



NIMAGA NOTES – JANUARY 2024

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome NIMAGA members to 2024!

Happy New Year to all and hope your holidays were relaxing and spent in good company. A new golf season is upon us, and the Spring Thaw will be here before you know it. Get those membership registrations in, and make sure to get the word out to all your fellow golfers who have not yet participated in NIMAGA. Let them know what they are missing. Let's all help grow the organization this year and have a fantastic 2024 season!

I would like to extend my gratitude to Brian Alberts, for the leadership he has demonstrated as the NIMAGA President over the last 3 years. While he has decided to step down from the President position, he will remain active on the Board as Membership and Handicap Chair. Prior to being President, Brian also spent several years as Vice-President and is entering into his 24th year as part of the Board. A big thanks also goes out to Doug McKirahan who has served on the board for 12 years and has been instrumental in developing & maintaining the NIMAGA website.

Even though he has stepped down from the board, he is still helping to transition the website from 2023 to the 2024 season. Thanks for all you have both done! As I take over for Brian as President, I would also like to thank all the current board members who will be serving the organization in 2024. We have a great group without which there would not be a NIMAGA.

As some of you have probably noticed, the 2024 schedule is not yet complete. Since Covid, the popularity of golf has spiked. This has resulted in a more challenging environment to book events. Many courses have consistently raised their rates over the last few years and are not so eager to host events. Many of those courses would not even give us a rate until they met with their board to set 2024 pricing, usually in January. This has caused a bit of a delay in completing the schedule. However, we already have many great courses booked for 2024, including Cog Hill, Shepard's Crook, Seven Bridges, Pine Meadows, Highlands of Elgin, and Aurora CC. If you haven't had the opportunity to play Aurora CC, I highly recommend signing up. It is a gorgeous course! We have courses for most of the other events penciled in, but are waiting for confirmation of pricing, start times, etc. The 2024 schedule should be completed soon and promises to be another good one!

Enjoy the rest of your off-season and I'll see you in April!

Tom O'Brien
President

2024 NIMAGA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

As of Jan 1st, the NIMAGA membership registration is open through Golf Genius. Simply go to the NIMAGA.org website and click on the orange Golf Genius banner on the top of the screen.

We have the following membership options available:

Jan 1 – Feb 29	Regular Membership (Early Bird)	\$70
Mar 1 – Sep 1	Regular Membership	\$80
Feb 15 – Mar 15	Package Membership	TBD

As a refresher, Regular Memberships will provide you with a CDGA handicap throughout the 2024 calendar year. The Package Membership will provide a CDGA handicap as well as paid entry into the 7 regular events.

The Package Membership price is still being determined and should be available by Feb 15th, if not earlier. An email will be sent once the Package Membership rates have been finalized.

A FEW CHANGES FOR THE 2024 SEASON

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.

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

- Remember, you can only win gross if you play from the longest tee option for your division. If we do not have 5 or more players choosing to play from the longer tees, the longer tee option will be eliminated. Everyone will then play from the shorter tees.
- Choose Your Tee information (with tee options per division) will be available on the 2024 Golf Genius tournament portals when you sign up for an event.

NIMAGA Hole-In-One will be available for all events except C&GMPT, Milwaukee Challenge and NIMAGA Cup.

The C&G Match Play Tournament will also have a several format changes for the 2024 season. A detailed explanation of those changes will be communicated when they are finalized.

CDGA CHANGES FOR 2024

There are 2 significant changes that were introduced by the CDGA at the beginning of this year.

Transition to Handicap ID

Earlier this month, you probably received an email from the CDGA introducing your personal Handicap ID and an explanation on its use.

There are 2 things that you need to be aware of.

- You should use your newly assigned Handicap ID* when accessing the CDGA website to post all of your adjusted golf scores.
- You do not need post your adjusted golf score for any NIMAGA tournament scores (including those that are played in the C&G Match Play Tournament). We already have your Handicap ID in our Golf Genius system so your adjusted scores will be accurately recorded.

*or email if using your desktop/laptop.

Bottom Line - forget about your CDGA number, your Handicap ID will be used going forward.

Here is the Handicap ID email from the CDGA:

On the morning of Jan. 8, 2024, we will be transitioning from CDGA Number to **Handicap ID** as the primary identification number used for all CDGA members. This will be the number used for My CDGA Caddie/My CDGA app log in, peer review, event registration, etc.

The USGA recommends this change be made in order to more seamlessly connect your Handicap Index® to the World Handicap System™ (WHS). Every golfer throughout the world who has a Handicap Index is assigned a unique **Handicap ID**. As such, this is not a new number, but rather one all CDGA members already have that will be utilized more effectively moving forward.

