

2021 DGA Rules Package

I. Rule Changes:

1. To change any of the rules governing the DGA, two-thirds of the official members must vote in favor of having a change in a particular rule or set of rules.
2. The Winter Meeting will be held on the 1st Saturday of March.
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. Zoom, Skype, gomeeting.com 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 Appearance Rounds the previous year. Due to the Pandemic in 2021-21, the 5 Appearance Rounds requirement was waived. This rule will be reinstated for the 2022 Winter Meeting.
4. Tournament Commissioners must seek Membership approval for recommendations/strategic decisions that deviate from documented tournament rules in any way. Tournament Commissioners will continue to retain the ability to make tactical decisions such as scheduling, extensions etc.

II. Membership Rules

1. The maximum number of active DGA members is 40.
2. DGA Lifetime Membership would be an option for DGA Members who:
 - Have 30 or more years of service with the DGA
 - Or DGA Hall of Fame Members who have between 25-30 years of service AND a minimum of 750 DGA Rounds.
 - Would not qualify to retain their membership under the existing membership rules

The decision to assume a DGA Lifetime Membership is at the discretion of the eligible DGA member. DGA Lifetime Members would not count toward the maximum number of active members. The DGA Lifetime Membership would have the following rules and regulations:

- No voting privileges.
 - Maximum of 15 DGA Rounds per year in Somerset County. DGA Rounds played in other locales do not count toward this restriction. These rounds could be played anywhere as long as they abide by the rules determining an official DGA round.
 - The DGA Lifetime Member must maintain an official USGA Handicap either through their local/state Golf Association or through the DGA (kept manually in DGA Book). ALL non-DGA rounds must be included in the calculation of the handicap.
 - DGA Annual Dues and USGA Handicap Fee are waived for Lifetime Members.
 - The DGA Lifetime Member would not participate in the 50-50 unless the regular membership does not select all of the numbers.
 - The DGA Lifetime Member would not participate in World Series, Match Play, Partners Match Play or any external Team Tournaments (i.e. Interclub Tournament).
 - The DGA Lifetime Member would be eligible to play in normal DGA events including Scrambles.
 - The DGA Lifetime Member would pay for all fees on Kitty Day since they do not pay any DGA Membership Fees. These Kitty Day fees include, golf, cart and food.
 - The DGA Lifetime Member would be eligible for all pots (except for Double Eagles and Holes-in-One because they don't pay when an Active Member makes one of these, therefore they should not receive the amount) during the play of an official DGA Round.
3. Prospective Members must be sponsored in writing by a current member.

4. Prospective Members will be assigned a handicap and will be eligible to play six qualifying rounds.
5. Prospective Members must play their 6 qualifying rounds within 10 weeks. The start of this time period begins when the prospective member plays their first qualifying round. Prospective Members are NOT allowed to bring Guests during their qualifying period.
6. Prospective Members will play for beers only:
 - Prospective Member will win \$5.00 if he finishes in the top half of the playing group
 - Prospective Member will lose \$10.00 if he finishes in the bottom half of the playing group
7. After the sixth qualifying round is completed and the handicap is established, the Secretary will conduct a vote. One half of the current membership must vote yes in order to accept a qualifier as a Probationary Member. If an Active Member "actively abstains" from voting (i.e. they send a note to the Secretary declaring that they Abstain From Voting), the "Active Abstains" will be deducted from the number of Active Members voting. An Active Member who does not vote will be counted as a NO vote. The Probationary Membership will be for a period of two (2) months. This period of time allows the Probationary Member to meet and play with members that they may not have met during their six (6) round qualifying rounds. During this time, the Probationary Member will play in DGA competitions for all Nassaus and Pots as if they were a full member. The Probationary Member's handicap will be adjusted on the specified Handicap Revision Dates.
8. After the two (2) month Probationary Period is completed, the Secretary will conduct a vote. Two thirds of the current membership must vote yes in order to accept the Probationary Member as a Full DGA Member.
9. DGA members who lose their membership as a result of not meeting the rounds played requirement (e.g. 15 rounds over two years), may request to re-qualify in the following year and must be sponsored by an existing DGA member. These DGA members will be treated as "Re-qualifying Members" and will only have to play 3 qualifying rounds over 7 weeks. These re-qualifying members will play their 1st qualifying round using their most recent DGA handicap and then be updated per the DGA rules on the new world handicap calculation. DGA members would be exempt from the probationary period of other perspective members.
10. The Sponsor must take responsibility for making sure that the Prospective member is introduced to the current members during Qualifying. The Sponsor is responsible for notifying Prospective/Probationary Member of result of membership vote.
11. To REMAIN a DGA member, you MUST play a minimum of 10 Appearance Rounds per year, or 15 Appearance Rounds over a two year period. (Example: If you play 7 rounds 1 year, you must play at least 8 rounds the following year or you are DGA HISTORY!). Ten (10) Appearance Rounds in one year automatically renews the members playing privileges for the following year unless you play less than ten (10) rounds in a given year then the fifteen (15) round rule takes precedence. Once a member plays less than 10 Appearance Rounds in a year, they are automatically "on the clock" for the 15 Appearance Rounds over two years. An Appearance Round is defined as an official DGA round of golf with 3 or more DGA Members. Money rounds such as Blind Better Ball are not considered an additional Appearance Round if scored from an Individual Round scorecard. An Injury Waiver may be considered by the Rules Committee when needed. Due to the Pandemic in 2020-21, the 15 Appearance Rounds over 2 years requirement was waived. This rule will be reinstated for the 2022 Winter Meeting.

