



NIMAGA NOTES – APRIL 2023

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first two tournaments of the season are in the books. The Spring Thaw was played in seasonal temps, but April Midweek was a bit cold. Congratulations to all of those that participated and to the winners.

We are looking for more members to register for the C&G Match Play Tournament (first year members are not eligible). This is a season long single elimination match play tournament in which the members mutually arrange the course and time within each month to play their match, with the winner of the match advancing to the next round. We have 35 members registered and we want a few more. We only have two match play tournaments during the season, the first one is the NIMAGA Cup that is invitation only for the top 12 finishers from the Palmer, Player and Trevino Divisions from the prior season and the Milwaukee Challenge that has a limited field size. This is a great way to compete in match play setting, so why don't you give this season-long tournament a try.

Read the rest of NIMAGA Notes to find out what is happening.

Take care and good luck to all this tournament season.

Brian Alberts
President

C&G MATCH PLAY TOURNAMENT

Did you know that NIMAGA offers a season long match play tournament? In fact, the C&GMPT is starting its 16th year. This unique event will match players in a head-to-head match play format. Players have the complete flexibility to choose the course and the date that fits into their schedule. You then report back the results, and the winners move on.

This is a great way to meet other NIMAGA members and hopefully pick up some prizes and trophies along the way.

This event is open to all second year (and above) NIMAGA members, so register now.

PACE OF PLAY (PoP) POLICY

Every amateur golf association struggles with administering slow play and NIMAGA is no exception. Slow Play has been part of NIMAGA culture for a very long time. The NIMAGA Board has worked hard throughout the holiday season to come up with a new set of Pace of Play policies that will be used in 2023.

In summary, a player will be assessed slow-play penalty strokes after 3 PoP violations. PoP violation(s) will occur when players fall behind the prior groups. The key change is that you will need 3 PoP violations before a penalty stroke is assessed. By using prior PoP violations, NIMAGA is using a player's playing history in doling out penalty strokes versus that one bad (slow) tournament.

You will hear a lot more about this topic throughout the year and it may be refined over time. As always, feel free to provide your questions or any feedback to web@nimaga.org

The bullet points that follow are the ways that a PoP violation will be issued to a player and when those PoP violations could result in a slow-play penalty stroke at a tournament.

- A tournament course's pace of play will be established prior to the tournament, based on the course's expectation of PoP. If the expected POP is unreasonable (Slow public play, inclement weather, harsh course conditions, etc.), then the tournament course's pace of play will be adjusted to the finish time of NIMAGA's first group.
- If a group finishes outside the tournament course's established pace of play **AND** finishes 14 or more minutes behind the group in front of them, each member of the group would receive a PoP violation.
- If a group finishes outside the tournament course's established pace of play **AND** finishes 19 minutes or more behind the group in front of them, they will receive 2 PoP violations.
- Allowances will be made for foursomes playing behind threesomes. That foursome will receive a 1 PoP violation if they do not finish within 28 minutes of two groups in front of them or 2 PoP violations if they do not finish within 37 minutes of two groups in front of them **AND** outside the tournament course's established PoP.
- Upon receiving a 3rd PoP violation, an individual will be issued a one stroke slow play penalty on the day of the violation. That individual will also be issued slow play penalties for any additional violations after the 3rd.
- Playing times are recorded when the last player holes out on the final hole.
- Members will have 1 PoP violation removed from their record for each tournament where he finishes in the allotted time, until he is either back to zero or receives another violation.
- You will not get credit for this if you play in the first group, unless you play under the course PoP, or within our PoP policy behind public play.

- Every effort will be made in not pairing two PoP violators in the same group.
- Starting & finishing times of each group will be tracked and recorded on the Golf Genius Scorecards by the scorer or other designated board member.
 - Violations of the PoP Policy will then be issued whenever warranted.
 - Tournament scorers will determine if a slow-play penalty is to be assessed based on POP violation history and PoP infractions for that tournament.
 - These PoP violations will be recorded onto each player's profile in Golf Genius.
- Members will be notified of how many violations they have prior to each tournament they are playing through Golf Genius emails.
- Violations will not be made public knowledge, though a slow play penalty would be reflected on the final leaderboard.

NIMAGA BUSINESS CARDS

New to NIMAGA in 2023 is something we are calling NIMAGA Business Cards (NBC). NBC will allow current members to promote their business or service on the NIMAGA website (nimaga.org).

