

Date: February 16, 2013

To: DGA Members

Subject: 2013 Rule Changes

The Winter Meeting was held on January 26, 2013 at South Side Grille. The DGA has 34 Active and 8 LifeTime Members. 30 of the 34 Active Members attended the meeting. 30 Attendees had Voting Privileges by playing five (5) or more rounds in 2012. 20 votes were needed to pass any Rule Changes.

The following Proposals were submitted for consideration prior to or at the Winter Meeting:

**1. Place Ball in Flooded Bunkers (Proposed By Mark Schuler)**

In our DGA rules package loose impediments ie;stones can be removed, I propose that when there is casual water in the traps and we have to stay within the confines of said trap that we may place the ball rather than drop it.

**Reasoning:** When bunkers are flooded, ball will most likely imbed in the wet sand causing a more difficult and unreasonable shot. Placing the ball will give the player a chance to play a reasonable shot from the bunker.

- If passed, this Rule would be added as **Rule 18** in **Section X – DGA Official Handicap Dates and Playing Rules.**

**Result – Proposal did not pass**

**2. Proposal for Distance Measuring Devices (DMDs) (Proposed by: Doug Conway)**

I propose that we allow the use of Distance Measuring Devices and they should be used for distance measuring ONLY, and not for reporting wind speed and other weather conditions, slope of the ground or other factors.

If using a measuring application on a smart phone, there must be no other features/apps in use on that device such as weather, compass, green reading, slope measuring, etc...

Sharing of knowledge is allowed but COMMON SENSE IS TO BE USED. If not everyone has a device, others may ask for distances but not in such a way to slow pace of play. Example, if you are without a device and far from the group (or player with such device) like in another fairway, then to keep the group moving forward, the player with the measuring device DOES NOT have to come to you. Just as we do now, the player off the fairway (being played) can ask for a rough estimate in

comparison to where the group is. Example, currently we yell over to a player in the fairway and ask him to point out the 200 or 150 or 100 marker.

**Reasoning:** Distance Measuring Devices, when used effectively, can speed up play especially on courses that we are not familiar with or for shots played from unusual places on the course. These devices can provide the player with distance information that could allow for better club selection. The USGA does allow Local Clubs to decide if and when DMDs can be used.

- If passed, this Rule would replace **Rule 16** in **Section X – DGA Official Handicap Dates and Playing Rules**

**Result – Proposal passed with 20 votes. Section X DGA Official Handicap Dates and Playing Rules Item 16 has been changed as follows:**

**16. Per the USGA Ruling that Local Clubs can allow the use of Distance Measuring Devices (DMDs) as a Local Rule, members will be allowed to purchase and use DMDs during DGA rounds. The DMDs may be used for distance measuring ONLY. If using a measuring application on a smart phone, there must be no other features/apps in use on that device such as weather, compass, green reading, slope measuring etc. Sharing of knowledge is allowed but COMMON SENSE IS TO BE USED. If not everyone has a device, others may ask for distances but not in such a way to slow pace of play. Example, if you are without a device and far from the group (or player with such device) like in another fairway, then to keep the group moving forward, the player with the measuring device DOES NOT have to come to you. Just as we do now, the player off the fairway (being played) can ask for a rough estimate in comparison to where the group is. Example, currently we yell over to a player in the fairway and ask him to point out the 200 or 150 or 100 marker.**

### **3. Proposal for Gross and Net Par 3 Pots (Proposed by Doug Conway)**

I propose that we add two \$.50 pots to the normal DGA round. These Pots would be for Gross and Net Par 3 Accumulated Scores. Payouts would be 60% for 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$.30 per player) and 40% for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$.20 per player) for each of the Gross and Net Par 3 Pots.

**Reasoning:** We already have these competitions when we play in Myrtle Beach and Tampa. They are not hard to calculate and will only add \$1 to the maximum loss during a DGA round. The Gross Par 3 Pot would favor the lower handicap players because they usual score lower on Par 3's. The Net Par 3 Pot would favor the higher handicap players because they receive 1 – 2 handicap shots on Par 3's.

