

WASHINGTON, DC SINGLES GOLF

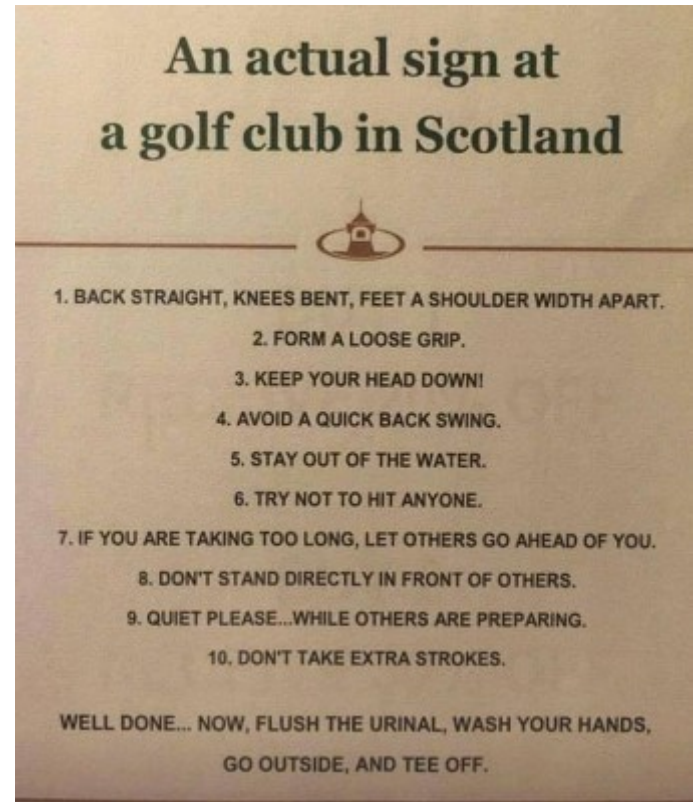
Washington DC Chapter - American Singles Golf Association — August 2020

LAUREL HILL - SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND

2020 GOLF SCHEDULE

Date	Course	Event Coordinator
AUGUST		
22	Laurel Hill	Suzanne McNicholas
29	Prince William	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**

UPDATED INFO



NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATION

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

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

- **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 as traditionally the crowds return home after the New Year's vacationers return home. 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.)

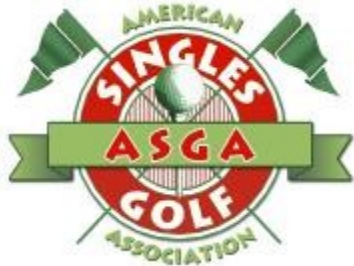
National Office

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

Washington, DC Chapter
of the
American Singles
Golf Association



President

Dan Morris
dmorris972@aol.com

Golf Chairperson

Charlie Walters
Charleswalters1966@gmail.com

Golf Co-Chairperson

Ruth D'Alessandro
radal16@cox.net

Social Chairperson

Alicia McCarthy
ammcarthy77@hotmail.com

Membership Chairperson

Kathie Hiatt
hokie311@gmail.com

Communications Chairperson

BJ Barger
bjbarger@verizon.net

Communications Co-Chairperson

Francine Vigliotti
francinemv1@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rita Daley
ritadaley@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ocean City Weekend

October 16-18

Spaces filled; sign up for waiting list!

Notes: Please respond to shem_tennis@yahoo.com **NOT** the ASGA List serv

Deposits are absolutely due JULY 30, tee times will not be held after that, latecomers will not be able to be accommodated

Cancel date with full refund is: Sept 14

Final amount due: Sept 14



Join your fellow ASGA golfers for a fun weekend at Ocean City this Fall. Options are for two or three days of golf at excellent Ocean City courses. Don't let COVID ruin all your travel plans – we will be able to play and practice safely while enjoying beautiful October weather at the beach.

The courses include:

Friday 16 Oct River Run: Gary Player's favored bump and run style of play is showcased at River Run, his 6705 yard masterpiece. Spectacular views, first class conditioning and a skillful design all combine to make this course a challenging and fun experience. A friendly warm up on the par-35 front nine, modeled after the Scottish links style is followed by a sterner test of tree-lined fairways and natural marshes found on the back nine.

