World Handicap System Education Begins Soon

Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

Education for the new World Handicap System (WHS) will begin soon, with a series of brief educational videos and other helpful resources. We'll post these on our website and social media as they are released by the USGA. The first introductory video can be viewed by clicking here or on the picture below. Be sure to check it out!

On track for a January 1, 2020, release, the World Handicap System will merge 6 different handicap systems worldwide into just 1 single set of rules, using the best features of each. This will provide a more consistent measure of a player's ability, help modernize the sport, include more golfers (including recreational golfers), and make the game more appealing and enjoyable.

The WHS will have 8 key features:

- Minimum number of scores to establish a Handicap Index and maximum Handicap Index of 54.0
- Basis of calculation of Handicap Index
- Acceptability of scores for handicap purposes
- Course Rating and Slope Rating
- Calculation of a Playing Handicap
- Maximum hole score for handicap purposes
- Adjustments for abnormal playing conditions
- Frequency of updating a Handicap Index

Educational videos will be released for each feature throughout the 2019 season, which will include more detail.

One key feature will be daily revisions, instead of our current bi-monthly revision schedule. We encourage you to get into the habit now of posting your score the same day you play, to make the transition easier next season. The smartphone app makes this requirement very easy. The MSGA app can be downloaded for Apple and Android phones. If you haven’t set up an MSGA login yet, please contact us for assistance.

More information about WHS can be found at www.whs.com.
New MSGA Hall of Fame Members
George Geise, MSGA Board of Directors

The Montana State Golf Association elected two new members to the Hall of Fame at the organization's spring meeting last weekend in Great Falls.

Steve Williamson of Shelby was chosen for the men's associate division, while Julia Jones of Missoula was selected for the women's wing. In addition, Johnny Walker of Huntley was posthumously chosen to receive the Paul Allen Award for his career contributions to women's golf.

Williamson will become the 68th male member of the MSGA Hall of Fame, while Jones will become the 55th female member of the hall. After operating separate golf units for nearly 70 years, the MSGA merged the men's and women's associations in 2018.

Williamson will be honored at the Men's State Amateur Tournament in Great Falls in July, while Jones and Walker will be recognized at the Women's State Amateur/Senior event in Billings, also in July.

Williamson has been one of Montana's top amateur players for nearly 30 years, winning the State Mid-Amateur championship in 2003 and contending for several major championships over the years. He also has won 10 Oilfield Invitational titles at his home course, the Marias Valley Golf Club. But he was recognized by the MSGA primarily for his support and promotion of golf on the Hi-Line. His family was mainly responsible for constructing a second nine holes at the Shelby course in the late 1990s, and Williamson was instrumental in attracting many state-level tournaments to his home course.

Jones also has a long record of achievement as a player, winning 11 club championships, as well as being the State Senior Amateur champion in 2009. She has also contributed to the junior golf scene in the Bitterroot Valley, serving as coach of boys' and girls' teams at Missoula Loyola High School for many years.

Walker, who died a few years ago, was a longtime pro and teacher at the Pryor Creek course near Billings, where he started the golf program at Huntley Project High School and mentored many young women.

To see the complete list, visit www.msgagolf.org/hall-of-fame.
ONE NETWORK IN 2020
Regardless of handicap vendor, all Associations will be converted to one network by the end of 2019 (this date has changed).

Here are the benefits:
• ONE network # - multiple states
• ONE handicap record - no linking
• Accessible by anyone in ONE place
• Centralized handicap calculation
• All handicap vendors, same network
• Invisible to golfers, no software or program change

DO YOU HAVE A GHIN# or other record outside the MSGA?
If so, we need to link your records, if this hasn't been done already! With the merge to one network coming, this needs to be completed soon to eliminate problems and confusion for both you and anyone searching your record.

Just email your information to support@msgagolf.org, and we’ll set you up!

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Handicapping FAQs
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

CAN I POST SCORES PLAYED FROM A PAR 3 COURSE?
A Par 3 course is a “Short Course”, which is categorized as under 3,000 yards for 18 holes (or under 1,500 for 9 holes).

