



## **NIMAGA NOTES – AUGUST 2020**

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### **NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

NIMAGA Members,

We received several comments and feedback regarding inclusion of carts in 2020 events. The majority of the contracts/agreements were made before the pandemic and we always look for the best deals courses will offer. With the exception of Bristol Oaks and Schaumburg none of the courses on our schedule have offered any discount for walking. Because of the lost revenue in the spring and all the cancelled outing courses have raised their green and cart fees (especially single rider). We had two events where we did not pass along the increase to our members who registered. I would expect the 2021 schedule to be delayed as courses take more time identifying the future price point.

Frank R. Fiarito – NIMAGA President

### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

**As of this newsletter, there have been no significant changes to the golfing in Illinois policy. Again, here are the current restrictions.**

#### **STATE OF ILLINOIS PHASE IV GOLF OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS - Effective Date: 06/26/20**

With the precautions and operational restrictions outlined below, golf shall be permitted as a recreational activity, effective 6:00AM, June 26, 2020. In addition to the general social distancing standards set forth in the Executive Order, golf courses and golfers need to abide by the following controls.

#### **Minimum guidelines**

1. Groups must be spaced in teetimes intervals so as to limit congregation before, during and after the round.
2. Signage describing operational changes including: no congregating in groups larger than 50, increased frequency of cleaning, no handshakes, and maintain social distancing between players.

3. Driving ranges, practice ranges, chipping greens, and putting greens are permitted. Golfers should remain a minimum six feet apart when within each other in these areas.
4. Dual-rider Motorized golf carts and pull carts are permitted. If two people who do not live in the same household share a cart, they should both wear face coverings while in the cart. Golf courses shall sanitize each cart after each use.
5. Individual caddies are permitted. Caddies should wear face coverings when within six feet of a golfer or caddie. The golf club should have updated parental consent for all caddies under 18. Caddies should not congregate in groups larger than 50.
6. Pro shops may reopen so long as they comply with the [Retail Guidelines](#).
7. Beverage carts are permissible.
8. Hand sanitizer and soap should be present in all restrooms, including those on the course. Restrooms should be sanitized regularly.
9. Locker rooms and showers should be configured with signage, tape, and other markings to ensure members can maintain 6-ft. of social distance.
10. Group activities (outings, league play, and other organized events) and shotgun starts are permitted. Golf courses should develop procedures to ensure that individuals do not congregate in group's excess of 50 before or after the activity.
11. Clubhouses can open and operate any permissible activity
12. Restaurants and halfway houses can operate in accordance with dining guidelines
13. Outdoor golf lessons are permissible for individuals and groups of 50 or less, including the golf instructor(s). Individuals should remain a minimum six feet apart during the lesson, or wear face coverings when within six feet of each other. Individuals should only handle their own golf clubs.
14. Golf club storage/bag rooms are permissible. Individuals should remain a minimum six feet apart or wear face-coverings when within six feet of each other.
15. Indoor golf facilities (simulators, learning centers, etc.) are permissible and should follow the [indoor recreation guidelines](#)

### **Encouraged best practices**

Encourage online or telephone bookings.

If practical, non-household individuals should use their own carts

Provide hand sanitizer in golf carts and on tee boxes

Caddies should minimize touching club handles. Frequent hand sanitization is encouraged

Course operator should eliminate on-course and practice facility touchpoints (i.e. bag drop, benches, ball washes, bunker/sand trap rakes, and golf club rentals,)

### **Minimum guidelines**

1. Any players with any symptoms of COVID-19, should not play.
2. In addition, any players from a household with someone with symptoms of COVID-19 should not play.
3. Players and employees should maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) on practice areas, tees, greens, and throughout the round.
4. Players should handle their own balls.
5. Players should leave the flag in place while putting.
6. Players should bring hand sanitizer with them and use during your round and at the end.

7. Players should bring their own supply of balls, tees, ball markers, and any other equipment needed to play golf.
8. Players should bring their own source of water.
9. No handshakes at the beginning of the round or at the 18th hole.

## **GET THOSE ENTRIES IN ON TIME**

As you can imagine, there is a lot of work that goes on behind-the-scenes when NIMAGA puts on a tournament. One critical aspect of this process begins when the entry registration closes. This sets off a lot of activity in preparing the event divisions as well as notifying our courses of the field size for finalizing tee times and accurate payment.

This season NIMAGA is receiving far too many mail-in Tournament Registration Entries after the tournament entry due date. If you are mailing in your registration a day or two before that due date, please register on-line [http://www.nimaga.org/schedule/register\\_online/login.php](http://www.nimaga.org/schedule/register_online/login.php) and in the Do You Have a Special Request section, please indicate that you are mailing in the registration tomorrow. That way we will include you in the field. You can skip PayPal, because you are mailing a check and/or prize certificate with the registration.

