



NIMAGA NOTES APRIL 2012

FROM PRESIDENT STEVE MUELLER

On behalf of the entire NIMAGA Board I would like to welcome our membership to another exciting year of tournament golf! I hope this spring weather has turned those winter blues into increased golf enthusiasm! I cannot recall having this number of summer days in the months of March and April. I hope it is a sign of a wonderful golf season. During the winter months the NIMAGA board has been busy planning and organizing for our 2012 tournament schedule that is filled with a nice selection of courses. It seems like just yesterday that we were organizing our plans for the upcoming season and here we are on the verge of our first event on April 14th! As we begin the New Year we are excited to report that our membership has had a slight increase. What is even more exciting to report is that we have had a huge increase in new members! At last report we have over forty new members and we are still growing. During these tough economic times this is good news for NIMAGA. The board of directors continues to work very hard to keep our costs down and to make our organization a good value. As you look at our schedule I think you would agree that our entry fees are very reasonable. We believe this makes NIMAGA attractive to new members, especially when you compare us to other tournament groups. As we continue to promote NIMAGA we know that our membership still remains our best advertisement and we hope that all of you will promote the organization with your golfing friends! In the meantime we hope that you have a successful and rewarding golf experience in the 2012 season and look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Thaw event in the upcoming weeks!

INTRODUCING THE 2012 NIMAGA BOARD

President- Mr. Steve Mueller	Vice President- Mr. Jim Cuny
Secretary- Mr. Brian Alberts	Treasurer- Mr. Jeff Toth
Tourn. Chair- Mr. John Johnston	Tourn. Chair- Mr. Tim Jordan
Director- Mr. Frank Fiarito	Director- Mr. Tom Gearhart
Director- Mr. Mark Heinsohn	Director- Mr. Doug McKirahan
Director- Mr. Shawn Pipes	Director- Mr. Rick Sigerich
Director- Mr. Mike Turza	

Honorary Board Members: Mr. Dan Dorr & Mr. Roger Scott

As many of you know NIMAGA is run by a group of individuals who enjoy golf and have decided to give back a portion of their time in a volunteer capacity. Without these volunteers NIMAGA would not be entering its 53rd year. So when you see or play with a board member please make a special effort to thank them for their time and service to NIMAGA.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DOME NIGHT AT WHITE PINES

On Monday March 5th NIMAGA help another successful dome night where approximately 35 members attended. On this night, members gathered to hit balls, eat pizza and tell golf stories in order to break the “winter boredom”. If you were not able to attend please make a mental note and plan on attending next year. The NIMAGA board would like to extend a special thank you to Whites Pines G.C. and Mr. Mike Munro for their support of NIMAGA and their participation in our “Dome Night”.

NIMAGA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Doug McKirahan

Starting the 2012 season the NIMAGA board has a new face, Mr. Doug McKirahan who begins his third year in NIMAGA. Doug thanks long time member, Ken Larsen, as the reason he joined NIMAGA after they met at a tournament at Cog Hill. Doug has been currently competing in the Trevino division where he has had early success. These include winning a tournament at Mistwood and having the privilege of playing in the last low gross group during the Two Day Championship in just his first year. Doug currently lives in Hoffman Estates with Toni, his wife of four years, and two stepchildren Shanna & Sean. Doug brings a wealth of technology experience to our organization, as he is an independent IT consultant and Web Application Developer. We are very excited to have Doug join the leadership team of NIMAGA and thank him for his willingness to serve!

PREPARING FOR YOUR FIRST EVENT

For some NIMAGA golfers the first event can bring a certain amount of anxiety and most of this is caused by not knowing what to expect. Many veteran players have forgotten what this experience was like and have now come to take this information for granted. Below we have listed some useful information to help reduce any stress you may encounter.