A Short Course doesn't receive a Slope Rating and usually a full set of golf clubs is not used in play. Because of this, any handicap issued would not be equitable when playing at a standard sized course. Handicaps issued at a Short Course are followed by “SL” (or “Short course/Local use only”) to show they are not a Handicap Index, and not portable for use when playing at other clubs.

Therefore, if you play a Par 3 course, you can not post the score to your standard record for handicap purposes. If you do post it, it will display in red, showing it is not being used in the Handicap Index calculation.

Meadow Lark Country Club Celebrates 100th
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

The site of the 2019 Montana State Amateur Championship will be celebrating history of its own this year as Great Falls’ Meadow Lark Country Club celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

As with much golf geography history in Montana, the centrally located and beautiful layout of Meadow Lark Country Club was previously a cow pasture. The founders of the country club, who had a vision to develop the land for golf, approached Meadow Lark Dairy to sell their land. The land's owner, Paris Gibson, agreed to the sale, but insisted the club embrace the name.

Meadow Lark was recognized by The History Museum in Great Falls as part of the museum's annual Legacy Night. The country club and its nine oiled, sand greens began with 130 shares at the equivalent of $10,000 a share in today's dollars. Now, the course has grass greens and 18 holes of golf, along with tennis, swimming, fitness facilities, and two restaurants. The club has been an important part of the community, routinely hosting numerous charitable events, meetings, and gatherings for social celebrations, like weddings.

The 6,932-yard course has beautiful riverside views as well as tree-lined holes that frame the century-old course. Like many country clubs across the nation, the membership numbers have seen variation with the high-water mark in the 1970s and ‘80s when the club had a waitlist. It will mark its centennial this summer with golf and tennis events and a barn dance-style party.

This year, Meadow Lark Country Club plays host to the 102nd Montana State Amateur Championship on July 25-27. Click here to register.
Spalding-Led Aztecs Reach NCAA Regionals

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Billings' native Leslie Spalding's San Diego State Aztecs are headed to the NCAA Division I Cle Elum Regional, May 6-8, at Suncadia Resort in Cle Elum, Washington.

Spalding, formerly the head coach at Montana State, has been in San Diego for eight seasons and has led the women's golf team to seven NCAA regional appearances including six consecutive trips.

The Aztecs landed an automatic bid after winning the Mountain West Championship on April 18. SDSU will be joined at the par-72, 6,306-yard, Tumble Creek Club by USC, Arkansas, South Carolina, Northwestern, Washington, Miami (Fla.), Oregon, San José State, Oregon State, Old Dominion, Iowa State, UCF, Ohio State, Sacramento State, New Mexico State, Boston University, and Southern Illinois.

Play in the Pacific Northwest will include three 18-hole rounds. The lowest scoring six teams will advance to the NCAA Championships, scheduled for May 17-22, at Blessings Golf Club in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Spalding played her prep golf at Billings Senior High School, where she won the 1986-87 girls' state title. She also was consecutive Montana State Women's Amateur champion in both 1991 and 1992. She attended the University of Alabama on a golf scholarship from 1987 to 1991. She won two tournaments for the Crimson Tide, the 1990 Neva McCall/Alabama Intercollegiate and the 1991 Women's Southern Intercollegiate, before earning her bachelor's degree in telecommunication/film with a minor in marketing in 1992.

Spalding competed on the LPGA Tour from 1996-2005, racking up seven top-10s and earned more than $600,000 in prize winnings. She has been a PGA Member since 1995, and worked as a teaching professional at Yegen Golf Club in Billings, Montana, from 2006-07, before heading to Bozeman to coach the Bobcats from 2007-2011.

MSGA Scholarships Awarded

Carla Berg, MSGA Board of Directors

During the spring board meeting of the MSGA, the board approved the awarding of 8 scholarships. Formerly the MSWGA awarded scholarships to girls only. However, this past fall the MSWGA merged with their parent association, the Montana State Golf Association, and it was agreed to continue the scholarship program, including scholarships for boys as well. The students must be graduating Montana high school seniors.

The 2019 recipients are the following: Boys—Paul O’Neil (Laurel High School), Daniel “Bucky” Crippen (Loyola Sacred Heart High School, Missoula), Tyson St. John (Great Falls High School), and Gavin Anderson (Helena High School). Girls—Skyler Martin (Shelby High School), Tricia Joyce (Butte Central High School), Katie Friez (Forsyth High School), and Annika Danenhauer (Bozeman High School).