For those of you that do it this way, A BIG THANK YOU, for those of you that don't, there is a possibility the next time we receive the late tournament entry form, we might not be able to include you in the field.

## **POST THOSE SCORES**

Now that golf is being played again, the NIMAGA Board wants to stress that it is important for each and every member to post those non-NIMAGA golf scores into the GolfHandicapNetwork (<https://www.golfhandicapnetwork.com/>)

By posting scores regularly, our Tournament Committee can have a better representation of scores that we can use to seed the field for NIMAGA events.

## **JUST A RECAP ON A COUPLE OF THINGS**

Just wanted to re-print some tips for On-Line Scoring and Virtual Skins and Venmo – as we will continue to use these in all of our tournaments until further notice.

### **ON-LINE SCORING**

If you have played in a tournament on 2020, then you have already used the online scoring system. It is duplication of our old 'white cards' but all done online through your online device.

You can access the online scoring system through by <http://nimaga.org/scores>

After you have finished a tournament, scores are entered and attested online. The system has a lot of assistance and help options that will guide you through the process. A lot of the information is already plugged in (event date, name, and course). All you need to do is enter your scores and attest the scores of the others in your foursome. That's about it.

As always, if you run into problems with using this, you can reach out to the tournament director for your event or Doug McKirahan (email to [doug@mckirahan.com](mailto:doug@mckirahan.com)).

## **VIRTUAL SKINS AND VENMO**

We have gone to the contactless collection and payout of skins through the app, Venmo. For those that don't know what Venmo is, it is an app you put on your phone that is owned by and works similarly to PayPal. The difference is that Venmo is used to pay or reimburse friends and acquaintances more so than to purchase things online like PayPal. There are also no fees with Venmo when linked with a checking account or debit card.

### **BENEFITS OF COLLECTING SKINS W/ VENMO**

Some of you are resistant to the idea of using an electronic payment app for collecting skins. However, there are many advantages to using Venmo over collecting cash right before the tournament. Some of the benefits are:

1. It is obvious who entered and who did not. Venmo sends a message when someone pays in.
2. Skins can be collected before the day of the tournament.
3. You don't need to worry about having exact change for skins.
4. If you forgot about skins, you don't have to hunt down whoever is collecting, just pull out your phone and send the \$5 before you leave the 1<sup>st</sup> tee box.
5. The last person collecting skins can't accidentally go home with the skins sheet and envelope.
6. The people who usually collect skins can warm up before the round instead of having to worry about chasing everyone down.
7. One person can run skins for each division, instead of having to find 4 or 5 volunteers.
8. The payouts can happen much quicker. You don't have to wait until the next tournament you play, to receive your skin money. As soon as the results are final, you can be sent a payment via Venmo for the skin amount you won.

### **SAFETY OF VENMO**

Venmo is a safe and easy way to send person to person payments. It was started in 2009 and has over 40 million users. It was acquired by PayPal in 2014. For those of you who have concerns with the safety of Venmo, there is a link to an article below on that topic. If you establish an account, you do not have to keep much or any money at all in it. Any money you receive through your Venmo account can be transferred back the account to which you have it linked. When you want to make a payment through Venmo, the amount you need to pay can simply be transferred back to the Venmo account.

<https://www.bankrate.com/finance/credit-cards/is-venmo-safe/>

## **STARTING A VENMO ACCOUNT**

For those who do not have an account yet and wish to establish one, there is a link below. First off, you will need to download the Venmo app. It can only be used on Apple or Android phones, and you can download the app in the respective app stores. It can't be used on Windows based phones.

As mentioned previously, it works similarly to PayPal. You have to link it to a checking account, debit card, or a credit card. If you use a credit card however, you will have to pay fees. Once your account is established, you can then send and receive payments from anyone else who has the app. ( It works great to collect ½ a lunch or bar bill, or settle your golf bets with that friend who conveniently “forgets” to bring cash.) It works with any checking account that can send and receive electronic (ACH) payments. This is the majority of checking accounts these days. It cannot be used with a savings account. When setting up the account, Venmo will have to verify the account you wish to use. There are several ways to do this, and Venmo will walk you through the steps. It may take a day to verify your account, so you are better off establishing an account a couple days before you want to use it.

Once your account is established, you will get a unique Venmo id and a QR code that can be scanned to make it easier for people to find you on Venmo. It is also a good idea to put a picture on your profile which helps others to confirm your identity before sending a payment.

