



NIMAGA NOTES – OCTOBER 2025

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2025 season has drawn to a close. We had another fantastic season full of exciting tournaments with both winners who are long time NIMAGA members as well as winners who are brand new members. We saw our numbers go up again this year to 189, with almost 25% of our organization comprised of 1st year members. Great job to all of you out there who are promoting NIMAGA! We look forward to growing again next year. It would be great to hit 200 members! If you know anyone interested, have him create a profile in Golf Genius and we'll include him in any emails and updates for the coming year.

We unfortunately lost a long time NIMAGA member this year in Roger Scott. He contributed in many ways throughout the years, including as a board member and President. Even though he could not play as much in recent years, he still joined NIMAGA each year and supported the organization as an honorary board member. When I first met him, I enjoyed the stories he told me about belonging to a club in Scotland. I remember thinking how cool it would be to be able to travel to Scotland each summer and have a home course to play, in the country that invented the game. He will be greatly missed.

For the 2026 season, we are welcoming 2 new Board Members. One is Dan Montgomery, who is returning to the Board after a several-year hiatus. The second is Mick Fleming, who joined NIMAGA in 2023. It will be great to get perspective on the board of both a seasoned member and a relative newcomer. I look forward to working with both to keep on improving the NIMAGA experience for all members.

The Course Selection Committee is working hard, reaching out to perspective courses for next year. It has become an increasingly hard task over the last few years to lock up a schedule as early as we'd like. With the growth in the popularity of golf in the last few years, many courses don't seem to want to commit to pricing or dates until the beginning of the year. There has been at least a course or two who want to wait until March to book anything, which is obviously way too late for our purposes. If anyone has connections that can help us garner a better deal on a course, or get into a private course, please let us know by contacting Jim Dubai, or Stan Hilty, or email admin@nimaga.org.

I hope you all have a great off-season. I'm sure many of you will travel somewhere warm at some point in the winter, to get a few swings. If not, hopefully you at least get to play some indoor or sim golf. Keep those swings grooved for next year! Hope to see some of you at the Year End All Members Meeting, and maybe at the Sim Open (Date TBD) in 2026! Read on in the NIMAGA Notes to see what else transpired in 2025 and what is coming in 2026.

Tom O'Brien
NIMAGA President

THANKS TO ALL

The entire NIMAGA Board would like to thank all of our members for your contributions to a successful 2025 season. Whether it be the growth in our membership or our increase in tournament entries or just pitching in to help out at an event, we thank you.

NIMAGA is a better organization because of your commitment to the league and in promoting tournament golf in northern Illinois. Thanks again.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

As Tom mentioned in his Presidential Message, NIMAGA is pleased to announce our 2 newest directors who were recently voted on to the Board. Please join us in welcoming both Mick Fleming and Dan Montgomery. They are in the process of getting up to speed in the NIMAGA organization with plans to hit the ground running in 2026.

Welcome aboard gentlemen!

ALL MEMBERS YEAR-END MEETING

The 2025 All Members meeting will be held at the White Pines clubhouse on Wednesday, Nov 5th starting at 6:30 pm.

We will recap the 2025 season and present topics for the upcoming 2026 season.

Hot and cold refreshments will be provided, and a cash bar will be available.

Please make it a point to stop by.

FINAL 2025 NIMAGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

All of the NIMAGA Player of the Year points have been awarded for the 2025 season and we have a new Player of the Year.

The NIMAGA Board would like to recognize **Robert Allen** as the 2025 NIMAGA Player of the Year.

- Robert will receive a free regular membership for the 2026 season and a trophy to commemorate his achievement.

Congratulations on an outstanding season, Robert!

Here are your top 10 finishers:

Robert Allen	755 points
Ron Potocnik	690
Dave Dianovsky	670
Kevin Stough	570
Dick Freund	570
Peter McGhee	510
Tom O'Brien	510
Stan Mitchell	490
Tom Govern	470
Jonathan Redding	450

Click [here](#) to see the final standings.

RULES SECTION

This month's Rules Section feature comes to us from NIMAGA member, Russ Riendeau. Russ is a PhD and is a Titleist Performance Institute Certified Professional, Mayo Clinic Certified Wellness Coach and Behavioral Psychologist. The Elephant in the Fairway & FormYoula 1 Mindset are his newest books.

