

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!

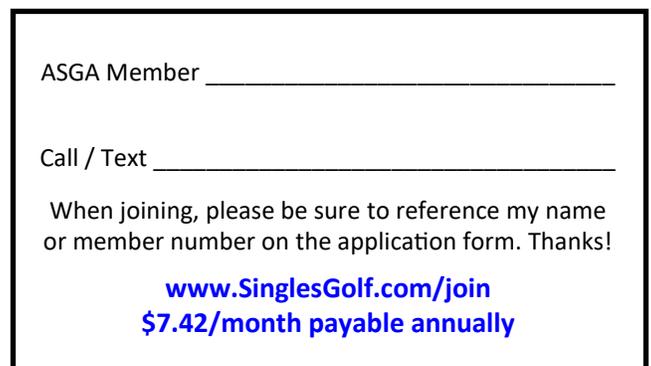
Below shows how your business card appears. They don't come to you automatically, you'll have to order them. E-mail Irene@SinglesGolf or call 980-833-6450 (9am—1:30pm, Mon-Fri, Eastern) for your free 25 cards.

**- - 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

THE VILLAGES SINGLES GOLF

The Villages Chapter - American Singles Golf Association - April 2021

CHAPTER MEETING: APRIL 27TH - ROHAN REC CENTER



President's Corner

Due to improving weather conditions, we are going to have an outdoor social in April. Please see complete details from our Social Chair as listed below. Hopefully things will soon get back to normal again. We are all looking forward to having a social with entertainment and dancing.

As the date of the Florida cup approaches we are getting a lot of responses. Hope to see everyone there!

~Abram Scherbekow, 1967goat@comcast.net



New Member Chairperson

Welcome New Members!

Donna French, donnafrench1945@gmail.com 615-397-7310

Tracey Childress, tracychildress@outlook.com 352-250-0652

Wally Graham (transferring from Naples, FL,) sailnghunters@yahoo.com
260-668-0963

Michael Conklin, conks1@gmail.com
248-378-8740

Jane Collins, imariemcollins@gmail.com
972-877-8466

Brooks Austin, brooks.austin@icloud.com
317-750-0021

Lisa Caddell, ponyexpress179@gmail.com
513-368-4414

Kathleen Flood, kate142404@aol.com
352-259-8460

Joan O'Dare, jd2530@comcast.net
215-870-1454

Geary Shotts, geary_shotts@yahoo.com
808-824-7587

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

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

Member News

It is with great sadness that I let you know that Dottie Hockey passed away today. She was a past President, Chairman of the Board, great golfer but most of all a wonderful friend to us all. She will be greatly missed.

Expressions of sympathy can be mailed to the family at 3008 Egerton Place, The Villages, FL 32163. More info to follow.

~Marcia Smith



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

Fourth Tuesday of the Month

Next Meeting

April 27th, 2021, 6:00 - 9:00pm

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



Golf Chair

Thanks to all the golf coordinators for all the work you put into each golf outing every week. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The weather is getting warmer and warmer every day. Water is finally going to be available on the golf courses starting April 1st. Please remember to drink lots of water while you are playing golf and all the other activities throughout the day.

The April golf event has been postponed because of a scheduling conflict. I will move it to the month of May. It will be a GHIN required golf tournament, more information to follow soon.

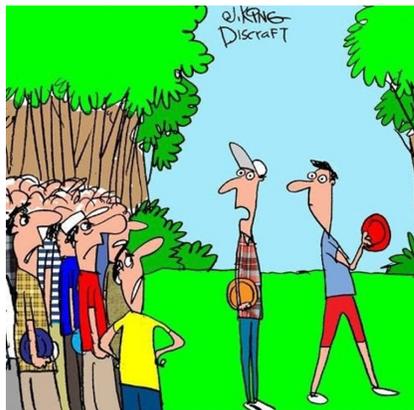
Hit'em straight and see you on the course. ~Ron Horte, rhorte@yahoo.com



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



"No, they're not fans who came to watch your skills. They're players behind us. I think we need to pick up the pace."



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 started out the month with a cancellation at The Plantation due to bad weather., Arlington Ridge was in great condition for our 2nd outing of the month. Looking forward to playing Royal Oaks, which has received rave reviews from some of our members. Also planning to play Eagles Ridge in April. ~Kathy Notley, katnot72@gmail.com

HOLE IN ONE NEWS



Jim Hamilton got a hole in one on hole number 2 at Tarpon Boil on March 1st, 2021. It was an 80 yard shot with a pitching wedge. It is Jim's 6th ace, 5 of which occurred in The Villages.