<https://help.venmo.com/hc/en-us/articles/209690068-How-to-Sign-Up>

## **USING VENMO TO ENTER SKINS**

Once you have a Venmo account, you can now use it to enter skins. Nimaga can't have a Venmo account, so you will be sending your skin payment to one of the board member's accounts. Before each tournament, you will be notified which board member will be collecting skins and given his account ID. In future tournaments, there will most likely be one board member from each division collecting skins from that division. Once you know who is collecting the skins, you can send the payment. When paying the \$5 to enter skins, we ask that you do a few things.

1. Send the money before you leave the first tee. If you are having trouble with the app, let everyone in your group know you want in skins before leaving the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and/or send a text to whoever is collecting. Then we know you want in and you can pay the money after.
2. There is a section below the payment section that asks what the payment is for. You can't send money without filling it out. Please put the following info in that section.
  - a. The golf course you are playing. (Divisions may play different courses.)
  - b. Your division. (Low / High or Palmer / Player / Trevino)

3. Venmo is a social as well as a payment app. There is a setting on the payment page, which allows you to choose who sees the payment. It automatically is set to public. This means that everyone who has a Venmo account can see who you paid and for what, but not how much. If you do not want this, you can change it by setting it to friends or private. If it is private then only you and whoever you send money can see the transaction.
4. You can also add the board members who are collecting skins as friends on Venmo. It will be easier for you to find that person for the next event, and it will also be

If you have a friend/relative on the fence in joining NIMAGA, invite him to one of our tournaments. Yes, your guest will be in your foursome. Yes, your guest can participate in skins. The cost for a guest this year is \$20 less the tournament registration fee.

### **BRINGING A GUEST**

If you have a friend/relative on the fence in joining NIMAGA, invite him to one of our tournaments. Yes, your guest will be in your foursome. Yes, your guest can participate in skins. The cost for a guest this year is \$20 less the tournament registration fee.

### **TAKE NOTE OF THE NEW GUYS**

OK, everyone out there, think back to your first couple of NIMAGA events (if some of us can remember that far back). It was an intimidating experience because you didn't 'know the ropes'. New venues, new faces and tournament golf can be overwhelming in the beginning. As you have seen in past NIMAGA Notes from 2020, we have implemented a Mentor Program (headed up by George Zadarsky) to guide first and second year members with playing in our events.

But it shouldn't stop there, all of us 'seasoned veterans' need to take a moment and reach out to our new guys. When you check on your start time in an event, take a notice of those guys on the teesheet marked with an 'N' or 'GST' that signify new members and guests. If you have the time at a tournament, walk up and introduce yourself. This is especially true when you are paired up. Be sure to provide some guidance on the course (within the rules, of course) and making their experience a positive one. This little act goes a long way into developing relationships, retaining new guys/guests and growing our organization.

### **CALL TO ALL MEMBERS**

Just because the start of the 2020 NIMAGA season is delayed, 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.

## **NIMAGA COMMUNICATION**

Effective communication is getting more and more important these days and especially so with NIMAGA. We have been trending towards a greater use of emails and text to let our members know the latest news.

So, we want to notify everyone to insure that NIMAGA has your most recent email address and cell phone number in our files. Also, please be sure to check your email spam and junk folders to make sure that you allow emails from different NIMAGA members so that you don't miss a communication that might help you during an event or a later starting time due to bad weather.

Also be sure to receive emails from the following accounts – [admin@nimaga.org](mailto:admin@nimaga.org) and [web@nimaga.org](mailto:web@nimaga.org). Change your email settings to prevent these addresses from going into your spam folder. These will be the email addresses that will sent out NIMAGA information.

## **2020 TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

### **JULY MIDWEEK – 07/09/2020**

#### **Low Division – Schaumburg GC**

Gross Brandon Rowatt

Net Tom Zmuda

#### **High Division – Schaumburg GC**

Gross William Walsh

Net Mark Larsen

### **NIMAGA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – 07/17 & 07/18/2020**

#### **Low Division – Prairie Isle / Hughes Creek**

Gross Soo Ahn

Net Jim Dubay

#### **High Division – Hughes Creek / Prairie Isle**

Gross Dennis Samoska

Net Dan Montgomery

#### **Special Note**

- for the first time in NIMAGA history, a pair of brothers finished first and second in NIMAGA Club Championship.
- Dennis Samoska (1st gross) and Randy Samoska (2nd net). Congratulations guys !

### **AUGUST MIDWEEK – 08/05/2020**

#### Low Division – Glendale Lakes

Gross Dave Sloan

Net Paul Susner

#### High Division – Glendale Lakes

Gross Dan Plens

Net William Schultz

### **AUGUST CLASSIC – 08/09/2020**

#### Low Division – HillDale

Gross Soo Ahn

Net Kirk Blakney

#### High Division – HillDale

Gross Charlie Kuhn

Net Doug McKirahan

### **NIMAGA CUP – 08/15/2020**

The White Team with 13 points was the winner, Blue was second with 8 points and Red with 6. Steve Leiber paired with William Schultz (Trevino) and John Francel with Tim McNamara (Player) led White with 3 points each group. Stan Mitchell and Rick Johnson had the title clinching points.