Saturday 17 Oct Lighthouse Sound: an 18 hole championship course overlooking the Ocean City skyline and St Martin's River. This course features marsh, river and bay views on 15 of the 18 holes. Ranked #80 in the country for top 100 public golf courses in the US by Golf Magazine and ranked #2 in Maryland.

Sunday 18 October Man o' War at Glen Riddle: This gem of a course will provide a truly spectacular golf experience, it challenges golfers with distinctive double fairways, large greens, pot bunkers and sand dunes. To preserve the beauty and significance of the historic race track, used to train so many champion thoroughbreds, the designers incorporated the track as a strategic cross hazard on three holes.

The packages include (except where noted) rooms at the Hyatt Place Ocean City, located on the Boardwalk (breakfast included), golf fees, carts, etc. Each room at the Hyatt includes King or Queen size beds as well as a sleeper sofa and private balconies overlooking the ocean. Tee times will be confirmed, I have asked for a bit later on Friday to give us time to get over the Bridge and earlier on Sunday – to get back over the bridge!

Packages:

- Single room and three rounds of golf - \$581
- Single room and two rounds of golf (Sat/Sun) - \$513
- Double room and three rounds of golf - \$459 each
- Double room and two rounds of golf (Sat/Sun)- \$391 each
- Golf only –three rounds - \$313

I was going to arrange dinners but will wait until we are closer to the date to see what is happening with the club houses and restaurants so stay tuned....

A \$200 deposit is due by **July 30** to hold your place. Please indicate which package you are paying for and if possible your roommate. Final payments are **due September 14** which is also the date for a return of the deposit in case you have to cancel.

Send checks (or else Paypal or Zelle) to:

Sheila DeTurk
6068 Joust Lane
Alexandria, VA 22315
Telephone: 703-931233 cell: 202-823-3992
Shem_tennis@yahoo.com





Laurel Hill Golf Course

8701 Laurel Crest Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

Saturday August 22, 2020

Tee Times Start ~1:07 pm
We have 7 tee times for 28 players

Designer Bill Love whose credits include the Iron Forge Course at Penn National and Hunting Hawk in Glen Allen, Virginia has created an impressive 18-hole course on land that formerly housed the DC Department of Corrections facility at Lorton. Paying homage to the early architects of American golf, Love's objective was to let the natural beauty of the property dictate the character of the course. By all accounts he has succeeded with the golf press describing the course with accolades like "one-of-a-kind" and "visually stunning".

Price: \$72/ASGA members; \$82 for guests, and includes greens fees, golf cart, and a small bucket of range balls.

Riding Carts: *If available*, the course will make an effort to accommodate single riders. Please advise me when RSVPing if this is a must.

1st Tee Time: ~1:07 pm. Arrive early, warm up on the driving range and putting green.

After Golf Dinner: If interested, please let me know when RSVPing, and I'll inquire about getting tables Outside at Glory Days in Lorton.

Host: Suzanne McNicholas to sign up, e-mail: suzanne494@comcast.net

- 1) Your full name;
- 2) Your handicap or average 18-hole score (for pairing purposes); and
- 3) Current ASGA membership status

THEN, *promptly* mail your check, made out to: **Suzanne McNicholas 5099 Donovan Drive Alexandria, VA 22304**
or

Forward payment via Zelle to: Suzanne McNicholas 703 963-4122 Or suzanne494@comcast.net

Cancellation Policy: The course requires a fixed head count for golf at least 7 days in advance, so RSVP ASAP. **! must receive your payment no later than August 15.**

Deadline for receipt of your payment or cancellation: Saturday, August 15, 2020.

Laurel Hill Golf Course
Pro-Shop: 703 493-8849

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc/>
8701 Laurel Crest Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

Prince William August 29th

Hello everyone, I apologize for the late notice about our August 29th golf outing. We were scheduled to play Heritage Hunt GC in Gainesville on this date. About a week ago I received an email from HH that our outing there was being cancelled. No outside groups are able to play Heritage Hunt at this time due to Covid 19 restrictions. I attempted to schedule Enterprise GC on that date but they are aerating their greens. Thanks to Rita Daley's flexibility, I was able to schedule Prince William golf course instead. We will play Enterprise on Sept. 19th. More about that later.