If you know any of these scholars, please take the time to congratulate them!
2018-19 Conference Championships Conclude

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

NCAA Division I

Big Sky – University of Montana & Montana State - The 2018-19 Big Sky Conference season wrapped up and Montana’s two universities finished their respective seasons in Boulder City, Nevada.

Montana State finished sixth of 11 teams competing at Boulder Creek Golf Club. The Bobcats posted team scores of 294-310-299, for a total of 903, one shot better than Northern Arizona, to finish in sixth place. Senior Clare Dittemore was the low finisher for Montana State with a three-round total of 219 (+3) that tied for 8th. Finishing her Bobcat career in style, Dittemore shot 70-77-72 during the tournament. Dittemore's two-under-par opening round of 70 had her one shot from the lead after round one. Kelly Hooper's 74-76-74, 224, total was tied for 16th overall. Delaney Elliott was 30th overall after rounds of 71-81-77, 229. Next, Sofia Rodriguez-Todd tied for 34th with rounds of 80-76-76, for a total of 232. Coral Schulz rounded out play for the Bobcats with 79-86-78, for a 243 total and a T46 finish.

The University of Montana finished in 10th place with a team total of 940 after rounds of 307-325-308. The low scorer for UM was freshman Kylie Esh, who shot 74-80-73, 227, and tied for 24th overall. Senior Baylee Barckley shot 79-83-76, for a total of 238 and T40 standing. Barckley leaves Missoula with a career average of 77.81, the fifth lowest in program history. Faith D'Ortenzio posted 78-80-81, for 239 and T42 position, followed by Teigan Avery's 76-89-78, 243, and Allison Sobol posted 81-82-81, 244, to finish T46 and 48th respectively.

The victorious team champions, Sacramento State, the only team with three rounds better than 300, closed with a 280 and team total of 867 (290-297-280), twenty shots clear of second place Idaho. Northern Colorado’s Beah Cruz and Sacramento State's Corinne Viden both finished the tournament at one-under 215. Cruz won individual medalist honors with a playoff victory over Viden. For full results, click here.

The women's team also finished fifth in Coeur d'Alene with a two-day team total of 652 (334-318), two back of Northwest Nazarene University. The Yellowjackets said goodbye to two players, as Shealyn Hafer and Sarah Schroefel concluded their playing careers for MSUB. Schroefel finished in 10th place after rounds of 81-77, 158. Her senior teammate, Hafer, was two shots back in 11th after shooting 82-78, 160. Hafer, MSUB's low scorer for the season, finished her four-year career with the Yellowjackets by making birdie on her final two holes. Schroefel was two shots off of her personal single-round best, with a 77 on day two. Playing in her first GNAC Conference Tournament, freshman Kinsey Irvin was 20th after shooting 88-79, 167. Renae Heisler was a shot behind Irvin in 21st with rounds of 84-84, 168. Rounding out the scoring for MSUB was freshman Tierney Messmer who was "Continued next page"
28th with rounds of 87-87, 174. Western Washington University’s Lacy Sheldon was the medalist, with a two-round score of 145 (73-72). Simon Fraser University took home the team with a score of 616 (311-305). For full results, click here.

NAIA

Frontier Conference – Carroll College, Montana Tech, MSU-Northern, Rocky Mountain College and University of Providence

Montana Tech senior, Sean Benson, made history as he became the first Oredigger to claim a Frontier Conference Title with a four-under-par performance in Phoenix, Arizona. His victory was immensely important following the loss of head coach Lee Labret, who passed away only two months earlier.

Benson posted 71-70-71, 212, to win by six shots over Reece Nilsen of Rocky Mountain College 74-75-69, 218. Benson was the only player under par for the three rounds. His victory advances him to the NAIA National Championships.

Individually, Providence’s Jonny Cielak finished third after three consecutive rounds of 74 for a 222 total. Rocky Mountain College posted a team total of 903 (302-307-294), eight shots clear of Montana Tech. The Battlin’ Bears had four players in the top-ten. Following Nilsen, Michael Tait was fourth with 226 (76-76-74), Colton Murphy was seventh at 230 (76-80-74), and HoTaë Kim shot 231 (76-78-77). Mitchell Thiessen rounded out the scoring for Rocky in 13th with 234 (77-78-79).

