

CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF SINGLES GOLF® IN AMERICA

WASHINGTON, DC SINGLES GOLF

Washington DC Chapter - American Singles Golf Association — June 2020

RASPBERRY FALLS - JULY 11TH

FINALLY! IT'S OUR OFFICIAL SEASON OPENER!

Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club

<http://www.raspberryfalls.com/>

Leesburg, Virginia

Saturday, July 11, 2020

We're at capacity and starting a wait list!!

It's time for ASGA-DC to celebrate its 2020 season on **Saturday, July 11, 2020**, as we return to **Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club**.

Please read this announcement carefully!

- We have a strict limit of 48 spots. If you want to join us on July 11, I will place your name on a wait list. If you're on the wait list and your plans change, please let me know so I can move others up the list.
- If you signed up and indicated you need to ride, please note that Raspberry Falls has a number of cart path only holes in addition to its par-3 holes.
- ** Some have requested a solo cart (riding alone). If you have not already done so, please reconfirm, and I will do my best to work with the course to make this happen. **

We anticipate Loudoun County will be in Phase 2 by July 11, enabling us to have a modified shotgun start and dinner (see below). If Loudoun County is not yet at Phase 2, we will have straight tee times.

The course cannot guarantee they will be able to provide everyone with single rider carts. We have several options, **please let me know if:**

you want to be paired with someone and you want to ride together; *or*

you want to be paired with a specific golfer, alternating riding/walking, but only one of you rides in the cart at a time (both bags ride on the cart); *or*

Continued...

NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATION

Upcoming Multi-Chapter Events (see SinglesGolf.com/events)

ASGA National is slowly working towards TWO multi-chapter events for this year, however, contracts have **not** been signed but we are "penciled -in" with anticipation of signing soon. **Details out soon*:**

- **ASGA in Charleston, SC—Labor Day Weekend.** Arrive at the Francis Marion Hotel on Thursday, Sept. 3, depart Sunday, Sept. 6. (Labor Day is Sept. 7). Package includes 3 nights' stay, 2 rounds of golf, 3 breakfasts, welcome reception and 3 dinners.
- **Reunion in Pinehurst—Arrive Sunday, Nov. 8, depart Wednesday, Nov. 11.** Package includes 3 nights' stay, 2 rounds of golf, 3 breakfasts, welcome reception and 3 dinners.
- **Bringing in the New Year 2021—Arriving in Florida on Sunday, January 3, departing January 6.** Looking at locations now. We believe we'll get some great rates when, as traditionally happens, the crowds return home after the New Year's holiday. Stay tuned.

* All events subject to change once contracts have been signed.

OUR CHAPTER INFORMATION

Regular Meeting Date

Variable (see singlesgolfdc.com)

Next Meeting Date & Location

TBD

Our Chapter Website: www.singlesgolfdc.com

Our Chapter Hotline: 1-888-465-3628

(See next page for list of officers and board members.)

National Office

Office Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm, M-F (Eastern)

National Office: 980-833-6450 or 1-888-GOLFMATE

Go to www.SinglesGolf.com/MyAccount to make changes to your address, phone, etc. To join or renew your dues, go to www.SinglesGolf.com/join

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**Washington, DC Chapter
of the
American Singles
Golf Association**



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**Communications Co-
Chairperson**

Francine Vigliotti
francinemv1@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rita Daley
ritadaley@gmail.com

you're ok with being paired with another golfer, alternating riding/walking, but only one of you rides in the cart at a time (both bags ride on the cart); *or*

you're unable to walk and require a single riding cart; *or*

you want to walk with your own cart (the course is hilly w/some distance between holes).

If you're concerned about touching the wheel while sharing a cart, wear 2 gloves, drive with one hand, use a towel or wipes.

Cost: ASGA-DC members: \$80 Non-ASGA-DC members/Guests: \$110

Your cost covers:

Range Balls,
18 holes of golf, and
Italian style dinner (served by Raspberry Falls staff)

Tee Time: Modified shotgun start at 12:30 PM (Phase 2 pandemic recovery). Back-up plan: straight tee times.

Format: Play your own ball, no contests. *Pace of play rules will be enforced.* Beginners/high handicap players are encouraged to play best ball.