Some other items to note as part of this transition:

- You will be able to use the email address on file with your CDGA account to log in to the website or app instead of your **Handicap ID**, if you so choose
- Your password will stay the same.
- If you are already logged in to the My CDGA app, you should automatically stay logged in throughout this transition.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we make this transition to enhance the global portability of your Handicap Index.

World Handicap System™ Changes

On January 16, 2024, key changes were introduced to the World Handicap System in the United States and its territories. The purpose behind these changes – to continue to build on a modern, fair, and responsive system that meets the game of golf where it is today.

With our active season for handicap purposes quickly approaching, we wanted to call attention to these changes that will impact many of us moving forward. Below is a summary of the three changes, along with links to learn more.

9-Hole Scores

No more waiting on 9-hole scores to combine, as they will count toward your Handicap Index® the very next day. A premium is placed on the holes you played and combined with an expected Score Differential™ for consistency and fairness.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/world-handicap-system/2024-revision/9-hole-scores-video.html>

Holes not Played

Use of expected Score Differential applies when 10-17 holes are played, introducing more flexibility to score posting. In this scenario, you're asked to post your score hole-by-hole.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/world-handicap-system/2024-revision/10-17-hole-scores-FAQs.html>

Course Rating and Shorter Courses

Courses as short as 750 yards for 9 holes and 1,500 yards for 18 holes are eligible for a Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™ - enhancing the portability of a Handicap Index to make the system more accommodating for all players.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/world-handicap-system/2024-revision/Reduced-Course-Length-FAQs.html>

We look forward to playing under the 2024 World Handicap System revision once our season begins. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff of the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA), our local Allied Golf Association, with any questions.

Here is a comprehensive link for the World Handicap System™ Changes for 2024:

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/world-handicap-system/2024-revision.html>

Check out <https://nimaga.org/rules/rules-handicaps.php> for more information on these changes.

NIMAGA SIM OPEN

NIMAGA held our 2nd NIMAGA SIM Open on January 6th, 2024, at X-Golf in Downers Grove.

We had a field of 32 members and guests competing on the famed Kapalua Plantation course in Maui. Now, Downers Grove in January is a far cry from Maui, but everyone seemed to enjoy the experience.

You can check out the results at the end of this newsletter and on the Golf Genius portal page.

NIMAGA HOLE-IN-ONE JACKPOT

We will be starting off the 2024 season with a Hole-In-One pot of \$950.00.

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.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

NIMAGA continues to expand our Social Media presence in 2024. 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)

PERPETUAL PLAQUES

We will continue to offer "Perpetual Plaques" for 2024.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that NIMAGA must convey the recent passing of two of our members:

Former longtime NIMAGA member Tom Gearhart suddenly passed away in early December, 2023. Tom recently retired and relocated to Tennessee.

Bill Walsh was a NIMAGA member since 2004 and passed in middle January, 2024. Bill participated in many NIMAGA events over his 20 years with the organization. Bill was 74.

Please remember Tom and Bill in your thoughts and prayers.

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

2024 NIMAGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

While the schedule might look a bit spotty, rest assured that our Tournament Scheduling Committee is working hard to finalize our events for 2024. They have had to deal with some unique challenges with golf courses this year than in prior years, as Tom outlined in his Presidential Message.

Continue to check the schedule on the NIMAGA.org website as well as Golf Genius.

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. Must be a member for 2+ years.	
Apr 6	Sat	Spring Thaw	Cog Hill	
Apr 18	Thu	April Midweek	Pine Meadows (tentative)	
May 1	Wed	May Midweek	Seven Bridges	
May 19	Sun	May Jamboree	TBD	
June 8	Sat	Summer Classic	Shepard's Crook (tentative)	
June 24	Mon	June Midweek	Aurora CC	
July 14	TBD	Freedom Open	TBD	
July TBD	TBD	July Midweek	TBD	
Aug. 10	Sat	NIMAGA Club Championship	TBD	
Aug 11	Sun		TBD	
Aug TBD	TBD	August Midweek	TBD	
Sep 7	Sat	Patriot's Day Classic	TBD	

Sep. 14	Sat.	Milwaukee Challenge (Limited field)	Fox Lake CC
Sep. TBD	TBD	September Midweek	TBD
Sep 29	Sun	Two-Man	TBD
Oct. 5 & 6	Sat & Sun	NIMAGA Players Championship (Qualify)	TBD

TBD – NIMAGA Cup, Senior Open (50+) and Super Senior (65+)