Preparation For One Network in 2019
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

As you may know, the USGA is converting to a World Handicap System in 2020 (www.msgagolf.org/whs). To prepare for this, the USGA will connect all handicap vendors to one network. Right now, with many different networks, it is hard to find handicap records and hard for the USGA to oversee calculations.

Currently, each handicap vendor has its own network “world”, which means score records are isolated. The MSGA uses the Golfnet system, while many other associations use GHIN. In order to link multiple records for a golfer, we use the International Golf Network (IGN), but it takes a day or two for score routing.

With just one network, each of the handicap providers will still exist, but all handicap calculations will happen in one place... behind the scenes. Everything will look the same as before, but score records will be together, under the USGA umbrella. The MSGA will still use Golfnet, but will be on the same network as GHIN. This is exciting news and will make things much easier for our members!

Here are the benefits of having one network:
- ONE network number - multiple states
- ONE handicap record - no linking needed
- Accessible by anyone in ONE place
- Centralized handicap calculation
- All handicap providers on the same network
- Invisible to golfers - behind the scenes

All Associations will be converted to the new network by January 1, 2019. This season the MSGA will be preparing for the conversion, synching course and course rating information with the USGA, and linking records for members with multiple records. If you have any questions, please contact us.
Boys Junior America’s Cup Comes To Montana!

The Boys Junior America's Cup (JAC) is an annual competition that rotates among its 18 teams from British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Mexico. This year, Montana is host to the JAC, the first time since 2001. The host course is Fairmont Hot Springs Resort GC, in Anaconda, on July 22-26.

The JAC was established in 1973, and the Girls Junior America’s Cup (GJAC) was established in 1978. Montana will host the GJAC tournament in 2021.

To qualify to play, Montana juniors must be among the top 4 boys and girls at MSGA divisionals, then among the top 4 boys and girls at the State Juniors Tournament. Montana sends a team each year to the JAC and GJAC tournaments, with costs funded entirely by the MSGA.

Past competitors of the JAC include Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, and Fred Couples.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Hosting a JAC tournament is a considerable cost, and funded entirely by the host team’s association. This summer will be no different. The MSGA will need assistance absorbing this challenging expense.

If you would like to donate toward the cost of the tournament, organize a charity tournament, or volunteer your services at the event, the MSGA would sincerely appreciate the help! You can contact Jim Opitz at jim@msgagolf.org for more information. Thanks for your support in helping our juniors!

Be Safe Out There!

Usually birdies on the golf course are a good thing... just not when the bird is a very angry goose.

At a high school golf tournament last month in Adrian, Michigan, a foursome had teed off and was walking down a fairway when a goose attacked one unlucky junior golfer. It took four carts to keep the goose away and help retrieve the golfer’s clubs, which fell out during the attack.

The victim was identified as Isaac Couling from Concord High School. The goose was defending its nest nearby. Neither man nor goose was injured.

Isaac says he parred the hole, despite temporarily losing his clubs.
Conference Postseason Recap
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

**Big Sky Conference (NCAA Division I)**

The Big Sky Conference Championship conducted its three-day tournament at the Boulder Creek Golf Club in Boulder City, Nevada, where Montana and Montana State finished in the middle of the pack.

The University of Montana women’s golf team shot a final round 297 to finish seventh. The final round performance ranked tied for second in program history at the conference tournament. The sub-300 round was just the eighth such UM team score in the 25-year history of the tournament. UM started with 306, 309, and 297, giving the Grizzlies a total of 912, besting their cross-state rivals by eight shots.

Butte native, Hailey Hoagland, finished her collegiate career in style with a 71 (-1) to finish T15 individually, which was her career best finish and led UM. Hoagland's 75-78-71, 224, capped one of the best seasons in program history as she averaged better than 76 (75.8), only the second UM player to do so in a season, and earned her all-conference honorable mention. Two other Grizzlies were in the 70's all three rounds as Kalispell native, Teigan Avery, 75-77-74, 226, and Baylee Barckley 77-74-75, 226, tied for 20th overall. Kari Opatz shot 80-80-77, 237, for T40 and Faith D’Ortenzio’s 79-81-82, 242, was T51 to round out play for UM.

One spot back in the team standings was Montana State in eighth. The Bobcats were paced by Clare Dittemore and her rounds of 82-71-74, 227, which garnered a T26 finish. Delaney Elliott exhibited consistent play with rounds of 78-76-77, 231, T31. Senior Jaylee Tait, a two-time all-conference (honorable mention 2017-18) selection, finished her collegiate career with rounds of 84-76-74, 234, for 36th overall. Kelly Hooper, who was third-team all-conference shot 72-81-83, 236, for T38 and Lilly Navarre's 83-78-79, 240, was good for 49th. The 2017-18 golf season comes to an end for UM and MSU with the conclusion of the conference tournament.

After losing the title in a playoff to Sacramento State last spring, the University of Idaho made sure there would be no extra golf this year, shooting rounds of 296, 287, and 283, to win by 10 over the Hornets and win the championship for the second time in three years. Big Sky Player-of-the-Year Sophie Hausmann of Idaho won the individual title by shooting a championship-record score of 206, four better than teammate Michelle Kim. Click here for full results.

