



## NIMAGA NOTES EARLY SUMMER 2026

### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, we are entering the first official day of summer. The U.S. Open has just concluded, and what an exciting final round it was. I'm sure many of you watched Wyndham Clark go wire to wire as you celebrated Father's Day. I extend a happy Father's Day to all you dads out there. A very special happy Father's Day goes out to Jim Dubay, VP of NIMAGA, who celebrated his first Father's Day with his baby daughter, born earlier this year. This is the reason Jim hasn't been able to participate in too many events so far this year. Hopefully, he can get out more as the season goes on. Make sure to congratulate him if you see him at Aurora CC next week.

Speaking of getting out more, we are enjoying large turnouts to all our events so far this season. Unfortunately, we could not accommodate everyone who wanted to play in the Summer Classic, as the course did not have additional times they could give us. Make sure if you want to play an event, you get in as early as you can. That one filled up before registration ended. Most courses will try and give us additional spots if we need them, but it's not guaranteed.

We have a lot of great courses on the remaining schedule, including Prairie Landing, Sanctuary, and Highlands of Elgin, among others. We have a new course on the schedule this year in July: Timber Pointe in Poplar Grove, IL. I was able to get out and play it this past week, and I was pleasantly surprised. It was an enjoyable course with a fun yet very challenging layout. It is a bit of a drive for most, but it will be worth the trip! We also have the NIMAGA Cup coming up soon at Thunderhawk. This seems to be a crowd favorite, and invites will be coming soon to those who qualified. We will need responses to those invites very quickly so we can pin down the three teams. It is a fun match-play event that, if you have not played before, you should play if you are qualified.

That's it for now. Read the rest of the NIMAGA Notes for other news, and I hope to see you at an upcoming tournament soon!

Tom O'Brien  
NIMAGA President

## **CREDIT BOOK IN GOLF GENIUS IS NOW LIVE!**

NIMAGA has begun using a new feature in our Golf Genius software called Credit Balance. This feature allows users to maintain a virtual balance within Golf Genius that can be used as payment when you register for tournaments or for membership dues in 2027. Credit Balance payment options will appear on your tournament entry screens in Golf Genius.

If you have a previous balance with NIMAGA, these dollars have been loaded into Golf Genius for your use.

Credit Balance "CB" payment options for tournament entry fees:

If you have no CB dollars:

- then your only payment options are a) Skip Payment; or b) pay with a Credit Card "CC"

If you have dollars greater than or equal to the tournament entry fee amount:

- then your payment options are a) use CB for all of it; or b) choose to pay with CC; or c) Skip Payment

- you cannot split payment by using some of your CB dollars

If you have CB dollars less than the tournament entry fee amount:

- then your payment options are a) use your CB dollars and a CC for the remainder; or b) use a CC only for all of the fee; or c) Skip Payment.

Please Note:

- when you choose the Skip Payment option, it is expected that you will mail-in payment. This payment must be received in our PO Box before the tournament date or NIMAGA holds the right to remove you from the field.

Adding/Subtracting CB Dollars:

-All credit dollars that are on the NIMAGA books have been loaded into the system by a NIMAGA Golf Genius admin.

Following that, changes to a person's CB amount can only be made in the following ways:

By a NIMAGA Golf Genius admin:

- manually adding tournament winnings
- manually subtracting adjustments for any reason
- tournament entry refunds when a player withdraws

Please Note:

A member can only subtract dollars from their CB by paying for a tournament or a yearly membership. They cannot add dollars to their CB by themselves.

Questions regarding your CB dollar amount can be directed to Jeff Toth: [jtoth@thk.com](mailto:jtoth@thk.com)

All other questions regarding CB usage can be directed to: [admin@nimaga.org](mailto:admin@nimaga.org)

## **2026 SCHEDULE**

The 2026 schedule is listed below and posted on the website. Most details are finalized. You can register for all tournaments that are complete on the website.

