

Date: February 11, 2020  
To: DGA Members  
Subject: 2020 Rule Changes

The Winter Meeting was held on January 25, 2020 at Freddy's @ Pierce. The DGA has 33 Active, 5 LifeTime Members and 8 Deceased Lifetime Members. 24 Active Members attended the meeting at Freddy's @ Pierce. All 24 Active Member Attendees had Voting Privileges by playing five (5) or more rounds in 2018 which meant that 16 votes were needed to pass any Rule Changes.

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

## **DGA Winter Meeting 2020 – Proposals**

### **PROPOSAL #2020 – 1**

**I propose that the Tournament Commissioners Must Seek Membership Approval for changes to their events.**

**Further Information:** 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.

**Vote: Proposal Approved 19-5.**

### **PROPOSAL #2020 – 2**

**I propose that the DGA include a provision for Re-Qualifying Members”**

**Further Information:** 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.

**Vote: Proposal Approved 21-3.**

**PROPOSAL #2020 – 3**

**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.

**Vote: Proposal Defeated 7-17.**

**PROPOSAL #2020 – 3A (to be presented IF #2020-1 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.

**Vote: Proposal Defeated 7-17.**

**PROPOSAL #2020 – 4**

**I propose That the DGA eliminate a DGA ONLY Handicap and use the GHIN Handicap for all DGA competitions. (Proposed by Doug Conway)**

**Further Information:** Using the GHIN Handicap Index would eliminate any confusion between which Handicap Index should be used for a DGA Competition.

It would require that all members enter their non-DGA score using the GHIN app on their phone or GHIN terminals in the golf course clubhouses.

**Vote: Proposal Approved 19-5. This change will take effect 4/1/2020 at the start of the NJ Handicap System.**

## **PROPOSAL #2020 – 5**

**I propose that the DGA use an approved Handicap Calculation System to track individual scores and handicaps based on the rules and calculations included in the World Handicap System. GHIN is the preferred system. (Proposed by Mike Jeffries, Seconded by Doug Conway and Jim Rinaldi)**

**Further Information:** Proposed that we move to a system that will consistently calculate the index adjustments contained in the World Handicap system.

The World Handicap system has several calculations that can dramatically impact a player's index. The exceptional round is a challenging calculation to administer if you don't have the proper software system. The example and explanation given at the introduction meeting for all clubs in NJ that Bruce and Mike attended are difficult if not impossible to administer using Excel.

The playing conditions adjustment is impossible to administer unless your scores are included with all players that played a course that day. An example would be Copperhead that is included in the fall trip – Island is another that has traditionally proved very challenging. If it is as challenging for all players than all will benefit from the adjustment. On the opposite side is Spooky Brook or Quail Brook that have produced average net scores in the upper 60s on some Saturdays.

Utilizing available software to calculate our handicaps will ensure that all the new rules are properly administered, and this will significantly reduce the requirement to calculate DGA Handicaps manually.

**Vote: Proposal Removed From Consideration after Proposal #2020-4 was Approved.**

## **PROPOSAL #2020 – 6**

**I propose that the DGA use the LOWER of a member's DGA ONLY Handicap Index or their GHIN World Handicap System Handicap Index for DGA competitions (Proposed by Mike Jeffries, Seconded by Doug Conway)**

**Reasoning:** Proposed that in cases where members have a different index within the DGA versus their World Handicap that the lower handicap will be used for all DGA only rounds.

Rationale: The DGA is no longer a Somerset County Club where 95% of all rounds are played on a Saturday in Somerset County. Many longtime members have moved away, and others play at country clubs or in other events on a regular basis. The World Handicap index on the GHIN app will reflect all rounds and their current skill level while the DGA index only reflects rounds played on a Saturday in Somerset County.

A player who plays only an occasional round in the DGA may have a decided advantage if they play many more rounds on more difficult courses. Their handicap outside the DGA may be higher reflecting a more challenging schedule or it may be lower because they become very familiar with a particular course or if there are many shots given on a regular basis.

The goal of our club is to promote fair and equitable competition and using the lowest handicap index is the fairest way to conduct our events.

A handicap committee would have the ability to adjust a visiting players index based on prior results in the same event or on the same course. This proposal attempts to mimic that by using all available scores to determine the players ability.

