

Date: January 26, 2015
To: DGA Members
Subject: 2015 Rule Changes

The Winter Meeting was held on January 24, 2015 at South Side Grille. The DGA has 34 Active and 8 LifeTime Members. 21 Active Members and 1 Prospective Member (Gary Yusko) attended the meeting at South Side Grille. At the start of the meeting, 21 Attendees had Voting Privileges by playing five (5) or more rounds in 2014 which meant that 14 votes were needed to pass any Rule Changes. During the meeting, two (2) members had to leave at different times so some of the voting has 20 or 19 members (and 14 then 13 votes needed to pass rule changes)

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

PROPOSAL #2015 – 1

Enable members to attend the Winter meeting and vote on proposals and motions via remote communications including Cell Phones. (Proposed by Doug Conway)

Last year, we approved remote attendance via video conference technology. I'd like to expand that to cell phones because we may not have the ability to have multiple video conferences active whereas we could have remote attendees call an on-site attendee and listen (and contribute to the meeting). In this day of modern electronic communications, when much of business is conducted via conference calls and video conferencing, it is time for the DGA to move forward and allow members to attend the DGA Winter Meeting remotely, via conference call and/or video conferencing, etc.

Reasoning: The technology is available today to allow members to call via cell phones or join the meeting via video conferencing (Skype). The DGA should take advantage of this technology especially as our member age and are spending more and more time outside of New Jersey during the winter months. Just because the members are not physically present at the meeting does not mean that they care less about the discussions and decisions that are made at the meeting.

Result: This Proposal was approved by a vote of 16 – 5.

Rules Package Wording (Section I – Rules Changes)

3. At the Annual Winter Meeting, changes can be made by the vote of two-thirds of those present at the meeting location or those attending via videoconferencing (e.g. Skype, gommating.com) **or teleconference (e.g. Teleconference Call-In Number or Cell Phone to another member attending the meeting)** provided at least one-half of the membership is present by either of these options. In order to get a vote counted at the Winter Meeting, a member must have played at least 5 money rounds the previous year.

PROPOSAL #2015 – 2

Require DGA Members to Post ALL 18 Hole Scores to GHIN and Use GHIN Index rather than DGA Only Index (Proposed By Larry Thiry)

As more and more DGA'ers acquire vacation domiciles or migrate to remote states such as FL, SC, etc. it makes the handicap calculations more and more cumbersome on the Secretary (you) to maintain separate handicaps. Besides, the DGA and official GHIN handicaps are always within a stroke or so, and it seems to me to be a waste of everyone's time to maintain two handicaps.

Reasoning: Requiring the entry of all scores outside of a DGA Round is more in line with the USGA Handicap Rules. It would eliminate the need for the DGA Handicap Chairman to manually calculate a DGA Only Handicap for those people who already enter all their scores so that they can enter other external events.

Result: This Proposal was rejected by a vote of 0 - 21.

PROPOSAL #2015 – 3

Establish a Schedule for Off Season Handicap Revisions (Proposed By Jim Petronchak)

Many years, the DGA plays year round but there are no handicap revisions from November 1st until April 15th. I propose a monthly revision (Dec 1, Jan 1, Feb 1 and Mar 1) to calculate a Winter Only Handicap. The starting point would be the Nov 1 Handicap Index and all winter rounds would be included in the calculation of the Winter Handicap each month. The Official Handicap would be used for any rounds played in "in-season" states such as Florida and the Carolinas. Players would revert to their Nov 1 Handicap Index when the New Jersey Handicap Season officially starts on April 1. At that point the Winter Handicap would be eliminated. This would work as follows:

- If someone just plays in the winter in NJ, their "Regular" handicap stays frozen and the "Winter" handicap is adjusted. On April 1, the "Regular" handicap is the one that is used.

- If someone plays in an active handicap state (i.e. Florida, Carolinas), the score is posted to both handicaps. This will take into account any regular GHIN adjustments and can affect their “Winter” handicap if they play in NJ too.

Reasoning: Since we play so many Winter Rounds each year, it would allow for changes to the Handicap Index for players who are playing exceptionally well or exceptionally poorly. These scores would not be entered into GHIN because they are played in a state where the handicap season is inactive. The Winter Only Handicaps would be calculated manually by the DGA Handicap Chairman on a monthly basis. The USGA allows for special club handicaps as long as they are used for club-only rounds and do not violate the “in-season” score entry and handicap calculations.