Dinner Menu (buffet style served by Raspberry Falls staff; no self-service): Under Phase 2, the course will be able to serve dinner indoors with appropriate social distancing. ***Please respect each other and wear a mask when in line for food.***

Caesar salad with croutons
Dinner rolls
Herbed-breaded chicken parmesan
Baked ziti pasta (meatless)
Italian meatballs with tomato sauce
Sodas, freshly brewed iced tea, freshly baked gourmet cookies

Tables/seating will be set up and spaced for social distancing.

Host: Leesa Weiss, EC

To guarantee your spot, *first* send an email with your riding cart/pairing preference, handicap/average 18-hole score, current ASGA member status to Leesa730@verizon.net, and mail your check, **payable to: Leesa Weiss**, for \$80, or \$110, to:

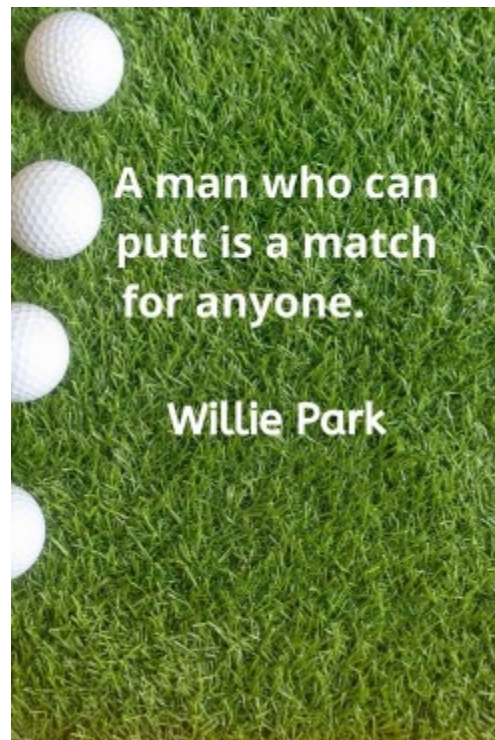
Leesa Weiss
5809 Edson Lane
Apt. 102
North Bethesda, Maryland 20852

You may forward payment via Zelle to: LNWeiss@verizon.net
via Venmo to: **Leesa-Weiss**

Cancellation Policy: The course requires a fixed head count for golf and dinner at least 10 days in advance, so RSVP ASAP. Therefore, ***I must receive your payment no later than July 1, 2020.*** *If you RSVP, you are responsible for payment or finding your replacement.* ASGA-DC cancellation rules will apply. If you cancel, and **you** can't find a replacement, you will forfeit your advance payment if the Chapter is required to pay for your reservation.

2020 GOLF SCHEDULE

Date	Course	Event Coordinator
JUNE		
20	Hampshire Greens	Scott Hall
27	Bristow Manor	B J Barger
JULY		
3-5	Penn National (with Philly Chapter)	Deb Swedberg
11	Raspberry Falls	Leesa Weiss
18	Bull Run	Jerry Bennis
25	Lansdowne	Scott Patton
AUGUST		
1	Hobbits Glen	Kathie Hiatt
8	Turf Valley	Brian Durkin
15	Westfields	Mary Doherty
22	Laurel Hill	Suzanne McNicholas
29	Heritage Hunt	Ruth D'Alessandro
SEPTEMBER		
6 (Sun)	Poolesville	Leesa Weiss
13 (Sun)	Lake Presidential	Trey McStravick
19	Prince William	Rita Daley
26	Queenstown	Todd Sheffer
OCTOBER		
4 (Sun)	Worthington Manor	Sam Tolbert
11(Sun)	Renditions	Anne Jardine
16-18	Ocean City	Sheila DeTurk
24	Falls Road	Leesa Weiss
31	Whiskey Creek**	Mary Doherty**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Hampshire Greens

June 20

Come play a round at Hampshire Greens Golf Course. This is one of the nicest courses in the Montgomery County Golf system.

We will be playing according to the Montgomery County Golf's COVID-19 protocols in effect. Please refer to the Montgomery County Golf website (www.mcggolf.com) for updates on the protocols.

Current protocols include:

- 1 person per cart only. Walking is possible but not easy.
- Limited food and beverage Service outside clubhouse
- No food/beverage service or water available on the course.
- All bathrooms on the course are closed.
- Face mask must be worn in common areas, but is not required on the course

- Golf shop is closed
- Driving range is open

Hampshire Greens Golf

Course: <https://www.mcggolf.com>
616 Firestone Dr.
Ashton, MD 20861
(301) 476-7999

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2020

Time: Tee-times starting at 12:00 PM

Number of Players: 24

Price: \$54 for members and non-members alike. Range balls NOT included.

