

Your chapter newsletter follows after the following pages . . .

ASGA Annual Dues are \$89.00. Do you want LOWER DUES?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ONE YEAR OF FREE DUES?

You likely joined the American Singles Golf Association because you wanted to meet more singles and play more golf. We can't help you with your golf swing, however, we're on a mission to grow your chapter's membership. ***Golf season is upon us . . . are you onboard to grow your chapter or are you satisfied with your current membership level?***

Here's the plan:

- 1) on the following page, you'll see a revised "***Single? Play Golf?***" sign. It now has five (5) tear-off tabs instead of eight (8).
- 2) You write-in your identification (either your member number or first initial + last name) on each of the tabs. Use scissors to cut the tabs apart.
- 3) You print as many signs as you wish, keep them in the front seat of your car along with some push pins and post them ***anywhere you're permitted*** to post, e.g. golf shop bulletin boards, golf shop restrooms, driving ranges, stores, etc. ***If you would like ASGA National to print five (5) yellow signs for you, please let us know by emailing Irene@SinglesGolf.com or calling 980-833-6450 from 9am-1:45pm, M-F, Eastern.***
- 4) For every three (3) people who join using your name or ID on the yellow sign, you'll receive 12-months of ASGA membership. Note: your name or member number, as the referrer, must be submitted **with** the new member's application. No exceptions. No retroactivity. Please do not add your own name to an application form. It must be completed only the by the member currently joining and completing the application.
- 5) New members can join over the phone, at our website (SinglesGolf.com/join), fax, etc., however, **they MUST use your member number or name at the time of joining as the person who referred the new member. Again, no exceptions to this policy.**
- 6) ASGA National will keep track of how many new members you get credit for and will automatically add 12-months to your membership. Please, no slanting of these rules

**Be a Hero in Your Chapter.
Get the signs printed and get them hanging!
*(and remind others to participate)***

SINGLE? PLAY GOLF?



The Villages Chapter of the American Singles Golf Association WANTS YOU!

We're 2,500 members in 50 cities and we're ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN! So if you're single (*i.e. divorced, widowed, legally separated or never married*) and enjoy meeting others through the game of golf, you're invited to inquire about joining by calling the American Singles Golf Association at 1-888-465-3628 (*1-TRIPLE-EIGHT-GOLFMATE*) or visit SinglesGolf.com.

Meet MORE Singles! Play MORE Golf!



TEAR OFF A TAB BELOW

American Singles Golf 1-888-465-3628 SinglesGolf.com/join Please mention my name when joining! Ref. by _____	American Singles Golf 1-888-465-3628 SinglesGolf.com/join Please mention my name when joining! Ref. by _____	American Singles Golf 1-888-465-3628 SinglesGolf.com/join Please mention my name when joining! Ref. by _____	American Singles Golf 1-888-465-3628 SinglesGolf.com/join Please mention my name when joining! Ref. by _____
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IN ADDITION, WE CAN SEND YOU FREE BUSINESS CARDS!

As you have seen from the previous two pages of this newsletter, ASGA National is committed to seeing your chapter grow. We believe by asking each individual member for help, your chapter will grow its membership.

Besides using just the yellow signs to gain more members in your local chapter, **upon request** we will also provide you with ASGA business cards as shown below. More can be sent to you if needed, but we'll start out by sending you 25 business cards that you can give to anyone you believe might be a potential member. Are you out and about and see someone wearing a golf shirt or hat? **Start a conversation:** tell them you're a part of a local club for singles who play golf and simply ask **"are you single?"** Even if they aren't, chances are they know a golfer who is. Give them a card that's pre-filled with you name (or member #) and contact info.

Remember, you get free dues for referring 3 new folks who join!

