

2021 DGA Winter Meeting Summary

January 30, 2021

The 2021 DGA Winter Meeting was held on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 3pm. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the meeting was held via Zoom. Thanks to Ron Emma for providing the session on Zoom.

As of January 23, 2021, the DGA had 34 Active Members and 5 Lifetime Members. 2 Active Members were in danger of losing their membership because they were not able to meet the Rounds Requirement in 2020 due to the pandemic. A special waiver was included in Proposals 1 and 2 to allow any members who did not meet or might not meet the Round Requirement using the 2020 Round Counts would continue their membership in 2021. These proposals were passed as a 1 year waiver.

21 Active Members attended the Winter Meeting which meant that 14 votes were needed to pass any proposals (2/3 of the attendees).

At the start of the meeting, John Desimone (Treasurer) summarized the current status of 2020 Loss collections and a reminder that 2020 Losses needed to be paid ASAP and 2021 Fees (GHIN, 50-50 and County Cards) need to be paid by April, 1, 2021. John mentioned that the DGA Dues component was being waived in 2021 because the Treasury did not spend much money in 2020 and the DGA Bank Account has a large surplus.

My THANKS to John Desimone for taking notes concerning the discussions and voting results.

Doug Conway

DGA Secretary

DGA Winter Meeting 2021 – Proposals

PROPOSAL #2021 – 1

I propose that the DGA waive the minimum of 5 rounds played in the previous year (2020) in order to vote at the Winter Meeting. Assuming that things improve in 2021, we can reinstate this requirement in 2022. (Proposed by John Desimone)

Further Information: The pandemic caused Somerset County to limit tee times and group sizes for 6 weeks in April and May. Also, out of state members would have been required to quarantine for 2 weeks if they visited New Jersey. In addition, special events such as the Fall Classic had to be canceled due to travel and quarantine restrictions. Affected members could be:

- Celia Sr. – 0 rounds played in 2020
- Conway – 1 round played in 2020
- Wolters – 0 rounds played in 2020

Summary – No discussion, accepted as is.

Seconded by: Ron Emma

Result: Passed

Change included in Rules Package Section I.3

PROPOSAL #2021 – 2

I propose that the DGA waive the 10 rounds in 1 year or 15 rounds over 2 years requirement in 2021 due to the pandemic. Assuming that things improve in 2021, we can reinstate the requirement in 2022 and count 2019 and 2021 rounds as the basis for membership. (Proposed by John Desimone).

Further Information: The pandemic caused Somerset County to limit tee times and group sizes for 6 weeks in April and May. Also, out of state members would have been required to quarantine for 2 weeks if they visited New Jersey. In addition, special events such as the Fall Classic had to be canceled due to travel and quarantine restrictions. Affected members could be:

		2020	2019	Total	Without 2021 Waiver
Ceglia, Sr	3484547	0	11	11	Must play 15 rounds in 2021
Conway	3348644	1	8	9	Loses Active Membership
Keller, A.	2337309	9	13	22	Must play 6 rounds in 2021
Smith	5792663	8	10	18	Must play 7 rounds in 2021
Wolters	5792661	0	6	6	Loses Active Membership

With the 2021 Waiver:

			2020		2019		Total		With 2021 Waiver
Ceglia, Sr	3484547		0		11		11		Must play 4 rounds in 2021
Conway	3348644		1		8		9		Must play 7 rounds in 2021
Keller, A.	2337309		9		13		22		Must play 2 rounds in 2021
Smith	5792663		8		10		18		Must play 5 rounds in 2021
Wolters	5792661		0		6		6		Must play 9 rounds in 2021

Summary – Brief discussion to review the 15 rounds over two years requirement.

Seconded by: Dave Perry

Result: Passed

Change included in Rules Package Section II.11

PROPOSAL #2021-3

I propose that the date for the Winter Meeting be changed to mid-December (Proposed by Greg Cavallo)

Further Information: As the DGA membership grows older, some members spend their winters in warmer climates. Therefore, if the meeting is moved to a date before Christmas, most members will be able to attend the meeting in New Jersey.