**Vote: Proposal Removed From Consideration after Proposal #2020-4 was Approved.**

## **PROPOSAL #2020 – 7**

**I propose that the DGA return to using the actual Course Rating and Slope at Quail Brook. (Proposed by Frank Thiry-DGA, HOF, Seconded by Doug Conway)**

**Reasoning:** Return to the current designated Slope Rating for Quail Brook. With the new World Handicap system now in place, we should not deviate from any official course Slope Rating. In addition, it would be consistent with any special GHIN/World Handicap System calculations based on Playing Conditions or Exceptional Scores on a given day.

The DGA reverted to the old Slope years ago when the club played in various Inter Club Tournaments and our lower Indexes were hurt by the low scores at Quail Brook. Since we don't play in those tournaments any longer, the DGA should use the actual Course Rating and Slope.

**Vote: Proposal Approved 18-6.**

#### **PROPOSAL #2020 – 8**

**I propose that the Blue Tees be played on all Somerset County Courses rather than the 3 tees where we play the Gold Tees (#1 Spooky, #17 Quail, #15 Warrenbrook)**

**Further Information:** Now that the Playing Handicap Calculation takes the difference between Course Rating and Course Par into account, it would make sense to play the tees associated with the Course Rating and Slope.

**Vote: Proposal Defeated 13-11.**

#### **PROPOSAL #2020 – 9**

**I propose that Entry Fees for Match Play, Partners and World Series be increased. (Proposed by Frank Thiry-DGA, HOF)**

##### **Details and Reasoning:**

Entry fees to DGA tournaments should be increased as follows:

\$15 - Individual Match Play - Pay top 4 players

\$15 - World Series - Pay top 6 players

\$20 - Partners Match Play - Pay top 4 teams (8 players)

That will bring the total entry fees to a rounded \$50 per season. The fees could then be frozen for the next 5 years, 2020 thru 2024.

**Vote: Proposal Approved 16-8. Money will be adjusted on 4/1/2020 at the start of the NJ Handicap Season.**

#### **PROPOSAL #2020 – 10**

**I propose that the Selection of the Mandatory Course for the Partners Qualifying Rounds have a specific established rotation. (Proposed by Frank Thiry-DGA, HOF)**

##### **Details and Reasoning:**

Last year the mandatory qualification course for the Partners Qualification Round was at Green Knoll. I propose we select the mandatory course alphabetically each year going forward, resulting in Quail Brook being that course in 2020, followed by Spooky Brook in 2021 and Warrenbrook in 2022. Unfortunately we cannot include Neshanic Valley in this mandatory sequence due to the fact they have three nines, and the same course may not be offered.

**Vote: Proposal Approved 20-4**

## **PROPOSAL #2020 – 11**

**I propose that DGA Members be awarded \$100 credit towards their DGA Fees for successfully introducing a new Member (especially younger players) into the DGA. (Proposed by Frank Thiry-DGA, HOF)**

**Further Information: The DGA is becoming a very old club and we need to encourage new and younger players to join. A monetary incentive might help.**

**Vote: Proposal defeated 10-14.**

## **Proposal #2020 - 12**

**I propose that the DGA establish a Pick Up or Mercy Rule (Proposed by Frank Thiry-DGA, HOF)**

### **Details and Reasoning:**

Any player encountering a unique problem on any hole (ie: clearing a hazard, such as water or sandtrap) would be allowed the option to pick-up his ball and drop it on the opposite side, or the nearest unimpeded clearing (as agreed by the group), with the following conditions for the player:

- 1- Must first take at least 3 attempts to clear (minimum 3 shots + 3 penalty strokes).
- 2- Must complete the hole from the agreed relief drop area and count all strokes for the hole.
- 3- Will continue to golf the remaining holes 17 holes as usual.
- 4- Will automatically finish in last place in the 18-hole stroke play and the 9-holes being played.
- 5- Will continue to qualify for all DGA pots for that round.

The advantage will help ensure prompt continuation of play for the group, and groups behind as well. It will have no unfair impact on handicap calculations, as all extra shots would be considered equity strokes anyway. This would make more sense to ensure prompt continuation of play and improve time management.

**Vote: Vote was not taken after a discussion about the current DGA Rules concerning a member who takes an X on a given hole. The current rule states that the member finishes last for the 9 hole Nassau where the X was taken and the 18 hole Nassau but can qualify to win for their other 9 hole score and all Pots.**