

Date: January 26, 2014  
To: DGA Members  
Subject: 2014 Rule Changes

The Winter Meeting was held on January 25, 2014 at South Side Grille. The DGA has 35 Active and 7 LifeTime Members. 25 Active Members attended the meeting at South Side Grille and 1 Active Member attended remotely via Skype. 26 Attendees had Voting Privileges by playing five (5) or more rounds in 2013. 19 votes were needed to pass any Rule Changes.

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

#### **PROPOSAL #2014 - 1**

##### **Enable members to attend the Winter meeting and vote on proposals and motions via remote communications. (Proposed by Larry Thiry and Doug Conway)**

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** – Proposal was approved by a vote of 18 – 6. Only 18 votes were required because only 24 Voting Members were present at the start of the meeting.

#### **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, gommeting.com) 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 #2014 - 2**

### **Allow Consultation Between Partners During Partners Matches (Proposed By Doug Conway & Frank Thiry)**

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 –** Proposal was **NOT** approved by a vote of 13 – 13.

## **PROPOSAL #2014 – 3**

### **Proposal to Modify Gross and Net Par 3 Pots (Proposed by Doug Conway)**

I propose that we modify the Gross Par 3 and Net Par 3 Pots so that only the player (and ties) with the lowest number of strokes in the category wins money in the pot. In 2013, these categories paid 60% of the pot to the 1st place winner and 40% to the 2nd place players.

**Reasoning:** We tried these pots in 2013 and they seemed to be well received....except for the payout to the 2nd place players. The 2nd place payout caused confusion on how to split the monies especially when there were ties for 2nd place.

**Result** – Proposal was approved by a vote of 23 – 3.

### **Rules Package Wording (Section V - DGA Pots/Nassaus – 1. Individual Hole Categories)**

- 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.

## **PROPOSAL #2014 – 4**

### **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 **on the first Saturday** 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.

**Result** – Proposal was approved by a vote of 19 – 7

#### **Rules Package Wording (Section X – DGA Official Handicap Dates and Playing Rules)**

4. The DGA will play Stableford Format on the first (1st) Saturday of December, January and February. The Stableford scoring will be:
  - 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

## **PROPOSAL #2014 – 5**

Proposal to Play an “Equity Day” (Proposed by Larry Thiry and Doug Conway)

I would like to propose that we schedule an “Equity Day” round of golf. This would be an experiment for the DGA.

The way it works is similar to the way country club players score their rounds. Each golfer plays his round as he normally would, however, once a golfer gets to his equity stroke limit, he picks up.

- 0-9 handicapper picks up at double bogey
- 10-19 picks up at 7
- 20-29 picks up at 8
- 30-39 picks up at 9
- 40+ picks up at 10.

A player does not have to hit balls up to his equity stroke limit. For example, if an 18 handicapper hits 3 balls into the water on a par 4 or 5, he may just say, “put me down for an 7” and move on.

**Reasoning:** There are three potential benefits:

- It would significantly speed up play.
- It also adheres to the USGA handicap system.

Also, this may be an agreeable way to play under adverse conditions. Larry’s extra comment: It sure beats going home or suffering through a downpour or extreme (cold) weather conditions.

**Result** – Proposal was **NOT** approved by a vote of 4 – 22.

## **PROPOSAL #2014 – 6**

### **Add a Two Month Probationary Period to the new membership process. (Proposed by Dave Perry)**

There are times in the new membership process when a prospective member reaches his six round requirement so quickly that he had not met or played with the majority of the existing membership. This does not give the current members enough time or information (i.e. what type of player is the prospective member? Is the qualifying handicap accurate enough?) to make an informed decision. I propose that a two month probationary period be added to the process before a final vote for membership is taken. The revised process would work as follows:

- After the prospective member has played six (6) qualifying rounds, a vote will be taken. If the prospective member receives a majority of the votes in favor or abstention, he will be a Probationary Member and his new handicap will be calculated as it has in the past (best 2 of 6 rounds).
- After the Probationary Member has played another two (2) months, a final membership vote will be taken at which time the Probationary Member needs 2/3 of the votes cast in favor of his membership.

**Reasoning:** The additional probationary period will give the probationary member time to market himself and the membership more time and information to make an informed decision.

**Result** – Proposal approved by a vote of 19 – 7.

### **Rules Package Wording (Section II - Membership Rules)**

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. 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. 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.