Result: This Proposal was rejected by a vote of 10 - 11.

PROPOSAL #2015 – 4

Allow Consultation Between Partners During Partners Matches (Proposed By Doug Conway)

The DGA does not allow consultation or collaboration between players/partners because we are playing by Individual Rules primarily during DGA Rounds. We propose that Partners can consult and collaborate with each other during a Partners Match under the following conditions:

- Consultation or Collaboration will be allowed if opposing team agrees. A “No Consultation Allowed” from the opposing team overrides the “Yes, Allow Consultation” proposed by the other team.
- Consultation or Collaboration includes, yardage, club selection, reading greens and other advice.
- Teams who chose to allow consultation or collaboration play a separate DGA round from the other players playing on that given day.
- If multiple Partners matches are played in a consultative or collaborative mode, all players are part of the same DGA round.
- Scores posted during a consultative or collaborative round will count toward Individual Handicaps.

Reasoning: This proposal provides the best of all worlds. It set guidelines to allow consultation (i.e. just like a caddy would provide to a player) while not corrupting the competition being played by players playing in a purely individual competition. It sets the collaborative teams apart in a separate competition. It requires that the score posted be counted toward the player’s handicap.

Result: This Proposal was rejected by a vote of 0 - 19.

Proposal #2015 – 5

Modify the makeup of the DGA Rules Committee because at least two (2) current members will not be playing as much this year. (Proposed by Doug Conway)

Reasoning: Two (2) current DGA Rules Committee Members (Doug Conway and Des Sinclair) have moved out of state and will not be playing in New Jersey regularly. It was suggested that current alternates Mark Schuler and Dennis Grote become Rules Committee Members and Bruce Rapp, Ed Korleski, Bob Nowark and Joe Musella be added as Alternates.

Results: This Proposal was approved by a vote of 21 – 0.

Proposal #2015 – 6

Modify the definition of a Sandy to allow a Sandy to be counted if the player is in any bunker and eventually makes Gross Par or better. The player could take multiple shots after exiting the bunker. This is in addition to the current definition which requires the player to hole out in one or less strokes for Net Par or better. (Proposed by David Ellis)

Reasoning: This provides an option for a player to exit a bunker and two putt for Gross Par (for example).

Results: This Proposal was rejected by a vote of 4 - 16.

Proposal #2015 - 7

Eagles will be worth \$2.00 from each DGA Member if they are playing or not. (Proposed by Ron Ceglia Sr.)

Reasoning: The person who makes the Eagle is rewarded by the entire club.

Result: Proposal was rejected by a vote of 7 - 13.

Proposal #2015 – 8

Instead of limiting a “shortened” round to just the 9 Hole Nassau, allow the Back 9 to be counted for Nassaus (Back 9 and 18) and full Pots as long as all players have completed 13 holes. (Proposed by Joe Musella)

Reasoning: The USGA Handicap Rules state that an 18 hole score can be submitted to GHIN as long as the player completes 13 holes. In the DGA, if everyone does not play the full 18 holes, we calculate the results based on only the first 9 holes. In this proposal, results would be calculated based on the last hole completed by the last group as long as 13 holes were completed.

Result: This Proposal was rejected by a vote of 10 - 10.

Proposal #2015 – 9

Eliminate the DGA Rule to play Stableford on the first Saturdays of December, January and March. (Proposed by several members)

Reasoning: The Membership feels that they would prefer to play Individual Stroke Play.

Results: This Proposal was accepted by a vote of 17 – 3.

Proposal #2015 – 10

Modify the Vardon Trophy qualifications to require attendance at the Fall Classic held in October in either Tampa or Myrtle Beach. (Proposed by several members)

Reasoning: The overwhelming majority of Vardon Winners have been members who do not play in the Fall Classic and is a disadvantage to the members who do go on the trip.

Results: This Proposal was rejected by a vote of 6 - 14.

Proposal #2015 - 11

All rounds played should be included in handicaps even those rounds that are not official DGA Rounds. (Proposed by Doug Conway)

Reasoning: If all rounds including non-DGA rounds were entered into GHIN, there would be no need to keep a separate DGA Only Handicap.

Result: This Proposal was rejected by a vote of 0 – 19.