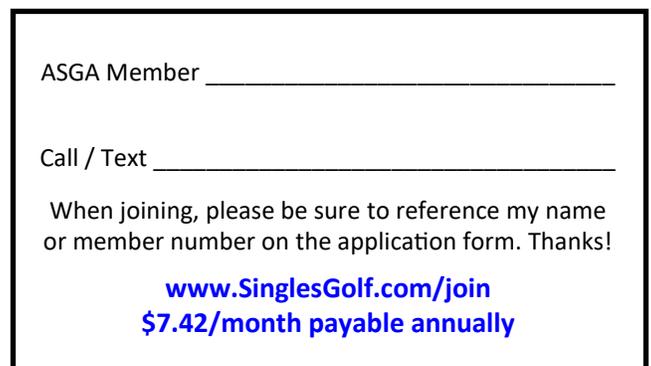
Below shows how your business card appears. They don't come to you automatically, you'll have to order them. E-mail Irene@SinglesGolf or call 980-833-6450 (9am—1:30pm, Mon-Fri, Eastern) for your free 25 cards.

**- - Tom Alsop
President and Founder
American Singles Golf Association**

25 Business Cards Will Be Mailed to You Upon Request!



Front side of business card



Back side of business card

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF SINGLES GOLF® IN AMERICA

THE VILLAGES SINGLES GOLF

The Villages Chapter - American Singles Golf Association - March 2021

MARCH 27TH - TEXAS SCRAMBLE AT NANCY LOPEZ G.C.



President's Corner

Florida Cup preparations are being finalized. Hope to see a good turnout from the Villages Chapter.

As more and more residents get their Covid shots, we're moving closer to having our social events once again. Till then, be safe and get out and play golf.

~Abram Scherbekow, 1967goat@comcast.net

PLEASE VOLUNTEER. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RUN OUR CHAPTER.



New Member Chairperson

Welcome New Members!

Susie Sherlock

susie.sherlock@gmail.com

Ed Casmere

edcas39@comcast.net

Doug May

dmaych1@gmail.com

Gene DeLawder

delawdergene@gmail.com

John Zervas

jzervas319@gmail.com

Irene Howe

imme165@aol.com

Norma Wallis

nwallis10@comcast.net

Karen Gearhart

karengearhartrealtor@gmail.com -

transfer from Texas ASGA

FYI: The chapter has a newly revised Member Handbook. It's available to read and print on the chapter website at the bottom of the home page. The handbook covers our website, signing up for events, guidance for our golf events, social activities and even using Google Sheets on mobile devices. It has already been sent, along with a welcome letter, to all members joining since January.

~Connie May, constancejmay@gmail.com



Member News

I am sad to report the news that one of our members, Jim Kardias, was tragically killed in a golf cart/automobile accident on Monday (February 15). Jim played executive and championship golf with ASGA and will be missed by many.

Jim's Memorial was held February 27 at Orange Blossom Hills Country Club.

~Abram Scherbekow, President



Golf Chair

We are thrilled with the positive feedback and smiling faces at our ASGA golf events! I want to give a

huge thank you to **Julie Davie** and **Kathy Notley** for filling in for the February Scramble. I hope everyone considers playing in the Texas Scramble at the Nan-

NATIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

Events Open to All Members Nationwide

FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

Multi-Chapter Events (MCEs) will be curtailed until we begin to feel safe to travel. ASGA National expects our next event will be Memorial Day Weekend, 2021, if that. We're all hoping for success with the vaccine distribution. If things appear to be improving, we may plan a trip to Scotland for August or the Barcelona side of Spain for September of 2021. A return trip to Cabo may be in the offing as well. These three locations represent the best turnouts in ASGA's history since we started doing events outside of our country ten years ago. Stay tuned!

LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

Regular Meeting Date

On Hold

Next Meeting

TBD

Location

Rohan Rec Center

Our Chapter Website: asgavillagesflorida.net

(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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The Villages Chapter
of the
American Singles Golf Association
2021 Board Members and
Committee Chairs