His offering this month is on slow play.

Fast Ideas To *Speed Up* Slow Golfers

By Russ Riendeau, PhD, Titleist Performance Institute Certified Golf Professional

Slow playing, less-aware golfers, have always been constant source of frustration and disruption with fellow players competing in a tournament, playing behind a slow group, or simply enjoying a round of golf in 4 hours. Golf courses, as well, are challenged to keep the course moving, finding enough rangers to monitor course play as well. Regardless of skill levels

and fitness levels, every golfer can and should find ways to be more efficient in their playing to speed up play.

Here are strategies and processes that are immediately implementable to remind players to play faster, without feeling unreasonably rushed. Consider posting this list on your club bulletin board, hand it out at tournaments and events, email to every member of your group—even post it on the first tee. You will see a difference in speed and awareness of play, and you will also have support of all golfers when you begin to enforce consequences for slow play.

Tee Box Efficiency: (In Top 3 of timewasters.)

- One trip only to the tee box. No more walk up, shoot a yardage, then walking back to the cart to get a club. If two players shoot & share a number, you don't need a 3rd reading. Grab a few clubs and be ready to hit.
- Keep your group together on the tee to avoid excessive time walking up to the tee markers to hit. There's no need to be 30 feet away from the player hitting. Agree that everybody gets to the tee quickly to watch each tee shot location. Pay attention.
- Make your swing, pick up your tee and move out the way while admiring or scolding your shot, to allow next person to step up immediately. Talk to your ball later.
- Ready Golf means Be Ready to Play Golf. All agree to get on the tee quickly and hit.
- Fairway shots. Walking to ball have GPS/rangefinder ready. Take no less 50 seconds, swing and move on.
- Advance your cart or bag to be in-line with advancing to next tee box—never backtrack to retrieve carts or equipment.

Pre-shot Routine: (In Top 3 of timewasters.)

- Practice to compress time to minimum practice swings, less waggles, wangles and wiggles. This reduces fatigue as well.
- Mark scorecards as you go to next tee box or while waiting on the tee. Advance, advance.

Putting Preparation. (In Top 3 of timewasters.) Don't wait to prepare. Stand close to your ball and the group to speed up getting off the green. Walk around your putt and assess as soon as you approach the green. Know the order to putt; be ready to put your ball down to play. Nothing more frustrating for players in a foursome than to have to now wait for a player to do a 360 degree of his four-footer after all other players are finished.

Cart Play: Drop a player at his ball and go to yours to prepare if within 30-50 yards to save more time.

Lost ball? Start counting 3 minutes time and move on. "3 minutes are up, sorry."

- Only search for your ball inbounds--not out of bounds. Drop another, write the cost of the ball off, and play on.

No ball hawking in ponds. No matter how many juicy ProV1s you see, leave 'em and go back at midnight and snatch them. Play golf—no fishing.

Play a provisional. "I think you're OK...should be findable...it's wide open over there..." are encouraging, not practical. Announce your provisional.

Be Self-Aware of how fast or slow you play and participate in the group dynamic. Respect your partners and opponents' right to play at a reasonable pace, without distractions and frustrations of having to wait for a slow player. It's inconsiderate to force a member to constantly remind someone, "We need to pick up the pace boys."

Golf is about sportsmanship. And it's a social event. But excessive conversations before tee shots or long fairway stories stall faster play. Be aware of pace of play and save great stories for the 19th hole.

Know the Rules of Golf to help keep pace of play moving. Debating what you don't know is time wasted.

Have the Serious Conversation. Be prepared and willing to have a direct, but civilized conversation with slow players before/during/after a match. *"My friend, you may not like this conversation, but we need you to pick up your pace of play right now, as it is disrupting the enjoyment of the game, the possibility of a penalty, as well as interfering other players trying to score. What can we do to help you speed up your play right now?" Or "...here are 3 things we see you doing that are causing slow play: 1. 2. 3."* It needs to be said directly and quickly to a slow player.

Removal of a player from tournaments or regular weekly games may be required. Repeat offenders, that do not experience the consequences of their slow play beyond a penalty stroke occasionally, will not change enough to be fair to other players. Additional actions are often necessary to ensure the rest of the group feels heard, and this also is a reminder for others to speed up their game.