**Great Northwest Athletic Conference (NCAA Division II)**

MSU-B sophomore Caleb Stetzner picked up a top-10 finish at the 2018 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships at the Coeur d’Alene Resort Golf Course in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, to lead the Yellowjackets to close out their season. MSU-B finished sixth out of six teams in the GNAC field with rounds of 301-313-293 for a 907 total, six shots out of fourth. Stetzner, the 2017 Montana State Amateur Champion from Anaconda, posted a three-day total of 219 (72-74-73) to tie for 10th overall.

Junior Scott Larson of Kalispell tied for 17th with a total of 226 (73-82-71) and matched a career low round with his final round 71. A trio of golfers originally from the Magic City rounded out the team for MSU-B, as Billings native Garrett Woodin tied for 24th with a total of 231 (77-79-75), followed by Caleb Trost in 26th with 233 (79-78-76), and Riley Kaercher was 29th with 240 (82-84-74).

Simon Fraser University defended its GNAC title, winning the event by nine...Continued next page
strokes with a three-round team score of 852 (276-290-286). SFU's Craig Titterington and Western Washington University's Ethan Castro tied for first place, each with a 209, and the latter claimed medalist honors by winning on the first playoff hole. Click here for full results.

On the women's side, the Yellowjackets saw some strong performances and some careers come to a close as MSU-B had a fourth place showing at the GNAC Championships (also in Coeur d'Alene). Shealyn Hafer was the low finisher for MSU-B, as the junior from Butte posted her best two-round score of her career at 153 (75-78) to tie for fourth place. Senior Sammy Walter also picked up a top-10 finish for the 'Jackets as the Billings native closed out her collegiate career with rounds of 80-78, for a 158 total. Bailee Dexter, originally from Townsend, concluded her career with a T20th showing with 167 (84-83), followed by Sarah Schroefel at 168 (84-84), and Renae Heisler of Great Falls rounded out play in T25 with 169 (83-86).

Concordia University won the team title, coming from behind to top Simon Fraser University with a two-round score of 611 (312-299). CU's Caitlyn Villatora won the individual event, with a two-round score of 149 (74-75). Click here for full results.

Frontier Conference (NAIA)

Teams from the Frontier Conference are now getting used to the yearly trip south to Arizona for their conference championship. With no threat of snow flurries, scoring did not suffer, despite the unfriendly golf weather of March and April. Rocky Mountain College swept the men's and women's team titles and also had both medalist winners. Arizona State's Karsten Golf Course in Tempe, Arizona, again played host to the conference championships, and the familiar mascot on the leaderboard was the Battlin' Bear. In men's action, Rocky cruised, leading wire-to-wire with a three-day total of 874 (298-287-289), 21 shots clear of second place Lewis-Clark State. Each team used their best four scores of five competitors for the team total, but the Battlin' Bears performance was so dominating that all five competitors cracked the top-10 individually.

Medalist honors were hotly contested with Michael Tait's 220 (72-75-73) edging out four players tied at 221, including teammates Reece Nilsen (78-74-69) and Colton Murphy (73-72-76). Also at 221 were Carroll College's Greg Jones (70-77-74), who had a career best tournament to close out his time for the Fighting Saints, and Shaun Harpin of LCSC, who fired rounds of 78-72-71. Cody Babinecz of Great Falls led the University of Providence, tying for 10th at 225 (76-78-71). Sean Benson, originally of Billings, was also T10 as low finisher for Montana Tech at 225 (75-78-72), along with Trey Hoagland (78-74-73). The Orediggers finished third as a team. Devin Bray of MSU-Northern was 23rd to lead the Lights with a total of 247 (85-83-79). By virtue of the team title, Rocky earned a trip to Silvis, Illinois, to compete in the 2018 NAIA Men's Golf National Championship at TPC Deere Run. Click here for full results.

On the women's side, it was the same teams in the top three places as Rocky's total of 957 (329-321-307) was 30 better than the second place Warriors of LCSC at 987. Montana Tech was third with a total of 1069. Billings native and Rocky golfer Hayden Flohr's 232 (77-80-75) edged out teammate Eryn Ellis at 235 (84-81-70) for medalist honors. Marissa Louder of LCSC was third to lead the Warriors with 236 (83-74-79).

Just like the men's team, the Battlin' Bears placed all five competitors in the top-10 as Anna DeMars of Townsend was fourth at 241 (82-81-78). LCSC's Kayla Monroe rounded out the top-five with 243 (77-84-82). Jenna Jensen of MSU-Northern earned sixth place with 247 (85-82-80) to lead the Lights. Rachel Miles paced Carroll College with a tenth place finish at 258 (88-85-85). Montana Tech's Hailey Ogolin of Butte shot 263 (95-85-83) for T10 as low Oredigger and McCall Enott of Great Falls was low finisher for University of Providence at 282 (98-94-90), good enough for T19. Rocky's women's team will head to PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, for the national championship on May 22. Click here for full results.
The Montana State Seniors Golf Association (MSSGA) will be holding its 2018 State Senior Golf Tournament on August 7-9 in Helena. The tournament annually attracts over 320 golfers.