- If passed, these Pots would be added into Section V – DGA Pots/Nassaus and would alter 1. Individual Hole Categories to list the two \$.50 Pots in A. Cost, C. Determination of Winner and D. The Categories.

**Result – Proposal passed with more than 20 votes. Section V (DGA Pots/Nassuas has been changed as follows:**

**V. DGA Pots/Nassaus**

**1. Individual Hole Categories:**

These categories will be treated as "pots".

**A. Cost: \$6.00 (\$1.00 for the Regular Birdies, Net Birdies, Net Eagles, Greenies and Sandys Pots. \$.50 for the Gross Par 3 and Net Par 3 Pots).**

**B. Entry into pots is mandatory if you play DGA.**

**C. Determination of the winner for the Regular Birdies, Net Birdies, Net Eagles, Greenies and Sandys Pots .**

1. Most in a particular category determines the winner.
2. Winner takes all.
3. If no winner in a category, nobody pays.

**Determination of the winner for the Gross Par 3 and Net Par 3 Pots:**

1. **Lowest Total Gross Score on the Par 3 Holes. 1<sup>st</sup> Place pays 60% of the total pot and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place pays 40% of the total based on the Gross and Net Par 3 Chart**
2. **Lowest Total Net Score on the Par 3 Holes. 1<sup>st</sup> Place pays 60% of the total pot and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place pays 40% of the total based on the Gross and Net Par 3 Chart**
3. **These 2 Pots (Gross and Net Par 3) act like the 9 hole Nassau...with 1 exception:**
  - **Ties for 1st split the money evenly to the nearest nickel just like the 9 hole Nassau**
  - **If there is a tie for 1st, no 2nd place money is paid....it is all combined into the 1st place payoff**
  - **If there are 3 or more people who tie for 1st, you need to calculate how much money the remaining players pay in and divide that among the winners**
  - **If there are 2 or more people who tie for 2nd, pay the 1st place winner their full amount and then calculate how much**

is left and divide among the 2nd place ties, even if it is a negative amount.

- If the result is less than \$.05 for a pot winner or 2nd place winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will get zero

**4. The exception is that 1st and 2nd places get paid no matter how many players there are**

D. The categories:

1. Regular Birdies
2. Net Birdies
3. Net Eagles
4. Greenies - This is the number of greens hit in one, regardless of how close. You lose credit for the greenie if you score a bogie or higher.
5. Sandys - To earn credit for a Sandy, you must get out of a sand trap; then hole out in one or less strokes; and have a score of net par or better for the hole. 2 sandys will be credited for holing out of the trap for net par or better. A Maximum of 2 Sandys will be credited on any hole.
6. **Gross Par 3 – Lowest and 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest total gross score on the Par 3s**
7. **Net Par 3 – Lowest and 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest total net score on the Par 3's**

**4. Notice of Change to GHIN Handicapping Fee for 2013 (Writtem by John DeSimone) – No Vote Required.**

The DGA Dues will increase from \$71 to \$73. \$50 is the DGA Dues and \$23 is the GHIN Handicapping Fee.

**Reasoning:** The USGA is increasing the GHIN Handicap Fee by \$2 to \$23 per golfer for 2013. We need to increase the DGA Dues to match that increase.

- Section VIII – Membership Fees, Rule 5 will be changed to reflect the increase.

**5. Proposal to Play Stableford Format during December, January and February (Proposed by Jim Rinaldi) – Not Proposed at Winter Meeting**

When the handicap season ends and DGA plays, we continue to play stroke play. I propose we use the Stableford scoring system as described below during the months of December, January and February.