Date	Event	Course
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Tue, July 7	Super Senior (65+)	Tanna Farms
Sat, July 11	Freedom Open	Timber Point
Wed, July 22	July Midweek	Prairie Landing
Wed, July 29	NIMAGA Cup	Thunderhawk
Sat, Aug. 8	Club Championship D1	St. Andrews
Sun, Aug. 9	Club Championship D2	St. Andrews
Thu, Aug. 20	August Midweek	Fox Lake CC
Wed, Sep. 2	September Midweek	Highlands of Elgin
Sun, Sep. 13	Patriot Day Classic	Sanctuary
Sat, Sep. 19	Milwaukee Challenge	Fox Lake CC
Sun, Sep. 27	Two-Man Best Ball	Springbrook
Sat, Oct. 3	NPC Day 1	TBD
Sun, Oct. 4	NPC Day 2	TBD

If you have not registered for the season yet you can still do so.

**Regular Membership - \$90** Available through Tue., Sept 1.

This membership option will provide CDGA handicap service.

## **WINNING PLAQUE CHOICES**

From: George Zdarsky

When you win a NIMAGA Tournament, besides the prize money you receive, you also have the choice of 1 of 2 entirely different commemorative plaques! (You actually have a 3rd choice, and that's no plaque at all.)

1) Traditional Plaque (TP) - A very nice hardwood plaque featuring the details commemorating your victory. NIMAGA funds this option 100%.

2) Perpetual Plaque (PP) - An equally impressive hardwood plaque with individual plates commemorating every NIMAGA victory, as well as any career highlights, you'd like to add. Obviously this one plaque takes up less wall space than numerous Traditional Plaques. They are available in Walnut (medium brown) or Rosewood (reddish) with piano finishes, or just plain Oak (beige) without a piano finish. You would also determine how many plates you want starting with 12 in increments of 6. NIMAGA subsidizes 50% of the production cost, so there is a shared cost for a Perpetual Plaque. Your one-time "out of pocket" cost is as low as \$65, and you can use any NIMAGA credit or certificates you might have to pay for it.

3) No Plaque (NP) - Yes, you can elect not to receive any plaque if you so desire.

When you win for the first time, you will automatically receive a Traditional Plaque.

After your next victory, you will be contacted by NIMAGA via text asking you for your preference. Your decision will be recorded, and you won't be contacted again regarding plaque choice.

You can always contact [admin@nimaga.org](mailto:admin@nimaga.org) if you change your mind or have any questions regarding your plaque choice.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND RETURNING MEMBERS**

New members receive a letter from the Board, *WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT*

This letter includes information to help new members become more comfortable when they arrive for the first time at their first tournament. Each month we will post parts of this letter as a reminder for all players. This month we will post information about SCORING and RULES.

### **SCORING**

- We are using Golf Genius for scoring. We ask that one person and only one person in the group enters scores on the app. If someone in your foursome is not present, just leave their score blank. Everyone else can use the app to look at scores or leaderboards but just don't enter scores. You can access the app with your Golf Genius email User ID and password. The Golf Genius ID "GGID" is on the white official scorecards.
- Please be sure to download the Golf Genius app to your mobile device. This free phone app is available for Android (Play Store) and Apple devices (App Store). Golf Genius will be used for gameday scoring & live leaderboards (which are unofficial), and much more.

- You will be given a white scorecard prior to starting your round to keep score for another player in your group. That card will be the official score for that player. Do not keep score for the same person that is keeping your score. You should not keep the score for the person you are sharing a cart with. Both the scorer and player should make sure all scores are accurate before signing the scorecard. Scores later determined to be inaccurate can lead to penalty and/or disqualification. Scoring for a tournament might not be official until the next day.
- It is advised that you keep scores for everyone in your group. Verify that you all have the same scores after 9 holes, and if not, go over the card, find the error, and correct it.