Board Members denoted by *

***Board Chair Person**

Mary Joy
villagesasga@gmail.com
630-323-4829

***President**

Abram Scherbekow
villagesasga@gmail.com
916-837-3025

***Social Chair**

Kathy McManus
villagesasga@gmail.com
513-543-4700

***Golf Chair**

Ron Horte
villagesasga@gmail.com
757-334-4824

***Treasurer**

Larkin Fields
larkinwfields@gmail.com
704-576-5566

***Membership Chair**

Connie May
villagesasga@gmail.com
847-732-2003

***Secretary**

Patricia Van Horn
villagesasga@gmail.com
352-461-8359

Communications

Chairperson
Beth Disque
villagesasga@gmail.com
352-633-5673

Communications/

Newletter
Lorna Litton
lorna.litton@aol.com
352-775-8449

We Care/Sunshine

Rose McGurk
villagesasga@gmail.com
(407) 310-1586

Advisor

Jeri Spriggs
villagesasga@gmail.com
407-810-0033

Golf Coordinators

Monday Priority Golf
Larry Sheets

Lga313@yahoo.com
404-229-7985

Monday Executive Golf

Roni Feldblum
villagesasga@gmail.com
917-640-0008

Thursday Priority Golf

Marcia Smith
villagesasga@gmail.com
631-603-8773

Thursday Executive Golf

Jeri Spriggs
villagesasga@gmail.com
407-810-0033

and

Lydia Merriweather
dancer5763@gmail.com
352-391-5763

Friday Executive Golf

(October - April)
Charlene Barton
charlene_barton@yahoo.com
301-580-6065

Friday Nine & Dine
(May -September)

Jack Parker
villagesasga@gmail.com
910-987-1178

Saturday 18-Hole Golf

Kathy Notley
katnot@gmail.com
352-638-8171

&

Jane Boyle
jboyle3003@comcast.net
609-744-9740

cy Lopez Golf Course on March 27th.

As everyone has heard, The Villages ASGA will be hosting the Florida Cup on Oct. 8-10, 2021 at Hammock Beach Golf Resort located in beautiful Palm Coast, FL. That being said; in April the golf event will be a GHIN required golf tournament to prepare our team for a golf competition against their handicap. I will schedule another GHIN required tournament in July or August so that we can start pairing up partners. If you're interested in playing in the Florida Cup, please get involved in these tournaments to ensure we take a winning team!

The Florida Cup has always been a fun event. Please consider volunteering for several open positions and enjoy the comradery of this event!

Hit'em straight and see you on the course.

~Ron Horte, rhorte@yahoo.com



MONDAY 18-HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF (MCG)

Monday 18-hole championship golf is limited to 32 players. You must be a priority member to sign up for the Monday championship golf group. After we have been assigned our tee times, an email will be sent to all ASGA members, including non-priority members. If there are any openings, non-priority members can sign up for the openings through the tee time system. We generally have 12 to 20 golfers, and we follow golf with dinner in the country club restaurant. Sign up at the ASGA website/Events Calendar/ Monday Priority Golf. Points and money games have been suspended, for now.

~Larry Sheets, lga313@yahoo.com



THURSDAY 18 HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF (TCG)

Thursday Championship Golf is now being played in the afternoon wave with tee times usually starting at 11:56 a.m. Sign up is closed at NOON on the Friday before the week we play, and any requests for a playing partner or guest should be made by then, also. You must have a Priority Membership to sign up, but any openings after we receive our reservation

are available on a first one to contact me basis by text/call to 631-603-8773. If you do not have a Priority Membership and would like to play the Championship courses occasionally, feel free to contact me the week before and I will put you on a waitlist and do my best to fit you in.

~Marcia Smith, ommsmith@gmail.com



SATURDAY 18 HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF

We had great weather for our outings in Feb. Mt. Dora and Monarch were both in great shape. We

also had a member, Sharon Ostgaard, make a hole in one at Monarch on # 13 the longest par 3 on the course. Congrats again to her.

Looking forward to playing some local courses in Leesburg in March, The Plantation (Cranes Roost) and Arlington Ridge. Both of these courses are normally in great shape also.

~Kathy Notley, katnot72@gmail.com

HOLE IN ONE NEWS

NO PUTTER NEEDED. Sharon Ostgaard made a hole-in-one using her ping driver on hole number 13. She was playing with the ASGA championship group at The Monarch Royal Highlands in Leesburg on Sunday, February 21st.