The cost of Prince William golf course is \$51.00 per person and includes unlimited range balls. We have 6 tee times beginning at 12:00. We can get lunch which includes a hamburger, hot dog, or sausage with the choice of a side and a cookie for \$7.00. Please send a check to me or to my Pay Pal account for the golf **only** and let me know if you are interested in lunch. My home address is

9503 Lagersfield Circle, Vienna, VA 22181. My Pay Pal account is radal16@cox.net Pay Pal. The Prince William GC address is 14631 Vint Hill Road, Nokesville, VA 20181. Thanks Ruth

Poolesville Golf Course

16601 West Willard Road
Poolesville, Maryland

Sunday, September 6, 2020

<https://www.mcggolf.com/course/Poolesville>

Tee Times Start ~12:00 p.m.

Planning a staycation for the Labor Day weekend? Come out and join **24** of your ASGA-DC friends in the bucolic setting of Montgomery County's Western Agricultural Reserve at **Poolesville Golf Course.**

Poolesville Golf Course stretches over 380 picturesque acres in the lush Potomac Valley. A great location for our members in the western Virginia 'burbs via White's Ferry (adjacent to Raspberry Falls), or Point of Rocks in Maryland. A relaxing drive from DC, NoVa, suburban Maryland, I-70 or MD-200. A par-71 course, Poolesville Golf Course is 5,309 yards from the forward (red) tees, 6,405 yards from the white tees, with two scenic lakes, butterflies, turtles and other friendly wildlife. The course offers generous fairways, large rolling greens, and no HOA backyards.

See <https://www.mcggolf.com/> for current updates regarding Covid-19 Safety Measures, Precautions and Regulations for Montgomery County Golf.

Price: \$50/ASGA members; \$60 for guests, and includes greens fees, golf cart, and a small bucket of range balls.

Riding Carts: *If available*, the course will make an effort to accommodate single riders. Please advise me when RSVPing if this is a must. Walking the course is permitted.

1st Tee Time: ~12:00 p.m. Arrive early, warm up on the driving range and putting green.

After Golf Dinner: If interested, please let me know when RSVPing, and I'll inquire about getting tables at Bassett's in Poolesville under their fan-cooled, outdoor tent-

ed area. (Details available at: <https://www.facebook.com/bassettsfinefoodandspirits/>)

Host: Leesa Weiss; to sign up, e-mail: Leesa730@verizon.net with:

- 1) Your full name;
- 2) Your handicap or average 18-hole score (for pairing purposes); and
- 3) Current ASGA membership status

THEN, *promptly* mail your check, made out to: **Leesa Weiss** @ 5809 Edson Lane, #102, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852.

or

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 7 days in advance, so RSVP ASAP. **! must receive your payment no later than August 29, 2020.** If you RSVP, you are responsible for payment or finding your replacement. ASGA-DC cancellation rules will apply. If you cancel, and **you** are unable to find a replacement, you will forfeit your advance payment if the Chapter is required to pay for your reservation.

Deadline for receipt of your payment or cancellation: Saturday, August 29, 2020.

NO PAYMENT ~~ NO GOLF ~~ NO EXCEPTIONS.

The ASGA-DC Chapter cancellation policy is in effect.

Poolesville Golf Course

Pro-Shop: 301.428.8143

<https://www.mcggolf.com/course/>

Poolesville

16601 West Willard Road

Poolesville, Maryland

Queenstown Harbor River Course

Saturday September 26, 2020

Check it out at <https://qhgf.com/>

Tee Times Start At 11:00

The River Course is an 18-hole public golf course that offers spectacular waterfront views of the Chester River and Chesapeake Bay. It is a fun, challenging course that will test the abilities of every golfer.

Price: \$87 ASGA Member

\$97 Nonmember

Number of golfers: 24

To Sign-up: SEND an e-mail

to toddshaffer23@gmail.com

With your info:

Name

Handicap or average 18 hole score (for pairing purposes)

Cell phone number

ASGA Member # or state that you are a guest

After your round has been changed because of COVID19. The club house has food and beverages and there are many food options nearby.