There will be no Par 3 closest-to-pin competition. Also, no charge is being made for the annual ASGA-DC raffle.

To sign-up, send e-mail to Scott Hall at: scott.hall4@gmail.com with the following information:

- Your full name
- Your handicap or average score for 18 holes (for pairing purposes)

Make your check out to Scott Hall and mail it to me at: 10607 Kenilworth Ave. Apt. 102 Bethesda, MD 20814.

OR

Use Venmo to transfer funds to me. My User ID is: William-Hall-273

Deadline: Friday, June 12 – remember, while your e-mail puts you in the reservation pool, your check is what guarantees your spot! Final count for golf is due to the course by June 12.

Cancellations: Usual ASGA-DC cancellation policy that is on the website (<http://www.singlesgolfdc.com/policies.html>) is in effect.

**Dear God,
Please let
him play golf.**

BRISTOW MANOR

June 26

We are playing at Bristow Manor (bristowmanorgc.com) on Saturday June 27th. Tee times will begin at 1:00 pm.

Bristow Manor Golf Club
11507 Valley View Dr
Bristow VA

The cost is \$68.00 per person. Please respond to me if you would like to participate. Deadline is June 19th.

Let's hope social distancing rules are more flexible by then. Bristow Manor has some extra carts but can't guarantee one per person. They recommend 2 carts provided per foursome with 1 person in the cart at a time. It's a walkable course.

Please consider transmitting your \$68 electronically. I'm in VENMO as @BJ-Barger. You could also use PayPal or Zelle. Email me if you want to try that. Save that stamp!

If you are sending a check, it's:

BJ Barger
1306 Chetworth Ct
Alexandria VA 22314.

Looking forward to playing Bristow Manor again.

~BJ Barger

WEEKEND at PENN NATIONAL GOLF CLUB & INN

3720 Club House Drive,
Fayetteville, PA 19722
www.pennngolf.com
Phone #: 717-352-3000

ASGA PHILADELPHIA & WASHINGTON DC CHAPTERS

July 3rd – 5th, 2020
(July 6th – Optional)

Due to COVID -19 dining options are limited. We can't predict conditions for that weekend. Please contact Deb if you no longer want to attend. DEADLINE TO REGISTER JUNE 1ST ... ROOMS ARE LIMITED – SO REGISTER EARLY!!!

Coordinators:
Kurt Kraenbring
kkraenbring@gmail.com
609-405-9017

Deb Swedberg
deb.swedberg@accenture.com
571-436-4832

Penn National is a wonderful golf destination featuring two distinctly different golf courses. The Founders Course is a traditional tree-lined course. Iron Forge is more wide open with breathtaking mountain views. We will stay onsite at the Penn National Inn and play both courses over the weekend. The pool will also be open for those of you who don't want to play golf every day, so bring your bathing suit and favorite beverage for a relaxing afternoon! Following dinner each night, we will gather at the fire pit to whine (or boast) about our golfing prowess!! So plan to bring your personal beverages and desserts to share!

For this three-day event, numbers permitting, the pairings will be loosely arranged for Friday. Saturday – mix it up – couples and traveling companions will not be paired. Sunday – couples and traveling companions can be paired.

Friday: Tee Times Noon – 12:30 p.m.
Saturday: Tee Times 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. SG
Sunday: Tee Times 9:30 a.m. SG

Package 1: Two Nights' Accommodations (Friday & Saturday), two breakfasts, two dinners, & golf (3) Friday-Sunday
\$459.00 Per person/double occupancy
\$559.00 Single occupancy

Package 2: Two Nights' Accommodations (Friday & Saturday), two breakfasts, two dinners & golf (2) Sat. & Sunday
\$409.00 Per person/double occupancy
\$509.00 Single occupancy

Package 3: One Night Accommodation (Saturday), one breakfast, one dinner, & golf (2) Saturday & Sunday
\$279.00 Per person/double occupancy
\$334.00 Single occupancy

Package plans for Sunday departure after golf. If you would like to stay over to Monday, July 6th, the cost to add Sunday dinner/B&B is \$85.00 Per person/double occupancy OR \$125.00 single occupancy. Monday golf add on fee is \$55.00

EASY REGISTRATION – NO CHECKS TO MAIL – NO FORMS TO FILL OUT

Call the resort with your credit card and make a \$50.00 deposit over the phone.

