



NIMAGA IS IN ITS 52ND YEAR AND STILL GROWING!

NIMAGA NOTES JULY 2012

FROM PRESIDENT STEVE MUELLER

Greetings to our membership and I hope this summer heat has not curbed your enthusiasm or caused you to cancel too many tee times. As we near the halfway point of the golf season I am excited to report that our tournament play has had a 17% increase over last year. We hope that this is an indicator that our economy is improving and that our tournaments have more appeal. In addition to this good news we have also seen a 15% increase in our membership, another good sign! As we plan for the final events for the year please look ahead and plan on getting your sign ups in as early as possible. This really assists our planning with courses and more importantly helps our directors organize the events. On behalf of the entire NIMAGA board I wish you the best of luck and hope the remaining summer months bring you great competition!

WHY NOT USE DROP AREAS ???

As you play in our events, you will often see a note on the rules sheet posted on the first tee that refers to not using any drop area on the golf course. Recently we have been asked why this is the case and why does NIMAGA not like drop areas? The true answer is not a short one and has nothing to do with our like or dislike of drop areas. We would like our membership to know that we in fact like drop areas and would use them on a more regular basis but we chose not to because they are hard to administer fairly when playing various courses. As many of you know our tournaments are run each month by a small group of volunteers who have to perform all of the duties necessary to successfully run a NIMAGA event. In some cases this preparation does not include having a chance to play the course before we host an event. Because we are not familiar with a particular course we are often not able to assess how well a course is marked. This of course inhibits our ability to know how the drop areas are identified. Sometimes the course will list it on the scorecard but then it will not be well marked. Even if it is, it will have a sign that simply states "Drop Area" with no other markings. Do you drop behind the sign, near the sign and if so under what restraints? Because we always want to ensure that our events are played under the same conditions and with consistent application of the rules we are forced to declare drop areas not usable during most events. In events when we know there is a tough hole or condition that could slow down play and have direct knowledge of the course we will permit the use of drop areas and ensure it is clearly stated and marked. In the future we will make attempts to try and investigate courses in more detail so that we can make an informed decision regarding the use of any drop area and then make sure it is clearly marked and communicated.

SLOW PLAY RE-EMPHASIZED

It seems each month during one of our events we end up having to penalize a group or two for slow play. In some cases it results in many questions that arise after the penalty is assigned. Usually the assessment is challenged by some members who state the penalty is “unfair” and they will offer a list of reasons why the group was behind and it was not their total fault. The truth of the matter is that the board has worked very hard over the past ten years in order to tweak and adjust the rule in an attempt to find the fairest way to administer this important rule. Since NIMAGA does not have the ability to have independent on course marshals to help maintain and monitor the pace of play throughout the round, our ability to enforce the pace of play rule comes down to the time gaps between groups at the 18th hole. After many years of discussion and debate, the board feels that we have a rule that is reasonable and effective. After years of discussions and changes, mostly based on feedback from our members, the board still feels we have a rule that is reasonable and effective. Reasonable does not make it a perfect fit and this year we made special effort in order to communicate the rule consistently and thoroughly. Below we have listed the wording that we use on our tee sheets. In addition we almost always list a statement in the tee rules reminding members to keep “Pace of Play” a priority. After all, the pace of play does belong to every golfer on the course.

If a group finishes 14-18 minutes behind the group in front of them, and 28 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 review to determine if further actions are required 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 club house. The "group" has not finished until the last player holes out on the last hole.

What Can Players Do To Help Enforce and Prevent A Slow Play Penalty?

If you are playing in a group that you notice has fallen behind there a few things that we recommended all players can do to help improve the situation. Some of these include:

- 1) Bring to the attention of your playing partners that the gap exist
- 2) Recommend to your group that it is important to play “ready golf”
- 3) Reduce time spent on the tee box and greens by being ready
- 4) Try and attack the issue early and not on the last three holes, check your interval at the turn.
Remember, your position should be directly behind the group in front of you, not directly in front of the group behind you!
- 5) If the gap continues it is the groups duty to work together to close it. Discuss it openly and remind others that the whole group will be penalized.
- 6) If everyone could save 30 seconds per hole, (6 sec per shot) the round time would decrease by 36 minutes.

