



NIMAGA NOTES – SEPTEMBER 2020

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NIMAGA Members,

I was once told by a former board member (initials TJ) that one should step back and appreciate the beauty of a golf course (hole). Too often we remember a course by how we scored or played, a specific shot or crazy happening. We have several courses these next few weeks that really offer some beauty if you take a moment to look around. Thunderhawk, Prairie Landing and Seven Bridges offer some magnificent holes. Enjoy the views and play well!

If you don't have a partner for the Two Man please don't hesitate to sign up. We will help you line someone up. The weather clearly is telling us there is more golf to be played and don't miss Seven Bridges or the planes landing around Prairie Landing. They are two great courses.

St. Andrews awaits in the newly created Fall Classic. If you signed up for Patriots Day and still want to play tell us - email, text, phone call. If you did not sign up and want to play PLEASE register. If you can't play on the new date we need to know ASAP. We were allotted 18 tee times and as a courtesy we need to give the course ample time to make available to the public.

I wanted to thank everyone for being respectful of other's space during this difficult time. We have tried as a board to hold events in a safe manner but our success could not happen without your cooperation. We hope you tell your friends about us as we hope 2021 returns back to normal. We are working on the handicap provider and schedule for next year.

Frank R. Fiarito – NIMAGA President

NIMAGA PERPETUAL PLAQUE

Not a new concept for NIMAGA, but we are finally moving forward with an opportunity for you to consolidate all of your NIMAGA Tournament winning plaques onto one "Perpetual Plaque" with separate plates to commemorate all of your NIMAGA victories. Board member George Zdarsky resurrected the need for a Perpetual Plaque after his wife was planning on discarding all of his 13 plaques late last year after remodeling their basement. The individual hardwood plaques were not part of the decorating plan.

After receiving enough interest when re-introduced at last year's annual NIMAGA members meeting at White Pines, the Board this year has decided to move forward with a Perpetual Plaque option for those members wishing to save wall space at home. The cost range for a NIMAGA member to purchase a Perpetual Plaque starts at about \$150 and could go as much as \$500 or more depending on the number of Tournament winning plaques a member might have to convert that would determine the size (with additional empty plates for future "W"s) and style the member would select. The Board is in the process of discussing options to help subsidize the cost to the member realizing that there would be a cost-saving to NIMAGA by not having to purchase individual Tournament winning plaques in the future for a member with a Perpetual Plaque and only an engraved plate. NIMAGA Certificates could be used to pay for the Perpetual Plaque.

If you played in the Mid-week event at Thunderhawk, you might have seen George's "prototype" Perpetual Plaque that was on display to gauge the interest of those members playing that day. It is pretty cool looking and surely would take up a lot less wall space at home to "show off" all of your NIMAGA Championships!

If you are interested in possibly purchasing a Perpetual Plaque, just let George Zdarsky or another Board member know and/or send an email to admin@nimaga.org expressing your interest and you will be contacted. There will be updates in future NIMAGA NOTES.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

A lot of people have been using their COVID-19 downtime to clean out and declutter. One of our members, Robert Yedinak, was cleaning out some files when he ran across some old NIMAGA Notes newsletters. Robert contacted me and we went through a project to convert his old paper NIMAGA Notes to a digital format.

Robert joined the organization in 1994 and his newsletter collection started then and stretches all the way through to 2002. The NIMAGA Board then took the opportunity to refresh the layout, design and search ability of the NIMAGA Notes webpage for easier access to these past editions as well as current ones.

NIMAGA has a rich history of providing tournament golf in the northern Illinois area and by preserving these records, we can hold onto to a bit of our history.

While this project was a team effort and progress was slowed due to the COVID-19 virus social distancing, we eventually got it done. I want to extend some special thanks to Robert for sharing his old newsletters with us and NIMAGA board member Doug McKirahan for his redesign efforts on the webpage.

Check out the NIMAGA Notes webpage at - <http://www.nimaga.org/notes/>

MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE

This past Saturday (Sept 19th) marked the 45th playing of the Milwaukee Challenge. It was held once again at Bristol Oaks in Bristol, Wisconsin. We had a beautiful and sunny late summer day; some of the best weather we have had in recent years for the event. The course itself was in fantastic shape and the Bristol Oaks staff did a great job of hosting our event.

Unfortunately, the perfect conditions did not aid us in victory. The team from MCPLA (Milwaukee County Public Links Association), beat us soundly, 58-38. For those who don't know how the scoring works, it is a team match play event. A player from each team plays a match against one player from the other team. Each of those matches is worth 3 points, one point for winning the front 9, one point for winning the back 9, and 1 point for winning the entire 18.

Though we did not win, we did have several players who took all 3 points for our team. They were George Zdarsky, Larry Zakosek, Dan Plens, Jeff Toth, and Tom O'Brien. Doug McKirahan was actually able to take 5 ½ points as we had one last minute cancellation, and he had to play 2 matches. Great job!

Despite not winning, the Milwaukee Challenge is always a fun event. We see a lot of the same guys from Wisconsin there every year and have got to know many of them fairly well. I know both Jeff Toth and I turned the tables on a couple of guys who took 3 points off us in a previous match up. We both got our revenge by taking 3 this year. Maybe next year will be the rubber matches? Afterwards, we all had a meal, with most enjoying the beautiful weather and eating outside. Of course we rehashed stories, golf and otherwise catching up from last year over a beer or 2.

A big thanks to all who played in the Milwaukee Challenge this year. I appreciate all your efforts. Hopefully, many of you will be playing again next year and help lead us to a victory! If you haven't ever played in the event, I highly recommend it. Just ask those who have played and I'm sure most will tell you they had a blast and would recommend it too.

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 groups in 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 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).

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 1st 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 1st 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.

CALL TO ALL MEMBERS

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 and 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

AUGUST MIDWEEK - 08/25/2020

Low Division – Maple Meadows GC

Gross Perry Variano

Net Jim Dubay

High Division – Maple Meadows GC

Gross Mark Power

Net Larry Zakosek

MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE – 09/19/2020 BRISTOL OAKS, WI.

MCPLA (Milwaukee County Public Links Association) 58 pts

NIMAGA 38 pts

C&G MATCH PLAY

Event is into the fourth round.

You can check out the progress at -

http://www.nimaga.org/matchplay/pdfs/2020_Match_Play_Brackets.pdf

2020 SCHEDULE

This is the current published schedule. 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.
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.		
Oct 17	Sun	Fall Classic	St. Andrews
Entry deadline is two weeks before the event.			