III. DGA Official Rounds

1. An Official DGA Round is one with 3 or more DGA Members (Active and Lifetime) playing for DGA Pots and Nassaus. If there are only 3 players, all of them must be Active or Lifetime. The third golfer cannot be a Prospective member.
2. Only Official 18-hole rounds will be entered in the book for Handicap and Vardon Trophy determinations under the following conditions:
 - All DGA Rounds (3 or more DGA Active Members/DGA Lifetime Members/Prospective Members/Probationary Members) played from April 1 – November 14 (NJSGA Handicap Season).

3. Only official DGA members will be allowed to play DGA - No Guests. Anyone playing a qualifying round will play for \$5.00 if they win & -\$10.00 if they lose.

IV. DGA Member Responsibilities - Each Round

Each member of the DGA is responsible for verifying the scorecard as follows:

1. Their gross and equity score are correct.
2. Their net score and handicap are correct.
3. Their total for Birdies, Net Birdies, Greenies, Sandies and Net Eagles are correct.
4. Gross and Net Scorecards MUST be reviewed and signed by all members of the group. A Pot Summary Table MUST be included on the Net Scorecard. The Pot Summary Table will be the only data used for the results calculation. The Results Committee will NOT review individual hole scores to recalculate Pots.
5. Once the scorecard is turned in (signed and attested), it is official for that round. Any player who does not sign their scorecard forfeits all rights to challenge the "official" results. Also, all scores and pots must be entered on the "official result" sheet that will be used to generate the results report.

V. 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.

- 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. In 2021, Mike Jeffries, Jim Petronchak and Bruce Rapp have volunteered. The Committee is still looking for 2 additional members.**
- 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:
- If a Member does not sign the Gross and Net Scorecards, they forfeit their right to appeal the published results.
 - If a Member signs the Gross and Net Scorecards for a score higher than his actual score (on a hole, 9 hole Nassau and 18 hole Total), the higher score will be used and the Gross and/or Net Scorecards will be adjusted accordingly.
 - If a Member signs the Gross and Net Scorecards for a score lower than his actual score (on a hole, 9 hole Nassau and 18 hole Total), the player will be DQ'd for the 9 holes in question and the 18 hole Total. Their Pots will be counted in the DGA Results for the 9 holes that were submitted correctly.
 - Once a Member signs and attests the Net Card that includes the Pot Summary Table, they will not be able to appeal if they discover that the Pot Summary Table was incorrect.
 - The Member submitting the scorecard will not be penalized.

VI. 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. Winner (and ties) takes all.
 2. Lowest Total Net Score on the Par 3 Holes. Winner (and ties) takes all.
- 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 total gross score on the Par 3s
 7. Net Par 3 – Lowest total net score on the Par 3's
- E. Individual hole scores will be credited as follows:
- | | | |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Natural Birdie | - | 1 in Birdie Pot |
| 2. Net 1 under par | - | 1 in Net Birdie Pot |
| 3. Net 2 under par | - | 2 in Net Birdie Pot |
| | - | 1 in Net Eagle Pot |
| 4. Net 3 under par | - | 3 in Net Birdie Pot |
| | - | 2 in Net Eagle Pot |
- F. Eagles are worth \$3.00 per man of those playing.
- G. Double Eagle: each official DGA Active member will be assessed \$10.00 for any double eagle made during an official DGA round or DGA sponsored function (i.e. 2 man scramble).
- H. HOLE-IN-ONE: each official DGA Active member will be assessed \$10.00 for any hole-in-one made during an official DGA round or DGA sponsored function (i.e. 2 man scramble). Do NOT collect for EAGLE.
- I. Beers are either plus or minus \$2.00 for equalizing distribution of money to players in middle of pack. The low half of net scores wins \$2.00, the high half of net scores loses \$2.00.

2. NASSAUS:

- A. 18 Hole Nassaus - as per position on the 18 hole Position of Finish chart.

- B. 9 Hole Nassaus - \$2.00 per man per Nassau. Ties for 1st Place split the total available pot.

If at least 7 players, positions 1 and 2 will share each 9 hole Nassau pot approximately 75% for 1st, 25% for 2nd. See the 9 hole Nassau chart for exact amounts.