NIMAGA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD TAKING SHAPE

The NIMAGA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP is a 36-hole event. All eligible players who apply will compete over two days. In 2012 we have made the following changes after surveying our membership:

- There will be no cut everyone in the field will be slotted to play both days.
- The tournament will go back to its original format of one division.
- Trophies will be awarded to the gross and net winner along with second through fifth place on the net side (ties to be broken by playoff).
- Prize certificates will be awarded to the gross and net winner along with second through eighth on the net side.
- Glass memento's will be awarded to all players who have fully qualified for the NIMAGA Players Championship (whether they play or not)

The NIMAGA Players Championship is set for the weekend of October 6th & 7th at Prairie Bluff Golf Course and currently there are 89 members who have qualified for this prestigious event.

Players qualify by meeting the following conditions:

- In the April, May, June, July, August and September (2 day =1 event) regular tournaments. In the Palmer Division, the low gross winner and second (and ties) low gross, and the first net four players and ties with the fourth player qualify. In the Player and Trevino Divisions, the low gross winner, and the first net four players and ties with the fourth player qualify.
- In the Mid-week events (April, May, June, July, and August) and the Senior Tournament, the low gross and first net two players and ties with the second qualify.
- Second gross and all net second through fifth place finishers in the prior year's PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP qualify.
- NIMAGA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP -- Champion (low gross and low net) receive a 3-year exemption for this event.

First Year Members: Must have played in 4 NIMAGA events (August 2 day = 1 event) and turned in 10 scores during the year (exclusive of scores turned in with application) to the **NIMAGA handicap service** (handicaps.com) prior to September 17, 2012.

Regular Members: Must meet above qualifications, played in two events (August 2 day = 1 event) during the calendar year and turned in 10 scores to the **NIMAGA handicap service** (www.handicaps.com) for the calendar year prior to September 17, 2012.

BREAKING TIES & PLAYOFFS

When a tie exists in a NIMAGA event we will decide the winner by using the following procedure:

Ties in NIMAGA events, are decided by a sudden-death play-off, if such a play-off is feasible in the judgment of the Tournament Director(s). The Palmer division will be determined in the following order: Gross winner, then net winner, then 2nd place gross. When it is determined that a first place playoff is necessary, all eligible players must be present in order to participate. The following factors will be considered by the Tournament director(s) in determining if a physical playoff is feasible. These include, weather, darkness, and access to the course. For a Gross Playoff, the handicaps of the participants will be disregarded. If a play-off is not feasible, the tie will be broken by matching cards working backward from the 18th hole. The tie-breaking procedure will determine who receives both the first place prize and the tournament plaque. For all Net Playoffs, the players will receive strokes in accordance with the ranking of holes on the scorecard. The same will apply in a scorecard playoff for net. The tie breaking procedure will determine who receives both the first place prize and the tournament plaque. Playoffs will be run, if necessary, for Low Gross and then Low Net. If there is a tie for 2nd place gross, a scorecard playoff will determine 2nd place gross. All other net places will remain ties. Example, if 3 players tie for second they will all receive credit for 2nd place and will split the prize monies for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places.

The Tournament Director(s) has final authority in making the decision regarding the ability to conduct a physical playoff and if a scorecard playoff is necessary. The responsibility for players to be in attendance in order to participate remains the sole responsibility of the player.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NIMAGA Club Championship- Saturday & Sunday August 4th & 5th. **Deadline was July 20th**

August Classic- Sunday, August 19th. **Deadline is August 3rd.**

August Midweek- Monday August 27th. **Deadline is August 18th**

