



NIMAGA NOTES April 2016

AND IT STARTS...

After what would have been a very chilly start, the rescheduled Spring Thaw turned out to be a perfect day for golf. Several members already showing off good form. This season may be the most competitive yet!!

ALL MEMBERS

NIMAGA is an organization run by volunteers. We all have a stake in keeping NIMAGA alive and flourishing. If you know someone who may be interested in tournament golf, let them know about your experience in NIMAGA. The more members we have, the more beneficial it is to everyone.

PENALTY OBSERVANCE

As you know, golf is a gentlemen's game. It is one of the only sports that players call penalties on themselves. If you break a rule, it is incumbent upon you to call it on yourself, even if no one else witnessed it. However, if you do witness an infraction, you should report it to the player at once. The infraction, in some cases, may be correctable before the next shot, or start of the next hole.

An example happened at the Spring Thaw:

A foursome (Let's call them Foursome A) walking off the green saw the foursome (Foursome B) in front of them tee off from the wrong set of tees. When Foursome A drove up to the tees, Foursome B in front had already left the teeing area. After verifying that Foursome A had teed off from the wrong tees, and Foursome B was still playing the hole, Foursome A teed off. Per rule 11-4/5 (See this month's **Rules Corner**), as soon as Foursome A teed off on the next hole, they were disqualified. Foursome A did not tell Foursome B of the infraction until three holes later, when it was too late to correct. The infraction was reported to the Tournament Director at the end of the round and Foursome B was disqualified.

1. When you are playing, please double-check at each hole that your foursome is playing from the correct set of tees.
2. If you notice an infraction, please tell that player, or players, immediately. Even if it means driving up the fairway at the next hole.
3. If you have a question regarding a rule, and are unsure of the correct answer, ask a member, or members, of your foursome. If an agreement on the rule can't be met, play two balls, keep both scores, and ask the Tournament Director when you finish the round.

4. Do your best to familiarize yourself with the Rules of Golf. You can order a Rules book from the USGA, find other books at some of the golf stores, you can even download an app to your smartphone.

This section is not a criticism of Foursome A or Foursome B, but rather an example of what could have been done in a rules infraction situation. None of us are perfect, and we try to do our best when confronted with different situations.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

SPRING THAW

Palmer Division

Gross Winner- Bill Powers

Net Winner- Dave Sloan

Player Division

Gross Winner- Michael Cholewa

Net Winner- Mike Zdarsky(Won in a playoff)

Trevino Division

Gross Winner- Ken Larson

Net Winner- Larry Zakosek

*****UPCOMING EVENTS*****

May Jamboree

Saturday, May 7th

Springbrook and Naperbrook

Deadline for entry is April 27th

May Midweek

Tuesday, May 24th

Maple Meadows

Deadline for entry is May 14th

DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION

When NIMAGA sets up the schedule for the year, we try to establish a fair deadline for entry into each tournament. Please take the extra time to enter the tournament either online using PayPal, or by US Mail. Too many times we have people trying to enter by sending us an email and asking to bring the payment to the event, or handing in the payment and form for the next event at an event. With all of the other things that must be taken care of on the day of the tournament, we cannot accept entries that day. There is too much of an opportunity that it will get misplaced.

We try to make it as convenient as possible for all of the members. If you miss a deadline, please email one of the Tournament Chairman and we will try and accommodate you.

Thanks for your help and understanding!!

PRESIDENTIAL PRESS

NIMAGA Members,

Thanks for being so patient with the wonderful weather we encountered on April 9th at Silver Lake. We apologize to those who drove out to the course, but Silver Lake's lack of willingness to reschedule, with full knowledge of the weather forecast, was the root cause. We've heard many suggestions on how to communicate situations like this, as we've had several reschedules the past three years compared to one or two the previous ten. We did try using a number in which to text for status and many of you followed through. We hope to have a process in place going forward to communicate these event changes.

We focused the 2016 schedule on quality, not just going after the lowest price. We, the board and members, played many of the courses last summer and fall to ensure they were not "cow pastures". We think this year's schedule is one of our best. Please take the opportunity to play Springbrook, Maple Meadows, Coyote Run, Willow Crest, or Randall Oaks in May and June. I think they all will provide a solid test, and a great value for your entry fee.

Good Luck to all, and a Big Thank You to whoever was responsible for the two beautiful days we had at Silver Lake and Cog Hill.

MEET A MEMBER

This is a new section in the monthly notes where we will introduce a member and share some of their stories. Let us know what you think of it.

Sal Lombardi Jr

Age: 48

Joined NIMAGA in 1999

Sal joined NIMAGA after meeting a few of the members at the Chicagoland golf show. After the first tournament, he was hooked.

Sal's first win was at the 2003 Spring Thaw, in the "C" Division. His next win was a low gross win at the 2013 April Midweek at Catigny. Despite the lack of wins, Sal still has participated on several NIMAGA Cup teams, including two winners. Also, Sal has qualified for the Player's Championship many times, including a Fourth Place finish in the 2005, when it was still called the Tournament of Winners. He lost the third place, three hole playoff to current NIMAGA member Jim Neceda.