Summary – Good discussion that evolved and attending members to creative license and revised proposal to move meeting to 1st Saturday of March, and continue to have meeting in person but also look into adding virtual attendance option (e.g. Zoom). The revised proposal also stipulates that prior year playing losses would be due by January 20th, and current year dues can be paid at any time up through the current April 1st, no pay no play rule. The revisions were a collaborative effort primarily driven by Ron Emma, Dave Perry, John Rutigliano and John DeSimone

Seconded by: Doug Conway

Result: Passed

Change included in Rules Package Section I.2

PROPOSAL #2021-4

I propose that the DGA Winter Meeting produce and accept Absentee Ballots from Active Members who cannot attend the Winter Meeting in person (Proposed by Greg Cavallo)

Further Information: If an Active Member cannot attend the Winter Meeting, they lose their opportunity to vote on changes to the Rules Package. If Absentee Ballots were allowed, their vote could be counted. Absentee Ballots would increase the participation in DGA Rules. I realize that allowing Absentee Ballots will require changes to the Proposal Submission Schedule and Process. Proposals would have to be submitted 10 days before the DGA Winter Meeting, the Secretary would have to send the Proposals to the Membership 7 days before the DGA Winter Meeting and anyone submitting an Absentee Ballot would have to return their Ballot 24 hours before the start of the Winter Meeting so that the Secretary would have time to tabulate the results.

Summary – Good discussion, membership agreed too many moving parts given that so many proposals have a lot of discussion and proposals are altered along the way. One reason given was that an absentee vote could only be counted if the proposal did not raise any questions and thus was altered in anyway. Second, given the discussion that the winter meeting is being moved to March and that a virtual component may be added to the session, there wasn't as high of a need to allow absentee ballots.

Seconded by: Doug Conway

Result: Did Not Pass

PROPOSAL #2021-5

**I propose that the option to take Lifetime Membership includes anyone inducted into the DGA Hall of Fame.
(Proposed by Doug Conway)**

Further Information: Currently, DGA Members are eligible to take the Lifetime Membership option after 30 years in the DGA. Members are eligible for consideration into the DGA Hall of Fame after 25 years of membership. I believe that once a DGA member is inducted into the DGA Hall of Fame they should be immediately eligible to take the Lifetime Membership option so that they are not forced out of the club due to not meeting the # of Rounds requirement between years 25 -30. It would be a shame to lose a member who dedicated 25 or more years to the club and were inducted into the DGA Hall of Fame because they did not play 10 rounds in 1 year or 15 rounds over 2 years.

Summary – Good discussion resulted in a slight adjustment to initial proposal. Current reasoning/dialog is that at least 1 member could be impacted by the current rules (25 years HOF and 30 for Lifetime). Result of vote is to allow anyone who achieves the HOF at years 25-30 and has played at minimum of 750 DGA rounds would be eligible to take Lifetime status.

Also, the HOF committee is working on updating their voting criteria and will publish an updated document in the future. This info. can also be added to the overall DGA Rules package.

Seconded by: Dave Perry

Result: Passed

Change included in Rules Package Section II.2

PROPOSAL #2021-6

I propose that Eagles pay \$5 per member playing the round when the Eagle is made. (Proposed by Ron Ceglia Sr.)

Further Information: Making an Eagle is an important accomplishment and should be rewarded more than the current \$3 per member who is playing when the Eagle is made.

Summary –a few “not this again” comments but no discussion needed.

Seconded by: Ron Emma (just to move things along)

Result: Did Not Pass

PROPOSAL #2021-6A (to be presented IF #2021-6 does not pass)

I propose that Eagles pay \$3 from every Active Member similar to Hole-In-One and Double Eagle. (Proposed by Ron Ceglia Sr.)

Further Information: Making an Eagle is an important accomplishment and should be rewarded more than the current \$3 per member who is playing when the Eagle is made.

Summary –a few “not this again” comments but no discussion needed.

Seconded by: Ron Emma (just to move things along)

Result: Did Not Pass

PROPOSAL #2021 – 7

I propose that Members have the **OPTION of playing the Senior Tees if their Handicap Index + Age is equal to or greater than 90. (Proposed by Jim Rinaldi and Doug Conway)**

Further Information: . If you move up your handicap for the round will be calculated from the Senior tee Slope and Course Rating. This option would be available each round as long as you continue to meet the criteria. As we all get a little older and don’t hit the ball quite as far this proposal gives us all a option to make the game a little more enjoyable. This option is fully acceptable in the World Handicap System and the DGA Calculator can be revised to calculate the Regular Men’s Tee and Senior Tee Handicaps for the players who are eligible. A sample Tee Sheet for Quail Brook would look like this:

1/31/2021		Quail Brook				69.3/128/72	65.4/114/72	
Time		Players		M/PM/PQR	Index	Blue Tee	Silver Tee	Captain
						HDCP	HDCP	
		Babetski			17.9	18		
		Conway			11.5	10		
		Fitzgerald			30.8	32	24	
		Grote			16.7	16		
		Keller, G.			16.1	16	10	
		Minutello			24.4	25	18	
		Nolan			21.6	22	15	
		Thiry, F.			26.6	27	20	
		Thiry, L.			31.7	33	25	