Montana Tech had three players crack the top-10 as the team finished second overall with a total of 911 (302-309-300). Sean Ramsbacher and Trey Hoagland finished tied for 10th at 232. Ramsbacher shot 74-81-77 and Hoagland posted 79-80-73. Jimmy Amundson was T14 with 235 (78-78-79) and Bridger Martin was 23rd with 246 (81-84-81). Carroll College’s Samuel Berry tied for 5th with a 227 total (80-75-72). MSU-Northern’s Devin Bray also was T5 with rounds of 75-77-75.

Benson and the victorious Rocky Mountain College men’s team will return to the Valley of the Sun, as the 2019 NAIA National Golf Tournament will be held May 21-24 at Las Sendas Golf Club in Mesa, Arizona. For full results, click here.

On the women’s side, Lewis-Clark State’s Marissa Louder secured an automatic bid to nationals after besting Rocky Mountain’s Eryn Ellis in a playoff, after the two finished the third round tied at 232. Louder shot 78-76-78 and Ellis posted 77-76-79. Louder was victorious on hole one of their playoff.

The Battlin’ Bears have been dominant this season in the Frontier Conference and it was no surprise that four golfers finished in the top five.

Hayden Flohr was third with 245 (84-80-81), Morgan O’Neil was fourth with 246 (83-81-82), and Anna DeMars was fifth at 248 (83-82-83). Amanda Conner also made the top-10 for Rocky as she finished seventh at 254 (81-83-90). Rocky’s three-round team total of 968 was nearly thirty better than second-place LC-State (996). Montana Tech was third with 1093.

Tanna Campbell of Montana Tech was T9 with a 261 total (90-89-82) to lead the Orediggers. Providence was led by Casey Babinecz who finished 11th with 264 (89-89-86). Jenna Jensen paced MSU-Northern with 269 (96-84-89), good for 13th. Carroll College was led by Cailin Spencer who finished 14th with 271 (98-92-81).

Louder and Rocky Mountain College earned births to the NAIA National Championships May 15-17 at Lincoln Park Golf Course in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For full results, click here.
Montana Native, Rademaker Named Golf Pro at North Dakota Golf Course

Mike Rademaker was born in Great Falls, raised in Lewistown, and has family in Billings. The Montana native was recently named head golf professional at Heart River Golf Course in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Rademaker heads to North Dakota from Grass Valley, California, where he was both the golf professional and general manager of the nine-hole country club. Moving closer to family and familiar geography was a draw to Rademaker, a professional since 2000. He also has experience running golf courses in Tacoma, Washington, where he served for four years as facilities manager for both Lake Spanaway and Fort Stel-lacoom golf courses.

Rademaker was drawn to golf through the inherent challenges and uniqueness that the sport brings. “It’s a sport you will never master, but it is so fun trying to master it,” he said. “It challenges you mentally, physically, and emotionally. And the fact that there’s a lot of integrity in golf. It’s the only sport I know of where you, in competition, call penalties on yourself.”

If you head east through Dickinson this season say hello to Mike!

Future High School State Golf Tournament Locations Announced

The Montana High School Association (MHSA) executive board announced the dates and sites for upcoming state high school golf tournaments.

2019
Class AA — Meadow Lark Country Club, Great Falls, Oct. 3-4, 2019; Class A — Laurel Golf Club, Laurel, Oct. 3-4, 2019; Class B — Eaglerock Golf Course, Billings, May 12-13, 2020; Class C — Sidney Country Club, Sidney, May 11-13, 2020

2020
Class AA — Missoula, location TBD, to be held between Sept. 28 – Oct. 3, 2020; Class A — Butte Country Club, Butte, Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2020; Class B — Not yet awarded; Class C — Not yet awarded

In two weeks, the 2018-19 season will wrap up with the conclusion of Class B & C Golf Tournaments.

2019 Class B State Golf:  May 14-15, 2019 - Missoula Area (Girls at Canyon River Golf Club, Boys at The Ranch Club)  
2019 Class C State Golf:  May 14-15, 2019 - Seeley Lake, MT (Boys & Girls at Double Arrow Resort)