- 1-800-231-0080
- Group "ASGA Philly/DC"
- Tell them your package, number of nights, days you are golfing.
- Tell them your roommate's name if you plan to share a double room.
- Email Kurt (Philly) or Deb (DC) that you've registered (including which package) so you can be added to the pairings for each round of golf. For Sunday golf pairings, we also need to know who your traveling companions will be.

Balance is due directly to Penn National upon check-in. Your package includes: Penn National Inn accommodations, taxes, breakfasts and dinners, green fees & cart. Prices include range balls and club storage, state and local taxes as well as a 15% gratuity for meals. Additional tips for maids, cart attendants, and other service personnel are at your discretion. Notify event coordinators if your plans change. There are NO refunds unless someone can fill your spot.

Warm Regards,
Deb Swedberg, CPA

Ocean City Oct 16-18

The Ocean City Golf Weekend is still on! Save the date Oct 16-18. Details forthcoming.....

~Sheila DeTurk
sheem_tennis@yahoo.com



Question: "What do you call a lion playing golf?"

Answer: "Roarin' Mcilroy"

Question: "Why do golfers carry two gloves?"

Answer: "In case they get a hole in one"

Question: "What did you get on your last hole?"

Answer: "Depressed"



Question: "What is the easiest way to hook a ball?"

Answer: "Try to slice it"

Question: "Why couldn't Cinderella play golf?"

Answer: "Because she always runs away from the ball"

Question: "What did one golf ball say to another golf ball?"

Answer: "See you round"



Question: "Where do golfers go on their date?"

Answer: "The golf ball"

Question: "Why isn't golf played in the jungle?"

Answer: "Because there are too many cheetahs"

Question: "Why couldn't Tiger listen to music?"

Answer: "Because he broke all of the records"



Question: "Were you really under the whole day?"

Answer: "Yes...under a tree...under a bush...and under the water"

Question: "Why do golf courses get hot after tournaments?"

Answer: "Because all of the fans leave"

Question: "What's the difference between a bad golfer and a bad skydiver?"

Answer: "Golfers go WACK..." "Damn" and skydivers go "Damn"...WACK"



Question: "You think my golfing is improving?"

Answer: "Yes, you miss a lot closer now"

Question: "Why are computers so good at golf?"

Answer: "Because they have hard drives"

Question: "Why do golfers hate cake?"

Answer: "Because they always get slices"

Weekday Golf

Take the day off and join the retired crew. Next season we'll have more volunteers and great places to play. The leader will pick the day and course. Look for emails announcing the outing. These are all pay-on-site.

6/22-26 Ellie Hochman -Northwest

6/29-7/3 BJ Barger- Old Hickory(?)

7/6-10 Marion Block

7/13-17 Rita Daley

7/20-24 open

7/27-31 David Bath

8/3-7 Anne Jardine

8/10-14 Jerry Bennis

8/17-21 Sam Tolbert

8/24-28 Charlie Walters

9/21-25 Scott Hall

9/28-10/2 open

10/5-9 Liz Dahreddine

10/19-23 Ellie Hochman

10/26-30 open

How Using the F-word Might Help Your Golf Game, According to Science

BY: [NICK PIASTOWSKI](#) MAY 29, 2020, [Golf.com](#)

Sunday, during [The Match: Champions for Charity](#), Tom Brady was struggling. He hit shots left and right. He hit shots in the trees, out of bounds and in the water. As Brady pulled up to his fourth shot on the 7th hole at [Medalist Golf Club](#), [Charles Barkley](#), a golf announcer that day and a struggling player himself every other day, even challenged Brady to a match.

The broadcast muted Brady's response. He was swearing. Seconds later, [Brady holed out](#) from the fairway.

"Take a suck on that, Chuck," Brady said as Barkley laughed.

It turns out that there might be a correlation between that good shot and the swearing, especially if the F-word was used.

An experiment by Richard Stevens, a British psychologist from Keele University, in 2009 suggested that swearing can increase pain threshold, [according to the Science Alert website](#), which [was reported by the Fox News website](#). Stevens had people immerse their hands in ice-cold water, and swearing allowed them to withstand more pain.

In another experiment, whose findings were published in April, Stevens and a colleague found that use of the F-word increased pain threshold when compared to the use of a neutral word and two made-up swear words, according to Science Alert. People again placed their hand in ice water and repeated one of the four words every three seconds.