For Spooky Brook, the difference in calculated handicaps is less because the Silver Tee Slope and Course Rating is closer to the Blue Tee Slope and Course Rating:

1/31/2021		Spooky Brook				69.7/121/72	68.1/119/72	
Time		Players		M/PM/PQR	Index	Blue Tee	Silver Tee	Captain

	Playing	M/PM	Index	HDCP	HDCP
	Babetski		17.9	17	
	Conway		11.5	10	
	Fitzgerald		30.8	31	29
	Grote		16.7	16	
	Keller, G.		16.1	15	13
	Minutello		24.4	24	22
	Nolan		21.6	21	19
	Thiry, F.		26.6	26	24
	Thiry, L.		31.7	32	29

Summary – Good discussion including further clarifications and impact on the tee time / results calculator file, and the process for declaring which tee the player is choosing to play from on each given day. There are approximately 7 or 8 guys (maybe more) that are eligible to play from the “senior tees”. With player’s handicap index being updated after every round, the DGA calculator file would have to store each member’s age and birthday. Further, the eligible players will declare which tee he is playing from at the 1st tee and the gross and net scorekeepers for each group will have to properly mark which tee was played thus ensuring that the proper handicap was used for the round.

Seconded by: Frank Thiry

Result: Passed, with stipulation that the tee time / results calculator can be adjusted properly.

Changes included in Rules Package Section XI.14 and XI.15

PROPOSAL #2021-8

I propose that the Rules Committee be renamed “Rules and Competition Committee” to deal with Playing Rules Questions and Decisions, Golf Etiquette and Behavioral Issues and Adjudicate Scoring Errors on scorecards. Even though we have rules in place that state the Members must verify scores and pots, there are frequent and repeated errors submitted to the scorekeeper. This Rules and Competition Committee would have the power to apply penalties, suspensions, or disqualifications. (Proposed by Bruce Rapp, Mike Jeffries and Doug Conway)

Further Information:

RULES AND COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The founding members of the DGA formed the league and it continues to exist for the purpose of promoting and fostering the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions and to develop a spirit of fellowship among the participants of the Duffers Golf Association Golf League. The continued success of the league is not possible without adherence and respect for the rules of golf and a code of conduct. To this end ...

- A. **The Rules and Competition Committee** shall promote the activities of the league as outlined in this Rules Package.
- B. **Member Responsibilities** - It is the responsibility of ALL league members to be sure that these policies are adhered to within your foursome. Violations should be reported to the Rules and Competition Committee upon completion of the round and will be addressed before the results are published.
- C. **Adherence to the Rules of Golf** – *(Current wording for Rules Committee Decisions taken from DGA Rules Package). If there is a dispute within a group and there is not unanimous agreement on the resolution of the*

issue, the player must play 2 balls for the remainder of the hole in question. Both scores should be entered for the hole on the scorecard. The issue must be brought to the attention of the Rules Committee Members and/or Alternates at the end of the round. The player(s) submitting the issue should mark "APPEAL" on the scorecard. The members of the group must sign the scorecard marked with "APPEAL". The Rules Committee Members and/or Alternates will listen to the issue/scenario and will use whatever resources are available to them (i.e. Rule Book, Internet etc) to make a decision as to which ball/score is considered the correct one. Results will not be published until the Issue/Appeal is resolved.