The NBC process begins when a member enters their business or service information on a template (pictured below)

The completed templates will not be initially viewable by others. Each submitted NBC template begins in a Pending status and will be reviewed and vetted by the NIMAGA Executive Committee.

Approval guidelines will be developed as use of this is adopted. Please remember, this must be a legitimate business or service. Also, it must be associated with the member as their name is required.

Once vetting is completed, the Pending template will move to Approved status and will be visible. Again, only Approved NIMAGA Business Cards are displayed on the website.

Please note that your information will be on a publicly accessible website and could be viewed by anyone (members and non-members alike).

Visit <https://nimaga.org/cards> and follow the instructions.

{Business}	{Category}
{Full_Name}	{Cell#}
{Address}	{Home#}
{City}, {State} {ZIP}	{Work#}
{Website}	{Email}
<hr/>	
Description	
{Describe1}	
{Describe2}	
{Describe3}	
{Describe4}	

NIMAGA Business Cards may be discontinued at the board's discretion.

RULES SECTION

*The NIMAGA Notes will be running a continuing column explaining various Rules situations. Robert Yedinak will be the contributing author of this section. This month Robert addresses **Course Conditions**.*

Abnormal Course Conditions

For this segment on the Rules of Golf, I am going to address a couple of issues related to Abnormal Course Conditions (Rule 16.1).

This Rule covers **free relief** that is allowed from interference by *animal holes, ground under repair, immovable obstructions or temporary water*:

- These are collectively called abnormal course conditions, but each has a separate definition.
- This Rule does not give relief from movable obstructions (a different type of free relief is allowed under Rule 15.2a) or boundary objects or integral objects (no free relief is allowed).

The rule covers many scenarios where you may be entitled to free relief if your play is interfered by abnormal course conditions. I encourage you to read the full rule to understand all the situations you may encounter.

To keep these updates brief (so you will hopefully read them), for this issue I just want to cover a couple of situations.

One issue I was personally curious about, if my ball is in clearly marked ground under repair, am I required to take relief? You may be pleased or surprised to know that you may either play

your ball as it lies from the ground under repair or take free relief. To take relief, you must find the nearest point of complete relief from the ground under repair and drop your original ball or another ball (if a ball substitution is allowed) away from the ground under repair and within one club-length of that point not nearer the hole.

Another abnormal course condition, especially during these early season rounds, is casual water in a bunker. In that situation, you have two options: free relief or penalty relief. Here is the full language from rule 16.1.

(1) Free Relief: Playing from Bunker. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b, except that:

- The nearest point of complete relief and the relief area must be in the bunker.
- If there is no such nearest point of complete relief in the bunker, the player may still take this relief by using the point of maximum available relief in the bunker as the reference point.

(2) Penalty Relief: Playing from Outside Bunker (Back-on-the-Line Relief). For **one penalty stroke**, the player may drop the original ball or another ball (see Rule 14.3) outside that bunker, keeping the spot of the original ball between the hole and the spot where the ball is dropped (with no limit on how far back the ball may be dropped). The spot on the line where the ball first touches the ground when dropped creates a relief area that is one club-length in any direction from that point, but with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must not be nearer the hole than the spot of the original ball, and
- May be in any area of the course except the same bunker, but
- Must be in the same area of the course that the ball first touched when dropped.

Please note; if you cannot take relief in the bunker, you must take a penalty stroke if you play your next shot outside of the bunker, unless the committee has designated the bunker under water as ground under repair.

NIMAGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Starting this year, NIMAGA will be offering a Player of the Year award. 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 2023 calendar year.

The award will be a trophy and paid membership for the 2024 season.

Good luck, players.

PERPETUAL PLAQUES

Running out of space on the wall for your NIMAGA Tournament Plaques? Or maybe you're new to NIMAGA and wondering where you're going to put all the plaques you plan on winning in your NIMAGA career?

We have the answer to both of those dilemmas called a "Perpetual Plaque". Instead of getting a nice hardwood plaque for every tournament you win, "go green" and purchase a single personally customized 12, 18, or 24+ plate hardwood plaque of your choice of color, type, and design. You would then have an individual plate engraved for each of your previous and future NIMAGA victories and golf accomplishments (e.g., hole-in-one). The total one-time cost starts at \$130, and you would be reimbursed by NIMAGA a minimum of \$100 up to half of the total cost of your Perpetual Plaque with a NIMAGA Certificate (\$200 maximum reimbursement). You would then get an engraved plate for each of your future NIMAGA victories at no cost to you.