- Make sure you know the location of the course and attempt to arrive early so you are not rushed. There is a link to the scheduled courses on our website. It is often nice to know if the course has a driving range and what practice facilities may be available. Our rule is that you should check in with the tournament starter 15-20 minutes before your scheduled tee time. This starter is not the course starter but the NIMAGA starter. You can find this person around the first tee.
- What is this skins game? Many times you may be asked to participate in a skins game that is also run by the tournament starter. This is completely optional and is usually \$5.00. If you enter the skins game and make a birdie or eagle on a hole that nobody else does, you can win a share of the skin money. Again, this is totally optional and has no relationship to the tournament outcome.
- Tournament rules: All of the NIMAGA events are played under USGA rules. In addition, special or important course rules will be posted on the first tee. Always read these and ask for clarification if you do not understand. The entire group is responsible for knowing these rules.
- During the round you should keep the score of each of your playing competitors. It is the responsibility of all players to protect the field by ensuring that hole-by-hole scores are accurate and agreed upon. This can be done easily by quickly checking each other after each hole before recording.

- Rules question during play? If during the course of the round you are uncertain as to how to proceed you should consult with your playing partners. It is rare that a competitor violates a rule in order to gain an advantage but many times will proceed incorrectly and thus cause a rules infraction because they did not ask. So please consult with your group and then proceed.
- When you are done your group should all report to the clubhouse immediately to complete your official scorecard. This is a simple task of transferring your scores to a white card, check the score hole by hole with your group and then have two of them sign your card. This card is then turned to the scorer and is then official.

For more information and other frequently asked questions please visit the NIMAGA website. If you have further questions please feel free to contact a board member by email or phone. We are here to help make your NIAMGA experience a positive one.

REPORTING SCORES TIMELY

Each year the NIMAGA board of directors reminds players that turning in scores in a timely manner is essential for us to run equitable and fair tournaments. Each year we continue to run into situations where a member has not done so. Please note that the NIMAGA board has on occasion placed players on a watch list and in extreme cases suspended players who have not turned in scores. Please know that we regret to take any disciplinary action against any member but we also know that having a creditable handicapping system is vital to the success of our tournaments. As a reminder, NIMAGA will report the scores from all regular and midweek events. It is your duty to report all other scores to Certified Golf. You can report scores by using the link on the NIMAGA website at www.nimaga.org.

PRINCIPLE CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF for 2012

Every four years the rules of golf are reviewed and amended by the United States Golf Association and the R&A. Below is a general listing of rules that have principle changes. This summary has been taken directly from the USGA website. You can find more detailed information by visiting their site at www.usga.org.

Addressing the Ball

The Definition is amended so that a player has addressed the ball simply by grounding his club immediately in front of or behind the ball, regardless of whether or not he has taken his stance. Therefore, the Rules generally no longer provide for a player addressing the ball in a hazard. (See also related change to Rule 18-2b)

Rules

Rule 1-2. Exerting Influence on Movement of Ball or Altering Physical Conditions The Rule is amended to establish more clearly that, if a player intentionally takes an action to influence the movement of a ball or to alter physical conditions affecting the playing of a hole in a way that is not permitted by the Rules, Rule 1-2 applies only when the action is not already covered in another Rule. For example, a player improving the lie of his ball is in breach of Rule 13-2 and therefore that Rule would apply, whereas a player intentionally improving the lie of a fellow-competitor's ball is not a situation covered by Rule 13-2 and, therefore, is governed by Rule 1-2.

Rule 6-3a. Time of Starting

Rule 6-3a is amended to provide that the penalty for starting late, but within five minutes of the starting time, is reduced from disqualification to loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Previously this penalty reduction could be introduced as a condition of competition.

Rule 12-1. Seeing Ball; Searching for Ball

Rule 12-1 is reformatted for clarity. In addition, it is amended to (i) permit a player to search for his ball anywhere on the course when it may be covered by sand and to clarify that there is no penalty if the ball is moved

in these circumstances, and (ii) apply a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2a if a player moves his ball in a hazard when searching for it when it is believed to be covered by loose impediments.

Rule 13-4. Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions

Exception 2 to Rule 13-4 is amended to permit a player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including before playing from that hazard, provided it is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and Rule 13-2 is not breached.

Rule 18-2b. Ball Moving After Address

A new Exception is added that exonerates the player from penalty if his ball moves after it has been addressed when it is known or virtually certain that he did not cause the ball to move. For example, if it is a gust of wind that moves the ball after it has been addressed, there is no penalty and the ball is played from its new position.

