



NIMAGA NOTES – APRIL 2025

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The golf season is ramping up. We're off to a good start with 2 events already under our belt. While the weather wasn't ideal, we still had good turnouts and successful events. The annual NIMAGA Cup was held yesterday at Seven Bridges and the weather was perfect!

We have a lot of great courses to play this year, so make sure and get registered and play in all you can. Aurora CC is in the rotation again this year. It was one of our biggest turnouts last year and will probably be again this year. It's a fantastic course. I wouldn't miss that one if I were you.

We have a good number of new members this year, many who fared well in their first competitive round in NIMAGA. Well done! That's not an easy feat if you've not played tournament golf previously. With this increase in membership, we expect participation in tournaments to go up also. The May Jamboree has almost 100 members and guests signed up. So, if you want to make sure to get into an event this year, make sure to sign up early. We have a limited number of spots for each event and can't always increase that number.

I'd like to welcome both Tom Govern and Stan Hilty to the NIMAGA Board. They are our newest board members. I am looking forward to the contributions both will make to our organization. For those new members who aren't aware, NIMAGA is run by volunteers who dedicate a lot of time and effort to put on as many tournaments as we do. All the work that each Board Member puts in is greatly appreciated!

Keep reading the rest of the NIMAGA Notes to find out what else is happening in NIMAGA in 2025.

Tom O'Brien
President

WELCOME OUR NEWEST NIMAGA DIRECTORS

Ton Govern is a former Class A PGA Professional in the private and public sector for 14 years. Tom left the industry in 2001. Tom has been a NIMAGA member since 2021 and participates in the majority of the NIMAGA tournament schedule.

Stan Hilty is a 2017 NIMAGA member and a regular at our NIMAGA events. Stan appreciates the organization and volunteered for this position so as to give back to NIMAGA.

Both Tom and Stan bring a wealth of golf knowledge and passion for the game to the board.

Please join me in welcoming these gentlemen to the NIMAGA Board of Directors.

2025 NIMAGA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

The Regular Membership option is still available for those who have not yet joined NIMAGA for the 2025 season. This is priced at \$80 and is open until September 1st.

Remember that you must have a valid paid membership for 2025 before you can enter a tournament.

Be sure to let all of your golfing buddies in on this league.

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

First the good news:

- our membership numbers and tournament participation have risen in the past few years. We have more members and more people entering our tournaments. This causes our payouts to be larger and pay off a greater percentage of the field. NIMAGA grows because of your contributions to the organization. We rely on all of our members to spread the word and that drives up membership. So, thanks to all of you for that.

Now the bad news:

- our increasing tournament participation numbers can cause our events to fill up resulting in more people having to be on a waitlist. The NIMAGA Board is reaching out to our courses to get more tee times. But sometimes, that is not possible. Our advice would be to look at your schedule and enroll in our tournaments as early as you can. This will reserve your spot.

NIMAGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS

Starting with the 2025 season, NIMAGA Cup Points will be displayed in Golf Genius under one heading (NIMAGA Player of the Year points). Points totals will no longer be displayed under playing divisions as in prior years.

The NIMAGA Board will be adjusting the method of choosing the NIMAGA Cup teams for the 2026 season. The rules for the 2026 NIMAGA Cup tournament will be communicated prior to the 2026 NIMAGA Cup tournament.

The NIMAGA Cup teams for the 2025 tournament are already determined based on last year's NIMAGA Cup points finishing totals. You would receive an invitation to that tournament if you finished in the top 12 of your playing division.

NIMAGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

The standings through the April Midweek are:

Stan Mitchell	210 points
Jim Zuccarelli	210 points
Ron Potocnik	170 points
Eric Lang	130 points
Dave Dianovsky	125 points
John Francel	125 points
Jerome Johnson	125 points
Peter McGhee	125 points
Tom O'Brien	125 points
Jonathan Redding	125 points
Tony Volpicelli	125 points

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 – Marking Your Ball

Marking Your Ball – When is it Allowed and Proper Procedures

Thanks to Mayur Patel for his suggestion on this article topic and for his initial research.

