



## NIMAGA NOTES – SEPT 2018

---

### **NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

NIMAGA Members the golf season is still open for business. We still have four events left - three that are open to all (Patriots Day, Milwaukee Challenge and the Two-Man) and our most prestigious event which is invitation only the NIMAGA Players Championship. Regarding the two-man event if you do not have a partner we will pair you up. When I joined NIMAGA I was paired up two of the first three years it was a great opportunity to meet someone new in our organization. Now you add a great course like Steeple Chase in Mundelein and no Bears game that Sunday equal a must play.

The Board is meeting next week to discuss our 2019 schedule if you have any suggestions for play or NOT play please send my way ([fiarito98@comcast.net](mailto:fiarito98@comcast.net)).

Lastly, golf is a game of sportsmanship and it is important to the integrity of our organization that if you know, see or suspect something involving a member please inform a director. This involves our tournaments, outside tournaments or just general play. We expect all members to respect our rules and requirements such as posting outside scores. If we run afoul of those rules and requirements it is up to the board to investigate and levy possible penalties. It is not something we enjoy but is necessary to the integrity and credibility of NIMAGA.

To our members of the Jewish faith L'Shana Tova!

### **WHAT DOES THE “A” IN NIMAGA REALLY MEAN?**

Of course, everyone knows the “A” stands for Amateur but the word amateur really does mean something when it comes to a golfer’s status.

NIMAGA puts on tournaments for amateur golfers of all skill levels. To compete in any NIMAGA event, a golfer must be considered an amateur. Amateur status in golf is defined by the USGA, and is used to determine the eligibility for golfers to compete in such competitions. Amateurs are those who play the game for the fun and challenging nature of the game, and not for potential financial gain. The standards and rules set forth by the USGA, determine if a golfer is an amateur or should be considered a professional. If these are violated, a golfer would no

longer be considered an amateur, and therefore no longer be eligible to compete in NIMAGA events.

The most common ways a golfer can violate the rules of amateur status are:

1. Working as a golf pro
2. Being a member of a professional golf association such as the PGA of America
3. Entering a competition as a professional
4. Playing for prize money, including qualifiers for such events
5. Giving golf instruction for compensation

There are exceptions to some of these. A golfer can compete in events that have cash prizes, but must enter as an amateur or waive their right to prize money before the competition begins. He can also belong to a professional golf organization, as long as it does not give him playing rights. A golfer can also give instruction for compensation under a couple of conditions. One is teaching in the First Tee. The other is if a golfer is a coach in an educational institution and less than half his pay comes from coaching, he can still be considered an amateur.

In NIMAGA, we have the potential to win gift certificates or gift cards for playing well or by hitting a shot closest to the pin on a designated Par 3. Both are within the rules of maintaining amateur status. A golfer can win up to \$750 in a gift certificate, per event, without breaching this rule. A golfer can also accept merchandise for playing in an event, such as the Milwaukee Challenge, or a Member Guest in a Country Club. The retail amount of the gifts can exceed \$750, and the limits are set forth by the USGA in the rules of amateur status. A golfer can also accept money for getting a hole-in-one as part of a round of golf. This can be cash, and can exceed the \$750 limit, as long as it is incidental to the round of golf, and not a specific competition to win money in a hole-in-one contest. A golfer can also accept expense for travel to compete in an event. If the amount exceeds \$300, a local or regional golf association must oversee the process.

At a NIMAGA tournament, we also usually have the option to participate in a skins competition. This too is allowable under the rules governing amateur status. However, the money in a skins competition must:

1. Come from the players involved
2. It must be optional
3. It must not be considered excessive.

This is why we cannot include the skins competition as part of the entry fee. If we did, we would be considered as playing for prize money, and this would violate the rules of amateur status. This same information also governs any other type of gambling you do while golfing. It is allowable as long as the above is followed.

If any of the rules governing amateur status are breached, an individual can be reinstated as an amateur. There is generally a waiting period, and the length of that period is based on the seriousness and number of breaches.

Much of the information used to write this article was taken directly from the USGA's website on the Rules governing amateur status. There is a link below to their website if you have questions or would like more info on anything regarding these rules.

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules/rules-of-amateur-status.html#!rule-01>

## **MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE**

For those who have not participated in the Milwaukee Challenge, it is a blast! It is a handicapped match play event against golfers from the Milwaukee area. Each NIMAGA member will be pitted against a member of MCPLA (Milwaukee County Public Links Association) and will compete for the chance to win up to 3 points per match. You earn 1 point for winning the front 9, 1 point for winning the back 9, and 1 point for winning the total 18. If the 2 players are tied, the point is halved. So even if someone has an awful start, they still have a chance to win a point on the back and a point for the total.

This is the 43rd playing of the event and NIMAGA leads the series 20-19, with 3 years being tied. NIMAGA dominated the event in the early years, but we have not fared as well lately. I for one, am looking forward to reversing that trend! From the amount of entries I have received already, I am not the only one. After only a week of accepting applications, we already had enough players entered to field  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our team! So, if you're on the fence, get a move on and get me an entry form with payment or you'll be left behind. I will be taking applications at the Patriot's Day Classic, so you can bring it there. It may be your last chance to get in.

