

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

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 6 rounds in 2021
Smith	5792663	8	10	18	Must play 7 rounds in 2021
Wolters	5792661	0	6	6	Must play 9 rounds in 2021

PROPOSAL #2021-3

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.

PROPOSAL #2021-4

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.

PROPOSAL #2021-4A (to be presented IF #2021-4 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.

PROPOSAL #2021 – 5

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	

PROPOSAL #2021-6

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.

PROPOSAL #2021-6A (If PROPOSAL #2021-6 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.

PROPOSAL #2021-7

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.

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.

PROPOSAL #2021-8

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 early as April 3rd, 2021 (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 Saturday July 10th.

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.

PROPOSAL #2021-9

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.