer the terms and provisions of the Master Declaration. Unless the Master Declaration or applicable law expressly provides otherwise, the Association acts through a majority of its board of directors (the "Board").

The UTGCC HOA administers the terms of the Master Declaration as they apply to the property and premises within the UTGCC. For purposes of this Policy, references below to the "Association" and the "Board" shall mean the UTGCC HOA, and the UTGCC HOA Board of Directors, respectively. References to "Owner[s]" shall mean homeowner[s] within the UTGCC.

The Association is empowered to enforce the covenants, conditions and restrictions of the Master Declaration, Bylaws and any rules and regulations of the Association (collectively, the "Restrictions"), including the obligation of Owners to pay assessments pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Master Declaration and the obligations of the Owners to compensate the Association for costs incurred by the Association for enforcing violations of the Restrictions.

The Board hereby adopts this Policy to establish equitable policies and procedures for the levy of fines within the Association in compliance with the Chapter 209 of the Texas Property Code, titled the "Texas Residential Property Owners Protection Act," as it may be amended (the "Act"). To the extent any provision within this Policy is in conflict the Act or any other applicable law, such provision shall be modified to comply with the applicable law.

Terms used in this Policy, but not defined, shall have the meaning subscribed to such term in the Restrictions.

2. Policy. The Association uses fines to discourage violations of the Restrictions, and to encourage compliance when a violation occurs – not to punish violators or generate revenue for the Association. Although a fine may be an effective and efficient remedy for certain types of violations or violators, it is only one of several methods available to the Association for enforcing the Restrictions. The Association's use of fines does not interfere with its exercise of other rights and remedies for the same violation.

3. Owner's Liability. An Owner is liable for fines levied by the Association for violations of the Restrictions by the Owner and the relatives, guests, employees, and agents of the Owner and residents. Regardless of who commits the violation, the Association may direct all communications regarding the violation to the Owner.

4. Amount. The Association may set fine amounts on a case by case basis, provided the fine is reasonable in light of the nature, frequency, and effects of the violation. The Association may establish a schedule of fines for certain types of violation, and should be uniform for similar violations of the same provision of the Restrictions. If the Association allows fines to accumulate, the Association may establish a maximum amount for a particular fine, at which point the total fine will be capped.

5. Violation Notice. Before levying a fine, the Association will give the Owner a written violation notice and an opportunity to be heard. This requirement may not be waived. The Association's written violation notice will contain the following items: (1) the date the violation notice is prepared or mailed; (2) a description of the violation; (3) a reference to the rule or provision that is being violated; (4) a description of the action required to cure the violation; (5) the timeframe in which the violation is required to be cured; (6) the amount of the fine; (7) a statement that not later than the (30th) day after the date of the violation notice, the Owner may request a hearing before the Board to contest the violation; and (8) the date the fine attaches or begins accruing, subject to the following:

- a. **New Violation.** If the Owner has not been given notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure the same or similar violation within the preceding six (6) months, the notice will state a specific time frame by which the violation must be cured to avoid the fine. The notice must state that any future violation of the same rule may result in the levy of a fine.
- b. **Repeat Violation.** In the case of a repeat of the same or similar violation of which the Owner was previously notified and the violation was cured within the preceding six (6) month time period, the notice will state that, because the Owner was given notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure the same or similar violation but the violation has occurred again, the fines attached from the date of the expiration of the cure period.
- c. **Continuous Violation.** If an Owner has been notified of either a new violation or a repeat violation in the manner and for the fine amounts as set forth in the Schedule of Fines below and the Owner has never cured the violation in response to either the notices or the fines, in its sole discretion, the Board may determine that such a circumstance is a continuous violation which warrants a levy of a fine based upon a daily, monthly, or quarterly amount as determined by the Board. The fine shall begin accruing upon the expiration of the cure period in the violation notice informing the Owner of the Board's decision and amount of fine and the Owner's failure and/or refusal to cure as requested.