Please make your check payable to Todd Sheffer and mail to 1311 Walnut Ave.,

Halethorpe, MD 21227

Thank you

DEADLINE for RECEIPT of CHECKS:

****Monday, September 21, 2020 – remember, while your e-mail puts you in the reservation pool, your check guarantees your spot!**

Cancellations: Usual ASGA-DC policy applies – see your web page,

www.singlesgolfdc.com for further details.

What's the difference between a bad golfer and a bad skydiver? A: A bad golfer goes "Whack!" "Darn!", but a bad skydiver goes "Darn!" "WHACK!"

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.

8/17-21 Sam Tolbert

8/24-28 Charlie Walters

8/31-9/4 Marion Block

9/7-11 Jerry Bennis

9/14- 18 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



Recaps

A fun day. 31 golfers enjoyed a spectacular, but very hot ☀️ day of golf. Everyone finished. Beautiful course in good condition. Many stayed to socialize, drink, and dine at the course, and relish the air conditioning. Photo thanks to **Raj**.



Lansdowne

A great day was had by all 33 golfers on Lansdowne's spectacular RTJ course. The course was in great shape and Lansdowne's staff were helpful and accommodating. Yes it was another hot DC summer day but most didn't seem to mind. Many stayed after their round to socialize and dine outside on the deck at the Piedmont's. Many of us were hoping we can do it again next year (preferably in the fall)

The 10 most embarrassing shots in golf (and how to avoid them)

by Kellie Stenzel, Top 100 Teacher, Golf.com

Golf certainly can be a very rewarding game at times. Those times when your hard work pays off always seem to make the sun look a little brighter and the grass a little greener. But anyone who has played golf long enough has also had to deal with the embarrassment that golf also entails. Your ability to handle these situations successfully depends on your ability to understand what causes the shot, and not to dwell on it once it's done. So, let's talk about the top 10 most embarrassing golf shots and how to avoid them.

1. The whiff

While there may be three strikes in baseball, that certainly is not the case for golf., which is why the whiff may be golf's ultimate embarrassment. It may happen more often when you are a beginner golfer, but

on occasion in can happy to an experienced golfer — just look at Hosung Choi. To avoid this happening, a proper and balanced posture is the first step to success. A good, centered setup should help you stay balanced throughout your swing, all the way through to the finish.

Another good habit is to practice holding your finish until your golf ball lands. If you can stay balanced enough to do this, you will probably be able to avoid the whiff. Finally, it can take some time for a newer golfer to feel comfortable hitting the ground with their clubhead. It can feel violent and sometimes even a bit messy to really take some turf, but this is a necessary skill to launch your golf ball and make solid contact. A good habit is to make sure that your practice swings hit the ground (unless you're hitting a driver off the tee).

2. The toe shank

This shot can often be more embarrassing than a whiff, especially if you hit one on the range. The ball travels straight sideways and can often enter the hitting area of the golfer hitting balls next to you. The best way to handle this with grace: to say you are sorry and either take a small step forward toward the range to hit your next shots so that it doesn't happen again, or to move to the far right side of the range if you are right handed to avoid the golf ball entering into someone else's personal space.

Technically speaking, what can often cause this miss is a setup and a posture where you are standing too far away from the ball and the end of your club at address where it is difficult to get the ball to line up with the center of the face when you swing. A great way to practice this is to place a tee on the inside of your golf ball and avoid hitting the tee so that you are extended more down and out with your arms to avoid the contraction of your arms.

3. The classic shank

Has there ever been a golfer who has never shanked the ball? This miserable shot, off of the heel of the club often leaves the club at a 45 degree angle for an iron and feels terrible as the vibration often goes right up the shaft and into your hands. The problem with a shank is it tends to lead to more shanks, as adding tension is a normal reaction.

While there are many causes for shanks and all of these misses, the first check should be good posture, bent forward from the hip joint, so that your hands can hang below your shoulders where there is some room between your hands and your thighs.

A good grip check can also be due at this point to make sure that your clubface is relatively square. A weak grip can cause an open face and this leads to a lot less clubface to work with at impact.

Lastly, keeping your underarms relatively close to your body, avoiding your under arms moving out and away from your body during your swing can also help to keep the ball on the club face and off of the heel. To react to this miss, quickly place something outside of your golf ball like an alignment stick or a head cover to determine when the club is getting on the outside of the ball and to give you feedback to avoid this.

