



NIMAGA NOTES – AUGUST 2024

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Labor Day approaching signifies we have a good portion of the schedule under our belts for the 2024 season. Participation is up this year, as is membership. In fact, we are still adding members with September around the corner. Excellent job to all who have been spreading the word about NIMAGA and participating in all the tournaments!

One of the things we need to work on though, is our pace of play. We have had a few courses reach out to us about slow play issues. This is not something we want to hear about from courses. We do not want to be banned from going back to any venue because we clog up their play. There are quite a few simple things you can do to speed up play. I encourage all of you, especially those with multiple POP violations this year, to check out Kirk's video on the subject. There is a link to it in another article in the NIMAGA Notes if you have not looked at it yet. Let us all do our part and pick up a tip or 2 from Kirk to help keep pace at our events.

Labor Day also means that we have a few of our special events coming up. First up is the Milwaukee Challenge. This is one of my favorite events all year! It is the one time we get to team up together to play against another organization. Afterwards, we get to share a meal together along with our opponents and discuss the great shots and near misses. I encourage all of you to check it out if you haven't played yet. Anyone can play, including new members. Check out the section of the NIMAGA Notes on The Milwaukee Challenge if you are not familiar with it. Feel free to see George Zdarsky or me at the next couple of tournaments if you have any questions about it. Next, we have our two-man tournament. Another team event, albeit a much smaller team. This is another fun event where you can rely on somebody else when you don't hit your best shot. If you don't have a partner for this event, no worries, sign up anyway. We will find someone for you to partner with. Lastly is our most prestigious tournament, the NPC. Aside from the Cup, this is the only tournament you must qualify for to play. It's a two-day tournament, kind of like our major. You can check out Golf Genius to see if you've qualified already. If you haven't there are still many opportunities to do so. I encourage all of you to register for the remaining events and finish out the season strong! Have a fantastic Labor Day weekend and don't forget to get some swings in!

Tom O'Brien
President

MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE

The Milwaukee Challenge will be here before you know it! We'll be playing at Oak Grove GC in Harvard, IL on Saturday, September 21st with a shotgun start at 7:30 AM. The cost is \$95, which includes golf, cart, range balls, lunch afterwards, and a memento. It is a Ryder Cup type event, and NIMAGA is fielding a 32-member team to compete against a team from Wisconsin who are members of MCPLA (Milwaukee County Public Links Association). You will be competing in match play against an opponent with a relatively similar handicap as yours.

Registration has already begun on Golf Genius, so sign up now! You can pay online, or if you would like to pay with a check or NIMAGA gift certificate(s), sign up now on Golf Genius, click "Skip Payment", and mail your payment to NIMAGA @ PO Box 7798, Romeoville, IL, 60446. (Being a limited field of 32, once all the spots are filled, your name can be added to a waitlist upon request.) Don't delay, sign up to play!

It is an exciting event that many of us play every year. New NIMAGA Members are eligible and encouraged to join the Team. Sign up NOW so you don't miss out on a very enjoyable and memorable experience, especially when we win and bring the Trophy back home where it belongs!

Feel free to contact me with any questions at 708-220-7005 or gmzdar@gmail.com.

SLOW PLAY VIDEO

Kirk Blakney has been a NIMAGA member since 2015 and participates in many NIMAGA tournaments but there is a side of Kirk that you might not be aware of.

Kirk is a Youtube Content Creator who has a golf instruction channel called 'Mistah Short Hitter'. Kirk's channel has over 10,000 subscribers and he has posted over 450 golf instruction and product review videos.

Earlier this year, NIMAGA asked Kirk to create a video concerning slow play. Kirk has completed that video and has done a great job in addressing this topic and ways to speed things up on the golf course.

This video is less than 10 minutes long and provides some useful tips that we all can use.

We encourage all members to take a look -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_Wwvfb9Q&t=368s

And while you are there, subscribe to Kirk's channel for more golf reviews and fun matches -

<https://www.youtube.com/@mistahshorthitter>

Thanks to Kirk!

BALL REPAIR VIDEO

And how about one more instructional video? Take a look at this one on how to properly repair your pitch marks on the greens - <https://fb.watch/tPY1Jo9vii/>

TOURNAMENT ATTENDANCE & GOLF GENIUS REGISTRATION

You might have noticed that there are more players at this year's NIMAGA tournaments. We have experienced an increase in attendance based on Golf Genius statistics. In fact, our participation rates are at a four year high (based on data from our Golf Genius software). The NIMAGA Board wants to thank all of you for finding your way to our tournaments.