- C. In order for a 9 or 18 hole Nassau to be counted, 50% of members who tee off must finish the 9 or 18 holes. If only 9 holes are played, money will be assessed for the one Nassau and half the pots. Any golfer dropping out of a nine automatically finishes last for the 9 and the 18. If a player X's on any given hole, he will finish last for the 9 and 18. If he has completed a nine, his score will count for that nine and his pots will be counted for the day. This rule applies for whatever reason (injury, illness, anger or disgust).

VII. DGA Handicaps

1. Handicap Index using the World Handicap System developed by the USGA, R&A and other World Golf Associations is based on the best 8 of the last 20 posted scores.
2. According to the World Handicap System, if a player does not have 20 posted scores, the Handicap Index will be calculated as follows:

Number of Score Differentials in scoring record	Score Differentials to be used in calculation of Handicap Index	Adjustment
3	Lowest 1	-2.0
4	Lowest 1	-1.0
5	Lowest 1	0
6	Average of Lowest 2	-1.0
7 or 8	Average of Lowest 2	0
9 to 11	Average of Lowest 3	0
12 to 14	Average of Lowest 4	0
15 or 16	Average of Lowest 5	0
17 or 18	Average of Lowest 6	0
19	Average of Lowest 7	0
20	Average of Lowest 8	0

3. MAXIMUM HANDICAP INDEX -- 54.0

4. Differential is equal to the difference between the course rating and the gross score adjusted according to USGA Equity Stroke Control adjusted for Slope Rating. The World Handicap System specifies that the maximum score allowed on a hole for handicap purposes is NET DOUBLE BOGEY for all players. Some examples are:
 - If a player gets 0 shots on a hole, they are allowed a maximum of Gross Double Bogey (Net Double Bogey) for handicap purposes.
 - If a player gets 1 shot on a hole, they are allowed a maximum of Gross Triple Bogey (Net Double Bogey) for handicap purposes.
 - If a player gets 2 shots on a hole, they are allowed a maximum of Gross Quadruple Bogey (Net Double Bogey) for handicap purposes.
 - If a player gets 3 shots on a hole, they are allowed a maximum of Gross Quintuple Bogey (Net Double Bogey) for handicap purposes.
5. Prospective members will be handicapped by the Handicap Committee. The 2021 Handicap Committee will consist of Doug Conway, John DeSimone, Ed Korleski and Larry Thiry.
6. The DGA will use the GHIN system for the official Handicap Index. Handicaps will be updated after every round. The concept of a DGA Only Handicap will no longer be used. All official golf rounds played must be entered into GHIN even if it is not a DGA Round. The DGA Handicap Chairman will enter individual scores for DGA Rounds as has been done in prior years. Rounds played outside of the DGA must be entered by the individual. Entry of external scores can be done on the Handicap Terminals at most golf courses or the GHIN App available on phones.
7. Handicapping services will be provided for DGA Active Members ONLY.
8. Winter Handicaps will be calculated Manually for all Somerset County Weekend Rounds. Winter Handicaps will start with the Handicap Index as of 11/15 (close of NJ Handicap Season) and will be recalculated after every Somerset County Weekend Round. Winter Weekday or non Somerset County Winter Rounds (i.e. Caliendo Winter League) will not be included in the Winter Handicap. Those rounds will continue to use the 11/15 Handicap Index. On April 1st of the following year, the Handicap Index will be reset to the 11/15 Handicap Index.

VIII. SOMERSET COUNTY PLAY:

1. Somerset County has instituted a "Non-Resident" Card program. Members can purchase the "Non-Resident" card and the Tee Time Reservation service. They will be able to play at County Rates during the year. The DGA Treasury will budget a maximum of \$400 which will be split to reimburse a portion of the Call-In Service fee. Members must register for this card by May 1, 2021 to be eligible for the reimbursement.
2. See the 2021 DGA Call In Card Number sheet for the Card Numbers and PIN to be used when reserving Tee Times either online or by phone.. The Call-in Telephone number is **(908) 231-1122**. The URL is www.somersetcountyparks.org.
3. Members should reserve the earliest times available at the scheduled course by calling at 9:00 p.m. the week before play. Given a choice between 6am and 8am, please take the 8am time first.
4. DGA Members who are successful in reserving a tee time must call or send a note to Weekendteetime@dganj.com to report the tee time for the call-in card. The member may select to play at the tee time that they reserved. If they choose not to play at that tee time, they will be subject to the normal draw.
5. If a DGA member reserves more than 1 tee time in a given week, they will be able to select whichever tee time they want. If a DGA member reserves 4 or more tee times, they get to pick the members of their group.
6. **Players must declare playing status no later than 3 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Saturday round.**