This year golfers will play one round each at Green Meadow Country Club, Fox Ridge Golf Course, and Bill Roberts Golf Course. Golfers must be MSSGA members to be eligible to play in the tournament. MSSGA membership is open to any male golfer age 55 or older on or before July 31 of this year. Tournament applications will be mailed to all current MSSGA members at the end of May.

For more information or to become an MSSGA member, visit the MSSGA website at www.mtseniororgolf.org, or contact Kevin Hayes by phone at (406) 439-0814 or by email at mtseniororg@gmail.com. The tournament fills quickly once applications are sent, so if you are interested in playing in the tournament, but are not yet an MSSGA member, please submit your membership form and $45 annual dues as soon as possible in order to receive a tournament application.

Congratulations to our NEWEST WINNERS!

APRIL'S DRAWING:
Sanibel Island, Florida - Helen Ryan, Billings
$200 cash - Cam Cherry, Great Falls

** MAY'S TRIP PRIZE is Dallas Cowboys Football **

PLEASE HELP OUR JUNIORS!
ALL proceeds go to support Junior golf programs in Montana! Go to www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fundraiser for more information.

Get your ticket today! Thanks for your support!

Janet Dean (left) and Rosalie Meltzer (right) enjoyed a trip to Oakland, California, in March that they won in the MSGA Trip-of-the-Month Raffle.

The trip included tickets to the Golden State Warrior’s game. The Warriors won in the last 12 seconds! Janet and Rosalie also enjoyed touring the area and said it was the best $200 ticket they ever bought!

Four trips are left in the 2017-2018 raffle, including a Dallas Cowboys game, Arizona Cardinals game, a Mexican Riviera Cruise, and a trip to Kauai, Hawaii. Get your tickets now before this year’s raffle sales are closed!
DENNIS WALTERS TO RECEIVE 2018 USGA BOB JONES AWARD

The USGA will bestow its highest honor, the Bob Jones Award, on Dennis Walters of Jupiter, Florida, at a ceremony on June 13, 2018, one of the highlights of U.S. Open Championship week in Southampton, New York. Presented annually since 1955, the Bob Jones Award recognizes an individual who demonstrates the spirit, personal character, and respect for the game exhibited by Jones, winner of nine USGA championships.

Known for his never-say-quit attitude, Walters turned the tragedy of being paralyzed from the waist down at age 24 from a golf-cart accident into a personal mission to teach golf and life lessons to a worldwide audience. His story continues to inspire fans of all backgrounds through the countless professional talks and trick-shot shows he has conducted since 1977.

“Dennis Walters exemplifies the values, dedication, and passion for golf that all true champions of the game possess,” said Mike Davis, executive director/CEO of the USGA. “He inspires all of us with his belief that anyone can play the game, delivering life lessons through golf, and showing that anything is possible in both life and golf if you’re willing to work hard enough.”

“I have been on tour for 41 years, just not the tour I imagined,” Walters said. “I started this path for myself as a mechanism to cope with what I considered to be a hopeless situation. I never knew what I could accomplish with my show or how many people it would reach. I made up my mind and was determined to do whatever I could to still make golf my career and a part of my everyday life. What I didn’t know was how it would extend past the golf community to show others what is possible under almost impossible odds. When [then-USGA president] Diana Murphy called me, I felt many different emotions but mostly disbelief. I was filled with humility, gratitude, and appreciation that the USGA would think that I had done something to earn or deserve an award like this, knowing the ideals and examples that Mr. Jones has set. Having my name added to a list of this magnitude, it’s the greatest thing to ever happen to me.”

USGA TEAMS WITH PGA OF AMERICA TO HOUSE PROBST LIBRARY COLLECTION

An important collection of historic golf material, including rare books, periodicals, travelogues, diaries, and political and legal documents dating to the 1500s, has found a new home at the USGA Golf Museum, thanks to a continuing working relationship with the PGA of America. The Colonel R. Otto Probst Library, managed by the PGA of America for more than 40 years, has merged with the USGA’s extensive library collection, in a collaborative effort that enhances the world’s largest and most comprehensive golf library open to the public.

The Probst Library was developed by South Bend, Indiana-based golf collector Colonel R. Otto Probst, whose passion for the game was kindled in the early 1920s with the acquisition of his first golf artifact. Topics explored through the wide-ranging collection include golf instruction, golf club histories, architecture, equipment, fiction, women in golf, travel, humor, literature, and poetry. Several pieces explore Scottish history and its relationship to golf.

“The Probst Collection adds depth and richness to the USGA’s library, providing incredible insight into the game’s cultural and historic evolution,” said Rand Jerris, USGA senior managing director of Public Services. “We are grateful to Colonel Probst and the PGA for cultivating this treasure trove of information, which we can immediately share with fans who love and play the game worldwide.”

“The PGA of America views this partnership with the USGA as a groundbreaking moment in the preservation of more than the printed word of golf,” said PGA Historian Bob Denney. “It also extends Otto Probst’s dream, that future generations of golf aficionados and researchers worldwide may discover the rich history of the game.”