MONDAY 9 HOLE EXECUTIVE GOLF (MEG)

Please join us. In general, we will try to get golf courses between 466 and 466a, with tee times between 10:30 and 11:30. We generally use the scramble game format we have used for many years. (\$2, per player, with prizes, at the after-golf social.) The

Villages has relaxed many of the Covid rules, however, most golfers are still using their own golf cart. All are welcome. Walkers are always welcome. Please sign up on the ASGA website\ Calendar\Monday Executive Golf or use the links included in the Monday golf emails.

~Roni Feldblum, nori10065@gmail.com



THURSDAY 9 HOLE EXECUTIVE GOLF (TEG)

Please join us Thursdays as we play the executive golf courses in The Villages. All are welcome. If you don't have a golf cart, we will pair you with someone who does. Walkers are always welcome. The emphasis is enjoying a round of golf with friends. Please sign up on the ASGA website\Calendar\Thursday Executive Golf.

~Lydia Merriweather, dancer5763@gmail.com



FRIDAY 9 HOLE EXECUTIVE GOLF

The ASGA club offers Friday golf for six months of the year. Play takes place from October through April, twice a month (on the second and fourth Friday.)

Because of the Pandemic we have been forced to discontinue group lunches and exchange of money this past year. In March we plan to resume games and an opportunity to lunch together after our round of golf.

~Charlene Barton, charlene_barton@yahoo.com



SOCIAL CHAIR

Hoping we are all staying healthy in the new year. The sad news is that there will be no meeting in March because of the COVID-19 virus. And once again, it will be "wait and see" for the month of April. Happy hour will be at Edna's on the Green on the second Friday in March beginning at 4pm.

Please bring your own chair and wear a mask. If you have any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, please stay home.

~Kathy McManus, anniefox121@yahoo.com



Secretary

Minutes will be taken at monthly meetings when the latter resume.

~Pat Van Horn, vanhornpat@gmail.com

RECREATION CENTER NEWS: PICKLEBALL

Pickleball courts are reserved for ASGA players twice a week. Come on out and join us.

Canal Street Rec. Center on Wednesdays from 12 -1:50.

Bacall Rec. Center on Fridays from 12-1:50

Please join us for friendly pickleball. All levels are welcome.

Remember to bring your own water!



WEBSITE/ COMMUNICATION NEWS

Soon, very soon, our new website will be online. Watch for an email announcing the "unveiling". In the meantime, you can continue to use the old one. Links to all the sign up sheets can still be found on the calendar. *You will need to scroll back to January to find them.*

Many thanks to **Mary Joy, Margaret Oliver, and Patricia VanHorn** for attending all the design meetings (Zoom) and offering many constructive comments and advice in helping to build our new website .

~Beth Disque, *Communications Chair*



HOLE-IN-ONE FUND

The Villages ASGA started voluntary hole-in-one insurance funds for both executive and championship golf in January 2018.

Those who choose to participate, pay \$5.00 into the "pot" (or \$10 to be included in both pots). If you get a hole-in-one while playing in any Villages ASGA golf event (executive, championship, or nine & dine), you will receive \$100 at the next ASGA Monthly Social.

We made it for one year with our Executive Hole-in-One pot, but needed a replen-

ishment in January 2019. The original Championship pot is still healthy. If you haven't joined the pool and if you play golf with ASGA, now would be a good time to get your name on the list(s)... just in case.

We know that the odds of one of us making a hole-in-one are 12,500 to 1, but just think of how many of our fellow Village ASGA members have scored an ace. We've already paid out \$800 to members who have had holes-in-one. (Six is the average number of hole-in-ones per day in The Villages!) We all have a chance to get lucky!