"While it is not properly understood how swear words gain their power, it has been suggested that swearing is learned during childhood and that aversive classical conditioning contributes to the emotionally arousing aspects of swear word use," the researchers wrote in their paper, according to Science Alert.

Kyle Thompson, a five-time winner on the Korn Ferry Tour, said the research didn't need to be done.

"Golfers have known this since golf was invented," [tweeted Thompson](#), who left professional golf in 2019.

Aron Price, a longtime professional, somewhat disputed the experiment. "If this is the case I should be permanently numb," [he tweeted in response](#) to Thompson.

Recaps Stonewall

We had 32 golfers playing Stonewall Golf Course on Saturday May 30th. It was a wonderful day and the weather cooperated. Everyone who stayed afterwards was able to socialize, have a drink or food on the outside terrace facing the 18th hole. All of our groups were finished playing in 5 hours. As many of you heard me say, Stonewall is one of my favorite courses. In addition to the golf, we had many beautiful views of Lake Manassas. Thank you all for participating.

~Ruth

Sparrow Point

Three weeks prior to our outing Annette and I didn't know what to expect and if we even would be able to serve food. Fortunately, things opened up in our county and we were able to invite everyone back spreading them out on our deck, under it, on the lawn and on the pier maintaining social distancing. We again had our chef prepared food with him serving it as well with most able to take more food home with them.

As for the golf, this was the first time at this course which is less than a mile from our place. They are undergoing a transition, closing one of their 3 nines and incorporating some of those holes into the 18 holes which resulted in some getting lost trying to find the next hole since not all of the new signage is in place yet. They want to sell off several hundred lots and put some of that money into course improvements. Some of our brave golfers found the course quite challenging, especially since the women's tees measured 5,623 yards. It started out a little humid, but cooled down nicely later in the round and afterwards at our home.

We did not know what to expect in attendance, but interest was so much so, that I had to secure an 8th tee time and still had a waiting list. We want to thank everyone for attending especially those of you who trekked long distances from DC and northern Virginia. We hope we treated everyone to a good time and getting back to some kind of normalcy for at least one afternoon.

~Your hosts,
George Salmon & Annette McGuire

ASGA-DC Communications

Share your content!

Did you take some awesome pictures at an event? Share them by sending to **BJ Barger**, bjbarger@verizon.net.

Our website is www.singlesgolfdc.com. Our social and golf schedule are published on the website and updated frequently. Check the list below for National websites.

Have you "friended" ASGA-DC on Facebook yet? It's the best way to get the latest news, recaps and pictures from ASGA-DC events. You can also add your pictures from our events.

The Facebook name is SinglesGolf Asgadc. or you can go to <https://>

www.facebook.com/singlesgolf.asgadc.5

If you friend us you can see all our posts plus those of other members. If you'd prefer to not share everything, you can change your Facebook privacy setting by going to Settings, Privacy, then answer the question, "who can see my posts?" by changing it to My Friends on Facebook. That way, your posts won't be seen by all.

Like us, friend us, find out what's happening with ASGA-DC!

Since having to check back to the website for schedule updates and pairings updates is inconvenient, we also have a Yahoo listserve. Announcements on upcoming social and golf events, as well as reminders and updates to these events, are sent out to subscribers to the listserve. A couple of days before a golf event, the pairings and tee times are also sent out.

To subscribe, send an email to: ASGA-DC-Chapter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Be sure to include your name in the subject of the note and do not include anything else in the body of the note.

About Our Members

(THIS REPORT RAN 06/19/2020)

Happy Birthday to these members:

Shelley Annand - 06/02
Janice Bittner - 06/01
Karen Butler - 06/19
Ruth D'Alessandro - 06/16
Brenda Fallace - 06/24
Steve Fisher - 07/09
Marlene Hammond - 06/11
Anne Jardine - 06/19
Thomas King - 06/24
Frank Kyle - 06/26
Brenda Mara - 07/13
Scott Patton - 06/29
Keith Proudfoot - 06/30
Lee Roxbrough - 07/02
Jody Ruth - 06/01

Donna Scott - 06/18
Patricia Sims - 06/06
Ken Unzicker - 06/06
Francine Vigliotti - 06/18
Jean Wintemute - 07/13

These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)

