



## **NIMAGA NOTES January/February 2016**

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### **GEARING UP FOR 2016**

2016 is shaping up to be a great year for all NIMAGA members. The schedule looks strong with a bunch of new courses, and few old favorites. The prices for this strong slate are a little less than last year, as well. Come on April!!!

### **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.

### **\*\*\*UPCOMING EVENTS\*\*\***

Chicagoland Golf Show!!

Come by and visit the booth at the Chicagoland Golf Show at the Rosemont Convention Center. The show will run from Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Golf Dome Night!!

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, will be our annual NIMAGA Golf Dome Night at the Addison Links & Tees Golf Dome. The address is 880 W Lake St, Addison, IL. The cost is only \$10.00 per man. Bring a friend who may be interested in NIMAGA, and join us for a night of fun!!

### **PRESIDENTIAL PRESS**

Welcome to the 2016 Season!! The new tournament schedule is up online and ready for you to sign-up. If you sign-up before February 19<sup>th</sup>, there is a discounted price for both the Regular and Package membership.

For this year, Interstate will remain as our handicap service provider, but we are testing CDGA's service during the course of our season, and will advise you of our findings at the end of the year.

As always, NIMAGA is a volunteer run organization, so we appreciate all of the help and understanding that you provide during the season. Also, do not forget to tell a few friends about NIMAGA. The more members we have, the stronger the organization becomes. We appreciate your efforts!!

## **\*\*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.

## **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**

New for 2016-

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***Withdrawal of Rule on Ball Moving After Address (Rule 18-2b)*** - *Rule 18-2b (Ball at Rest Moved by Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment) has been withdrawn. This means that if a ball at rest moves after the player addresses it, the player is no longer automatically deemed to have caused the ball to move. A one-stroke penalty under Rule 18-2 will be applied only when the facts show that the player has caused the ball to move.*

This follows a similar addendum to Rule 18-2b that was made in the previous four-year rules cycle. The current change is meant to relax the rules against the golfer in a situation in which he or she has clearly not caused the ball to move. In 2014 Justin Rose was penalized under Rule 18-2b when his ball moved. It was later determined that Rose was not at fault and the penalty was rescinded.

***Limited Exception to Disqualification Penalty for Submission of Incorrect Score Card (Rule 6-6d)*** - *A limited new exception has been introduced to Rule 6-6d (Wrong Score for Hole). A player is not disqualified for returning a lower score for a hole than actually taken, when the incorrect score is a result of failing to include penalty strokes that the*

*player did not know were incurred before returning the score card. Instead, the player incurs the penalty under the Rule that was breached and must add an additional penalty of two strokes for the score card error. In all other cases in which a player returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, the penalty will continue to be disqualification.*

Several golfers in high-level amateur and professional events have been recently plagued by Rule 6-6d when notified of a penalty after having signed his or her scorecard. Now, rather than automatic disqualification, a two stroke penalty will be given if a player fails to sign for the correct score on a hole where a penalty was assessed without the player's knowledge. This rule change would have come into play at the 2013 Masters when Tiger Woods took a drop on the par-5 15th hole and later signed for a score lower than his actual score, not realizing a penalty had been assessed. At the time, the USGA disagreed with Augusta National's handling of the ruling, however this rule change would have also resulted in a two-stroke penalty for Woods, rather than disqualification.

***Modification of Penalty for a Single Impermissible Use of Artificial Devices or Equipment (Rule 14-3)*** - *The penalty for a player's first breach during the round of Rule 14-3 (Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Abnormal Use of Equipment) has been reduced from disqualification to loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play. The penalty for any subsequent breach of Rule 14-3 will continue to be disqualification.*

This rule lightens the penalty for use of gadgets like rangefinders or other distance measuring devices, particularly on first offense. D.A. Points was disqualified in 2014 for breaching Rule 14-3; the addendum would have given him a two-stroke penalty instead of a DQ.

***Prohibition on Anchoring the Club While Making a Stroke (Rule 14-1b)*** - *As announced in May 2013, new Rule 14-1b (Anchoring the Club) prohibits anchoring the club during the stroke, either "directly" or by use of an "anchor point". The penalty is loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play.*

The long-awaited ban on anchored putting will take effect Jan. 1, 2016.

## 19<sup>th</sup> HOLE

They say golf is like life, but don't believe them. Golf is more complicated than that. -

Gardner Dickinson

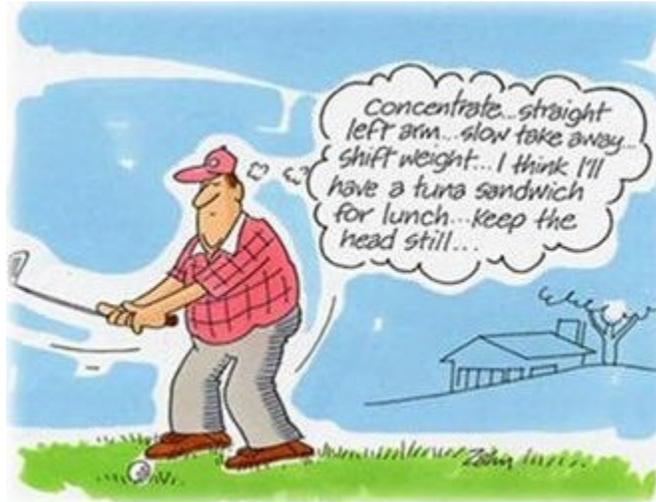
After a particularly bad round of golf, Robert decided not to go to the nineteenth hole [the clubhouse bar] and started to go straight home.

As he was walking to the golf car park to get his Range Rover, a policeman stopped him and asked, 'Did you tee off on the seventeenth hole about twenty minutes ago?'

'Yes', Robert answered

'Did you happen to slice your ball so that it went over the trees and out of bounds and completely off the golf course?'

'Yes, I did. How did you know?' Robert questioned.



'Well', said the policeman gravely, 'Your golf ball flew out onto the main road and crashed through the windscreen of a BMW. The car driver lost control and crashed into six other cars and a fire engine. The fire engine was unable to reach the fire in time and the building burned down. Now, what do you intend to do about it?'

Robert thought it over very carefully and responded, 'I think I'll close my stance a little bit, tighten my grip and lower my right thumb.'