Don't delay. Hurry and get your name on the participant list. **PLEASE DO NOT PAY UNTIL YOU CHECK THE LIST TO SEE IF YOUR NAME IS ALREADY ON IT.**

Below are the links you need to get started or you can find the information on our web site at: https://asgavillagesflorida.net/Golf_Info.html

List of Executive Hole-in-one fund participants – Please check before paying



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Funds Available (PayPal & Checking) 01/27/2021	\$3950.88
Receipts (Membership Dues & Scrambles)	\$1114.51
Less Disbursements (Scrambles)	\$ 520.00
Ending Funds Available (PayPal & Checking) 02/24/2021	\$4545.39

~Larkin Fields, larkinwfields@gmail.com

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sk3Wq1hkjm2qW1mdu5DquSbJvr6GK0wdBxcX1NahX3l/edit#gid=0>

List of Championship hole-in-one fund participants – Please check before paying <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OB-MZv2oPdKluml8hsyMRTOWKvDGcg9p-pH2b1qTkVYc/edit#gid=0>

PayPal link for Executive hole-in-one fund - https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s

Please note that names will be added to the lists usually within 24 hours after we receive notice from PayPal that you have paid.

~Beth Disque Website/Communications

USEFUL LINKS FOR GOLFERS

4 steps to improve your game (video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uBBuVnbtDs>

10 Tips to improve your beginner game (read):

<https://thelefttrough.com/golf-tips/>

Consistently break 90 (read):

<https://pluggedingolf.com/how-to-break-90/>

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

(THIS REPORT RAN 03/03/2021)

Happy Birthday to these members:

Peter Ardito - 04/01
Robert Beaudoin - 03/24
Victoria Boyd - 04/08
Jane Boyle - 03/22
Phil Busacco - 03/14
Michael Busch - 03/20
George Cavagnaro - 03/28
Carol Curtiss - 03/02
Richard Dawson - 03/10
Cynthia Doyle - 03/29
Allen Edmison - 03/12
Donna Endicott - 03/26
Joseph Evans - 03/21
Ken Falls - 03/02
Richard Ferrera - 03/20
Donald Frei - 03/24
Pamela Gross - 03/28
Elizabeth Gualfetti - 03/08
James Hamilton - 03/01
John Holmes - 03/17
Ron Horte - 04/07
Leo Houston - 03/14

William Hurst - 04/15
Joetta Jones - 03/13
Daniel Joyce - 03/13
Larry Krueger - 04/05
Jane Lippincott - 04/12
Kathy Maloney - 03/15
Rose McGurk - 03/24
Michael Mello - 03/11
Stephen Mendelsohn - 03/18
Lydia Merriweather - 04/15
Ellen Mowles - 03/07
Bruce Scher - 04/12
Jimmy Sheppard - 03/05
Jeanne Simmons - 03/30
Janice Snider - 04/06
Mary Thomas - 03/04
Kristine Tygrett - 03/10
Thomas Weldy - 03/03
John Zervas - 03/19

These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)

Peter Ardito - 03/31/2021
Anne Bloete - 03/31/2021
Judith Clare - 03/31/2021
James Dalton - 03/31/2021
Phillip Ellis - 03/31/2021
Jim Hanson - 03/31/2021
Walter Lenard - 03/31/2021
Kenneth McGray - 03/31/2021
Paul Rode - 03/31/2021
Mary Thomas - 03/31/2021

Welcome newest members:

Yvonne Auxier - Joined 01/15/2021
Reeta Brendamour - Joined 01/05/2021
Michael Busch - Joined 01/13/2021
Ed Casmere - Joined 01/29/2021
Eugene DeLawder - Joined 02/01/2021
Simon Goujon - Joined 01/04/2021
Irene Howe - Joined 02/10/2021
Anthony Marmo - Joined 01/13/2021
Douglas May - Joined 02/01/2021
Carol McNeal - Joined 01/06/2021
Don Nelson - Joined 01/13/2021
Gerry Oliver - Joined 01/25/2021
Bruce Scher - Joined 01/25/2021
Craig Schoenrock - Joined 01/19/2021
Susie Sherlock - Joined 01/28/2021
John Zervas - Joined 02/02/2021

These members recently renewed:

Patricia Allard
Elaine Bondie
Karen Brennan
Bonnie Cook

Justin Doll
Allen Edmison
Dante Fiocca
Lucy Kelly
Vickie Langkam
Peter Lilly
Kent McClean
Ken Moreau
Michael Mullins
Daniel Pereira
Donald Rogers
Sandy Stanton
Brock Wagner
Judith Waidelich