Marking your ball during play may seem like a very basic topic that wouldn't require any review, but there are some requirements and procedures that we should review to make sure you are following the Rules of Golf.

We are all familiar with marking your ball on the green, but what are some other situations where you are allowed, or may be required to, mark your ball during play.

To see if the ball is damaged, and you wish to replace it.

To identify your ball, if you cannot do so by observation without lifting it.

If it interferes with play (for example, if your ball interferes with the line or stroke for your playing partner).

When the Rules committee has decided that we are playing lift, clean and replace.

When we are playing rake and place in the sand hazards.

Rule 14 - Procedures for Ball: Marking, Lifting and Cleaning; Replacing on Spot; Dropping in Relief Area; Playing from Wrong Place

Here are the sections from Rule 14 that we are most likely to encounter in NIMAGA tournaments.

Purpose of Rule: Rule 14 covers when and how you may mark the spot of your ball at rest and lift and clean your ball and how to put it back into play so that your ball is played from the right place.

When your ball has been lifted or moved and is to be replaced, the same ball must be set down on its original spot.

When taking free relief or penalty relief, you must drop a substituted ball or the original ball in a particular relief area.

You may correct a mistake in using these procedures without penalty before your ball is played, but you get a penalty if you play the ball from the wrong place.

14.1 Marking, Lifting and Cleaning Ball

a. Spot of Ball to Be Lifted and Replaced Must Be Marked

Before lifting your ball under a Rule requiring it to be replaced on its original spot, you must mark the spot, which means to:

Place a ball-marker right behind or right next to your ball, or

Hold a club on the ground right behind or right next to your ball.

(This is the situation that prompted Mayur to suggest this topic. He used his putter head to mark his ball and align it on the green, and his playing partner thought that was a rule violation. As you can see, that is allowed)

If you lift your ball without marking its spot, mark its spot in a wrong way or make a stroke with a ball-marker left in place, you get one penalty stroke.

When you lift your ball to take relief under a Rule, you are not required to mark the spot.

b. Cleaning Lifted Ball

When you lift your ball from the putting green it may always be cleaned.

When you lift your ball from anywhere else it may always be cleaned except when you lift it:

To see if it is cut or cracked – cleaning is not allowed.

To identify it – cleaning is allowed only as needed to identify it.

Because it interferes with play – cleaning is not allowed.

To see if it lies in a condition where relief is allowed – cleaning is not allowed, unless you then take relief under a Rule.

If you clean a lifted ball when not allowed, you get one penalty stroke.

(The proper procedure for lifting your ball when you are not allowed to clean it, is to hold it between your thumb and one finger. I often see

players palm their ball in their hand when they are marking their ball because it interferes with play. In this situation you are not allowed to clean your ball, so when you palm it, you are probably cleaning it, which should incur a penalty stroke.)

14.2 Replacing Ball on Spot

a. Original Ball Must Be Used

When your ball must be replaced after it was lifted or moved, your original ball must be used.

Exception – Another ball may be used when:

- You cannot recover your original ball with reasonable effort and in a few seconds,
- Your original ball is cut or cracked,
- You are resuming play after a suspension, or
- Your original ball was played by another player as a wrong ball.

b. Who Must Replace Ball and How It Must Be Replaced

Your ball must be replaced under the Rules only by you or any other person who lifted your ball or caused it to move.

If you play a ball that was replaced in a wrong way or replaced by someone not allowed to do so, you get one penalty stroke

c. Spot Where Ball Is Replaced

Your ball must be replaced on its original spot (which if not known must be estimated) except when the Rules require you to replace your ball on a different spot.

If your ball was at rest on, under or against any immovable obstruction, integral object, boundary object or growing or attached natural object:

The “spot” of your ball includes its vertical location relative to the ground.