Coincidentally March 1st was also Jim's birthday. As a member of our "hole in one" pool he will receive a \$100 prize to help him celebrate!



Jack Parker
Hole-in-One Sandhill #5
March 12, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS TO JACK PARKER who had a hole-in-one playing with the ASGA Friday Executive group on the fifth hole of Sandhill. Jack was a member of our hole-in one pool so he will receive \$100 from ASGA..



Connie May
Hole-in-one
March 22, 2021
Tarpon Boil, Hole #6

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONNIE MAY who had a hole-in-one playing with the ASGA Monday Executive group on the 96 yard fourth hole fifth hole at Turtle Mound. Connie said conditions were so blustery that she had to use a 6 iron to reach the green. Connie was a member of our hole-in one pool so she will receive \$100 from ASGA..



HOLE-IN-ONE FUND

It should come as no surprise to many of you that our **Executive Hole-in-One pot is totally depleted** after so many holes-in-one in the last month. It is time for replenishment.

The Villages ASGA started voluntary hole-in-one insurance funds for both executive and championship golf in January 2018. If a member joins and gets a hole-in-one while playing in any Villages ASGA golf event (executive, championship, or nine & dine), he or she will receive \$100.

The Championship pot has remained healthy with only 2 holes-in-one paid out since 2018. It stands to reason since there are so many more opportunities for a hole-in-one on an Executive course that we would see many more. We replenished the executive pot in 2019 and have paid out \$1100 to executive golfers so far. Now we are starting from zero again.

We are asking those who choose to participate to pay \$10.00 into the executive pot.

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. (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(s). You can find the links for the lists and PayPal on our website at [https://asgvillagesflorida.net/hole-in-one-](https://asgvillagesflorida.net/hole-in-one)



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

Good news! The regular 4th Thursday of the month, 6-9 pm meeting at Rohan Recreation Center, has been reinstated. On April 27th, we will have outdoor activities consisting of pickleball, tennis, bocce, shuffleboard, and cornhole will be provided by **Carole Mosbaugh**. Combo swim is available until dusk but we have been asked to have only 6-8 members at one time. A sign up sheet will be at the picnic pavilion which will be available after 6 pm. There might not be enough seating for all, so please bring a chair just in case. Box lunches will NOT be provided this month so please bring your own food and drink. In the event of bad weather, we will meet in our regular meeting room. A variety of games will be available or you may bring one of your choice. Happy hour will be at Edna's on the Green on the second Friday of the month, April 9th, beginning at 4 pm. Please bring your own chair. Drinks are available for purchase on location.

As always, if you have a fever or are not feeling well, please stay home. Although many of us have received our COIV-19 vaccinations, if you have not, please wear a mask where and when appropriate.

~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!

~Beth Disque, Reader16.2014@gmail.com

WEBSITE/COMMUNICATION NEWS



Hooray! Finally, our new website is online with the same URL as before - <https://asgavillagesflorida.net/>. I am happy to tell you that it is mobile friendly which means it is

accessible on a smart phone or tablet as well as a computer.

There are quite a few differences between the new website and our old one.

Two that you need to be aware of right now are:

1. The menu bar can be found across the top and bottom of every page if you are using a computer or tablet. On a mobile phone you can find the menu by touching the 3 black lines at the top of every page or in a list at the bottom of every page.
2. The [Members Only](#) page which contains our newsletters and contact information for the chapter leaders requires you to enter a user name and password. The user name is golfasga and the password is wegolf2021. Please

write these down for future reference.

(Ignore the New User Registration.)

There is personal data for some members on this page which we wanted to protect from the spammers and bots who try to harvest email addresses from the web.

There is still work to be done, most notably on the calendar. It is quite a learning curve for me as the behind the scenes work on this website is quite different from the other one. Until I learn how to add events to the calendar, you can find all the links for golf sign up on the [Golf page](#) as well as the Quota points for week day and Saturday championship golf. I will let you know when I get the calendar feature figured out.

Take a look and let us know what you think. We hope you like it. If you spot any errors I would greatly appreciate it if you would let me know.