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)

Nancy Berg - 02/28/2021
Andy Bienvenu - 01/31/2021
Judy Brushingham - 02/28/2021
Martin Bucher - 01/31/2021
Georgia Carli - 02/28/2021
Craig Chalkley - 02/28/2021
David Colbert - 02/28/2021
Anthony Cutillo - 01/31/2021
Carol Donovan - 02/28/2021
Catherine Fallon - 02/28/2021
Nancy Gipe - 02/28/2021
Alfred Gipson - 01/31/2021
Pamela Guilmet - 02/28/2021
Donna Harpsoe - 02/28/2021
Dianna Hinsenkamp - 02/28/2021
Rick Johnson - 01/31/2021
Richard Kolb - 02/28/2021
Pat Lake - 01/31/2021
Annette Leonhard - 02/28/2021
Carolee Litwinka - 02/28/2021
Kimberly Michaels - 01/31/2021
Brent Mitchell - 02/28/2021
Cynthia Moore - 01/31/2021
Jefferson Mott - 02/28/2021
Ronald Myers - 01/31/2021
Daniel T O'Connell - 02/28/2021
Richard Peterson - 01/31/2021
Diane Prather - 02/28/2021
Jean Puckett - 01/31/2021
Mary Lou Riccio - 01/31/2021
Carol Snyder - 02/28/2021
Richard Stenzhorn - 02/28/2021
Cynthia Swift - 02/28/2021
Patricia Tillman - 01/31/2021
Eleanor Walsh - 01/31/2021
Roger Worsley - 01/31/2021

Our chapter currently has 330 members

Thank You 2020 Volunteers!

ASGA chapters would not exist without the effort of local volunteers *who make your life more enjoyable*. They book the golf outings, social events, do membership committee work and handle the communications you receive through emails, your newsletter and website postings. So a **big thank you** to those who stepped forward to make a difference in 2020. Names in **BOLD** are members who held chairperson positions within the chapter:

2020 Chapter Presidents

Marian Gogola, Albany
Carmine Manicone, Asheville
Mike Lawton, Boston
Alice Zyks, Chicago
Donna Lawson, Cincinnati
Michael Bowyer, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Sandi Smith, Denver
Rich Zdunczyk, Hartford
Dolores Scardine, Indianapolis
Claudia Skarvinko, Jacksonville
Miles Hartley, Kansas City
Pat French, LA-Orange County
Bob Puglis, North Jersey
Carolyn Aldorfer, Orlando
Marc Levinson, Palm Beach County
Dianne Gardner, Palm Springs
Kurt Kraenbring, Philadelphia
Mike Young, Pinehurst
Fred Weinberg, Sarasota
Pat Bonner, Seattle
Kim McIntyre, SE Michigan
Lola Arena, SW Florida
Roberta Clark, Tampa Bay
Mary Joy, The Villages
Terrie Juba, Tucson
Dan Morris, Washington DC

Board Chairpersons

Mary (Bunny) Antonellis, Boston
Ruth Wiechmann Browne, Chicago
Tim Maybury, Cincinnati
William Wray, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Debbie Misrack, Denver
Rick Avery, Hartford
Rick Buie, Kansas City

Tom Connolly, North Jersey
Andy Knisley, Sarasota
Marcy Tufarolo, Seattle
Nelson Greaves, SE Michigan
Dottie Hockey, The Villages

Golf Committee Members

Deb Ptansinki, Albany
Sandy Kunz, Albany
Andy Anderson, Asheville
Janice Schneider, Boston
Marie Bush, Chicago
Marsha Barnholtz, Cincinnati
Dave Forney, Cincinnati
Steve Verret, Denver
Hank Denst, Denver
Paul Masimer, Denver
Cheryl Woodin, Hartford
Ann Van Ness, Indianapolis
Wayne Fullington, Jacksonville
Gerri Pulaski, Kansas City
David Martin, Kansas City
Pat Pack, North Jersey
Bob Driscoll, Orlando
Rich Levy, Palm Beach County
Barbara Nuismer, Palm Springs
Lori Alvarez, Philadelphia
Kathy Slotter, Pinehurst
Butch Lundren, Pinehurst
Earl Quam, Pinehurst
Mike Young, Pinehurst
Shirley Mandarino, Sarasota
Janet Swanson, Seattle
Tish Gordon, SE Michigan
Suzanne Schmidt, SW Florida
Nathan Pearlman, Tampa Bay
Sarah Brown, Tampa Bay