This means that your ball must be replaced on its original spot on, under or against such object.

d. Where to Replace Ball When Original Lie Altered

If the lie of your ball that has been lifted or moved is altered, you must replace the ball in this way:

Ball in Sand:

You must re-create the original lie as much as possible.

In re-creating the lie, you may leave a small part of the ball visible if the ball had been covered by sand.

If you fail to re-create the lie in breach of this Rule, you have

played from a wrong place. (Obviously this does not apply when we are playing Rake and Place in the sand hazards.)

Ball Anywhere Except in Sand: You must replace the ball by placing it on the nearest spot with a lie most similar to the original lie that is:

- Within one club-length from its original spot (which if not known must be estimated)
- Not nearer the hole, and
- In the same area of the course as that spot.

If you know that the original lie was altered but do not know what the lie was, you must estimate the original lie and replace your ball.

Exception – For Lies Altered While Play is Stopped and Ball Has Been Lifted, see Rule 5.7d.

e. What to Do If Replaced Ball Does Not Stay on Original Spot

If you try to replace your ball but it does not stay on its original spot, you must try a second time.

If your ball again does not stay on that spot, you must replace the ball by placing it on the nearest spot where it will stay at rest, but with these limits depending on where the original spot is located:

The spot must not be nearer the hole.

Original spot in general area – the nearest spot must be in the general area.

Original spot in bunker or penalty area – the nearest spot must be either in the same bunker or in the same penalty area.

Original spot on putting green – the nearest spot must be either on the putting green or in the general area.

Penalty for Playing Incorrectly Substituted Ball or Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Rule 14.2: General Penalty (Two Strokes in stroke play).

Please send any rules questions or suggestions for future articles to the following email: rules.nimaga@gmail.com

FAQs & QUESTIONS

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.

2025 NIMAGA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

NIMAGA SIM OPEN - 02/20/2025

X-GOLF – DOWNERS GROVE

Low Division – SpyGlass Hills GC

1 st Gross	Chris Close
1 st Net	Shawn Pipes
2 nd Net	Anthony Volpicelli
3 rd Net	Tom Zmuda

High Division – SpyGlass Hills GC

1 st Gross	Jonathan Redding
1 st Net	Tim Szczesny
2 nd Net	Michael Choi
3 rd Net	Chuck Rankin

SPRING THAW – 04/05/2025

Palmer Division – Cog Hill GC #1

1 st Gross	Ron Potocnik
2 nd Gross	Dave Minor
1 st Net	Anthony Volpicelli

Player Division – Cog Hill GC #2

1 st Gross	John Francel
1 st Net	Jonathan Redding

Trevino Division – Cog Hill GC #3

1 st Gross	Jim Zuccarelli
1 st Net	Jerome Johnson

APRIL MIDWEEK – 04/14/2025

Low Division – Pine Meadow GC

1 st Gross	Chris Close
1 st Net	Shawn Pipes

High Division – Pine Meadow GC

1 st Gross	Chris Close
1 st Net	Shawn Pipes

NIMAGA CUP - 04/28/2025

On Monday, April 28th, the NIMAGA Cup tournament was played at Seven Bridges in Woodridge.