Mary Doherty - 06/30/2020
Amy Hammer - 06/30/2020
Steven Hornburg - 06/30/2020
Gayla Moilanen - 06/30/2020
Raj Roy - 06/30/2020
Matthew Skowronski - 06/30/2020
Jean Wintemute - 06/30/2020

Welcome newest members:

Peggy Honts - Joined 05/18/2020
Karen Nicely - Joined 05/29/2020
Nanci Schimizzi - Joined 05/18/2020

These members recently renewed:

Rita Daley
April Langevin
Daniel Morris
Geoffrey Pennoyer
Lew Privon

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)

Shannon Bonk - 05/31/2020
Michael Bradford - 04/30/2020
Sue Eliasberg - 05/31/2020
Katherine Harris - 05/31/2020
Lisa Hathaway - 05/31/2020
Scott Lawson - 04/30/2020
Neil Mark - 05/31/2020
John McCririe - 05/31/2020
Arnold McStravick - 05/31/2020
Sharon Pickup - 04/30/2020
Richard Proctor - 05/31/2020
Mark Stein - 04/30/2020
Susan Sullivan - 04/30/2020
Sam Tolbert - 04/30/2020
Kenneth Welch - 05/31/2020
Ronald Wichin - 05/31/2020

Our chapter currently has 136 members.

Save these links and phone number for easy access to information about local and national ASGA events:

ASGA-DC Meetup site	http://www.meetup.com/ASGADC/
ASGA-DC Chapter:	http://www.singlesgolfdc.com
ASGA-DC Chapter Events:	http://www.singlesgolfdc.com/2017-Schedule
ASGA-DC Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/Singlesgolf.asgadc.5
ASGA-National:	http://www.singlesgolf.com
ASGA Newsletters:	http://www.singlesgolf.com/chapter_list.php
ASGA Chapter Rosters:	http://www.singlesgolf.com/roster.php
ASGA Member Account Info:	http://www.singlesgolf.com (click on "My Account")

“Better 6 Feet Apart than Six Feet Under”

And Other Quips of the Day

- ◆ Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- ◆ Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- ◆ I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- ◆ I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.
- ◆ I could never decide where to go for Easter . . . the Living Room or the Bedroom.
- ◆ Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- ◆ Homeschooling is going well. Two students suspended for fighting and one teacher fired for drinking on the job.
- ◆ I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks, we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone.
- ◆ This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog . . . we laughed a lot.
- ◆ So, after this quarantine, will the producers of *My 600 Pound Life* just find me or do I find them?
- ◆ Quarantine Day 25: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You must gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.
- ◆ My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.
- ◆ Day 15 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
- ◆ I'm so excited . . . it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?
- ◆ I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.
- ◆ Day 26 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year. I'm offended.
- ◆ They said that a mask and gloves were enough to go to the supermarket. They lied, everyone else has clothes on.
- ◆ And lastly, I know a great joke about Corona Virus, you probably won't get it though.

AND HOPEFULLY, NO ASGA MEMBER OR FAMILY MEMBER WILL GET IT EITHER!

COVID-19 Rules and Handicapping FAQs

The guidance below supplements a memo released by the USGA as to how the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping apply in response to questions received from golf course owners, administrators, tournament organizers and golfers. As was noted in that memo, it is not the intended purpose of the below guidance to either encourage or discourage anyone from playing the game, but rather, in our governance role, to help golf course operators, committees and golfers better understand how the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping apply to the various questions we have received.

The questions received fit into four main topics. In each of the four topics below, the guidance provided serves both to directly answer the questions asked as well as cover additional considerations that might also serve useful.

FLAGSTICK

May a course remove all flagsticks to minimize the possibility of exposing players to coronavirus?

May a committee introduce a code of conduct that does not allow players to remove (or even touch) the flagstick?

- The flagstick serves an important purpose in the game of golf – that is as an indicator to a player as to where the hole is located on the putting green or a target for shots.
- If a Committee decides to set-up a golf course without flagsticks, consideration should be given as to how best to support such a decision by providing players the location of each hole on the green. Whether this is general guidance (such as in the right front portion) or through a detailed hole-location sheet.
- As another means of minimizing exposure to players, a Committee might decide to introduce a code of conduct that prohibits players from touching or removing the flagstick. As is authorized under Rule 1.2b, such a code could also include penalties (such as one penalty stroke or the general penalty) if a player is in breach of its standards.
- Before a Committee decides to introduce such a restriction, it is recommended that consideration be given to the fact that removing the flagstick is an instinctual, even automated, act for many players. Drafting such a code of conduct to restrict only deliberate acts to affect the outcome of the hole would be reflective of that reality and would mean that a player who instinctually removes the flagstick would not get a penalty in doing so.
- If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

BUNKERS AND BUNKER RAKES

We have removed all bunker rakes from our course to help stop the spread of coronavirus. What options do we have for players who end up in unraked areas?