Jane Boyle, The Villages
Larry Sheets, The Villages
Carol Sexton, The Villages
Jeanne Simmons, The Villages
Marcia Smith, The Villages
Tom Boylan, The Villages
Charlene Barton, The Villages
Jack Parker, The Villages
Chris Avent, The Villages
Sue Sleasman, Tucson
Charlie Walters, Washington DC
Ruth D'Alessandro, Washington DC

Social Committee Members

Kathleen Patterson, Albany
Kathie Alonso, Asheville
Paula Fish, Boston
Dianne Williams, Boston
Kathi Brown, Chicago
Sharon Meyer, Chicago
Donna Lawson, Cincinnati
Dawn Mason, Cincinnati
Lynne Lustig, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Karen Doebelin, Denver
Barbara Mahoney, Hartford
Barbara Dean, Jacksonville
Kay Fore, Kansas City
Dan Fagan, Kansas City
Camille McEntee, North Jersey
Christine Giancola, North Jersey
Virginia Borchert, Orlando
Barbara Arnold, Palm Beach County
Caroline Brinker, Philadelphia
Ray Druss, Pinehurst
Pat Koubek, Pinehurst
Bobbi Amato, Pinehurst
Kathie Alexander, Sarasota

Pat Walsh, Seattle
Barb Schuler, SE Michigan
Jeanne Prior, SW Florida
Sandra Fulton, Tampa Bay
Charlene Emmett, Tampa Bay
Ken McGray, The Villages
Susan Olson, Tucson
Alicia McCarthy, Washington DC

Membership Committee

Members

Tim Ryan, Albany
Mary Fields, Asheville
Marla Dolan, Boston
Richard Bachman, Chicago
Jim Rybolt, Cincinnati
Joyce Flatt, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Tony Tierney, Denver
Dee DiMauro, Hartford
Nancy Elliott, Hartford
Robert Corbett, Indianapolis
Claudia Skarvinko, Jacksonville
Steve Arrington, Jacksonville
Anita Mooney, Kansas City
Penny Zadeh, Kansas City
Julie Good, LA-Orange County
Bill Fanaras, North Jersey
Leni Tamboer, North Jersey
Pam Reese, Orlando
Nikki Rineer, Philadelphia
Patty Allan, Pinehurst
Pat Hruska, Pinehurst
Linda Davis, Sarasota
Jennifer Krause, Seattle
Carolyn Arlen, SE Michigan
Andrew Fox, SW Florida
Linda Floyd, Tampa Bay
Nancy Hartshorn, The Villages
Cami Trowbridge, Tucson
Tom Huckabay, Tucson
Kathie Hiatt, Washington DC

Communications Committee

Members

Jack Aernecke, Albany
Hank Parish, Asheville

Terry Starr-Klein, Boston
Cindy Pausic, Chicago
Kathy Hendrickson, Chicago
Peggy Layton, Cincinnati
Linda Muller, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Fredlee Shore, Denver
Rick Avery, Hartford
JoAnne Ratermann, Indianapolis
Terry McFarland, Jacksonville
Jan O'Dell, Kansas City
Pam McFadden, LA-Orange County
Donna Beland, North Jersey
Linda Marcet, Orlando
Carrie Duncan, Palm Springs
Christine Brady, Philadelphia
Scott Smith, Pinehurst
Jim High, Pinehurst
Jim Johndrow, Sarasota
Sue Haley, Seattle
Patricia McKenna, SE Michigan
Linda Brown, SW Florida
Beth Disque, The Villages
Ken Katafias, Tucson
BJ Barger, Washington DC
Francine Vigliotti, Washington DC

Chapter Secretaries

Gary O'Brien, Albany
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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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