7. Groups will be assigned by pulling names out of a hat. Matches or special requirements (i.e. guests) must be requested in advance of assignment.
8. Tee Times will be published on Thursday morning. Any revised tee times will be published on Friday morning.
9. Members calling for playing spots after the draw will be assigned to the next available group.
10. Guests must play in the last group with the DGA member who brought them.
11. If all groups are not filled by Thursday afternoon, we will release the empty reservation(s) so that no penalty is incurred.
12. **Somerset County is becoming increasingly strict with their rules and regulations pertaining to call in reservations. If a player does not notify Weekendteetime@dganj.com by Thursday Night before play that they cannot make the reservation time, and they are a no-show for the reservation, that player will be responsible for the \$10 fee if the group is assessed a charge. This is will be assessed to their DGA "Bank". It is the responsibility of the Member who is cancelling to call the golf course in order to avoid the Cancellation Fee. In other words, if a time was reserved for a foursome, and only three players show up from that group, they will charge the \$10 fee, EVEN if they fill it with a walk on!**
13. If a player cannot make the course on the date of play for whatever reason, they should make every attempt to call the course and get in touch with anyone in their assigned group. This may give the group ample time to pick up a player to replace the spot and avoid an extra charge. The course phone numbers are as follows:

Green Knoll	(908) 722-1301
Quail Brook	(732) 560-9199
Spooky Brook	(732) 873-2242
Warrenbrook	(908) 754-8402
Neshanic Valley	(908) 369-8200

Somerset County Golf Operations: (908) 369-1458 ext.427

Website: <http://www.somersetcountyparks.org/>

IX. Membership Fees

1. Each D.G.A. member will have on deposit with John DeSimone a \$100 "bank" to cover losses during the year.
2. Each member will pay \$80 (\$50 Dues, \$30 GHIN if Applicable) to the Treasurer, **John DeSimone**, prior to April 1st. Payment is necessary to keep membership - No pay, No play!! If payment is not received by May 1st, this will be considered an automatic resignation from the DGA.
3. Each member also owes \$20 per number that they have in the 50-50. Every member must have a minimum of 2 numbers in the 50-50. This will be either \$40 or \$60 for their 50-50 numbers depending on how many numbers they have -- due by April 1st. Prior Year losses MUST be paid by January 20th or DGA Membership is suspended until paid.
4. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JOHN DESIMONE.**
5. Special Tournament Fees – If you sign up to play in any special tournament at courses other than the regular Somerset County schedule, you will be liable for paying the fees even if you do not play. This is as a result of many golf courses requiring prepayment.
6. New Members will pay their fees according to the following schedule:
 - I. \$60 at the start of Qualifying. This will cover the maximum potential loss during the 6 qualifying rounds. The money will be posted in the DGA "Bank".
 - II. \$20 per 50-50 Number to be paid prior to the start of the 50-50 if numbers are available.
 - III. \$120 after the official membership vote of acceptance in the DGA. This includes the remaining \$40 for the DGA Bank to bring the Bank Account to \$100 and the \$80 for DGA Dues & GHIN (if Applicable).
7. If the prospective member is not accepted as DGA member, they will receive the balance of their DGA Bank Account.

X. DGA Year End Events:

1. A Committee of 4-6 members will be formed to recommend what type of Year End Event should be organized and run. This Committee will work with the Treasurer to discuss subsidizing a golf tournament or a dinner (with or without significant others).

XI. DGA Official Handicap Dates And Playing Rules:

1. Official Handicap Dates are designated by USGA and NJ State Golf Association. They are based on the "Official" Handicap season for New Jersey which is April 1 through November 14.
2. The rules of play during this time span will be "Summer Rules" unless superseded by the rules of a Tournament.
3. Play before and after the official handicap dates will be preferred lies everywhere but in staked penalty areas. Preferred Lies are defined as "ball may be moved up to 6 inches but no closer to the hole".
4. If conditions warrant, "Summer Rules" may be replaced by preferred lies based on decision by majority of Rules Committee. Decision to play "preferred lies" will be published with the tee times as early as possible...or "on the board" at the golf course.
5. In order to keep play at a steady pace, players should hit when READY. This supersedes the Match Play rule.
6. All golf balls must contain a unique identification mark. When playing a provisional ball, the player must announce the name and number of the original and the provisional ball.

7. If there is a possibility that a ball might be Out of Bounds, a Provisional Ball **DOES NOT** have to be played from the original spot as a result of the following USGA Approved Local Rule:

“When a player’s ball has not been found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the *course*, or
- Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.

b. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the *hole* being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, **but** is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the *general area*, and
- Must not be nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball *in play* under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was *lost* or *out of bounds* is no longer *in play* and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the *course* before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But, the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is *known or virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: *General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*

8. Exceptions to the Two Shot Penalty Rule on Somerset County Courses are:
- #1 – Warrenbrook (left side of fairway) – Local Rule applies - Find the appropriate area to drop and take a 1 shot penalty.
 - #1 and #9 Quail Brook (right side of both fairways – driving range) - Local Rule applies - Find the appropriate area to drop and take a 1 shot penalty.
9. If there is some doubt that a ball cleared a penalty area, the player is allowed to play a “Penalty area Ball”. In this case, if the player moves forward nearer the penalty area to hit their next shot, the player would exercise his options under the

Rules of Golf as if the ball was in the penalty area, putting a "Penalty area Ball" in play. If the player plays their next shot from the original spot, this new ball is considered a Provisional Ball.

