



## NIMAGA NOTES – YEAR-END 2018

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### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those who did not attend the Member meeting we have two slots to fill on our 2019 schedule and it will be posted on our Facebook Page and website very soon.

We have two main priorities in 2019 Membership Growth/Retention and Slow Play. Regarding the latter we piloted a concept at Steeple Chase to address the NIMAGA shuffle we found value in those that reported their status at holes 7 and 13. We plan on discussing slow play at our final board meeting but many members like us on the board feel the greatest improvement potentials lie within our members. The Naperbrook, Prairie Bluff and Steeple Chase events all ended with a shortened tournament or groups finishing in the dark. Two of the three were not the fault of NIMAGA they were a result of two high school matches in front of us extending over 5 hours. That in itself shows golf has a problem when our youth does not understand pace of play. Like the PGA and LPGA, our fastest golfers are not always the best golfers. We have golfers in both the Player and Trevino divisions who I consider some of our fastest golfers mostly because they understand and play ready golf. We will in 2019 educate all our members on the concept. For starters we will not accept members writing scores on the green that is for the next tee box or after exiting the green. We will put together a list of practices for all members as we want everyone to at least try so we can for a second straight year reduce the number of slow play penalties.

Regarding membership NIMAGA will be celebrating our 60th year in 2019. Our goal is to attract 60 new members and we need your help. Our members are the best recruiting tool we have so if you know anyone who is remotely interested in testing the waters of amateur tournament golf please send them our way. We are working on changes to improve our retention as well. Last year we implemented an idea from former long-time President Roger Scott and allowed members to request a playing partner for an event. We look to continue this practice and maybe add something to it at the December board meeting.

While many fret our membership numbers it is really our only weakness within the organization. We are solid financially, tournament play has been steady or shown growth the past three years and have found so many members who have stepped up to help us at an event or procuring a course for our schedule. That demonstrates our organization has a great foundation. I wish all of you a great offseason - BE SAFE AND BE WELL!

Frank R. Fiarito

NIMAGA President

## **MEMBER'S ANNUAL MEETING**

Our annual year-end Members Meeting was held on Wednesday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> at White Pines. The agenda was:

Slow play pilot program and slow play discussion

- For the end of 2018 and in 2019, we will be employing a checkpoint process to which will can identify the slow play issues. This will involve members of various foursomes to document their on-course situations regarding the pace-of-play. More details on this will be communicated in NIMAGA Notes in early 2019.
- Members identified tips for speeding up the pace-of-play. An initial list is highlighted in the next section.
- You can contact Frank if you have any questions of have pace-of-play thoughts.

NIMAGA Financials

- Jeff Toth spoke to our NIMAGA financials.
- Our financial status is positive.
- You can contact Jeff if you need more details.

C&GMPT

- Ray Riemer spoke about the 2018 C&GMPT.
- There will be 2 rules that will be implemented for 2019
  - o Eligibility rules will be imposed that will require a C&GMPT participant will need to post (at least) 2 scores AND compete in 1 NIMAGA stroke play event before completing the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the C&GMPT. If a member fails to do so, they will be DQed.
  - o There will be no match play during a NIMAGA stroke play event
  - o The C&GMPT Sign-up and Rules sheet for 2019 will explain this in further detail
- Ray presented the Hogan Division trophy

Handicapping Issues

- Not a lot of discussion of this topic.
- Mark Heinsohn is the contact person for any handicapping questions

Plaque Recycling

- Dan Plens spoke about old plaques can be turned back in for recycling. NIMAGA will receive a small credit for recycled plaques.

Milwaukee Challenge

- Tom O'Brien discussed this tournament.
- Details on the event are presented below

Open Forum

- Brian Alberts fielded questions from NIMAGA members that included slow-play and rule changes for 2019.

- More information about rule changes for 2019 will be available on NIMAGA website and the NIMAGA Notes in the near future.

