### July Tournaments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/1</td>
<td>Cascade County Junior Golf Tour</td>
<td>Eagle Falls GC (Great Falls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PNWPGA (WMC) Junior Pro-Am</td>
<td>Green Meadow CC (Helena)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am</td>
<td>Cottonwood Hills GC (Bozeman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/2</td>
<td>Senior Interclub</td>
<td>Red Lodge Mountain GC (Red Lodge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missoula Junior Golf Tour</td>
<td>The Ranch Club (Missoula)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harlo High Alumni Tournament</td>
<td>Jawbone Creek CC (Harlowton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4th of July Tournament</td>
<td>Pine Meadows GC (Lewistown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Firecracker Open</td>
<td>Big Sky GC (Big Sky)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Firecracker Scramble</td>
<td>Yegen GC (Billings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independence Day Flag Tournament</td>
<td>Livingston GC (Livingston)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red, White, &amp; Blue</td>
<td>Eagle Bend GC (Bigfork)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/3-6</td>
<td>83rd Annual 4th of July Tournament</td>
<td>Whitefish Lake GC (Whitefish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eclectic</td>
<td>Laurel GC (Laurel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/6</td>
<td>4 Person Red Ball</td>
<td>Stillwater GC (Columbus)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Champions Crowned at Montana State Juniors

*Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director*

Competitors from around the Treasure State converged at Lake Hills Golf Club in Billings with junior qualifiers participating in age groups 16-18, 14-15, and 13 and under.

Bozeman’s Justus Verge defeated Butte’s Kaven Noctor to win the overall boys’ junior championship. Verge, who shot a one-under-par 71, finished even after a first round 73. Competing in the 14-15 age group, Verge waited for Noctor, who also finished at a 144 total, with first round 73 and second round 71. Verge was able to claim victory in a playoff for the overall win.

Noctor won the 16-18 age group by one shot over Bozeman’s J.R. Small (145). Blake Finn of Big Timber was third with 148, followed by Bozeman’s Jack Thorsen at 149, and Laurel’s Paul O’Neil and Billings’ Cody Brunner tied for fifth at 150.

The low round from the back tees in the tournament came from Jordan Verge who posted at five-under-par 67 after struggling to 83 on day one. Jordan, the twin brother of Justus, tied for second in the 14-15 age group with Eli Groshelle of Great Falls at 150. Joe Opitz of Missoula and Tyler Avery of Kalispell tied for fourth at 157.

Overall, Laurel’s Cameron Hackmann (13 & under) posted both the low score overall as well as low round of the tournament from the forward tees, as he fired a blistering six-under-par 66 on day two, for a 143 total and one-under overall. Hackmann made seven birdies during his final round. Kade McDonough of Missoula was second with 151, with Torrin Ellis of Ronan claiming third at 156. John Gilbert of Helena was fourth at 159 and Sam Norman of Laurel was fifth with 160.

*Continued on the next page*
STATE JUNIORS ... from previous page

Billings’ Carrie Carpenter, cruised to an easy victory in the girls’ overall championship, posting rounds of 73-76 to win by eight shots at 149. Carpenter had the low round of the field both days, leading to an eight-stroke victory. Bozeman produced the next three low scorers overall and in the 16-18 age division, with Laurel Ward in second at 157, Annika Danenhauer taking third with 160, and Cora Rosanova was fourth at 168. In fifth, Big Fork’s Marcella Mercer and Missoula’s Katie Fagg tied with 172.

Laurel’s Haylee Adams won the 14-15 age division with rounds of 86-82 for a 168 total, 11 strokes ahead of fellow Laurel golfer and second-place finisher Kadence Fischer at 179. Kodie Hoagland of Butte and Emma Woods of Fairfield tied for third at 180. Hannah Adams of Laurel was fifth with 181.

The largest margin of victory came in the 13-and-under division, as Billings’ Kenzie Walsh posted 159 and won by 20 shots. Bella Johnson of Billings was second with 179, followed by Addiley Lloyd of Bozeman, whose 188 was good for third. Rounding out the top five were Rebecca Washington of Billings (201) and Katie Lewis of Missoula (203).

Sidney’s 15-yr-old Karly Volk claimed a hole-in-one in round 2 on hole #4. Congratulations, Karly! Full Results of the tournament can be found here.

The annual Montana State Junior Championship commences after qualifiers emerge from five districts from around Montana. A special thanks goes out to Lake Hills in Billings for both staff and volunteers and their commitment as exceptional hosts. Next year’s tournament will be held at Bill Roberts Golf Course in Helena. The 2021 event is scheduled for Polson Bay Golf Course in Polson.
After much public discussion and pressure to allow spectators at high school golf tournaments, the Montana High School Association (MHSA) implemented a golf spectator pilot program for the 2018-19 school year.