6. Violation Hearing. An Owner may request in writing a hearing before the Board to contest the fine. To request a hearing before the Board, the Owner must submit a written request to the Association's manager (or the Board if there is no manager) within thirty (30) days after the date of the violation notice. Within fifteen (15) days after the Owner's request for a hearing, the Association will give the Owner at least fifteen (15) days advance notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The hearing will be scheduled to provide a reasonable opportunity for both the Board and the Owner to attend. Pending the hearing, the Association may continue to exercise its other rights and remedies for the violation, as if the declared violation were valid. The Owner's request for a hearing suspends only the levy of a fine. The hearing will be held in a closed or executive session of the Board. At the hearing, the Board will consider the facts and circumstances surrounding the violation. The Owner may attend the hearing in person, or may be represented by another person or written communication. If an Owner intends to make an audio recording of the hearing, such Owner's request for hearing shall include a statement noticing the Owner's intent to make an audio recording of the hearing, otherwise, no audio or video recording of the hearing may be made, unless otherwise approved by the Board. The minutes of the hearing must contain a statement of the results of the hearing and the fine, if any, imposed. A copy of the violation notice and request for hearing should be placed in the minutes of the hearing. If the Owner appears at the meeting, the notice requirements will be deemed satisfied. Unless otherwise agreed by the Board, each hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the agenda attached hereto as Exhibit A.

7. Levy of Fine. Within thirty (30) days after levying the fine, the Board must give the Owner notice of the levied fine. If the fine is levied at the hearing at which the Owner is actually present, the notice requirement will be satisfied if the Board announces its decision to the Owner at the hearing. Otherwise, the notice must be in writing. In addition to the initial levy notice, the Association will give the Owner periodic written notices of an accruing fine or the application of an Owner's payments to reduce the fine. The periodic notices may be in the form of monthly statements or delinquency notices.

8. Collection of Fines. The Association is not entitled to collect a fine from an Owner to whom it has not given notice and an opportunity to be heard. The Association may not foreclose its assessment lien on a debt consisting solely of fines. The Association may not charge interest or late fees for unpaid fines.

9. Amendment of Policy. This Policy may be revoked or amended from time to time by the Board. This Policy will remain effective until the Association records an amendment to this Policy in the county's official public records. The notice may be published and distributed in an Association newsletter or other community-wide publication.

Schedule of Fines

The Board has adopted the following general schedule of fines. The number of notices set forth below does not mean that the Board is required to provide each notice prior to exercising additional remedies as set forth in the Restrictions. The Board may elect to pursue such additional remedies at any time in accordance with applicable law. The Board also reserves the right to set fine amounts on a case by case basis, provided the fine is reasonable in light of the nature, frequency, and effect of the violation:

FINES:

New Violation:	Fine Amount
1 st Notice	Warning
2 nd Notice	\$ 25
3 rd Notice	\$ 50
4 th Notice	\$ 75
Each Subsequent Notice:	\$ 100

Repeat Violations:

1 st Notice	\$ 50
2 nd Notice	\$ 75
3 rd Notice	\$ 100
4 th Notice	\$ 125
Each Subsequent Notice:	\$ 150

Continuous Violation:

Final Notice	Amount TBD
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EXHIBIT A

HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD

Note: An individual will act as the presiding hearing officer. The hearing officer will provide introductory remarks and administer the hearing agenda.

I. Introduction:

Hearing Officer. The Board has convened for the purpose of hearing an appeal by _____ from the penalties imposed by the Association for violation of the Restrictions.

The hearing is being conducted as required by Section 209.007(a) of the Texas Property Code, and is an opportunity for the appealing party to discuss, verify facts, and resolve the matter at issue. The Board would like to resolve the dispute at this hearing. However, the Board may elect to take the appeal under advisement and conclude the hearing. If the matter is taken under advisement, a final decision will be communicated in writing within fifteen (15) days.

II. Presentation of Facts:

Hearing Officer. This portion of the hearing is to permit a representative of the Association the opportunity to describe the violation and to present photographs or other material relevant to the violation, fines or penalties. After the Association's representative has finished his presentation, the Owner or its representative will be given the opportunity to present photographs or other material relevant to the violation, fines or penalties. The Board may ask questions during either party's presentation. It is requested that questions by the appealing party be held until completion of the presentation by the Association's representative.

[Presentations]

III. Discussion:

Hearing Officer. This portion of the hearing is to permit the Board and the Owner to discuss factual disputes relevant to the violation. Discussion regarding any fine or penalty is also appropriate. Discussion should be productive and designed to seek, if possible, an acceptable resolution of the dispute. The Hearing Officer retains the right to conclude this portion of the hearing at any time.

IV. Resolution:

Hearing Officer. This portion of the hearing is to permit discussion between the Board and the appealing party regarding the final terms of the settlement if a resolution was agreed upon during the discussion phase of the hearing.

If no settlement was agreed upon, the Hearing Officer may: (i) request that the Board enter into executive session to discuss the matter; (ii) request that the Board take the matter under advisement and adjourn the hearing; or (iii) adjourn the hearing.