

DGA Winter Meeting 2013 – Proposals

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.**

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**

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 1st Place (\$.30 per player) and 40% for 2nd 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.

Notice of Change to GHIN Handicapping Fee for 2013 (Proposed by John DeSimone)

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.

Proposal to Play Stableford Format during December, January and February (Proposed by Jim Rinaldi)

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.

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**

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