



NIMAGA NOTES – MAY 2022

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I do not have an answer to the question I've been asked the last month or so, when is Spring going to arrive? The conditions have been wet, windy, and chilly in the first two tournaments and what is the weather going to be like at the May Jamboree?

Congratulations to the winners in the Spring Thaw and April Midweek. It was great seeing everyone again. Hope to see more of you very soon.

The C&G MPT committee headed by Frank Fiarito has the brackets set. Those participating should have received an email. The Executive Committee is preparing for the NIMAGA Cup that is going to be played at Heritage Oaks Golf Club. Congratulations to Jonathan Tran (Player), David Bradley (Palmer) and Dave Martinek (Trevino), who are this year's captains. Invitations were sent to the top point earners from the 2021 season. Good luck to the C&G MPT and NIMAGA Cup participants

We received word from a couple of members that they did not receive a closest-to-the-pin gift card or skin payment from last season. Do me a favor, if you do not receive a gift card, prize certificate or skins payment within three weeks after the tournament, send us an email at admin@nimaga.org, we will get it resolved.

NIMAGA put a great schedule together, we hope to see you at the upcoming tournaments.

Take care. Good luck to all, be safe and stay well.

Brian Alberts
President

PLAY READY GOLF !!

Slow pace of play is an issue that NIMAGA always struggles with, but it is the responsibility of every member of the foursome to maintain contact with the group ahead of you. Here is a reprint of an article from a prior NIMAGA Notes detailing some pace of play tips that was provided by our own Mayur Patel. And remember, these tips apply to our guests, as well.

PACE OF PLAY TIPS

- Always keep up with the group ahead of you.
- Without interfering with the others in your group, do as much of your preparation as possible before it is your turn to play.
- Be ready to play when it is your turn. Limit practice swings. From the time you select your club until you hit your shot, you should take no more than 20 seconds.
- Shorten that pre-shot routine.
- If you aren't ready to play when it is your turn, encourage one of your fellow players to play.
- Limit your time searching for lost balls. The rules allow you 3 minutes, only.
- Carry a spare ball(s) in your pocket so that you do not have to go back to your bag when you need to hit a provisional ball.
- Take more than one club to your next shot if you are going to leave your bag.
- When in doubt, hit a provisional ball. Eliminate the need to go back to where you hit your last shot.
- If your next shot is with your pitching wedge or sand wedge, automatically take your putter with you.
- Leave golf carts at a point beside the green that is in route to the next tee (usually behind the green).
- On the green, begin lining up your putt and reading the break as soon as you reach the green. When it's your turn to putt, be prepared to step right up and take the stroke.
- Don't bother marking lag putts - go ahead and putt out if it's short enough.
- If you are the first in the cup, pick up the flagstick so that you can replace it after the last person has putted out.
- All players in the group should be aware of clubs that are left around the green. Be sure to alert your foursome to pick up clubs.
- Mark your scorecard at the beginning of the next hole, not on the green.
- Never hold up play because you're in the middle of a conversation. Put the conversation on hold, take your stroke then, continue the conversation.
- Watch your playing partner's ball so that you can help him find it, in case he didn't see it during the hit.
- Wave up groups on par 3s when appropriate.
- If you are riding in a cart, hold onto the club and return to your seat in the cart. Then, put that club back when they go to pull the club(s) for their next shot. It even works when leaving a green - take the putter with you and put it away on the next tee.

EXPERIMENT RESULTS

In the last NIMAGA Notes, we outlined a few of our member's suggestions that we put into practice in 2022. Here is a summary of those 'experiments'.

- The Skins Entry fee was increased to \$10. This has been in effect for all tournaments so far in 2022. The majority of the feedback has been positive. This has resulted in bigger payouts for skins winners.

- There is now a Hole-In-One pot which was created and managed by Shawn Pipes. This on-going side-game is an accumulating jackpot that pays out to any hole-in-one. Details are outlined in the next article.
- 'Choose Your Tees' was used at the April Midweek tournament held at Mistwood. Players had their choice of playing tees based on their division. We had success with this, and it is being considered for use in a future tournament.

NIMAGA is always open to taking feedback as well as suggestions from our members. So, if you have any thoughts to enhance the tournament experience, feel free to send us an email at admin@nimaga.org

NIMAGA HOLE-IN-ONE JACKPOT

The NIMAGA Hole-In-One is a cash pot that is collected from participating NIMAGA members (\$1 per entry) at each NIMAGA sanctioned event. If a NIMAGA member gets a hole-in-one in any sanctioned NIMAGA events and has paid into the Hole-In-One Pot for that event, prior to teeing off on the first hole, he will be paid a portion of the pot.

Entry into the Hole-in-One Pot is voluntary. You may enter early and can enter for any events that you plan to participate in.

How to Get into the Hole-In-One Pot:

1. Must be a NIMAGA Member
2. Must be a NIMAGA Sanctioned Tournament (Match Play & Milwaukee Challenge are Excluded)
3. All entries are part of the same Pot, no matter which division or course the member is playing
4. Must Pay \$1 to the Hole-In-One Pot prior to teeing off on your first hole of each event

You can pay at the event or Venmo in your entry to @Shawn_Pipes (Last four 0164) and indicate which event you are entering for the jackpot.

You can email Shawn with any questions on this contest at HoleInOne@nimaga.org

2022 PRIZE FUND INCREASE

The NIMAGA board has voted to increase the Prize Fund payouts for 2022 by 10% throughout all places. This will take effect in the Spring Thaw and continue throughout the 2022 season.