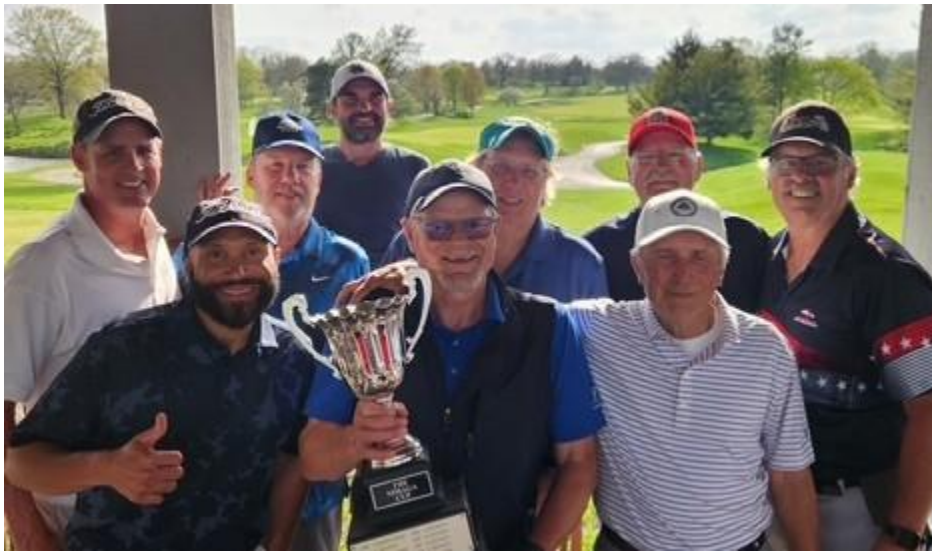
The NIMAGA Cup is an event that pits 3 teams of 12 players against each other in a match play format. At stake is 27 points, a bye into the season ending NIMAGA Players Championship and the NIMAGA Cup.

This years winner was the Blue team captained by Einar Steinsson. His team secured 10.5 points and a victory. The Red and White teams were close behind with 8.5 and 8.0 points with Jim Dubay as Red team captain and George Zdarsky as the White team captain.

Thanks to all of the participants for competing. A special thanks also goes to Bob Lake for securing the golf course as well as Tom O'Brien for coordinating the NIMAGA Cup Draft Party.

The 2025 NIMAGA Cup winners are:

Einar Steinsson (capt)	Mark Heinsohn	Jeff Lyman
John Snow	Tom Zmuda	Shomari Moss
Stan Hilty	Paul Susner	Dan Plens
Ray Pauliks	Robert Westberg	Rolf Ronstadt



Pictured (L to R) : Mike Lyman, Shomari Moss, Mark Heinsohn, Tom Zmuda, Capt Einar Steinsson, Ray Pauliks, Paul Susner, Dan Plens, Stan Hilty

Not pictured: Robert Westberg, John Snow, Rolf Ronstadt

2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Course(s)	Division	Start Time
April - October	C&GMPT		Hogan / Jones	N/A
Sun, May 04, 2025	May Jamboree*	Countryside - Traditional	Palmer / Player	8:00 AM
		Countryside - Prairie	Trevino	7:30 AM
Tue, May 20, 2025	May Midweek	Old Orchard CC	Low / High	11:30 AM
Mon, June 02, 2025	Senior Open (50+)	Fox Bend GC	Low / High	10:00 AM
Sat, June 14, 2025	Summer Classic*	Prairie Isle GC	Pa / PI / Tr	NOON
Mon, June 30, 2025	June Midweek	Aurora CC	Low / High	NOON
Sun, July 13, 2025	Freedom Open*	Pinecrest GC	Pa / PI / Tr	10:00 AM
Tue, July 22, 2025	July Midweek	Thunderhawk GC	Low / High	11:00 AM
Tue, July 29, 2025	Super Senior Open (65+)	Hughes Creek GC	Low / High	10:00 AM
Sat, Aug 09, 2025	Club Championship*	Palatine Hills GC	Low / High	TBD
Sun, Aug 10, 2025		Heritage Bluffs GC	High / Low	TBD
Tue, Aug 19, 2025	August Midweek	Ravisloe CC	Low / High	11:00 AM
Sat, Sept 06, 2025	Patriot's Day Classic*	Highland Woods GC	Pa / PI / Tr	TBD
Tue, Sept 16, 2025	September Midweek	Bartlett Hills GC	Low / High	10:00 AM
Sat, Sept 20, 2025	Milwaukee Challenge	Fox Lake CC	Limited	8:30 AM
Sun, Sep 28, 2025	2 Man Better Ball	Randall Oaks GC	Low / High	8:30 AM
Sat, Oct 04, 2025 Sun, Oct 05, 2025	NIMAGA Players Championship	TBD	Invitational: One Division	TBD