#### Door Prize Winners

- Free 2019 Membership to Jonathon Tran
- Free C&GMPT entry to Mayur Patel
- Free Par 3 tournament entry to Robert Westburg
- Free MAY Midweek entry to Doug McKirahan
- Free August Classic entry to Roy Robbins
- Free gift cards to PGA Superstore to Jeff Toth, Nick Keay and Frank Fiarito
- Several NIMAGA members received merchandise including golf balls and water bottles

### **LET'S SPEED IT UP**

A major topic from the Annual Members Meeting was maintaining a good pace of play throughout the round. Everyone needs to pick-it-up to reduce the overall time that we are spending on the course. We don't want to be those guys who need 5 ½ hours to finish. Here is a set of tips that we all need to employ to get done faster. There will be more of these communicated throughout the 2019 season.

#### PACE OF PLAY TIPS

- Always keep up with the group ahead of you.
- Turn off those cell phones.
- Without interfering with the others in your group, do as much of your preparation as possible before it is your turn to play.
- Be ready to play when it is your turn. Limit practice swings. From the time you select your club until you actually hit your shot, you should take no more than 20 seconds.
- Shorten that pre-shot routine.
- If you aren't ready to play when it is your turn, encourage one of your fellow players to play.
- Limit your time searching for lost balls. The rules allow you 3 minutes in 2019.
- Carry a spare ball(s) in your pocket so that you do not have to go back to your bag when you need to hit a provisional ball.
- Take more than one club to your next shot if you are going to leave your bag.
- When in doubt, hit a provisional ball. Eliminate the need to go back to where you hit your last shot.
- If your next shot is with your pitching wedge or sand wedge, automatically take your putter with you.
- Leave golf carts at a point beside the green that is in route to the next tee (usually behind the green).
- On the green, begin lining up your putt and reading the break as soon as you reach the green. When it's your turn to putt, be prepared to step right up and take the stroke.
- Don't bother marking lag putts - go ahead and putt out if it's short enough.
- If you are the first in the cup, pick up the flagstick so that you can replace it after the last person has puttied out.

- All players in the group should be aware of clubs that are left around the green. Be sure to alert your foursome to pick up clubs.
- Mark your scorecard at the beginning of the next hole, not on the green.
- Never hold up play because you're in the middle of a conversation. Put the conversation on hold, take your stroke then, continue the conversation.
- Watch your playing partner's ball so that you can help him find it, in case he didn't see it during the hit.
- Wave up groups on par 3s when appropriate.
- If you are riding in a cart, hold onto the club and return to your seat in the cart. Then, put that club back when they go to pull the club(s) for their next shot. It even works when leaving a green - take the putter with you and put it away on the next tee.

## **MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE**

A repeat from last year, NIMAGA gets beat, again! On Saturday, September 22, 2018, NIMAGA members headed north to Bristol Oaks Golf Course to play in a 43 year old match play tournament against members of the Milwaukee County Public Links Association (MCPLA). The Bristol Oaks Golf Course was where the inaugural match took place in 1976. A NIMAGA member is paired against a MCPLA member in a three point match, one point for the front, one point for the back and one for the total. NIMAGA has failed to beat MCPLA the past eight years. This year, NIMAGA lost by a score of 59 1/2 to 36 1/2. The current standings are NIMAGA with 20 wins, MCPLA with 20 wins, and the match was halved three times. These matches are always filled with a level of competition that is also combined with sportsmanship and friendly matches. The competitors finish the day with a dinner and a time to get a chance to discuss the day's competition. For the many NIMAGA members who have returned often comment on the friends they have made and look forward to returning each year to re-connect and reminisce about previous matches. If you missed this year's tournament please consider playing next year and plan on helping NIMAGA regain the "CUP". Congratulations to the following NIMAGA members that scored 2 ½ points or more in their respective match: James Dubay, Joe Nagy, Nick Orlando, Dennis Samoska, Roger Scott, and Jeff Toth.

The full results can be found on the NIMAGA webpage.

Thanks to Tom O'Brien (our NIMAGA Milwaukee Challenge point person) for all of his coordination efforts.