Rule 19-1. Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped; By Outside Agency

The note is expanded to prescribe the various outcomes when a ball in motion has been deliberately deflected or stopped by an outside agency.

Rule 20-7c. Playing from Wrong Place; Stroke Play

Note 3 is amended so that if a player is to be penalized for playing from a wrong place, in most cases the penalty will be limited to two strokes, even if another Rule has been breached prior to his making the stroke.

Appendix IV

A new Appendix is added to prescribe general regulations for the design of devices and other equipment, such as tees, gloves and distance measuring devices.

Please review rules and help make our tournaments better for everyone! Know the rules!!

HOLE IN ONE ANNOUCEMENT

NIMAGA's own Mr. Bob Eckert had a Hole in One on Feb 14th, 2012 at Naples Grande G.C. in Florida. It was a 167 yard 6 iron. His wife witnessed the shot. He sent Titleist an email of the accomplishment as he used a ProV-1 ball and he received an engraved bag tag. He also sent an email to Taylor Made, as it was their R-11 club. Taylor Made sent a divot tool and a sleeve of the new Burner balls. We highlight this to also inform you that if you make a Hole-in-One in a NIMAGA event you will receive a nice plaque from NIMAGA. Good luck to everyone in 2012!

If you have any interesting or noteworthy golf accomplishment that you would like to report, please feel free to send the information to us for posting. Simply send them to jim_cuny@glenbard.org and we would be happy to highlight them in future notes!

SLOOOOOW PLAY & NIMAGA

Every year the topic of slow play is discussed at the NIMAGA board meetings in an attempt to try and “fix” and or maintain a good pace of play in our events. Many years ago, the pace of our play was so bad that we had members who would not return to our events because of the five-hour rounds we were experiencing at the time. This poor pattern even caused us to be banned from a local prestigious course. During this period, it was not a proud time to be a NIMAGA board member. It was at this time the NIMAGA board was forced to improve our policy and work with our membership to change this negative pattern. The board then began to enforce and work to improve our policy on penalizing groups for slow play. Today, we believe we have arrived at a reasonable policy and feel our biggest hurdle is enforcement. We have agreed to make a concerted effort this year of informing members of the policy to ensure clarity. As many of know, our tournaments do not have rangers and this makes the correction of gaps on the course the responsibility of members. As with enforcement of all rules, including slow play, it is the duty of all players to help recognize gaps and then work as a group to close gaps and not wait until the 18th hole to repair the problem. Below we have listed the policy and expect that all members understand and help enforce it when on the course.

Slow Play Policy established by NIMAGA's Board of Directors.

The Pace of Play Rule is: If a group finishes **14-18** minutes behind the group in front of them, and **26** minutes or more behind two groups in front of them **1 Stroke Penalty** 19 minutes or more behind the group in front of them, And **26** minutes or more behind two groups in front of them **2 Stroke Penalty**. Groups finishing beyond the above time lines will be brought to the attention of NIMAGA's Board for whatever action the Boards chooses. Please note this rule includes leniency and thus any group which does not finish within these time allowances will be assessed the penalty. **Also note this rule is based on the "group," it is not acceptable for the first player of a group to hole out on the last hole and run into the clubhouse. The "group" has not finished until the last player holes out on the last hole.**

If you would like to discuss the policy and its enforcement please feel free to speak to a board member at anytime. We want to thank everyone for helping with this issue and please know that it has helped improve the pace of play in our tournaments!

CALLING ALL PACKAGE MEMBERS

The NIMAGA board would like to thank all of our package members for their investment in our tournament schedule. We want to ensure that you play in as many events as you would like. Please know that we do ask that you notify us each time you would like to play in any eligible events. This can be done by emailing one of the tournament directors or send in a tournament application that may be found on our website. The cost of the event is fully covered by your package payment. The purpose of this requirement is to help us provide accurate numbers to each course for each event. Our contracts require us to pay for each participant and the final number does impact our financial liability. Please make certain that you notify us if you plan to play! Simply contact John Johnston at jj1210@comcast.net or Tim Jordan at tjgolf71@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday April 30th - April Midweek (deadline is April 21st)

Saturday May 5th - May Jamboree (deadline is April 20th)

Wednesday May 16th - May Midweek (deadline is May 6th)