## RULES

- There is a Rules Sheet for every tournament. It is posted on the NIMAGA homepage. Feel free to print one out and bring it to the course. There will usually be one posted on the first tee. If there are any last-minute changes due to weather or otherwise, that will be noted on the Rule Sheet on the first tee.
- NIMAGA plays by all USGA rules unless otherwise noted on our tournament rules sheet.
- There are never “give me” putts. The ball must be putted into the hole.
- We DO NOT use the USGA or course Local Rules unless otherwise indicated on the rules sheet. (e.g. Dropping your ball on the fairway when hitting out of bounds and adding 2 strokes is a Local Rule.)
- NIMAGA allows lift, rake, place in bunkers.
- NIMAGA DOES NOT use drop areas unless noted on the Rule Sheet. If we are not using drop areas, then you need to proceed like you normally would if you hit a ball into a penalty area. (e.g. replay from where you hit your last shot or take a drop from the penalty area).
- We will sometimes play fescue or other areas as penalty areas to speed up play. You can play your ball in these instances as it lies with no penalty, or you can take a penalty and play as if in a penalty area whether you find it or not.
- Please try to have a basic understanding of the rules; however, if you are unsure of a rule, consult with your playing partners.
- If there is ever a question on how to proceed, you always have the option to play 2 balls and record both scores. Consult with a Tournament Director “TD” after the round to get a ruling as to which score you should record.
- If you observe someone breaking a rule, discreetly bring it to their attention. Sometimes people are not aware they are breaking a rule. If there is a disagreement, let it go and consult with a TD afterwards. It is everyone’s job to protect the field.
- Some frequently broken rules to be aware of:
  - o You must mark any ball before you pick it up. Whether it is to identify it or if we are playing lift clean and place. This includes bunkers. Otherwise, it’s a 1 stroke penalty.

- You must announce if you are hitting a provisional. If you hit a 2nd ball without declaring you're hitting a provisional, it becomes the ball in play, and you are now laying 3.
- o Slow play. NIMAGA has a slow play policy. It is on the tee sheet. Please read & abide.
  - The preferred method of entry into Skins is through Venmo prior to tournament day. You can pay cash on the day of the tournament, but Venmo is preferred. A different TD will be collecting Skins for each division. His Venmo account will be on the tee sheet under the times. There will also be a Skins envelope that will be passed between “TD” on the day of collecting cash entries.
  - If you don't have Venmo, download it from your app store or enroll here:  
<https://venmo.com/signup/>
  - The amount the winners receive depends on how many enter and how many win.

#### DO YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

The Board of Directors of Nimaga strives to help keep everyone informed and comfortable while playing Nimaga events. Here is the link to Nimaga [FAQ](#). If you have further questions, we are happy to help. Email [Admin@nimaga.org](mailto:Admin@nimaga.org). We will do our best to get you the answers you need.

#### **RULES SECTION**

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

For this segment on the Rules of Golf, I am going to address a somewhat unique issue related to Abnormal Course Conditions (Rule 16) and a couple of NIMAGA rules/traditions that may not be known by our newer members.

#### **Abnormal Course Conditions (Rule 16) – Animal Holes**

Rule 16 covers 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).

Some relief may require a penalty stroke, but the rule covers many scenarios where you may be entitled to free relief. I encourage you to read the full rule to understand all the situations you may encounter. It may save you a stroke and gain you a better playing position.

I always knew that the rules addressed Animal Holes, but in over 40 years of golfing I never ran into a situation where I had to know the specifics, until the last tournament at Blackberry Oaks. On the 10<sup>th</sup> hole one of my playing partners hit his drive left and it settled near the trunk of a tree. When we got to the ball, it was halfway

down in a hole. On closer inspection, it was obvious that it was an animal hole and he was entitled to free relief. So instead of having to try to create an impossible shot next to the tree trunk or take a penalty, he was entitled to a free drop.

What type of Animal Holes entitles you to free relief? To determine, you need to refer to the Definitions in the Rules of Golf.

### **Animal Hole**

Any hole dug in the ground by an *animal*, **except** for holes dug by *animals* that are also defined as *loose impediments* (such as worms or insects).

The term *animal hole* includes:

- The loose material the *animal* dug out of the hole,
- Any worn-down track or trail leading into the hole, and
- Any area on the ground pushed up or altered as a result of the *animal* digging the hole underground.

An animal hole does not include animal footprints that are not part of a worn down track or trail leading into an animal hole.

So even if it takes you 40+ years to encounter a similar situation, it's good to know the definition and the rule. And related to drops, a good rule of thumb to remember; a free drop is one club length, and a penalty drop is two clubs. This question comes up often during my rounds.