## **C&G MATCH PLAY TOURNAMENT**

The final matches of the **2018 C&GMPT** were played on Friday, Sept 28th at The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison. The four finalists earned their way to the Finals this day by winning their previous four matches, and the right to compete for their respective Division's Championship on this beautiful and demanding golf course. This was a stiff test of golf with the Hogan division going off of the blue tees (134 slope) while the Jones division played from a black/blue hybrid tees (136 slope). To further add to the difficulty, the weather turned on us with frequent light rain and temperatures hovering in the low 50s.

In the Hogan Division, **Sal Lombardi, Sr.**, playing in his first MPT Finals, beat **Ray Riemer** (also in his first final match) to the tune of 5&4. Sal went 2 up in the first 4 holes and Ray never recovered as the weather worsened. Sal was relentless and played great throughout, stretching the lead on the back nine and finishing off Ray with a 22 foot putt on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole to seal the deal. Ray knew it would be a test based on the handicap differential but in the end, it was Sal's consistent play that was the determining factor. **Terry Boksha** was the playing marshal for this group. Many thanks to Terry for enduring the wet and cold conditions.

The Jones Division match was a much tighter affair, with **Ron Potocnik** battling **Mayur Patel** to extra holes before winning in 19 holes. The match seesawed throughout with each man holding hole advantages yet battling back to force it to 19 holes. Mayur was down 2 after 15, yet managed to win 16 & 17 to draw the match to even. But Ron prevailed on the first extra hole to take the title. This was Ron and Mayur's first time participating in Match Play and they took it to the limit. Mayur even overcame a defeat in round 1 but re-entered and made it to the finals. **Tim Jordan** was their playing marshal. Thanks, Tim!

One last thanks to the handful of NIMAGA reps who accompanied the final event.

Congratulations to **Sal Lombardi, Sr.** and **Ron Potocnik** for an outstanding tournament! They will each be rewarded with a \$172 NIMAGA Certificate, Championship plaque, and received the gratis round of golf at Oak Meadows, and a qualification for the NPC. For finishing in second place, **Ray Riemer** and **Mayur Patel** each will receive a \$112 NIMAGA Certificate, and also an NPC qualification.

The C&GMPT prize payouts were:

Mike Lyman	Jones Division	Q finals	\$28.00
Jonathon Tran	Jones Division	Q finals	\$28.00
Frank Fiarito	Jones Division	Q finals	\$28.00
James Dubay	Jones Division	Q finals	\$28.00
Mario Conte	Jones Division	Semi finals	\$65.00
Stan Hilty	Jones Division	Semi finals	\$65.00
Mayur Patel	Jones Division	Runner-up	\$112.00
Ron Potocnik	Jones Division	Champion	\$172.00
Ken Koranda	Hogan Division	Q finals	\$28.00
George Zdarsky	Hogan Division	Q finals	\$28.00
Micheal Wolfe	Hogan Division	Q finals	\$28.00
Dave Martinek	Hogan Division	Q finals	\$28.00
Dennis Samoska	Hogan Division	Semi finals	\$65.00
Jim Kotula	Hogan Division	Semi finals	\$65.00
Ray Riemer	Hogan Division	Runner-up	\$112.00
Sal Lombardi, Sr	Hogan Division	Champion	\$172.00

As most of you know, this is the first year that this tournament is under new management. I want to thank George Zdarsky and Carl Movrich for trusting me with their tournament that they started in 2008. To that end, the tournament was renamed to withhold that legacy. I hope that myself and the new governing body has done them proud.

Thanks to all who participated in this year's event and we hope you will enroll for next year.

Ray Riemer  
Tim Jordan  
Terry Boksha

## **NIMAGA ACCOLADES**



on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tim Jordan made his 5<sup>th</sup> ace at Old Wayne's 165 yd 17<sup>th</sup> hole (6 iron)

## **RULE CHANGES FOR 2019**

The rules are changing for 2019 and the NIMAGA Board is actively addressing how to best communicate the rules changes to the membership. The Board will be discussing this in future meetings and we will summarize and highlight the rule changes on the website, NIMAGA Notes and through the use of 2019 rule change cheat sheets (we are exploring this one). So, for now, check out a summary of the rule changes below (from GolfWorld Magazine) and keep your eye open for more on this topic from the NIMAGA Board.