RULES SECTION

*The NIMAGA Notes will be running a continuing column explaining various Rules situations. Robert Yedniak will be the contributing author of this section. This month Robert addresses the **Nearest Point of Relief (part 2)***

Welcome back to another refresher on the Rules of Golf. As you may recall, in the last newsletter we covered the concepts around 'nearest point of relief'. Well coincidentally I was personally involved in a situation in the Spring Thaw that involved taking relief, and I was wrong in my interpretation. My playing partner was Mayur Patel and on one hole he hit his tee shot into a tree just right of the cart path. As he is a right-handed player, his nearest relief option would have been a drop on the cart path. I mistakenly told him that he could not drop on the path as I was confusing the requirement that you must take complete relief from the condition you are taking relief from. I mistakenly told Mayur he could not drop on the path. However, Mayur was taking relief from the unplayable lie, not the cart path. So, in this case he was entitled to drop on the cart path, taking his one stroke unplayable ball penalty. And then he was entitled to take further free relief from the cart path.

At the end of the day, Mayur proceeded to play without any rules infractions and the issue did not impact his final score. But after the round he followed up with the USGA for clarification and confirmed he was entitled to drop on the cart path. Thanks to Mayur for forgiving my incorrect interpretation and also for his follow up and contribution to this month's article.

This is also a reminder that when the group is in doubt as to the correct application of the rules, play two balls, track both scores and get clarification from the tournament directors on which score should count.

Rules Reminder #1 – Searching for a Lost Ball

Just a reminder with the latest rules revision, that the time limit for searching for a lost ball is three minutes. Once the three-minute search time expires, the original ball is lost and is now out of play and must not be played. Everyone should be aware that the time limit to search for a ball is three minutes and once that has expired, the original ball is no longer in play.

Rules Reminder #2 – ‘Through the Green’ now called ‘General Area’

The term "through the green" is really only used in the Rules of Golf, and it describes a specific area of the golf course. Under the Rules of Golf, "through the green" is defined as any area on the golf course, excluding four areas: tee boxes and greens on the hole being played, hazards and bunkers. The USGA and R&A have used "through the green" to create separate areas of the golf course where rules are applied in specific ways. However, "through the green" has long been a confusing term, so the USGA and R&A have changed it.

The area on a golf course known as "through the green" is now called the "general area."

The Rules of Golf now call "general area" what was once "through the green" in an effort to be consistent with another change in terminology. Water hazards are now called "penalty areas," as the USGA and R&A wanted to give courses and tournament operators the option to declare more parts of the golf course as places where golfers can take relief if needed. So, if the USGA and R&A were going to create "penalty areas," then why not be consistent and rename "through the green" as the "general area"?

The "general area" term reflects the reality that most shots in golf are played from this part of the course.

Under the 2019 Rules of Golf, then, there are five areas of the golf course: the general area, penalty areas, bunkers, teeing ground and putting greens.

FAQs

Don't forget, we have a FAQ section on the NIMAGA website (<http://www.nimaga.org/faq/>) with Golf Genius questions as well as other topics. Be sure to check that out and if you have other questions or need help, send an email to web@nimaga.org and we will be sure to address it.

2022 NIMAGA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

SPRING THAW - 04/09/2022

Palmer Division – Cog Hill #1

Gross Kirk Blakney
Gross 2nd Tom O'Brien
Net Jeff Lyman

Player Division – Cog Hill #2

Gross Jonathon Tran
Net Robert Allen

Trevino Division – Cog Hill #3

Gross Nick Orlando
Net Tom Gearhart

APRIL MIDWEEK - 04/25/2022

Low Division – Mistwood

Gross Rick Soja

Net Shawn Pipes

High Division – Mistwood

Gross Jonathon Tran

Net Jeff Toth

2022 NIMAGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

2022 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE				
Date	Day	Tournament Name	Golf Course	
April thru September		C&G Match Play	Season long tournament in which opponents arrange course & time. Must be a member for 2+ years.	
May 7	Sat.	May Jamboree	Pinecrest GC (Palmer)	
			Buffalo Grove GC (Player & Trevino)	
TBD	TBD	NIMAGA Cup (Qualify)	Heritage Oaks	
May 17	Tue.	May Midweek 	Klein Creek GC	
June 5	Sun.	Summer Classic 	George Dunne National	
June 20	Mon.	June Midweek	McHenry CC	
Jul. 10	Sun.	Freedom Open	Fox Run GC	
July 19	Tue.	July Midweek 	Chalet Hills GC	
Aug. 1	Mon.	Super Senior Open (Age 65+)	Arlington Lakes GC	

Aug. 13	Sat.	NIMAGA Club Championship	St. Andrews #1 (Low)
			White Pines (High)
Aug. 14	Sun.		White Pines (Low)
			St. Andrews #1 (High)
Aug. 17	Wed.	Senior Open (Age 50+)	Phillips Park GC
Aug. 30	Tue.	August Midweek	Maple Meadows GC
Sep. 10	Sat.	Patriot's Day Classic	Green Garden CC
Sep. 17	Sat.	Milwaukee Challenge (Limited)	Fox Lake CC
Sep. 21	Wed.	September Midweek	Deerfield GC
Oct. 2	Sun.	Two-Man Scramble	Randall Oaks GC (Low)
			Bonnie Dundee GC (High)
Oct. 8 & 9	Sat & Sun	NIMAGA Players Championship (Qualify)	Broken Arrow GC