This year we will be returning to, what I believe, is the original venue for the Milwaukee Challenge, Bristol Oaks Golf Club in Bristol Oaks, WI. For most of you, it will be a shorter drive to get there than it was to Evergreen, the venue ever since I have been competing in the event. For those of you that don't know, Dan Plens's son, Dan Jr. is the head pro and GM there, and gave us a great deal. For your \$65 entry fee, you get:

- Greens Fee
- Cart
- Range Balls
- Buffet Dinner including; Baked Stuffed Pork Chops with Gravy, Pepper Steak over Rice Pilaf, Baked Potato Salad, Caesar Salad, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, and Green Beans Almondine
- Tee Gift

So come join us in taking the cup back and keeping NIMAGA's overall winning record! It's not that far a drive up to Bristol, so it wouldn't hurt to go play a practice round up there sometime in the next month either. If you have any questions, feel free to shoot me an email. My address is [tjobrien13@hotmail.com](mailto:tjobrien13@hotmail.com). Put Milwaukee Challenge in the subject line so I catch it if your email goes to my junk mailbox. If you don't have any questions, but know you want in, mail me a check or NIMAGA gift certificate for \$65 along with the entry you should have gotten in an email. If not, let me know and I'll send you one.

My address is:

Tom O'Brien  
2501 Rockwood Dr  
Joliet, IL 60432

See you in Bristol on the 22nd!

### **C&G MATCH PLAY TOURNAMENT**

The C&G MPT (standing for **Carl & George Match Play Tournament**) is winding down to the final matches which are being held at the Preserve at Oak Meadows in late September. I want to personally thank all of our members who participated this year. I hope all had a good experience and will consider entry into the 2019 C&GMPT.

We will publish the overall results in the next newsletter. Good luck to all remaining participants.

### **NIMAGA ACCOLADES**



Kirk Blakely qualified for entry into the 2019 Illinois Open



Terry Krohn made an ace in the August Classic at Old Orchard - #7

## **SOME NIMAGA CUP HISTORY**

Although the NIMAGA Cup event is in our rearview mirror for 2018, there is a rich history of the event going back many years. The following is an article that Ken Larson (member since 1975) wrote in our NIMAGA NOTES from 1997. Although the names of many in this article might not be familiar to some of you and the format of the Cup competition has changed a bit - this article speaks to our tradition, the tradition of the event and how competition never grows old.

The tone was set at the first tee. The dark clouds moved in to delay the start. The weather radar showed lightning approaching. But, what no one realized at the time was the lightning was really the flashes of the iron shots by the B Division.

B Division was led off by Glen Smith and Bob Wykpisz, who fought gallantly, showing the way for those forward.

The next group was Ken Larson and Carl Movrich. Down by 3 with 4 holes to play against the Championship Division did not look good. Then it was 2 down, 3 to go. Next it was 1 down with 2 to go. Suddenly it was all even at the 18<sup>th</sup>. Larsen and Movrich drove safely off the tee. The Championship Division cracked under pressure and lost the hole and the team match.

The victory was filtered out to the rest of the B Division combatants - "B Division is in contention for it's first ever NIMAGA Cup Championship". Onward marched the B Division, clawing for points. Pierce and Buralli, Tiberi and Repogle, Keehnan and Utterback.

Suddenly, the Championship Division was eliminated and C Division was in the hunt. And, of course, the Goliath – the hated A Division, winner of the last 4 NIMAGA Cup wars, was in a slight lead. The 197 NIMAGA Cup would come down to the last group.

The sky was now black with thunderheads. The rain was falling in buckets, lightning closely to the continuous claps of thunder, one could make out the roar "Tiger, B Division", "Tiger, B Division" – as Captain Dan Dorr and partner Alan Johnson fought for the sweep necessary for the B Division victory. Lightning lit up the darkened course like the sun bursting on the horizon. Everyone in the clubhouse wanted the players to get off the course. But, the damn fools played on undaunted. Victory was within grasp as That threw bolts of lightning with reckless abandon,

Finally, Dorr and Johnson soaked and battle scarred, walked off the 18<sup>th</sup>. Then the news broke. They has swept all 3 points and clinched victory for the B Division – the first ever. Congratulations.

## **WHAT DO THOSE ASTERISKS MEAN ON THE TEE SHEET?**

Starting in May (and throughout the year), the NIMAGA Board receives a lot of questions about the meaning of the single and/or double asterisks next to their name on the tee sheet.

These asterisks (\*\* = new member and \* = insufficient scores) indicate that NIMAGA has a minimum scoring requirement when determining the prize money for a player at any given event.

### REMAINING EVENTS AND 2018 PRIZE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

<u>Event Name/Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Min Scores</u>	<u>Entry Due Date</u>	<u>Interstate's Revision Date</u>
Patriots Day Classic (9/8)	Sept	at least 9	Aug 29th	Sept 1st
Players Champ (9/15&16)	Sept	at least 10	Sept 1st	Sept 1st
2-Man (10/7)	Oct	at least 10	Sept 24th	Oct 1st

Any member who does not meet the foregoing requirements for a tournament will be eligible in that tournament to win no more than a \$15 minimum prize.