Another smart reaction can be to switch to a hybrid or a fairway wood when possible, as the ball hitting off of the heel would still not likely produce a great shot, it does however not produce the low screamer out to the right along the ground.

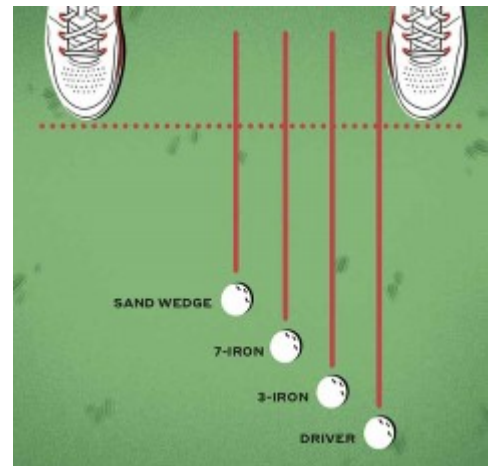


4. The banana slice

A major slice can be embarrassing and an extreme robber of distance that can make some holes just seem endless. The most common cause of a slice is an open clubface, and this can come from a grip position that makes square contact difficult. If this is your issue, I suggest you go extreme and make a big (likely uncomfortable, but you will get past this when you see the good results) grip change.

If you are right handed, take both of your hands and turn them substantially to your right so that your thumbs are both on the right side of the grip.

I realize this is extreme, but if you are a lifelong slicer, what do you have to lose? The more your hands are to the right, the more likely your clubface will stay square on your backswing and the easier it is to allow the face to naturally release through your forward swing allowing a face that is better at impact. The beauty of a better clubface is that not only will the impact feel better, but the ball will go farther and if by chance you have developed a swing path that attempts to compensate, the ball will start to go in the same direction as your swing path and the natural reaction at this point would be a correct one.



5. The driver pop-up

You're ready to hit that power driver and then you pop the ball up, taking away all of your distance, and you may hear your playing partner say, "that might bring rain..." And to add insult to injury, now your next shot (or shots) are more demanding because you've left yourself a greater distance.

Most often, pop-up drives are caused from an incorrect ball position with your driver, where the ball position is too far back in your stance and not in line with the instep of your forward foot.

It is also important to remember here that not only do you need to position your ball forward in your stance, you need to allow your shoulders to tilt a bit back away from your target so that your angle of the clubhead coming into the ball is more sweeping than steep.

A set up routine that I suggest if this is your miss is to start with your feet together with the ball and the club relatively centered in your body. Take a baby step with your lead foot and a large, widening step with your back foot and allow your back shoulder to drop down as you step this foot. This better ball position, specific to the driver, and proper shoulder tilt should allow you return to the power driver that you like to be.

6. Topping the ball

You visualize a beautiful high shot flying through the air and then you top the ball, causing it to just roll forward a short distance. It happens and it really isn't pretty, but often it is survivable. I suggest you underreact to this emotionally as much as possible and move on as quietly as possible to avoid knocking your confidence.

A great drill if you tend to top the ball is to place a tee on the ground on the target side of the ball and attempt to sweep the tee off of the ground by allowing your clubhead to stay low to the ground after the ball. The feedback that you receive will help you to learn the proper motion it takes to get the ball into the air and minimize your tops.

7. The chunked chip

When you chunk your chip, not only does it feel terrible, but the ball usually doesn't move very far, which means you have to hit almost exactly the same shot once again.

The most common cause of this miss that I see is a setup that is too crowded and often looks "squatty". Good posture, plus gripping low on the grip of the club, will both give your arms more room.

Be mindful that you do not want to have a lot of shaft lean forward as this can make the leading edge particular sharp and digging, causing the club to get stuck into the ground when you attempt to brush the grass. If this is your habit, practice hitting some chips with your feet together and the clubhead and handle centered in your body. You can put a bit of weight and lean into your forward foot, but avoid extreme leaning of the shaft that can come when your ball position is too far back in your stance



8. Missing a short putt

One of the most embarrassing parts of missing a short putt is that most of the time the rest of your group is right there with you to see the miss. You are in the center of the stage when you make the mistake.