Sal has been in three other playoffs over the years, two for net and one for gross.

Unfortunately, he is winless, but still has hopes for the future!!

Some of Sal's bets memories include a Hole-in-One at the 2013 August Midweek at Settler's Hill, being on the winning team of the 2003 NIMAGA Cup, and participating in the Milwaukee Cup challenge against the golfers from the Milwaukee area. The thing that Sal enjoys the most is scoring at the tournaments, as he gets to interact with all the players that day, and help resolve any issues that come up.



Play It Forward!

The USGA's program to add enjoyment to Golf and speed up play has involved all originations to examine what tees they are using in their events. NIMAGA will identify an event that will use PLAY IT FORWARD TEES and conduct a survey to determine our members' thoughts. Look for it this year.

****HANDICAP REPORTING****

As a member of NIMAGA, it is imperative that you report all of your scores, independent of all the NIMAGA regular tournaments, timely and accurately to the Interstate Handicap system. This includes any of the rounds from the year-long Match Play tournament. This helps to insure that the handicaps are as current as possible, and the field is level for all players.

*****NEW FOR 2016-** To further support the key System premise of peer review, scores made while playing alone will no longer be acceptable for handicap purposes. This change underscores the importance of providing full and accurate information regarding a player's potential scoring ability, and the ability of other players to form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a posted score.

HANDICAP RULE EXPLANATION

In an effort to establish and maintain parity in NIMAGA Tournaments a handicap policy has been established by the Board of Directors. All members will have a USGA Handicap and a NIMAGA Tournament handicap which will be calculated from participated NIMAGA Tournaments "Only". The NIMAGA Tournament Handicap will be based solely on golf scores that are recorded in regular NIMAGA Tournaments, including Mid-Week Tournaments, the Seniors Tournament and the NIMAGA Players Championship. The tournament handicap is calculated at 96% and takes the best 3 scores of 6 tournament rounds played to establish the NIMAGA Tournament handicap. The member will use the lower of the two handicaps (USGA or Tournament) when playing in NIMAGA Tournaments and is identified with the letter "t" next to the member's handicap in the Tournament Pairings Sheet (i.e. 16t).

Rules Corner

A rule that applies to this time of year:

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25-2. Embedded Ball

If a player's ball is embedded in any closely-mown area ***through the green***, it may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the ***hole***. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the ***course through the green***.

Note 1: A ball is "embedded" when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g., grass, ***loose impediments*** and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil).

Note 2: "Closely-mown area" means any area of the ***course***, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

Note 3: The ***Committee*** may adopt the Local Rule as provided for in Appendix I allowing a player relief, without penalty, for a ball embedded anywhere ***through the green***.

A rule that comes up every so often, including at this year's Spring Thaw:

11-1. Teeing

When a player is putting a ball into play from the ***teeing ground***, it must be played from within the ***teeing ground*** and from the surface of the ground or from a conforming ***tee*** (see Appendix IV) in or on the surface of the ground.

For the purposes of this Rule, the surface of the ground includes an irregularity of surface (whether or not created by the player) and sand or other natural substance (whether or not placed by the player).

If a player makes a ***stroke*** at a ball on a non-conforming tee, or at a ball teed in a manner not permitted by this Rule, **he is disqualified**.

A player may stand outside the ***teeing ground*** to play a ball within it.

11-4. Playing from Outside Teeing Ground

a. Match Play

If a player, when starting a hole, plays a ball from outside the ***teeing ground***, there is no penalty, but the ***opponent*** may immediately require the player to cancel the ***stroke*** and play a ball from within the ***teeing ground***.

b. Stroke Play

If a ***competitor***, when starting a hole, plays a ball from outside the ***teeing ground***, **he incurs a penalty of two strokes** and must then play a ball from within the ***teeing ground***.

If the *competitor* makes a *stroke* from the next *teeing ground* without first correcting his mistake or, in the case of the last hole of the round, leaves the *putting green* without first declaring his intention to correct his mistake, **he is disqualified.**

The *stroke* from outside the *teeing ground* and any subsequent *strokes* by the *competitor* on the hole prior to his correction of the mistake do not count in his score.

11-5. Playing from Wrong Teeing Ground

The provisions of Rule **11-4** apply.

19th HOLE

A golfer standing on a tee overlooking a river sees a couple of fishermen and says to his partner, "Look at those two idiots fishing in the rain."

Carl and Dave were getting ready to tee off on the first hole when Dave noticed that Carl got a new set of clubs. Dave asked Carl how he liked the clubs and if they've helped his game at all. Carl replied, "Oh yeah, they're great clubs! They've added at least 25 yards to my slices, about 30 yards to my hooks and you would be surprised at the size of my divots!"

The woods are full of long drivers.
~ Harvey Penick