New Members - A new member is not eligible to win not more than a \$15 prize in any NIMAGA tournament until his handicap being used for the event reflects at least five scores made as a member during the current year and has completed a NIMAGA tournament for his NIMAGA handicap.

So – the bottom line to maintaining your full eligibility, you need to keep up in posting those NON-NIMAGA scores to the Interstate Handicap service.

See the webpage for more details - <http://www.nimaga.org/rules/rules-prizes.php>

## **RULE CHANGES FOR 2019**

Article reprinted from the Chicago District Golfer magazine (August 2018) - <https://www.cdga.org/detail.asp?id=514>

Understand how the rules are changing and you can make it a happy new year in 2019. The "modernized" Rules of Golf go into effect world-wide Jan. 1, 2019. They are designed to be player-friendly, easy to understand and help speed play.

Every golfer needs to know these basics:

- . Water hazards and lateral water hazards will be renamed yellow penalty areas and red penalty areas.
- . The committee (or club/ course) may designate any area a yellow or red penalty area.
  - Relief from a penalty area will be like relief today is from a water hazard.
- . However, a player may remove loose impediments from penalty areas.
  - You may ground your club and touch the ground and water in penalty areas.
- A player also may remove loose impediments and ground a club in bunkers. However, you cannot ground your club immediately in front of or behind your ball in a bunker.
  - There is no penalty if you accidentally move your ball anywhere when searching for it. Replace it.

There is no penalty if you accidentally move your ball or ball marker on the putting green. Replace it.

- If your ball moves for any reason after you have lifted and replaced it on the putting green, replace it.

- To determine an area in which to drop, always measure with your longest club that is not a putter. A player almost always will drop in an area one or two club lengths from a specific spot (or estimated spot).

- . When you drop a ball, drop it from knee height.

Re-drop the ball if it does not come to rest in the drop area, and if this happens a second time, place it where it hit the ground.

. For a ball unplayable in a bunker, a new option allows a drop on line behind the bunker, adding two penalty strokes.

You may always substitute a ball when taking relief (except when replacing back on a spot).

An optional local rule designed to help speed casual play allows a drop "nearby," adding two penalty strokes, when a ball is lost or out of bounds.

- An optional local rule to speed casual play allows for a "maximum score" per hole in stroke play.

The option to take relief at the "opposite margin" of a red penalty area will be allowed only by local rule.

Here are some additional resources for players to learn about the new rules, available now or coming soon:

The best resource currently available, and always a good one, is USGA.org, the web site of the United States Golf Association. When you click on Rules, you will find a description of the major rules changes, along with videos to demonstrate them. This website also has the text of the new Rules of Golf for reference.

A Players edition of the Rules of Golf will be published this fall. It is not brief, but it is designed to be more readable than the old rules book while containing all that a player should need to know. A more complete edition containing information for setting up courses and competitions will also be published, along with a book of "Commentaries" for tournament committees and rules officials. The "Commentaries" book replaces the old Decisions book.

## **CALL TO ALL MEMBERS**

Just because the 2018 NIMAGA season has started, that is no reason to stop recruiting your family and friends to join this organization. We all need to be advocates for NIMAGA and promote it whenever possible. 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.

## **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

### **SENIOR OPEN – 06/25/2018**

ST ANDREWS #2

#### Low Division

Gross Rick Soja

Net Bill Walsh (won in a playoff)

High Division

Gross Steve Barnaby

Net Brian Alberts

**NIMAGA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – 07/14/2018 & 07/15/2018**

BLACKBERRY OAKS & SPRINGBROOK

Low Division

Gross Michael Harmon

Net Jonathon Tran

High Division

Gross Steve Barnaby

Net Dan Montgomery

**JULY MIDWEEK – 07/25/2018**

ORCHARD VALLEY

Low Division

Gross Tom O'Brien

Net Bob Lake

High Division

Gross Dennis Samoska

Net John Johnston (won in a playoff)

**AUGUST CLASSIC – 08/12/2018**

OLD ORCHARD

\*Terry Krohn of the Player Division recorded a hole-in-one on the par 3 7<sup>th</sup> hole of 183 yards \*

Palmer Division

Gross Dave Minor

Net Tom O'Brien

Player Division

Gross Robert Yedinak

Net Dan Plens (won in a playoff)

Trevino Division

Gross Doug McKirahan

Net Sean Harling

Date	Day	Tournament Name	Golf Course
Sep. 8	Sat.	Patriots Day Classic	Prairie Bluff GC
Sep. 15	Sat.	NIMAGA Players Championship (Qualify)	Naperbrook
Sep. 16	Sun.		
Sep. 22	Sat.	Milwaukee Challenge (Limited)	Bristol Oaks GC
Oct. 7	Sun.	Two-Man Better Ball	Steeple Chase GC

**2018 Schedule**

Entry fees are due  
2 weeks before  
each event date