- a. If the player moved forward (i.e. Penalty area Ball) and finds the original ball in play outside of the confines of the penalty area, they MUST play the original ball without incurring the penalty shot.
 - b. If the player moved forward (i.e. Penalty area Ball) and doesn't find their original ball in play outside the penalty area, they will play the "penalty area ball" with the one (1) shot penalty.
 - c. If the player moved forward (i.e. Penalty area Ball) and finds the original ball within the confines of the penalty area, the player is NOT allowed to play that ball because the "penalty area ball" is in play at this time. This "penalty area ball" exception has been added to the rules to alleviate the need to go back to the original spot to hit a provisional ball and to eliminate the problem of having two (2) balls in play (the original and the penalty area balls).
 - d. If the player did not move forward and played their next shot as a Provisional Ball and finds the original ball outside of the confines of the penalty area, they MUST play the original ball without incurring the penalty shot.
 - e. If the player did not move forward and played their next shot as a Provisional Ball and doesn't find the original ball, they will play the Provisional Ball with the one shot penalty.
 - f. If the player did not move forward and played their next shot as a Provisional Ball and does find the original ball inside the penalty area, they have the option to play the original ball from the penalty area without the one shot penalty. If they play the original ball from the penalty area, the Provisional ball is out of play. If they decide not to play the original ball from the penalty area, they will play the Provisional Ball with the one shot penalty.
10. Quail Brook - Out of Bounds is defined by the chain link fence around the property. All white OB stakes should be ignored except along the driving range to the right of #1 and #9.
 11. Green Knoll – White OB stakes MUST be observed along holes 1 and 11 (Driving Range / Par 3 Course). The player MUST hit a provisional ball from the original spot if they are unsure if the ball is in or out of bounds. If a Provisional Ball was not hit by the player, they must drop within 2 club lengths from where the ball went OB and take a 2 stroke penalty.
 12. Green Knoll – Parking Lot and driveway are Out-of-Bounds from 1, 2, 3 and 4 even if the ball lands on another fairway (in course Out-of-Bounds). Also, on Green Knoll #15, any shot hit short and right of the evergreen tree/bush is not considered as part of the penalty area. Any shot hit to the right beyond the evergreen tree/bush would be deemed in the lateral penalty area since the course is marked with a red line or red stakes from the evergreen tree/bush all the way to the creek in front of the green.
 13. REMINDER – Bridges (i.e. #15 Green Knoll) are considered part of the penalty area. You may play your ball from the bridge and you are allowed to ground your club on the bridge.
 14. Blue tees will be played in Somerset County at all times where they are set. This applies to all Members unless their Age + Handicap Index is Equal To or Greater Than 90:
 - a. The exception to the Blue Tees is Warrenbrook #15, Spooky Brook #1 and Quail Brook # 17 – BACK Tee
 15. Members whose Age + Handicap Index is Equal To or Greater Than 90, have the OPTION to play the Senior Tees for any round where they meet this requirement. Their Handicap will be calculated based on the Course Rating, Slope and Course Par for the Senior Tees. Any Member who qualifies to play the Senior Tees MUST declare their intention to play the Senior Tees prior to the 1st Tee. Scorecards will be marked to reflect that the Member played the Senior Tees. The DGA Calculator will be adjusted to store each Member's birthday in order to calculate eligibility and the Senior Tee Handicap.
 16. On a course where a Drop Area is not identified prior to hitting over a penalty area, a player would normally continue to hit shots until they clear the penalty area. If the group finds a clearly marked Drop Area on the other side of the penalty area, the player will **NOT** be assessed the extra shots that they played attempting to clear the penalty area. For example, the player hits the first shot into the penalty area and takes three more attempts before clearing the penalty area. If there is a clearly marked Drop Area on the other side of the penalty area, the player will take a drop and hit their third (3rd) shot

instead of hitting eight (8). In Somerset County, we will NOT play the designated Drop Areas (#6 – Green Knoll, #17 – Spooky Brook, #17 – Warrenbrook). You must continue to play your shots from where it crossed the penalty area. The Exception is if you hit your ball into the stream behind #6 at Green Knoll. You have the choice to play from the Drop Area or 1 club length from the back penalty area no closer to the hole.

17. 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.
18. Loose stones or loose foreign objects can be removed from bunkers prior to the next shot. This is allowed per the USGA Ruling that Local Clubs can create this provision as a Local Rule.

19. Per USGA Rule 25-1c: Ball in Abnormal Ground Condition Not Found

It is a question of fact whether a ball that has not been found after having been struck toward an abnormal ground condition is in such a condition. In order to apply this Rule, it must be known or virtually certain that the ball is in the abnormal ground condition. In the absence of such knowledge or certainty, the player must proceed under Rule 27-1.