Given that, please make every effort to register as early as you can for our tournaments. They have been filling up fast and we have maximum entry limits as established with our golf courses. You don't want to find yourself on a waitlist for a tournament that you were looking forward to participating in.

RULES SECTION

The NIMAGA Notes will be running a continuing column explaining various Rules situations. Robert Yedinak is the contributing author of this section.

*This month Robert addresses – **Drop Zones***

We all know that generally, NIMAGA does not use Dropping Zones for penalty areas. Even if they are designated by the course. But occasionally the NIMAGA board will use Dropping Zones on some holes to help maintain pace of play. So given that, how do the rules of golf apply to Dropping Zones (Drop Zones).

The rules regarding Drop Zones are contained in the USGA Rules of Golf, Committee Procedures, Section 8E Special Relief Procedures, E-1 Dropping Zones.

“Purpose. A dropping zone is a special relief area that may be adopted by the Committee. When taking relief in a dropping zone, the player must drop a ball in and have it come to rest in the dropping zone.”

For purposes of NIMAGA, the Committee is the NIMAGA Board and the Tournament Directors.

“The following points apply when dropping a ball in a dropping zone:

- The player does not have to stand in the dropping zone when dropping the ball.
- When a player is using a dropping zone, the relief area is defined by that dropping zone and the ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the dropping zone (see Rule 14.3).

- If the dropping zone is defined by a line on the ground, the line is inside the dropping zone.”

Please note that when using a Drop Zone, the ball must be dropped. In many cases, NIMAGA may use a forward tee box as a Drop Zone. Even then, the ball must be dropped and cannot be re-teed.

Following is the language that the USGA recommends when adopting Local Rule E-1.1 This Model Local Rule covers the example of a dropping zone used as an extra option for taking relief from a penalty area, but it may be adapted for any other Rule mentioned above. “If a ball is in the penalty area [identify location], including when it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in the penalty area, the player has these relief options, each for one penalty stroke:

- Take relief under Rule 17.1, or
- As an extra option, drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone [describe how the dropping zone is defined and where located]. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3.”

Rule 17.1 covers the “Options for Ball in Penalty Area”. So, you are not required to use a Drop Zone when one is designated. It is just an extra option if you hit your ball into a penalty area and the Committee is using a Drop Zone for that penalty area.

Using a Drop Zone is basic stuff, and I am guessing that most of you already knew how to proceed. But it was previously brought to my attention that there have been occasions when NIMAGA players have re-teed their ball when a forward tee was being used as a Drop Zone. And remember, check each tournament’s Rule Sheet to make sure if NIMAGA is even using any Drop Zones for that tournament.

NIMAGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Player of the Year award is in full swing. This prize will be awarded at the end of the year and will be presented to that player who has accumulated the most NIMAGA Cup points throughout the 2024 calendar year.

The award will be a trophy and paid membership for the 2025 season.

Current Leaders (through the NIMAGA Club Championship):

Corey Lamb	470 points
Dave Dianovsky	460 points
Dan Montgomery	455 points

Robert Allen	390 points
Terry McGhee	390 points
John Gollwitzer	375 points
Mike Lyman	370 points
Tin Quenan	340 points
Rolando Levya	335 points
Tom Govern	335 points

Click here to see the 2024 POY race - https://nimaga.org/results/nimaga_cup/

CHANGES FOR THE 2024 NIMAGA SEASON

It is important that you spend an extra minute after completing your round to check those scorecards for accuracy before signing them and turning them in to the tournament scorer. DQs could result from inaccurate scorecards.

Every NIMAGA tournament will be a Choose Your Tees event (excluding the C&G Match Play, NIMAGA Cup and the Milwaukee Challenge).

- New in 2024, if you do not respond (or declare) your tee choice, you will default to the shorter tee. Last year, our default was the longer tees.
- So be aware of that when making your tee choices.

The tee sheet that you will receive prior to the tournament will have a slightly different format. Nothing to be alarmed about. All of the necessary information will be present.

- Refer to both the tee sheet and rules sheet for all of your tournament information.
- As always, these two pieces of information are also available on the Golf Genius tournament portals

Pace of Play (PoP) violations will be carried over into the next calendar year. Meaning that, any 2024 PoP violations that exist at the end of the season will be carried over to the start of the 2025 season.

HOLE-IN-ONE POT

The Hole-In-One pot continues to grow.

We are now at \$1,276.00 (as of Aug 6th).

The NIMAGA Hole-In-One is a cash pot that is collected from participating NIMAGA members (\$1 per entry) at each NIMAGA sanctioned event (excluding the C&GMPT and Milwaukee Challenge). 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.