### **Playing Two Balls**

What do we mean when we say you should play two balls if you are not certain of the rule? Using the above scenario, what if there was disagreement amongst the members of my foursome on whether the player was entitled to free relief or needed to take a penalty for an unplayable lie? Rather than delaying play trying to look up the rules and getting agreement from everyone in your foursome, it will be quicker for the player to play two balls. So, if the player did not want to take a penalty stroke, he would play one ball from the original position and then play a second ball taking free relief. Record the score for both balls and get a rules determination from a NIMAGA board member or Tournament Director before posting your final score.

### **Withdrawing From a Tournament During Play**

It has been a longstanding tradition in NIMAGA that if you WD yourself during play, you are still eligible to win skins or pin shots. I've done this several times over the years, most recently at the Spring Thaw. My second shot on 17 landing somewhere in the left rough. I had a pretty good idea where it landed, but when I got to the spot, I never found my ball in the high grass. I was on my way to posting a hundred-something, far out of the money, so I wasn't going to go back for my lost ball penalty. I just told my playing partners I was withdrawing and finished the round rather than delaying play. Of course, my poor play didn't earn me any skins or pins that day, but if I had earlier in the round, I would have still been eligible. And under the new posting rules, since I completed at least 14 holes, the posting software calculated my expected score for any

holes I skipped and still posted my round. Something to consider if you are having a real poor round and you don't want to delay play. And you never know, with the tournament pressure off, you may loosen up enough to start making birdies.

Please send any rules questions or suggestions for future articles to the following email:

[rules.nimaga@gmail.com](mailto:rules.nimaga@gmail.com)

## **A STORIES ABOUT JOINING NIMAGA**

This month Barry Brown, a second-year player, talks about things he learned while playing his first year in NIMAGA during the 2025 season.

### ***A New Player's Point of View***

In 2025 I joined NIMAGA to get some competitive rounds under my belt. I played the first event in late April when the weather was a little challenging but the members from NIMAGA made the first event an easy transition as everyone was so helpful and easygoing. My first impression was a good one, the tournament was well run, and I had a great introduction to members who welcomed me and helped with all questions that I had. I was able to play in 14 events in 2025 at some great golf courses all around Chicagoland and did the NIMAGA vs Wisconsin event which was an awesome team event that I would encourage first year members to play.

Helpful things to do before you arrive for the tournament:

Make sure to keep up with all NIMAGA communication sent via email and carefully read the information provided to stay up to date with the latest news for upcoming events. You will have to select a tee box for each event and be aware of your tee time. I would suggest adding a reminder to your phone, so you don't forget. Get familiar with the Golf Genius app. At some point you should be willing to enter scores in this app for the group, so at minimum make sure you have it downloaded on your phone. You will find good information on [nimaga.org](http://nimaga.org) also to keep yourself in the know. Also, I would recommend getting familiar with the rules of golf and correctly applying the rules to protect the integrity of the game. For a good start go to [usga.org](http://usga.org) and read the article, '[15 Rules Every Golfer Should Know](#)'.

A few days before the event put a simple plan together for the event. Include your list of golf gear and items that you will need for the event. You don't want to get to the event and realize you left something important behind. Put together a simple timetable to make sure you are not too hurried on the day of the event, hurrying or rushing to get to the first tee is not going to help your golf game. Plan to get to the course an hour in advance at minimum if possible. That will give you time to warm up and get yourself prepared to play your best round of golf. Also look for the players you will be playing with and introduce yourself. If you plan to get in for skins, closest to the pin or the hole in one side do that ahead of time using a payment app like VENMO. If you wait for the day of the event, you may forget and waste a birdie or eagle that could net you a few extra bucks.

Things to remember when on the course:

On the tee box be respectful of your playing partners. I did have a couple of incidents where I, at a distance, stood behind a golfer as they teed off not realizing that this was a distraction to them, so please stand to the side of the tee box, don't move about and respect the silence required when players are hitting. When you are on the greens, stay out of the putting line of golfers, standing directly behind someone putting even at a distance may not be appreciated and avoid walking across someone else's line to the hole. Also get into the habit of taking good care of the golf course, fixing your divots on the tee box (filled with sand), in the fairway and on the greens.