If it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in an abnormal ground condition, the player may take relief under this Rule. If he elects to do so, the spot where the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition must be determined and, for the purpose of applying this Rule, the ball is deemed to lie at this spot and the player must proceed as follows:

(i)Through the Green: If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition at a spot through the green, the player may substitute another ball, without penalty, and take relief as prescribed in Rule 25-1b(i).

(ii)In a Bunker: If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition at a spot in a bunker, the player may substitute another ball, without penalty, and take relief as prescribed in Rule 25-1b(ii).

(iii)In a Water Penalty area (including a Lateral Water Penalty area): If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition at a spot in a water penalty area, the player is not entitled to relief without penalty. The player must proceed under Rule 26-1.

XII. Vardon Trophy:

1. Vardon Net Score - equals net score for the round.
2. 12 Official Individual Vardon Money rounds to qualify.
3. All DGA Rounds that are entered for Handicap will be included in the Vardon Trophy calculation. This includes all DGA Rounds played between April 1 and November 14 (NJSGA Handicap Season) and DGA Rounds played between November 1 and March 31 if the round is played in a place where the handicap season is open such as Florida and South Carolina.
4. Prize will include one dozen balls - paid out of Kitty.
5. All official individual rounds will count towards trophy.

XIII. Most Improved Golfer

The DGA Most Improved Golfer will be determined based on the New Jersey State Golf Association (NJSGA)/USGA reports mailed to the Handicap Chairman. The calculation formula is documented in the NJSGA/USGA manuals. A member must play at least 10 individual score rounds during the year to qualify. The DGA Winner will receive a dozen golf balls from the DGA and a certificate from the NJSGA.

XIV. The World Series of the DGA

World Series Tournament Rules

BACKGROUND

The World Series Tournament was first played back in 1972. The qualifiers were the winners of the four individual tournaments. The first World Series winner was Ed Kerr. In 1981 the Low 72-hole qualifier was introduced and ironically the winner was Ed Kerr. In 1983 the multiple wins (a LEG) category was introduced and at the time you only needed two LEG's to qualify and no, Ed Kerr wasn't one of the winners. In 1987 the multiple win category was raised to three and Ed Kerr was one of the qualifiers. In 2011 World Series Points replaces the Multiple Wins category.

EVENTS

World Series qualifying rounds are played on the second Saturday of April, May, June, July and August. Postponed to the following Saturday in the event of bad weather. See the DGA Schedule for the Official World Series Dates. A minimum of eight (8) DGA members must complete their rounds.

- **World Series #1 – April – Spooky Brook**
- **World Series #2 - May – Neshanic Valley**
- **World Series #3 – June - Green Knoll**
- **World Series #4 – July - Warrenbrook**
- **World Series #5 – August - Quail Brook**
- **World Series Championship - September**

ENTRY RULES

- All members are assumed to be IN the competition. Members must tell John Rutigliano by April 1st if they are NOT in.
- New Members must notify John Rutigliano after accepted as a member if they want to participate in the remaining World Series competitions.
- Players must commit to play on the World Series Day FINAL one week prior to the event and must pay CASH in advance to reserve their spot.

ENTRY FEE

Members entering World Series will have \$15.00 deducted from their account. There will be no refunds because of the additional qualifying options outlined in the entry rules.

QUALIFIERS

A minimum of eight (8) players will compete for The World Series Championship. All **WS qualifying winners**, **WS Aggregate winner** and a maximum of two **World Series Points leaders**. If WS winners and Aggregate winner equal eight or more qualifiers then the first place finisher in the WS Points Standings will automatically qualify.

- **World Series qualifying winners.** The low net scorer on the five (5) designated dates. Ties for low qualifying position will not be broken. All ties for first place are qualifiers. Once a member wins a qualifying round, his score will not count for future qualifying rounds. Therefore, if a previous winner is again low-net scorer in any subsequent rounds, the second place finisher will be the winner of that qualifying round. Again, all ties are qualifiers.
- **WS Aggregate winner.** The player that finishes four of the five WS rounds and compiles the best 4 of 5 round cumulative score. Ties for low qualifying position will not be broken.
- **World Series Points (WSP).** Members will earn points by being the low individual net scorers in any official Saturday DGA round with a minimum of eight (8) DGA members playing, between the weekend after World Series Day Championship and the Saturday prior to the World Series Championship only during the New Jersey State Golf Association Handicap season. When playing Neshanic Valley, if the DGA groups are split to different 18 Hole combinations, each competition MUST have a minimum of eight (8) DGA members for the winners to be eligible. Points will be determined by the number of DGA players participating in the round regardless if they are World Series participants or not. For example, 12 DGA members playing a round therefore there are 12 points available, 18 DGA members playing a round there are 18 points available and so on.

Points will be evenly divided between all first place winners, regardless if they are World Series participants or not, in a particular round with a minimum of one (1) point being awarded. If the first place winner is not participating in World Series then no points are awarded. First place winners only are eligible for World Series points.