The pilot program, which allowed fans on the course for the first time at state tournaments, was deemed successful, and now the MHSA executive board has approved expanding the program to regular season events. Until last fall, golf spectators were not allowed on courses at MHSA meets due to a longstanding rule that designated specific spectator areas (usually tee and greens on holes nearer to clubhouses).

The MHSA’s recent press release stated: “The MHSA welcomes and encourages parents and spectators to attend regular season and postseason golf events. It is appropriate for parents and spectators to respectfully applaud good shots by all players and not just the player they are following. Additionally, we require that parents and spectators adhere to the following set of guidelines. To note, if any of the following guidelines are perceived to be broken by a designated tournament official, the spectator will be removed from the event.

1. Attendance fees (if any) for regular-season events will be determined by the host school. All spectators must register and receive the proper credentials, which must be worn at all times on the course.

2. The MHSA requires all spectators to pay a $10 fee per day during the postseason. Spectators will receive a badge that will be required to be worn at all times on the course. After the fee is paid and the spectator receives a copy of the MHSA Spectator Code of Conduct, they will receive a badge. The host school is responsible for making arrangements to collect fees and distribute badges. The spectator fees will be retained by the host school.

3. MHSA golf coaches and host course personnel will be responsible for ensuring all rules are being followed.”

The high school golf seasons begin in the fall for Class A and AA schools with B & C programs participating in the spring.

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**Congratulations to our NEWEST WINNERS!**

**JUNE’S DRAWING:**
Nashville Predator Hockey - Marcia Reimers, Missoula
$200 cash - Don Schaufler, Ennis

**JULY’S TRIP PRIZE is Las Vegas, Nevada**
Jordan Verge Claims State Match Play Championship
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Jordan Verge became the youngest player to win the Montana State Match Play Championship, as the 15-year-old from Bozeman won five matches en route to hoisting the trophy at Green Meadow Country Club in Helena.

The grueling event usually requires over 100 holes of solid golf for the victor. Verge required extra holes to defeat Billings’ Garrett Woodin in the championship.

Woodin, a collegiate player for MSU-Billings, began the match play portion of the event with a victory over Verge’s twin brother Justus in round one. In the championship, Woodin maintained a lead for much of the day, with a two hole advantage after nine, and led by one going into the par-five 18th hole. Verge was dramatic in forcing a sudden-death playoff as the Bozeman High golfer chipped in for eagle to win the hole. From there, Verge was able to come out on top.

The event consists of an 18-hole qualifier to determine seeding for the field of 32 for match play. Defending champion Logan Lindholm of Kalispell came out in great form, posting the low qualifying round at 64. He earned medalist honors and the top seed after his seven-under round. Lindholm’s momentum did not carry him forward in match play, as Brady Cady of Billings pulled off the upset in round one.

Jordan Verge earned the number 10 seed and defeated Bozeman’s Jack Johnston 5&4 in his first match. Next, Verge defeated Great Falls’ Eli Groshelle, setting up a match with Missoula’s Bill Dunn in the round of eight. In the semifinals, Verge squared off with Montana Tech’s Sean Ramsbacher and came out ahead to set up the championship match with Woodin.

The 16th seeded Woodin advanced after his first round victory over Justus Verge set him up with Cady in round two. Woodin would then go on to defeat Helena’s Brady Kirkeby in the round of eight and move on to the championship after a semifinal victory over Cory Donahue of Anaconda. Ramsbacher defeated Donahue in the consolation match for third place.

Congratulations to our newest Ace Club Members!
Did you get a hole-in-one? Go to www.msgagolf.org to see how to get your MSGA Hole-in-One Certificate!

Karly Volk, 6/25/19, Lake Hills GC, Hole #4, 154 yds, N/A
Curtis Schulte, 6/19/19, Stillwater GC, Hole #2, 155 yds, 7 Iron
Paul Pahut, 6/12/19, Riverside CC, Hole #16, 124 yds, Pitching Wedge
Robin S. Campbell, 6/4/19, Yegen GC, Hole #13, 116 yds, 6 Iron
Ryan Novak, 6/2/19, Missoula CC, Hole #17, 151 yds, 7 Iron
Mark Watkins, 5/31/19, Riverside CC, Hole #8, 129 yds, Pitching Wedge
Calvin Penrose, 6/15/19, Butte CC, Hole #17, 151 yds, Pitching Wedge