About the Author: *Dr. Russ Riendeau, PhD is a Titleist Performance Institute Certified Professional, Mayo Clinic Certified Wellness Coach and Behavioral Psychologist. The Elephant in the Fairway & FormYoula 1 Mindset are his newest books.*

2026 NIMAGA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Information about 2026 membership will be emailed sometime in late December. So, please keep an eye out for that as we hope to see everyone back in 2026.

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	Dave Dianovsky
1 st Net	Tom O'Brien

High Division – Pine Meadow GC

1 st Gross	Stan Mitchell
1 st Net	Peter McGhee

NIMAGA CUP - 04/28/2025

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

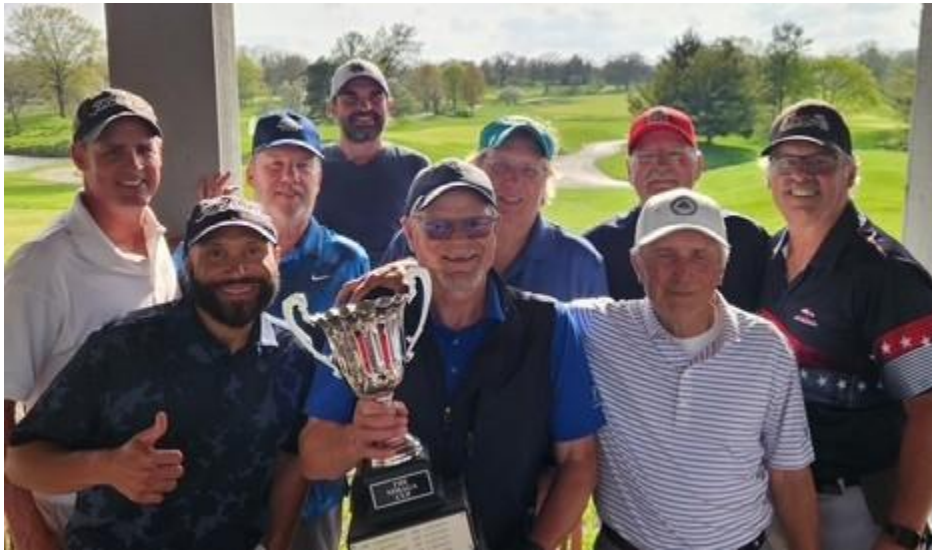
The NIMAGA Cup is an event that pits 3 teams of 12 players against each other in a match play format. At stake is 27 points, a bye into the season ending NIMAGA Players Championship and the NIMAGA Cup.