Here is a teaser for all of you. Can you identify which Villages golf course is displayed in the top banner on the [Home Page?](#)

Finally, thanks again to **Mary Joy, Margaret Oliver**, and **Patricia Van Horn** who participated in all the design conference calls and added many positive contributions to our new website. I couldn't have done it without them. And thanks to all of you for your patience during the weeks when our new website was being created.

~Beth Disque Website/Communications

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

(THIS REPORT RAN 04/02/2021)

Happy Birthday to these members:

A. Peter Ardito - 04/01

Diana Beavers - 05/15

Victoria Boyd - 04/08

Thomas Boylan - 04/28

Julie Davie - 04/18

Jenise Ferris - 05/11

Steven Garry - 04/30

Mary Hilke - 04/20

Ron Horte - 04/07

William Hurst - 04/15

Peter Kierpiec - 04/23

Larry Krueger - 04/05

MaryEllen Ledger - 04/18

Peter Lilly - 04/19

Jane Lippincott - 04/12

Rosemary Macri - 04/21

Lydia Merriweather - 04/15

Toinette Millar - 05/10

Brent Mitchell - 04/16

Michael Mullins - 04/21

Donna Rogers - 05/12

John Rohe - 05/03

Helene Rosen - 04/30

Bruce Scher - 04/12

Jerry Schreck - 04/16

Susie Sherlock - 05/09

Janice Snider - 04/06

Frederick Specht - 05/08

Shirlee Thaler - 04/24

Joyce Trabattoni - 04/16

Judy Veldran - 05/11



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Funds Available

(PayPal & Checking) 02/24/2021

\$4545.39

Receipts (Scrambles, Daytona, Hole in One)

\$ 963.11

Less Disbursements (Scrambles, Exec Hole in Ones) \$1035.00

Ending Funds Available

(PayPal & Checking) 03/24/2021

\$4473.50

~Larkin Fields, larkinwfields@gmail.com



BEST VIDEO ON HAND WASHING:
www.SinglesGolf.com/WashYourHands

These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)

Robert Barnett - 04/30/2021
David Bray - 04/30/2021
Robert Burns - 04/30/2021
Adrienne Calvert - 04/30/2021
Robert Cichetti - 04/30/2021
Sandra Dempsey - 04/30/2021
Richard Ferrera - 04/30/2021
Margaret French - 04/30/2021
Elaine Hirschfeld - 04/30/2021
Ron Horte - 04/30/2021
Mary Joy - 04/30/2021
Joyce Kruk - 04/30/2021
MaryEllen Ledger - 04/30/2021
Rosemary Macri - 04/30/2021
Edward McLaughlin - 04/30/2021
Stephen Mendelsohn - 04/30/2021
Arlene Neumann - 04/30/2021
Susan Price - 04/30/2021
Jerry Schreck - 04/30/2021
Charlene Soos - 04/30/2021
Regina Whitnell - 04/30/2021

Welcome newest members:

Brooks Austin - Joined 03/09/2021
Lisa Caddell - Joined 03/17/2021
Jeff Carpenter - Joined 03/30/2021
Tracy Childress - Joined 03/02/2021
Jane Collins - Joined 03/08/2021
Michael Conklin - Joined 03/04/2021
Kathleen Flood - Joined 03/17/2021
Donna French - Joined 03/01/2021
Wally Graham - Joined 03/04/2021
Irene Howe - Joined 02/10/2021
Joan O'Dare - Joined 03/26/2021
Geary Shotts - Joined 03/29/2021
John Zervas - Joined 02/02/2021

These members recently renewed:

Diana Beavers
Andy Bienvenu
Anne Bloete
James Dalton
Donna Harpsoe
Annette Leonhard
Brent Mitchell
Richard Stenzhorn
Eleanor Walsh

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)

Nancy Berg - 02/28/2021
Judy Brushingham - 02/28/2021
Georgia Carli - 02/28/2021

Craig Chalkley - 02/28/2021
David Colbert - 02/28/2021
Carol Donovan - 02/28/2021
Phillip Ellis - 03/31/2021
Catherine Fallon - 02/28/2021
Nancy Gipe - 02/28/2021
Pamela Guilmet - 02/28/2021
Jim Hanson - 03/31/2021
Dianna Hinsenkamp - 02/28/2021
Richard Kolb - 02/28/2021
Carolee Litwinka - 02/28/2021
Kenneth McGray - 03/31/2021
Jefferson Mott - 02/28/2021
Daniel T O'Connell - 02/28/2021
Diane Prather - 02/28/2021
Paul Rode - 03/31/2021
Carol Snyder - 02/28/2021
Cynthia Swift - 02/28/2021
Mary Thomas - 03/31/2021

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

Our chapter currently has 341 members.