- D. **Rule Violations** - Violations to the rules of golf are subject to a disqualification (DQ) from league play for the day of the rule infraction. Disqualifications will be decided by the Rules and Competition Committee after a review of the incident(s).
- E. **Code of Conduct** - Please show respect to the care of the course, staff, members, and your fellow competitors. Destruction to the course, its property, abusive behavior to the staff, fellow members will not be tolerated during league play.
- F. **Code of Conduct** - Members in violation of the DGA Code of Conduct and Rules of Golf as defined and voted on by the league members in this rules package are subject to suspension or in extreme situation expulsion from the league.
- G. **Appeal Process** - A league member may appeal the decision of the Rules and Competition Committee in writing, to the Secretary/Treasurer, within (14) fourteen days of suspension or expulsion for review and disposition. The Secretary/Treasurer will notify the Rules and Competition Committee of the appeal. The member will be notified of a final decision within 7 days.
- H. The Rules and Competition Committee for 2021 will be composed of 3-5 Volunteers from the membership.
- I. If all of the Rules and Committee members are not present to review an Appeal, one or more Alternates will be asked to participate in the review and decision. A total of 3 Rules and Competition Committee Members (including Alternates) must be present to render a decision.
- J. The Rules and Competition Committee will adjudicate any issues dealing with Scoring errors and determine the appropriate penalty based on the persistence of the issues. Some basic examples of issues and penalties are:
 - What happens if gross and/or net scores are totaled incorrectly – simple math errors can be adjusted unless it is repeatedly occurring with certain members. I recommend that a sliding scale be adapted such as recalculation for 1st offense, 1-2 shot penalty for 3rd offense, DQ for 5th or more offense.
 - What happens if Pots not totaled correctly – again, simple math errors can be corrected if pots clearly marked on the scorecard holes. I recommend that the pots be recalculated if marked on the card for the 1st offense and no adjustment/recalculation done for 2nd or more offenses. I don't think this is a DQ offense if we don't let them win/split a pot for multiple offenses.
 - Marking and using Incorrect Handicap for a round – We publish this often enough in e-mail that this should never occur. If it does, the player should be penalized 1-2 shots for each offense.
 - If the DGA Calculator publishes an incorrect handicap due to incorrect Index, Slope or Rating – the committee will adjust handicaps and calculate results based on the corrected handicaps.

Summary – a lengthy discussion mostly focused on adherence to the rules of golf, rules violations, and improper submitted scorecards. The proposal was streamlined and the penalty suggestions were revised.

- **Rule committee members will be revised via volunteering but should include guys that play a high volume of rounds.**
- **All players in the group should be signing cards, and allow all players to compare their card to the group's submitted card. It is the responsibility of the person handing in the cards for each group to ensure that all players signed the card**
- **The gross card will take precedence if/when there is a discrepancy between scores on the gross and net cards**
- **Per rules of golf, if player signs for a score higher than his actual score (on a hole, 9 hole Nassau and 18 total), the higher score will be used and the gross and/or net cards will be adjusted properly.**
- **If the player signs the card for a score lower than his actual score (on a hole, 9 hole nassau, and 18**

total), the player will be DQ'd for the 9 in question and 18 hole DGA results.

- The person submitting the scorecard is not penalized.
- For DGA pots, each submitted scorecard should have a clearly defined Pot Summary Table and thus eliminating any need for reviewing the each score on a hole. This Pot Summary Table will be the only data used when calculating results.

Seconded by: Dave Perry and others

Result: Passed

Change included in Rules Package Section V.

PROPOSAL #2021-8A (If PROPOSAL #2021-8 does not pass)

I propose that a series of penalties be established for continual submission of scorecards with errors. These errors would include incorrect Gross and/or Net Scores, Incorrect Handicaps Used and/or Incorrect Pot Identification. (Proposed by Bruce Rapp, Mike Jeffries and Doug Conway)

Further Information: The members who handle the DGA Results regularly report that scoring errors have increased over the last year and that there are some members who are continual offenders of submitting incorrect scorecards or not verifying the scorecards before submission. The DGA Rules Package has procedures in place concerning when a scorecard can be corrected or when the incorrect score/pot count should not be changed. However, it is felt that penalties should be imposed for repeat offenders. The Rules/Scoring Committee will adjudicate any issues dealing with Scoring errors and determine the appropriate penalty based on the persistence of the issues. Some basic examples of issues and penalties are:

- What happens if gross and/or net scores are totaled incorrectly – simple math errors can be adjusted unless it is repeatedly occurring with certain members. I recommend that a sliding scale be adapted such as recalculation for 1st offense, 1-2 shot penalty for 3rd offense, DQ for 5th or more offense.
- What happens if Pots not totaled correctly – again, simple math errors can be corrected if pots clearly marked on the scorecard holes. I recommend that the pots be recalculated if marked on the card for the 1st offense and no adjustment/recalculation done for 2nd or more offenses. I don't think this is a DQ offense if we don't let them win/split a pot for multiple offenses.
- Marking and using Incorrect Handicap for a round – We publish this often enough in e-mail that this should never occur. If it does, the player should be penalized 1-2 shots for each offense.
- If the DGA Calculator publishes an incorrect handicap due to incorrect Index, Slope or Rating – the committee will adjust handicaps and calculate results based on the corrected handicaps.

Summary: Proposal not submitted because previous Proposal passed with the appropriate penalties for an incorrect score or Pots.