Additionally, you will be asked for your choice of plaque after your next victory if you haven't been asked previously.

For more information or to start the conversion process, contact admin@nimaga.org.

NIMAGA HOLE-IN-ONE JACKPOT

Returning in 2023, 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 event 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

As of April 10th, the pot stands at \$518.00 !

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.

Hole-in-One entry information is always present on the tee sheet that is emailed to all tournament players or you can email questions to HoleInOne@nimaga.org

\$10 SKINS

Another 2022 season feature that will continue in 2023 is the Skins entry being \$10.00. This change was implemented at the start of the 2022 season based on member feedback from the 2021 Annual Members Meeting.

Skins entry information is always present on the tee sheet that is emailed to all tournament players.

CHOOSE YOUR TEES

For several tournaments in 2022, NIMAGA started allowing players to 'Choose Your Tees'. For 2023, we will be having Choose Your Tees for all NIMAGA tournaments (except the C&G MPT, NIMAGA Cup, Milwaukee Challenge and possibly the NPC tournaments). By allowing members to pick the tees that they want to play, this enhances your golf experience.

Choose Your Tee information (with tee options per division) will be available on the 2023 Golf Genius tournament portals when you sign up for an event. Once the tournament registration closes, you will receive an email asking for your tee choice. Please respond timely with your choice. If we do not hear back from you, you will be assigned to the default tees.

But remember, you can only win the gross prize if you play from the longest tee option for your division. If at least 5 players do not wish to play from the longest option, it will be eliminated, and everyone will play from the shorter tees.

SOCIAL MEDIA

NIMAGA is planning on expanding our Social Media presence in 2023. We want to market and advertise NIMAGA to attract potential new members as well as publicize our tournament results.

The good news is that all of you can help us with that. Social Media grows by word of mouth and our exposure is greater when more of you participate.

So, please follow us on our 2 social media platforms.

Facebook - Northern Illinois Men's Amateur Golf Association
nimaga_golf on Instagram (we are growing this one. So not much information here, yet)

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.

2023 NIMAGA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

SPRING THAW - 04/08/2023

Palmer Division – Cog Hill #3

Gross Robert DeVogelear

Gross 2nd Tom Govern

Net Dave Dianovsky

Player Division – Cog Hill #1

Gross Jonathon Tran

Net Mark Power

Trevino Division – Cog Hill #2

Gross James DeLee

Net George Zdarsky

APRIL MIDWEEK - 04/25/2022

Low Division – Bridges of Poplar Creek

Gross Jim Dubay

Net Tom Zmuda

High Division – Bridges of Poplar Creek

Gross Steve Barnaby

Net Jim Wojcik

2023 NIMAGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

2023 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE					
	Date	Day	Entry Cutoff Date	Tournament Name	Golf Course
	April thru September		Apr 30	C&G Match Play	Season long tournament in which opponents arrange course & time. Must be a member for 2+ years.
	May 7	Sun.	Apr 27	May Jamboree	Palatine Hills GC
	May 23	Tue.	May 13	May Midweek	Hilldale GC
	June 4	Sun.	May 25	Summer Classic	Village Greens of Woodridge

Jun. 8	Thu.	May 29	Super Senior Open (Age 65+)	Woodruff GC
June 13	Tue.	N/A	NIMAGA Cup (Qualify)	Bittersweet GC
June 21	Wed.	June 11	June Midweek	Bowes Creek CC
July 9	Sun.	June 30	Freedom Open	Highland Woods GC
July 24	Mon.	July 14	July Midweek	Ruffled Feathers GC
Aug. 2	Wed.	July 23	Senior Open (Age 50+)	Steeple Chase GC
Aug. 12	Sat.	Aug 2	NIMAGA Club Championship	Boone Creek GC
Aug. 13	Sun.			Broken Arrow GC
Aug. 29	Tue.	Aug 19	August Midweek	Orchard Valley GC
Sep. 9	Sat.	Aug 31	Patriot's Day Classic	The Arboretum Club
Sep. 16	Sat.	N/A	Milwaukee Challenge (Limited)	Fox Lake CC
Sep. ??	???	TBD	September Midweek	TBD
Oct. 1	Sun.	Sep 21	Two-Man Best Ball	Naperbrook GC (High)
				Springbrook GC (Low)
Oct. 7	Sat.	N/A	NIMAGA Players Championship (Qualify)	Whisper Creek GC
Oct. 8	Sun.			