The players with the highest point totals will fill the remaining open spots for the WS Championship with a maximum of two. All first place ties will qualify and round out the World Series.

The qualifiers will play together on the second Saturday in September to determine the World Series Champion. In case of a tie for first place, there will be a sudden death playoff (when possible) based on the net scores - strokes as they fall. Only members playing official DGA rounds on the qualifying dates will be qualifying for the World Series.

PRIZE MONEY

Everyone who qualifies will get at a minimum their entry fee. The balance of the prize fund will be split based on the number of players who qualify. No shows are automatic last place.

XV. DGA Match Play Tournament

The Official Rules of the Match Play Tournament are: Active DGA members as of January 1, 2021 are eligible. The tournament will utilize a Qualifying Format and the Top 16 are seeded into a bracket for single elimination format - 1 loss and out. The Match Chart will determine the various match pairings.

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. The following chart shows how the Bracket will be set.

16 Players	15 Players	14 Players	13 Players	12 Players
1	1	1	1	1
16				
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9
5	5	5	5	5
12	12	12	12	12
4	4	4	4	4
13	13	13	13	
6	6	6	6	6
11	11	11	11	11
3	3	3	3	3
14	14	14		
7	7	7	7	7
10	10	10	10	10
2	2	2	2	2
15	15			

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

Each round must be completed during the time span indicated. All matches must be completed by the indicated date and prior to the end of the Handicap season (i.e. must be played with Summer Rules). (NO EXCEPTIONS!). Matches may be played as soon as participants are determined. (NOTE: Foursomes will be arranged to accommodate Match Play). All matches are to be scheduled by the players involved.

See the DGA Schedule for the Official Cutoff Dates.

Handicaps will be those in effect on the date a match is played. For each match the player with the lower handicap will play "scratch". The higher handicap player will receive the number of strokes by which his handicap exceeds the handicap of this opponent. The handicap will be applied on a hole by hole basis beginning with the first handicap hole. Example: player X has a 13 handicap, player Y has a 17 handicap; player Y receives a 4 shot handicap and gets a stroke on handicap holes 1, 2, 3 and 4. Player X has an 11 handicap, player Y has a 30 handicap; player Y receives a 19 stroke handicap -- 2 strokes on handicap hole 1, and 1 stroke on handicap holes 2 - 18.

Each Player MUST keep a match scorecard and must announce the current match score before anyone tees off on the next hole. Once announced and agreed to by both players, play may continue and no change can be made to scoring on prior holes concerning the match play score. Matches that end in ties after 18 holes should continue (conditions permitting) until one of the players wins a hole. The same handicap rules that applied for the first 18 holes will apply to any extra holes necessary. When further play is not possible or the match participants agree, a tied match may be replayed from the beginning at a later date. Handicaps in effect on the later date will apply.

A "challenge" rule will apply. If both players scheduled to play a match are present and one of the players requests that the match be played, the other player is obligated to play. Failure to play a match when challenged will result in a concession to the challenging player. However, if the concession is not requested by the challenging participant on the date of the challenge, it will be assumed that the challenge is withdrawn and the match will be played at a later date. No "Challenge" prior to the official start of the DGA season (i.e. Summer Rules).

If the match is not played by the specific date and there were no challenges, the winner will be determined by the player who has played the most rounds during the time period allowed. If both player have played the same number of rounds and have not attempted to play the match, both are eliminated. There will be a one (1) week grace period for tied matches or rainouts.

Entry fee will be \$15.00 chargeable to your account. Final prize list to be determined by number of entrants. The following approximate percentages will apply:

		<u>With 32 participants, the prize list would be:</u>	
Winner	-- 50% + Trophy for 1 year	Winner	-- \$160.00
Second	-- 25%	Second	-- \$ 80.00
Third	-- 12 1/2%	Third	-- \$ 40.00
Fourth	-- 12 1/2%	Fourth	-- \$ 40.00

A list of entrants will be compiled at the Winter Meeting. Any member wishing to enter should contact Greg Cavallo prior to April 1st. Once you have committed to playing in the event, the \$15 fee will be deducted from the DGA Bank.