PROPOSAL #2021-9

I propose that the Match Play Tournament change to a Qualifying Format and the top 16 Qualifiers are seeded based on their Qualifying Round Total Net Score. (Proposed by Greg Cavallo and Jim Rinaldi)

Further Information:

1. 16 members in the field
2. Play in required. Each member plays minimum of 6 rounds during the months of April, May and June. Rounds can be played on Saturdays or Weekdays at any of the 5 Somerset county courses.
3. The 2 lowest rounds will be totaled and the 16 players with the lowest rounds will be in the match play tournament. The 2 lowest rounds must be at different courses. In the event of a tie the total of the lowest 3 rounds will determine the entrants. The third round for the tie breaker can be from any course. If there is still a tie the 4th round is the tie breaker from any course. Then we go to the 5th round then the 6th. If there is still a tie the player with the most rounds would be the entrant. If there is still a tie the entrant would be determined by a coin flip by the Commissioner.
4. The 16 players in the event the lowest two round total will be #1 seed followed by the next lowest etc. In the event of a tie the seeds will be determined by a random draw by match play commissioner. #1 seed will play #16 seed. #2 seed will play #15 seed etc.
5. In the event there are not 16 players that qualify for the event the #1 seed would get the first bye. The #2 seed the second bye etc.
6. Round of 16 matches must be completed in the month of July. Round of 8 matches must be completed by [August 31st](#). Round of 4 matches must be completed by [September 30th](#). Finals must be completed by [October 31st](#). Matches can be played at any time and at any course agreed to by the players as long as they are completed by the deadlines.
7. You must declare that you want to enter the tournament [before April 1st](#) entry fee is \$15.00

This change accomplishes a few things first it eliminates the need for byes. Over the last few years we have had many byes and forfeits. It also makes it more difficult for the casual DGA member from entering or winning one of our major tournaments.

Summary – Discussion centered on keeping things “fair/equitable” for all members regardless of how many rounds they play. But there was concern voiced for accuracy of DGA handicaps. In the end, there were no changes to any of the items listed in the proposal.

Seconded by: Ron Emma

Result: Passed

Change included in Rules Package Section XV.

PROPOSAL #2021-10

I propose modifications to the Partners Tournament (Proposed by Frank Thiry-DGA)

Further Information: Modifications and Clarifications to Partner Rules & Regulations:

- 1) Partner Teams can officially enter the P-Tournament as the first Saturday in April (which is the DGA's official Opening Day), and start playing a Partner Qualification Round (PQR).
- 2) Partner teams will have until the deadline of Saturday May 1st, 2021 to officially enter the tournament.
- 3) The deadline for completing both PQR's (Partners Qualification Rounds) will be the second Saturday in July.
- 4) All P-Teams must play Spooky Brook as one of their two PQR rounds. Note: Spooky Brook cannot be played twice as a second PQR... it must be at one of the other 4 Somerset County courses.
- 5) In fairness to working DGA members, PQR's will revert back to being played only on Saturdays, as stated in the general rules. (The rule was modified only for 2020 due to the pandemic and scarce availability of golf and golf courses) The round must be attended/witnessed by at least one other (preferably 2) DGA member. Note: There are 15 Saturdays between April 3rd and July 10th.

All other Partner rules will continue as usual, including the top-8 PQR Teams continuing onward to compete in the P-tournament playoffs and the Partners Championship.

Summary – brief discussion and agreement to revert back to 2019 structure. Only point was to document that re-seeding will continue to occur between the quarter-final and semi-final rounds, which is different than the match play structure. For example, in 2020:

Quarter Final Round	Semi Final Round
1 seed def. 8 seed	1 seed def. 6 seed (vs. playing the 4th seed in bracket setup)
4 seed def. 8 seed	2 seed def. 4 seed (vs. 2 seed would have played the 6 seed)
6 seed def. 3 seed	
2 seed def. 7 seed	

Seconded by: Bob Babetski and others

Result: Passed

Change Included in Rules Package Section XVI.

PROPOSAL #2021-11

I propose that in celebration of 2021 being the 25th Anniversary of the Partners Tournament, all members must play with a different partner (from last year) for this year only.

Further Information: This will provide a different look into the P-tournament and present an opportunity for members to play with someone different. Members can certainly revert back to their original partners the following year, or choose to make a more permanent change if desired.

Summary – The commish provided a reasoning for the proposal given it is the 25th year of the tournament, but there didn't seem to be a lot of appetite for changing what everyone is comfortable with.

Seconded by: Doug Conway

Result: Not Passed