The two main skills you need to have to avoid this miss is the ability to aim your putter face well, which is something you could practice with an alignment aid, and to be stable and still. A good general rule is that if your putter is moving, your head and your body should not be. Practice completing your stroke and then turning your head later than your human nature would tell you to. It can be helpful to practice listening to your short putts going into the hole, rather than trying to watch them.

9. The skulled pitch

This is another shot that you imagine will go high, be beautiful, impress your friends, land softly on the green and settle close to the pin. And then the dreaded skull comes, where your club hits the ball at the equator, sending it screaming across the green with no hope of stopping.

Be sure that you are using a club that has bounce, which is a design factor where the bottom is rounded so that it does not dig. Typically a lob wedge, sand wedge and gap wedge would have bounce. Once you have selected the right club, then you need to make sure that you are setting the club properly on its bottom where the clubface is square and the club shaft is pointing to your body center and not leaning too far forward.

One of my favorite drills that you certainly could do even when you are playing to give you the proper feel right before your shot is the scrape drill. From your setup position, do not take a backswing, but rather just practice your club scraping the grass on a semi circle to hip level finish.

This feeling of the club on the ground and staying on the ground can be just what you need to reinforce the proper motion it takes to get the ball into the air and hit those high, beautiful pitch shots that you dream about.



10. Leaving the ball in the bunker

You're right next to the green in the sand, so close you could just throw it out. One of the more frustrating and embarrassing shots is to just leave the ball in the bunker.

One of the most important considerations when it comes to greenside sand is that your technique needs to match your swing speed. In other words, if you have a low clubhead speed, you will want to do things that add to distance like making a full, aggressive golf swing that pivots around your trail leg, with an open clubface.

If you are one of the lucky golfers who hits the ball far, your technique needs to match this and your adjustments need to focus on controlling your power, for example, using a lob wedge and even a sense of under-releasing your trail hand to add more loft and bounce at impact to produce higher and shorter distances.



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@yahoo.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 08/17/2020)

Happy Birthday to these members:

Nancy Barnett - 09/14
Jerry Bennis - 08/15
Sue Eliasberg - 08/30
Sandy Koubek - 08/29
Joan Lee - 09/15
Lesli Mangeri - 08/18
Laura Mannix - 08/31
Heidi Moos - 08/30
Stephen Payne - 08/21
Betsy Pond - 08/15
Susan Smith - 08/10
Cathy Thompson - 09/13
Judith Wortman - 08/26

These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)

William Cash - 08/31/2020
Sheila DeTurk - 08/31/2020
Annette McGuire - 08/31/2020
Sue Morgan - 08/31/2020
Santina Rocca - 08/31/2020
Lori Ryan - 08/31/2020
George Salmon - 08/31/2020
Daniel Stentz - 08/31/2020
Judith Wortman - 08/31/2020

Welcome newest members:

Shelley Annand - Joined 06/12/2020
Elizabeth Anthony - Joined 06/02/2020

These members recently renewed:

Shannon Bonk
Mary Doherty
Sue Eliasberg
Irene Kratky
Arnold McStravick
Ginger Phillips
Matthew Skowronski
Sam Tolbert
Francine Vigliotti

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)

David Classen - 07/31/2020
Ilene Cook - 07/31/2020
Julie Fanburg - 07/31/2020
Steve Fisher - 07/31/2020
Amy Hammer - 06/30/2020
Ed Harper - 07/31/2020
Steven Hornburg - 06/30/2020
Brenda Mara - 07/31/2020
Gayla Moilanen - 06/30/2020
Cheryl Murrill - 07/31/2020
George Neumayr - 07/31/2020
Pamela Skiff - 07/31/2020
Thomas Skrobala - 07/31/2020
Jean Wintemute - 06/30/2020

To renew your dues today, go to Singles-Golf.com/renew If you wish to renew over the phone, call 980-833-6450, M-F, 9-2 Eastern Time.

Our chapter currently has 128 members.

HELP GROW OUR CHAPTER!

New Members Are Our Lifeblood.

Please print-out the "Single? Play Golf?" sign and post it where our future members will see it.

Sign is on the last page of this newsletter and remember to cut the tabs at the bottom.

(Try to post one sign each month and use bright yellow or colored paper if you have it.)

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")

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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