Closest to the pin winners were Brandon Rowatt (Palmer), Charley Kuhn (Player) and Dan Montgomery (Trevino).

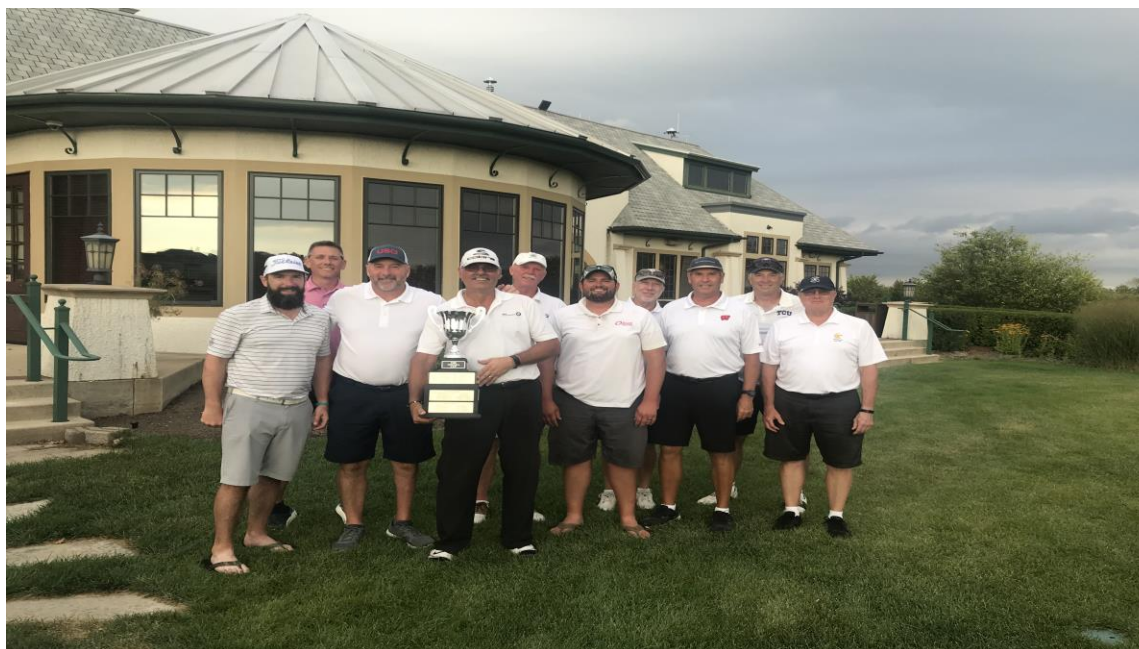
#### Final Totals:

White Team	Stan Hilty, capt	13 points
Blue Team	Pat Porter capt	8 points
Red Team	Doug McKirahan capt	6 points





Defending champion captain Dan Montgomery presents trophy to 2020 winning captain Stan Hilty.



White Team -Stan Hilty (C), Dave Minor, Tom O'Brien, Jim Dubay, Ken Koranda, John Francel, William Schultz, Tim McNamara, Rick Johnson, Stan Mitchell, Wayne Richards, Steve Leiber

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

Event is into the third round.

You can check out the progress at -

[http://www.nimaga.org/matchplay/pdfs/2020\\_Match\\_Play\\_Brackets.pdf](http://www.nimaga.org/matchplay/pdfs/2020_Match_Play_Brackets.pdf)

## **2020 SCHEDULE**

This is the current published schedule. However, we are in the process of adding back in the tournaments that were postponed from earlier in the year. Please check out the NIMAGA website on a regular basis for tournament scheduling updates.

2020 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE			
Date	Day	Tournament Name	Golf Course
June - September		Match Play	Season long tournament in which opponents arrange course and time. Must be a member for 2+ years.
Aug. 25	Tue.	August Midweek	Maple Meadows
Sep. 12	Sat.	Patriots Day	St. Andrews
Sep. 19	Sat.	Milwaukee Challenge (Limited)	Bristol Oaks
Sep. 23	Wed.	September Midweek	Thunderhawk
Oct. 3	Sat.	Two-Man Better Ball	Seven Bridges (Low)
			Prairie Landing (High)
Oct. 10	Sat.	NIMAGA Players Championship (Qualify)	Cog Hill (Ravines)
Oct. 11	Sun.		
Entry deadline is two weeks before the event.			