Be prepared to play ready golf, I think everyone I played with last year was fine playing 'ready golf'. If you play slow then that may result in a penalty being assessed for the whole group, you don't want to put that kind of pressure on yourself, so try to focus on your next step and forget about the bad shots or the bad breaks, move on and move forward. There will be situations on the course that you are unsure of regarding the rules, if you find yourself in such a situation then ask someone in your group for a ruling. The wrong decision could be costly in more ways than one.

Things to consider after an event:

Take the time to find out who has done well and congratulate them. Stick around and have a refreshment on the 19th hole. At my first tournament one of the members who I had never met before bought me a beer, which I greatly appreciated. This is a great way to meet other members and relax a little before the drive home.

### **JOHN GOLLWITZER GETS A HOLE IN ONE AT THE NIMAGA MEMORIAL!**

John used a 7 iron from the back tee on the 11<sup>th</sup> Hole at The NIMAGA Memorial on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Rolling Green Country Club for an ace and a prize of \$2279. The pot was reset to \$645.00 for the next tournament. John went on to win Low Gross for the event as well. John was kind enough to stick around to make sure any NIMAGA member who was thirsty was taken care of. While John is above the norm for holes in one, (it was his 6<sup>th</sup>) be sure to get your \$1 in for every tournament you play in. You never know. Just follow the instructions that are included on every tee sheet to pay your dollar.

## **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

**Ctrl Click** on the tournament name for full detailed results

### **Spring Thaw**

**Saturday April 4, Cog Hill # and #3**

#### **GROSS**

	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	Dave Minor	Tim Szczesny	Francisco Bianco
2nd	Dave Dianovsky		

#### **NET**

	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	Lucas Snyder	George Amu	Scott Wagner
2nd	David Bradley	Nate Holub	Eric Lang

### **April Midweek**

**Thursday April 23, Blackberry Oaks GC**

#### **GROSS**

	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	Michael Peters	Ron Moderhack	Steve Barnaby
2nd	Tom Govern	Dick Freund	

#### **NET**

	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	Jim Murrow	Osayi Menzies	Kevin Stough
2nd	Tim Queenan	Bill Aldis	Larry Zakosek
			Ken Koranda

### **May Jamboree**

**Saturday May 9, Lake Bluff Golf Club**

<b>GROSS</b>	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	Michael Peters	Dick Freund	Kevin Stough
2nd	Brandon Rowatt	Mario Conte	

#### **NET**

	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	Steve Watson	Mario Conte	Michael Grosskopf
2nd	Shawn Pipes	Robert Allen	Peter McGhee
	Tom O'Brien	Tim Szczesny	

### **The NIMAGA Memorial**

**Monday May 18, Rolling Green Country Club**

#### **GROSS**

	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
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1st	John Gollwitzer	Tony Sacco	Mark Heinsohn
2nd	Michael Peters		
<b>NET</b>			
	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	David Sloan	Corey Lamb	Alpar Mathe
2nd	Shomari Moss	Mayur Patel	Dan Dorr
	Declan Butler	DeRonne Huddleston	
	Joe Langer		

<b>Senior Open</b>		
<b>Monday June 8th, Oak Grove Golf Course</b>		
<b>GROSS</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
1st	John Gollwitzer	Einar Steinsson
2nd		Mario Conte
<b>NET</b>		
	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
1st	John Ross	Nick DiCosola
2nd	Mike Lyman	Steve Barnaby
		Dan Montgomery

<b>SUMMER CLASSIC</b>			
<b>Monday June 15, Naperbrook GC</b>			
<b>GROSS</b>			
	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	Tom Govern	DeRonne Huddleston	Steve Barnaby
2nd	John Haffner	Michael Choi	
<b>NET</b>			
	<b>PALMER</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TREVINO</b>
1st	Nathan Millican	Richard Kenny	Ray Pauliks
2nd	Mike Bulger	Mark Power	James DeLee
	Matthew Lyons		Peter McGhee
			Matthew Schlarb