Net Double Bogey ----0 points  
Net Bogey-----1 point  
Net Par-----2 points  
Net Birdie-----3 points  
Net Eagle-----4 points  
Net Albatross-----5 points

**Reasoning:**

1. Since the handicaps do not change in the off season picking up when you get to net double bogey will have no effect on anyone's handicap.
2. It would speed up play when you get to net double bogey or if you have no chance of getting a net double bogey you pick up.
3. Because the courses are not in great shape in the winter months and the weather is marginal why do we want to torture ourselves with finishing a hole when there is an alternative scoring system that would make playing in the off season more enjoyable?
4. As you can see by the attached sample score card the scoring is easy to do and it works out very similar to stroke play.
5. If accepted I propose we would begin using the Stableford system immediately.

**6. Proposal that Lost Balls due to wet/plugged situations allow for a free drop (Proposed by Shane DeLeon)**

As professionals do not have to deal with matters like this as they have spotters, I propose in situations where the ball has clearly landed in an area where there are no hazards/trees/weeds and it is unanimously agreed upon by the group that the ball, but for the wet situation would be obvious and is lost solely due to it being plugged, the person affected will be allowed a free drop of a new ball in that area. This will speed up play dramatically in situations like this as the five minute search for the plugged ball (or 25 minutes in the case of a Dave Perry shot) can be avoided. Again, it would have to be unanimous in the group that the sole reason the ball cannot be located is due to a plugged situation due to wet conditions (no hazard/tree/gopher hole/weed situations that could have caused the issue)

**Reasoning:** In very wet conditions, it is sometimes impossible to locate a ball that the group is sure has plugged. It is unfair to penalize the player two shots when the ball cannot be located and the group agrees that it should have been in a certain area if it hadn't plugged.

- If passed, this Rule would be added as **Rule 18 in Section X – DGA Official Handicap Dates and Playing Rules**

**Result – Thanks to research done by Tom McColgan (Lifetime Member) prior to the Winter Meeting, it was determined that this situation is covered by the Rules of Golf – Rule 25-1c (Ball Not Found in Abnormal Ground Conditions. A copy of this rule has been included in the DGA Rules Package for reference by the members.**

**7. Proposal to Revise the World Series Points system based on number of participants (Proposed by John Rutigliano)**

Award World Series points based on the number of players participating in a round. The following points will be awarded:

# of Players	WS Points
8	2
9-12	3
13-16	4
17-20	5
21 and Above	6

**Reasoning:** This point system will put more value on rounds with higher number of players. Most of those rounds are played on the weekend when more players are available to play.

**Additional Analysis to Support Proposal:**

During the World Series season there were 50 rounds and here is the breakdown of the number of rounds in each category:

# of Players	# of Rounds
Below 8	1
8	2
9-12	17
13-16	6
17-20	9
21 and Above	15

Here is a breakdown of rounds played per day:

Day of the Week	# of Rounds
Tues	3
Wed	23
Thurs	1
Sat	23

The lowest number of players on a Wednesday was 7 the highest was 16. The lowest number of players on a Saturday was 18 and the highest was 31.

Below the left hand side of the chart shows last year's final WS Points distribution of the top seven players of which only Dave Perry was the only player eligible for the World Series. On the right hand side of the chart it shows the WS Points distribution if the revised points system was in place last year.

As you can see Shane DeLeon would have won the World Series Points title. Shane had more wins when there was greater number of players present. This illustration shows the impact of a revised points system and the value of winning when more players are present.

2012 WS Pts		2012 WS Pts w/Revised Pts System	
Perry, D.	30	DeLeon	22
DeLeon	26	Perry, D.	18
Rinaldi	21	Rinaldi	15
Price	20	Price	15
Ceglia, Jr.	12	Cavallo	9
Keller, G	12	Keller, G	9
Cavallo	12	Ceglia, Jr.	6

- **If passed: Section XIV – World Series of DGA** will be rewritten to reflect the new Points System

**Result – Proposal was passed with more than 20 votes.**