This year's 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

MAY JAMBOREE – 05/04/2025

Palmer Division – Countryside GC Traditional Course

1 st Gross	Ron Potocnik
1 st Net	Shawn Pipes

Player Division – Countryside GC Traditional Course

1 st Gross	Stan Mitchell
1 st Net	Robert Allen

Trevino Division – Countryside GC Prairie Course

1 st Gross	Osayi Menzies
1 st Net	Nate Holub

SENIOR OPEN (50+) – 06/02/2025

Low Division – Fox Bend GC

1 st Gross	Dave Dianovsky
1 st Net	Stan Mitchell

High Division – Fox Bend GC

1 st Gross	Einar Steinsson
1 st Net	Mayur Patel

MAY MIDWEEK – 06/10/2025

Low Division – Old Orchard GC

1 st Gross	John Gollwitzer
1 st Net	Paul Susner

High Division – Old Orchard GC

1 st Gross	Bob Lake
1 st Net	Ken Koranda

SUMMER CLASSIC – 06/14/2025

Palmer Division – Prairie Isle GC

1 st Gross	Dave Minor
1 st Net	Arlo Walsman

Player Division – Prairie Isle GC

1 st Gross	Joe Nagy
1 st Net	Nate Holub

Trevino Division – Prairie Isle GC

1 st Gross	Mike Grosskopt
1 st Net	Peter McGhee

JUNE MIDWEEK – 06/30/2025

Palmer Division – Aurora CC

1 st Gross	Dave Dianovsky
1 st Net	Chris Close

Player Division – Aurora CC

1 st Gross	Dick Freund
1 st Net	Kevin McInerney

Trevino Division – Aurora CC

1 st Gross	Matt Schlarb
1 st Net	Dennis Samoska

FREEDOM OPEN – 07/13/2025

Palmer Division – Pinecrest GC

1 st Gross	Ron Potocnik
1 st Net	Barry Brown

Player Division – Pinecrest GC

1 st Gross	Lincoln Maina
1 st Net	Rich Kenny

Trevino Division – Pinecrest GC

1 st Gross	Jim Kotula
1 st Net	George Zdarsky

JULY MIDWEEK – 07/22/2025

Palmer Division – Thunderhawk GC

1 st Gross	Tom Govern
1 st Net	Tim Quenan

Player Division – Thunderhawk GC

1 st Gross	Rolanda Levya
1 st Net	Tom O'Brien

Trevino Division – Thunderhawk GC

1 st Gross	Robert Yedinak
1 st Net	John Canary

SUPER SENIOR OPEN (65+) – 07/29/2025

Low Division – Hughes Creek GC

1 st Gross	Stan Hilty
1 st Net	Roy Robbins

High Division – Hughes Creek GC

1 st Gross	John Canary
1 st Net	Randy Samoska

NIMAGA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – 08/09 & 08/10/2025

Palatine Hills GC & Heritage Bluffs GC

Low Division

1 st Gross	John Haffner
1 st Net	Dick Freund

High Division

1 st Gross	Robert Allen
1 st Net	Bob Lake

AUGUST MIDWEEK – 08/19/2025

Low Division – Ravisloe GC

1 st Gross	Tom Govern
1 st Net	Shawn Pipes

High Division – Ravisloe GC

1 st Gross	DeRonne Huddleston
1 st Net	Ken Koranda

PATRIOTS DAY CLASSIC – 09/06/2025

Palmer Division – Highland Woods GC

1 st Gross	Dave Minor
1 st Net	Kirk Blakney

Player Division – Highland Woods GC

1 st Gross	Robert Yedinak
1 st Net	Robert Allen

Trevino Division – Highland Woods GC

1 st Gross	Ken Koranda
1 st Net	Peter McGhee

SEPTEMBER MIDWEEK – 09/16/2025

Low Division – Bartlett Hills GC

1 st Gross	Dave Dianovsky
1 st Net	Michael Somora

High Division – Pinecrest GC

1 st Gross	Dan Montgomery
1 st Net	Mike Sramek

MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE – 09/20/2025

On Saturday, September 20th, the NIMAGA Cup tournament was played at the Fox Lake Country Club in Fox Lake. This was the 50th anniversary of this event that started way back in 1975.

The Milwaukee Challenge is a one day Ryder Cup style event against golfers from the Milwaukee County Public Links Association (MCPLA). We are pitted in a handicapped match against opponents of similar skill level. Each golfer plays for the opportunity to win up to a total of 3 points for his team. There is 1 point up for grabs for the front 9, 1 for the back 9, and 1 for the total 18. If any part of the match is tied, a half point is awarded to each player. Whichever team has the most points at the end takes the trophy home for the year.

Sad to report that it has been tough times for NIMAGA in this event over the past several years and this one was no different. The MCPLA team was again victorious by a score of 52 – 44

Thanks to all of the participants for competing. A special thanks also goes to Captain Tom O'Brien and his second in command, George Zdarsky for their work in putting this event together.

2 MAN BETTER BALL – 09/28/2025

Low Division – Randall Oaks GC

1 st Gross	John Haffner & John Gollwitzer
1 st Net	Matt Lyons & John Medina

High Division – Randall Oaks GC

1 st Gross	Jim Kotula & Tom O'Brien
1 st Net	John Snow & Wes Stinich

C&G MATCH PLAY

Winner Bracket

Low Division Semi-Finalists	Ron Potocnik Tom Govern
High Division Semi-Finalists	Doug McKirahan John Lemm
Overall Winner	Ron Potocnik d. Doug McKirahan at Itasca CC

Consolation Bracket

Final Match	Rick Soja v. Robert Allen Match has not been played to date
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NIMAGA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP – 10/04 & 10/05/2025

One Division - Broken Arrow GC

1 st Gross	Dave Minor
2 nd Gross	John Haffner
1 st Net	John Canary
2 nd Net	Stan Mitchell
3 rd Net	Eric Lang
4 th Net	Mario Conte
5 th Net	Mick Fleming