- By removing rakes from the course, the Committee has various options as to how best to address the likely possibility of a player's ball coming to rest in an unmaintained area of sand and should consider which is the best approach under your unique circumstances.
- If you have limited play and most players at your course use a golf cart, the best approach might be to ask that each player takes a rake with them.
- If it is decided that no additional Rules will be put into effect to deal with these areas, it would be advisable to strongly encourage that players try their best to smooth the disturbed area with a foot or a club.
- Additional options could include changing the status of bunkers to be part of the general area. This would give players additional options under multiple relief rules (Rules 16 and 19) and would remove the restrictions normally in effect under Rule 12.
- Ground under repair could be used in two different manners. The first being to declare all bunkers to be ground under repair and treat them as part of the general area. This would allow players the option to take free relief outside the bunker under Rule 16.1. The second is to treat disturbed areas only as ground under repair. This would still allow a player free relief from such areas, but would require such relief to be taken elsewhere within the bunker.
- As a last resort, we have fielded questions as to whether a Committee may add a preferred local rule that would allow a player to place the ball elsewhere in a bunker without penalty (such as within one club length of where the ball came to rest). While that may seem like a good option in that it requires players to play from the bunker, there will be times when no effective relief would be available to a player, such as when a bunker is frequently played from and large areas are unraked. It would be recommended that the other options, such as those listed above are considered first, noting that using

the ground under repair options above ensure a player will get full relief and when dropping from knee height, balls very rarely plug.

- If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

SCORECARDS AND SCORING

We are holding a competition, but want to limit how scorecards are exchanged both between players and after the round to the Committee. Do you have any recommendations?

- The Rules already allow numerous options to address these concerns noting that certifying a score does not require a physical signature, nor does it require a physical scorecard.
- If a Committee wishes to run a competition using a form of electronic scoring, this could come in many forms, such as asking that each marker send an email to the Committee and the player he or she is marking for, including the player's hole-by-hole scores. The player can then reply to verify the accuracy of the card.
- When electronic methods are used, such as the email example above or similar methods that involve text messaging, the Committee should decide when a scorecard would be considered to have been returned. For example, this could be when the player responds certifying that the scores are correct or some other action that the Committee might consider more appropriate.
- A Committee might also wish to employ the above method but also combine these with a physical scorecard by having the marker take a picture of the completed scorecard and either email or text it to the Committee using the same process described above.
- If physical scorecards are the preferred method, a Committee may wish to have the player and marker not exchange cards but rather verbally communicate the hole-by-hole scores to the Committee verbally in the scoring area. Additionally, verbal confirmation could be a substitute for the physical signature. As with the electronic scoring methods described above, the Committee should be diligent to clearly define when a scorecard has been returned, such as when a player leaves the golf shop if that is where the process takes place.
- If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOLE; NOT REQUIRING THAT PLAYERS HOLE OUT

A number of questions have been received that relate to modifying the hole so that players no longer need to reach into the hole to remove a ball to minimize the possibility of exposing golfers to coronavirus.

These have included some courses setting holes so that the hole liner remains an inch or two above the surface of the green while others have placed various objects into the hole or around the flagstick (such as foam pool noodles or plastic piping) so that a ball is unable to fall to the bottom.

While in all of these instances, the ball is not holed per the Rules of Golf (Rule 3.3c), a round played under these conditions will result in an acceptable score for handicap purposes using the most likely score guidelines (see Rule 3.3 of the Rules of Handicapping).

While the most likely score procedure is intended to support certain formats of play where the player is not required to hole out (such as in match play when the player's next stroke is conceded or in fourball stroke play when a partner picks up), it is also temporarily in effect where the above described safety measures are being used.

When using most likely score, the player should consider the number of strokes most likely required to complete the hole, and determine whether the ball would have been holed or not. Most likely score is at the player's best judgment and should not be used to gain an unfair advantage.

This measure is temporary and in effect within the United States until advised otherwise by the USGA.

The above guidance will continue to be updated. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping departments by going to www.USGA.org.



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