## **Proposal #2014-7**

### **Off Season DGA Rounds Must Have Eight (8) Or More DGA Members To Be Included In Handicap Calculations (Proposed by several members at the meeting)**

Any rounds played between November 1 – March 31 in a location where the Handicap Season is OPEN must have 8 or more DGA members for the round to count for Handicap. In addition, if these “off season” rounds are included for Handicap Calculation, they will also be included for Vardon Trophy. Any rounds played between November 1 – March 31 in a location where Handicap season is Open and there are less than 8 DGA members, the round will only count for DGA Winnings/Losses.

**Reasoning:** Playing rounds during the winter months in locations where the Handicap Season is Open adversely affects the handicaps of the participants.

**Result:** Proposal approved by more than 20 members.

### **Rules Package Wording (Section III – DGA Official Rounds)**

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 Members/Prospective Members/Probationary Members) played from April 1 – October 31 (NJSGA Handicap Season).
  - All DGA Rounds (8 or more DGA Members/Prospective Members/Probationary Members) played from November 1 – March 31 if the round is played in a location where the handicap season is OPEN (i.e. Florida, South Carolina).
  - All DGA Rounds (3 or more DGA Members/Prospective Members/Probationary Members) played from November 1 – March 31 in New Jersey or any location where the handicap season is CLOSED will only be recorded for DGA Winnings/Losses and not for Handicap or Vardon Trophy.
  - All DGA Rounds with less than 8 DGA Members/Prospective Members/Probationary Members played from November 1 – March 31 in a location where the handicap season is OPEN will only be recorded for DGA Winnings/Losses and not for Handicap or Vardon Trophy.

### **Proposal #2014-7 (RE-Vote)**

**On 1/27/14, the Secretary/Handicap Chairman requested a RE-Vote after publishing an analysis that showed the original Proposal #2014-7 was in violation to USGA Handicap Rules mainly because the inconsistency between the number of player needed in an offseason round (3 of DGA and 8 for handicap). The Re-Vote was seconded and the Re-Vote was taken. As of 1/31/14, 22 votes were cast out of the 26 members present at the Winter Meeting. The outcome was 21 NO and 1 YES. The Proposal was NOT approved.**

### **Off Season DGA Rounds Must Have Eight (8) Or More DGA Members To Be Included In Handicap Calculations (Proposed by several members at the meeting)**

Any rounds played between November 1 – March 31 in a location where the Handicap Season is OPEN must have 8 or more DGA members for the round to count for Handicap. In addition, if these “off season” rounds are included for Handicap Calculation, they will also be included for Vardon Trophy. Any rounds played between November 1 – March 31 in a location where Handicap season is Open and there are less than 8 DGA members, the round will only count for DGA Winnings/Losses.

**Reasoning:** Playing rounds during the winter months in locations where the Handicap Season is Open adversely affects the handicaps of the participants.

**Result:** Proposal approved by more than 20 members. **The Re-Vote was seconded and the Re-Vote was taken. As of 1/31/14, 23 votes were cast out of the 26 members present at the Winter Meeting. The outcome was 22 NO and 1 YES. The Proposal was NOT approved.**

### **Rules Package Wording (Section III – DGA Official Rounds)**

3. 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 Members/Prospective Members/Probationary Members) played from April 1 – October 31 (NJSGA Handicap Season).
  - All DGA Rounds (3 or more DGA Members/Prospective Members/Probationary Members) played from November 1 – March 31 if the round is played in a location where the handicap season is OPEN (i.e. Florida, South Carolina).

**Proposal #2014 – 8**

**Eagles will be worth \$3.00 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 NOT approved by a vote of 6 – 20

**Proposal #2014 – 9**

**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:** Proposal was NOT approved by a vote of 8 – 18

**Proposal #2014-10**

**If a ball is on a mown/maintained area of the golf course but is “technically out of bounds” because of the poor positioning of or lack of white stakes, the ball should be considered “in play” and not OB. (Proposed by Group Discussion)**

There are places on Somerset County Courses where there are white stakes on the edge of the woods but between stakes there are mown/maintained areas which should be considered as part of the course and not out of bounds. Well marked courses would have a line marking the OB at the edge of the woods.

**Reasoning:** It is unfair to penalize the golfer when a ball is on a mown/maintained area of the course.

**Result:** Proposal was **NOT** approved by a majority of the members.