XVI. Partners Team Tournament

1. Two-Man Partner Teams can sign up with the DGA Partners Commissioner (Frank Thiry, copy to Doug Conway) anytime. Partner Teams will have until May 1st to enter the Tournament in writing via email or in person. Members can enter the P-Tourney with only one other DGA member (no multiple entries).
 2. Entry fee will be \$20 per man (\$40 per P-team).
 3. Each P-team will then play two (2) official DGA rounds together in the same group, using the net "best ball" format. Another DGA'er must be in the same group to verify total net scores, as we do every week.
 4. Rounds can be played from the first Saturday in April through the 2nd Saturday in July. Qualification Rounds can only be played on Saturday. A qualification round must be announced before the weekly groups are set and tee-off.
 5. One of the two rounds must be played at the "Host Course" designated for that season. Host Courses are scheduled alphabetically as follows:
 - 2019 – Green Knoll
 - 2020 – Quail Brook
 - 2021 – Spooky Brook
 - 2022 - Warrenbrook
- (This rotation is repeated in subsequent years. Note: Neshanic Valley is not included in the required rotation as a "Host Course" because of the difficulty in obtaining tee times on the same nines on weekends).
- The other round must be played at any one of the remaining four Somerset courses. As in the past, each member must play his own ball throughout the round (the usual weekly DGA medal play always takes priority), and no advice may be given.
6. The P-teams net "best ball" scores will be promptly submitted at the end of each qualification round to the Partners Commissioner, who will accumulate all scores during the first round. Standings of all P-team best-ball scores will be published semi-monthly to keep all members up-to-date.
 7. Each P-teams two rounds of net "best ball" scores will be tabulated together, and the 8 P-teams with the lowest net "best ball" scores for both of the 2-rounds combined will then qualify for the quarter-finals.
 8. Upon completion of the 1st Round, the P-teams will be seeded for the team quarter-finals, with the lowest score team designated as the 1-seed, etc. The 1-seed will play the 8-seed, 2-seed will play the 7-seed, 3-seed will play the 6-seed, and 4-seed will play the 5-seed. After the Quarterfinals, the remaining four teams in the semifinals will be reseeded with the highest seed playing the lowest seed and the second highest seed playing the next to lowest seed.
 9. In case of ties, the P-team which shot the lower best-ball round at designated "Host Course" will gain the favorable seed. The second tie-breaker will be whichever team completed their two rounds first. That includes any potential tie for the 8th and final spot.
 10. The Eight (8) quarter-final P-teams will proceed to play the normal "bessie/aggie" partners match off the low man's handicap, as has been played in all the years past.
 11. The Eight (8) P-team playoff deadlines will be as follows: Quarter-finals rounds must be played by the second Saturday in September; Semi-final rounds must be played by the third Saturday in October; Championship finals must be played before November 15th (the official New Jersey Handicap Season is April 1 through November 14). All playoff matches can be played at any course and on any day of the week, but must be agreed upon by all four participants, ... otherwise playing the match on one of the 5 Somerset courses on a Saturday will take priority.

12: Prize distributions will be awarded as in the past, starting with the 4 quarter-final winners. The exact prize monies will be determined after May 1st... once the total number of P-teams is known.

Partners Tournament Format:

- “Bessie/Aggie” System (Net Scores), total 18 holes.
 - Low Best Ball per hole: 1 point
 - Low Aggregate Score per hole: 1 point
- Handicap Holes will be determined/played off the Low Man’s Handicap
- Tiebreaker(s): Add Points from 9th & 18th Holes, (8th & 17th, etc.)

See the DGA Schedule for the Official Cutoff Dates.++++

If the match is not played by the specific date, the winner will be determined by the team who has played the most rounds during the time period allowed. If both teams have played the same number of rounds and have not attempted to play the match, both are eliminated. All matches must be completed by the indicated date and prior to the end of the Handicap season (i.e. must be played with Summer Rules). (NO EXCEPTIONS!).

One player from each team MUST keep a match scorecard and must announce the current match score before anyone tees off on the next hole. Once announced and agreed to by both teams, play may continue and no change can be made to scoring on prior holes concerning the match play score.

XVII. Interclub (Ryder Cup) Team Tournament - Selection Rules

The DGA will select 8 members to participate in the Interclub Team Tournament. Rules of selection were determined by a committee consisting of: Dennis Grote, Geoff Marshall, John Perry.

The 8 Team Members will select a Captain who will determine the pairings based on the tournament rules.

The Team Captain will be responsible to attend the tournament organizational meetings the following year.

The Selection Rules are:

- All qualifiers are required to have completed at least 8 Vardon Rounds by no later than 8/15 of the qualifying year.
- Hole-in-One Money is excluded from Money List ranking
- Tied categories such as 3 win qualifiers in World Series and low aggregate World Series qualifiers would all qualify for the EOY tournaments unless other rules preclude ties
- Once teams are selected then all eight members will vote for captain. They will submit their votes to Weekendteetime@dganj.com. The captain will be responsible for allocating the members into the various team events.
- If the previous or current year qualifier is no longer with the DGA as of 8/15, that position will be filled by the next position on the list until all slots are filled.

List of Qualifying Events:

1. Winner of Previous Year World Series
2. Winner of Previous Year Match Play
3. Winner of Previous Year Myrtle Beach (Individual)
4. Low Aggregate World Series Score (Current Year)
5. World Series Winners (Current Year)
6. 3 Win World Series Qualifiers (Current Year)
7. 2 Man Scramble Winners (Current Year)
8. Vardon List 1st (Current Year)
9. Money List 1st (Current Year)
10. Vardon List 2nd (Current Year)
11. Money List 2nd (Current Year)
12. Alternating Vardon List 3-?? And Money List 3 - ?? (Current Year)