Email HoleInOne@nimaga.org with any questions that you might have.

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.

2024 NIMAGA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

NIMAGA SIM OPEN - 01/06/2024

X-GOLF – DOWNERS GROVE

Low Division – Kapalua Plantation Course

1 st Gross	Chris Close
1 st Net	Anthony Volpicelli
2 nd Net	Tom Zmuda
3 rd Net	Jim Dubay

High Division – Kapalua Plantation Course

1 st Gross	Tim Szczesny
1 st Net	Ken Koranda
2 nd Net	Jeff Toth
3 rd Net	Terry McGhee

SPRING THAW - 04/06/2024

Palmer Division – Cog Hill #2

Gross	Ron Potocnik
Gross 2 nd	Dave Dianovsky
Net	Dennis Joplin

Player Division – Cog Hill #3

Gross	Corey Lamb
Net	Mike Zdarsky

Trevino Division – Cog Hill #1

Gross	Ray Pauliks
Net	Jim Wojcik

APRIL MIDWEEK – 04/18/2024

Low Division – Pine Meadow

Gross	Tom Zmuda
Net	Corey Lamb

High Division – Pine Meadow

Gross	Stan Mitchell
Net	Joe Lanute

MAY MIDWEEK – 05/01/2024

Low Division – Seven Bridges

Gross Mike Lyman

Net Dick Freund

High Division – Seven Bridges

Gross Ken Koranda

Net John Snow

MAY JAMBOREE – 05/19/2024

Palmer Division – Randall Oaks GC

Gross Mike Sutton

Gross 2nd Brandon Rowatt

Net Mike Lyman

Player Division – Bonnie Dundee GC

Gross Robert Allen

Net Terry Boksha

Trevino Division – Bonnie Dundee GC

Gross Einar Steinsson

Net Randy Samoska

NIMAGA CUP – KLEIN CREEK – 05/29/2024

Blue Team 11.5 points

Red Team 9.5 points

White Team 6.0 points

Blue Team Jeff Toth (capt), Mike Lyman, Dan Plens, Jim Wojcik, Tom Govern,
John Snow, Steve Leiber, Bob Lake, Frank Fiarito, Ray Riemer, Peter
McGhee, James DeLee

SUMMER CLASSIC – 06/08/2024

Low Division – Shepherd's Crook GC

Gross Al Green

Net Rolando Levya

High Division – Shepherd's Crook GC

Gross Greg Doyle

Net Mayur Patel

SUPER SENIOR OPEN (65+) – 06/18/2024

Low Division – St. Andrews #1

Gross	Russ Riendeau
Net	Stan Mitchell

High Division – St. Andrews #1

Gross	John Snow
Net	Jim Wojcik

JUNE MIDWEEK – 06/24/2024

Low Division – Aurora CC

Gross	John Gollwitzer
Net	Jeff Crites

High Division – Aurora CC

Gross	Jeff Toth
Net	Dennis Samoska

FREEDOM OPEN – 07/21/2024

Low Division – Golf Club of Illinois

Gross	John Gollwitzer
Net	Dave Dianovsky

High Division – Golf Club of Illinois

Gross	Mark Heinsohn
Net	Robert Allen

JULY MIDWEEK – 07/31/2024

Low Division – Foxford Hills

Gross	John Gollwitzer
Net	Bob Lake

High Division – Foxford Hills

Gross	Dan Montgomery
Net	William Schultz

NIMAGA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP – 08/10 & 08/11/2024

Low Division – Highlands of Elgin & White Pines East

Gross Tom Govern
 Net Jim Dubay

High Division – White Pines East & Highlands of Elgin

Gross Mario Conte
 Net Sal Lombardi, Sr.

2024 NIMAGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

2024 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE				
	Date	Day	Tournament Name	Golf Course
	April thru September		C&G Match Play	Season long tournament in which opponents arrange course & time. New members may be eligible. 
	Aug. 23	Fri.	Senior Open (Age 50+)	Glendale Lakes GC
	Aug. 29	Thu.	August Midweek	Blackberry Oaks GC
	Sep. 7	Sat.	Patriot's Day Classic	Cinder Ridge GC
	Sep. 21	Sat.	Milwaukee Challenge (Limited)	Oak Grove GC
	Sep. 26	Thu.	September Midweek	Traditions at Chevy Chase
	Sep. 29	Sun.	Two-Man Better Ball	Countryside - Prairie (Low)
				Countryside - Traditional (High)
	Oct. 5,6	Sat. Sun	NIMAGA Players Championship (Qualify)	Springbrook