The new, modernized Rules of Golf have been [finalized and released](#) by the USGA and R&A, and will go into effect at the beginning of 2019. Though the general premise for this update was to clarify the sport's notorious ambiguity around its guidelines, let's be honest: rules language can still be hard to process. Luckily for you, we have everything you need to know about the new Rules of Golf right here.

### **The number of rules has considerably shrunk**

In order to streamline and simplify the sport's regulations, there are now 24 rules, down from 34.

### **There were tweaks from the initial modernized proposal that was released in 2017**

Four, to be exact. After the first draft was submitted to the public, the governing bodies took feedback from the golf community. The alterations are a response to what they heard.

### **One change is designed specifically for the recreational golfer**

Regarding out of bounds or a lost ball. Instead of stroke and distance, a new local rule allows the option of dropping a ball in the vicinity of where the original was lost or out of bounds, including the nearest fairway area, with a two-stroke penalty. Basically, if you blow your first drive into the woods, you no longer have to hit your third from the tee box. Instead, you can play your *fourth* from the fairway—basically, the best case scenario (save for a hole-in-three) with your third shot. This was done to help pace of pace.

This rule will not be in play at the professional level, or other elite competitions.

### **Another tweak: The height of your drop**

Although the initial proposal had a player taking a drop from any length above two inches from the ground, the new rule stipulates drop be taken from knee height, still a significant change from the current shoulder level.

### **There's also no longer a penalty for a double-chip**

Somewhere, T.C. Chen is smiling. Golfers will now just count the hit as one stroke.

### **Club-length, not inches, will be the measurement for relief**

One of the March 2017 proposals called for either a 20-inch or 80-inch standard, but golfers responded by saying "How are we going to actually measure that?" The governing bodies agreed, going back to club lengths instead.

### **Aside from the tweaks, other proposals in the first draft from March 2017 will be implemented**

These touch on six main areas: ball-moved penalties, relaxed putting-green rules, relaxed rules for water hazards, pace of play, player integrity and rules in the bunker.

The big takeaways from this are:

### **No more penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the green**

You are still penalized, however, if it is "virtually certain" you caused it to move on purpose.

### **You can putt with the flagstick in**

Not only has the penalty for putting to an unattended flag been eliminated, you can go at it without having it removed at all.

### **You can repair all the damn spike marks your heart desires**

As well as repair animal or other damage on the green.

### **Another penalty removed: touching the line of the putt**

However, caddies are not allowed to stand behind or serve as an extension of the line.

### **You can now move impediments in bunkers and water hazards**

There's also no penalty for touching the ground or water in a penalty area. In the sand, however, you cannot ground the club right *next* to the ball.

However, if you're "generally" touching the sand with the club, that's OK.

### **An extra relief option has been added for an unplayable ball in a bunker**

Yep, more good news for those that struggle in the sand. You can play the ball to be outside the sand with a two-stroke penalty.

### **The Rules also give your integrity some latitude**

A player is given "reasonable judgement" when estimating or measuring a spot, point, line, area or distance. Your placement will be upheld, even if video evidence later shows it wasn't in the exact right spot.

### **You also are no longer required to announce when you are lifting a ball to identify or see if it's damaged**

The new Rules are really trusting you on this, buddy. Don't blow their faith in you.

### **You're no longer allowed five minutes to look for a lost ball**

Your search party now has three minutes. Let's be honest, you weren't going to find it in five, anyway.

### **And a player can take no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke**

A change made to help speed of pace of play, although admittedly this one could be a tad hard to enforce at the amateur ranks.

## **CALL TO ALL MEMBERS**

Just because the 2018 NIMAGA season is over, that is no reason to stop recruiting your family and friends to join this organization. We all need to be advocates for NIMAGA and promote it whenever possible. NIMAGA is an organization run by volunteers. We all have a stake in keeping NIMAGA alive and flourishing. If you know someone who may be interested in tournament golf, let them know about your experience in NIMAGA. The more members we have, the more beneficial it is to everyone.