Golf Humor

A golfer now into his golden years had a lifelong ambition to play the 17th hole at Sawgrass in Ponte Verde Florida exactly the way the pros do it The pros drive the ball out over the water onto the small green that is on a small spit of land It was something he had tried hundreds of times without success His ball had always fallen short into the water Because of this he never used a new ball on this particular hole He always picked out one that had a cut or a nick as did many other average golfers when negotiating very challenging holes Recently he went to Sawgrass to try again When he came to the fateful hole he teed up an old cut ball as usual and said a silent prayer. However before he could hit it a powerful voice from above seemed to be booming out from the clouds saying WAIT REPLACE THAT OLD BALL WITH A BRAND NEW ONE

He complied with some slight misgiving despite the fact that this same force seemed to be implying that he was going to finally achieve his lifelong ambition As he stepped up to the tee once more the voice came down again WAIT STEP BACK TAKE A PRACTICE SWING

So he stepped back and took a practice swing certain now that this heavenly force was going to make his dream come true The voice boomed out again TAKE ANOTHER PRACTICE SWING

Dutifully he did He stopped expectantly and waited A long silence followed Then the voice boomed again: USE THE OLD BALL

After slicing his tee shot into the woods, a golfer heads off in search of his ball, which he finds behind a large tree. After considering his position — and not wanting to take a drop and lose a stroke — he decides to hook the ball around the tree. He swings, the ball hits the tree, ricochets back at him, and instantly kills him.

When he opens his eyes, he sees the Pearly Gates and St. Peter standing before him. "Am I dead?" he asks.

"Yes, my son," replies St. Peter, who looks the man over and notices his clubs.

"I see you're a golfer," St. Peter says.

"Are you any good?"

"Hey, I got here in two, didn't I?"

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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LEGAL STUFF: Read this section in a larger font at SinglesGolf.com/Legal-Stuff

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK: I, the undersigned Applicant (hereinafter referred to as "Releasor"), in consideration of being permitted to participate in golf activities organized or sponsored by ASGA, Inc., d/b/a American Singles Golf Association, a Delaware Corporation, or its affiliate chapters in the United States and Canada, (the "Releasees") and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency is hereby acknowledged, hereby on behalf of myself and my heirs, distributees, guardians, and legal representatives agree to fully indemnify, defend, hold harmless, and not to sue Releasees and/or Releasee's directors, officers, employees, agents, and affiliates from and on account of any and all past, present, and future claims, debts, causes of action, damages, personal injuries, wrongful deaths, property loss, and property damage (including attorney's fees and costs relative thereto), whether due or not, direct or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, latent or patent, known or unknown, which in any way concern or relate to any act or omission of Releasees. Except in the event of any gross and willful negligence, I shall bring no claims, demands, actions and causes of action, and/or litigation, against Releasees for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, property damage, sustained by me in relation to the premises and operations of the golf course, including riding on golf carts or playing the game of golf. I am aware that participation in and/or observance of the golf activities and/or other activities sponsored by Releasees is or may be an inherently dangerous activity and may have health-related risks, and agree that I am voluntarily participating in and/or observing such activities with full knowledge of all dangers and risks involved. In addition, I hereby expressly assume all risks of injury, death, property loss, property damage, and other loss and damage which may occur relative to my participation in and/or observance of such activities. I understand and agree that this Release includes any and all claims based on the past, present and future ordinary negligence, action, and/or inaction of Releasees and/or Releasee's directors, officers, employees, agents, and affiliates. I acknowledge that I have read this Release, have been fully and completely advised of the potential dangers incidental and inherent to the participation in and/or observance of the activities organized and/or sponsored by Releasees, and am fully aware of the legal consequences of signing the Application Form acknowledging this Release. I agree that this Release, waiver and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of my residency, and that if any portion of this Release is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding continue in full force and effect.

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I understand that dues are non-refundable and are subject to change. I agree that all rosters, membership lists, e-mail addresses, or any other information provided to him/her as a result of their membership in ASGA are the property of ASGA and shall not be used for any purpose other than ASGA. I understand that the information provided on the Application for Membership may be reproduced on the chapter's roster and distributed to other ASGA members and published on www.SinglesGolf.com, otherwise, I will note at the bottom of this form if I wish certain information not to be published.

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