## **NIMAGA MARKETPLACE**

A few members expressed interest in using the NIMAGA Notes as a place to post used equipment (for sale) as well as golf discounts. If you have any of these items that you would like to publicize, shoot me an email and I will include them in future NIMAGA Notes.

## **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

### **AUGUST CLASSIC – 08/12/2018 (CORRECTION)**

OLD ORCHARD

#### **Palmer Division**

Gross Dave Minor

Net Perry Variano (not Tom O'Brien as previously reported)

#### **Player Division**

Gross Robert Yedinak

Net Dan Plens (won in a playoff)

#### **Trevino Division**

Gross Doug McKirahan

Net Sean Harling

### **AUGUST MIDWEEK – 08/15/2018**

VILLAGE GREENS OF WOODRIDGE

#### **Low Division**

Gross Kirk Blakely

Net Dick Freund

#### **High Division**

Gross Dan Dorr

Net Doug McKirahan

### **PATRIOTS DAY CLASSIC – 08/15/2018**

VILLAGE GREENS OF WOODRIDGE

#### **Palmer Division**

Gross Michael Henry

Net Brandon Rowatt

#### **Player Division**

Gross John Francel

Net Frank Fiarito

Trevino Division

Gross Sean Harling

Net Wes Stinich

**NIMAGA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP – 09/15 & 9/16/2018**

NAPERBROOK

One Division

Gross Jim Murrow

Net Robert Yedniak

**MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE – 09/22/2018**

BRISTOL OAKS

MCPLA 59.5

NIMAGA 36.5

**C&GMPT FINALS – 09/28/2018**

PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

Jones Division

1<sup>st</sup> Ron Potocnik

Runner-up Mayur Patel

Hogan Division

1<sup>st</sup> Sal Lombardi, Sr

Runner-up Ray Riemer

**2 MAN BETTER BALL - 10/07/2018**

STEEPLECHASE GC

Low Division

Gross Mike Lyman, Jeff Lyman

Net Joe McKas, Dave Dianovsky

High Division

Gross Roy Robbins, Doug Peters

Net Wayne Richards, William Schultz

## **2019 SCHEDULE**

PLEASE NOTE THAT A COUPLE OF VENUES ARE STILL BEING FINALIZED

### **REGULAR EVENTS**

Sat, 4/6	Spring Thaw	Cog Hill #1 Cog Hill #2 Cog Hill #3	Trevino Palmer Player
Sat, 5/4	May Jamboree	Randall Oaks Whisper Creek	Palmer & Trevino Player
Sun, 6/2	Summer Classic	Springbrook Links of Carillon	Palmer & Player Trevino
Sat, 7/20	Club Champ.	??????????? & Bartlett Hills (course being determined)	
Sun, 7/21	Club Champ.	??????????? & Bartlett Hills (course being determined)	
Sun, 8/4	August Classic	Heritage Bluffs	
Sat, 9/7	Patriots Day	Whisper Creek Sunset Valley	Palmer & Trevino Player (tentative)
Sun, 10/6	2 Man Better Ball	Broken Arrow Prairie Landing	High Low

### **MIDWEEK/SPECIAL EVENTS**

Sun, 3/31	C&GMPT	Various	64 entrants
Tues, 4/23	April Midweek	Pine Meadow	
Sun, 4/28	Inaugural Par 3	Lake Park GC	
Tues, 5/14	May Midweek	Village Links of Glen Ellyn	
Mon, 6/17	June Midweek	Bowes Creek	
Thu, 6/27	Senior Open (over 50)	St Andrews #1	
Tues, 7/11	July Midweek	Steeple Chase GC	
Mon, 8/19	August Midweek	Turnberry CC	

**QUALIFYING EVENTS**

Sun, 5/19      NIMAGA Cup      Bonnie Brook GC

Sat, 9/14      NPC      Pinecrest GC

Sun, 9/15      NPC      Pinecrest GC

Sat, 9/21      Milwaukee Challenge      Bristol Oaks