7/15/19
Cascade County Junior Golf Tour
Pondera GC (Conrad)
7/15/19
County Juniors
Lake Hills GC (Billings)
7/15/19
PNWPGA (WMC) Ladies Pro-Am
Glacier View GC (West Glacier)
7/15/19
Southwest Montana Junior Golf Tour
Highland View GC (Butte)
7/15/19
Wheat Montana Junior Golf Tour
Riverside CC (Bozeman)
7/16/19
Ladies Invitational
Signal Point GC (Fort Benton)
7/16/19
Missoula Junior Golf Tour
Canyon River GC (Missoula)
7/16/19 - 7/17/19
RMSS & National Qualifier
Laurel GC (Laurel)
7/17/19
Ladies League Hawaiian Open
Livingston GC (Livingston)
7/18/19
Senior Interclub
Yegen GC (Billings)
7/18/19 - 7/19/19
Seniors Tournament
Mission Mountain GC (Ronan)
7/18/19 - 7/20/19
Lark Member/Guest
Meadow Lark CC (Great Falls)
7/18/19 - 7/20/19
Women’s State & Sr Amateur Champ.
The Briarwood GC (Billings)
7/19/19
9 Round Golf Tournament
Lake Hills GC (Billings)
7/19/19
Fore Our Youth Golf Tournament
Yegen GC (Billings)
7/19/19
NW Montana Association of Realtors
Village Greens GC (Kalispell)
7/19/19 - 7/21/19
The Cannonball (Member/Guest)
Scobey GC (Scobey)
7/20/19
4th Annual MT DAV Golf Scramble
Bill Roberts GC (Helena)
7/20/19
Big Sky State Games
Yegen GC (Billings)
7/20/19
Custer Schools Fundraiser
Pryor Creek GC (Huntley)
Malby Wins WMCPGA Assistants Championship
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Ryan Malby, of Iron Horse Golf Club, was victorious in the 2019 Western Montana Chapter PGA Assistants Championship at Hamilton Golf Club with a even par finish of 144.

Malby fired a first round three-under-par 69 to lead after day one. Malby shot 75 on day two to finish at even, and three shots ahead of Blake Greer of Rock Creek Cattle Company (Deer Lodge) and Tyler Martin of Village Greens Golf Course (Kalispell), who tied with 147. Click here for full results.

Mance Tees It Up at U.S. Senior Open
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Mark Mance of Whitefish qualified for the 40th U.S. Senior Open through sectional qualifying in San Francisco. He competed with household names from the Champions Tour and top amateurs from around the country at the Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

Mance, the 2016 Montana State Mid-Amateur champion, joined fellow amateur Tommy Brennan and professional Bret Burroughs off hole 10 in the final group of round one. Mance scored 72, Brennan 75, and Burroughs 75. All 3 players missed the cut after round two, scoring 76, 74, and 79, respectively. Results can be found here.

Handicapping FAQs
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

What Is The Proper Way To Post Away Scores?

If at all possible, use the tools to post away scores instead of posting them manually! When using the club KIOSK, click Post Away Score, then Course Directory. When ONLINE, click Away Course Search to the right of the Course line. When in the APP, click the Search tab. There are several reasons for this:

1. The Course Rating numbers listed on scorecards can be out of date!! The Association updates the Course Rating database when new course ratings are issued, so in most cases, these numbers are the most current. If you played out of state and are certain the numbers are not correct in the lookup, or if you can’t find the course, please contact us and we will research it for you.

2. The system filters for official golf seasons. For instance, if you post a score played from Montana in November, the system knows it’s an out-of-season score and will display in red, showing it’s not being included in the handicap calculation. If you post a score in the same month from Arizona, the system knows it is a legal score and it is counted.

3. The system filters for Par 3 scores. If you post a score played on a Par 3 course (unless you have a special record for posting Par 3 scores only), the system will automatically know to discard it from the calculation and display it in red. (See FAQ in May 2019 newsletter as to why this is not permitted.)
Yellowjackets Add Five to Men’s Program
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

The Montana State Billings men’s golf program has added five players to their roster for the upcoming 2019-20 season. Yellowjackets’ head coach, Jeff Allen, is forming a roster blending youth and experience in his first class of newcomers.

From just down the road, Laurel’s Paul O’Neil and Cash Golden inked with MSUB, as did Big Timber’s Blake Finn. Kevin Kolb of Spearfish, South Dakota, also joins from the prep ranks and Riley Lawrence comes to Billings from the University of Providence, where he has spent his past two seasons. Lawrence, originally from Helena, was an All-State golfer at Helena Capital.


Golden was a four-sport athlete in high school for the Locomotives, competing in golf, basketball, football, and baseball. He was a two-time All-State and three-time All-Conference selection in golf.

Finn was a three-sport athlete at Sweet Grass County High School, competing in golf, football, and basketball. He was a four-time all-state selection in golf and was the Sheepherders’ team captain for three seasons.

Kolb is two-time team MVP in golf for Spearfish High, and last year was selected to the Black Hills Conference all-league squad. Last season, he helped the Spartans to a conference runner-up finish and he has also been a member of three conference titles. Kolb was a top-10 finisher in the South Dakota Golf Association junior championship, and was the 2018 South Dakota State Class AA tournament runner-up.

Lawrence will play his final two collegiate years with the Yellowjackets after spending two seasons in Great Falls competing for the University of Providence. He was an academic all-conference selection for the Argonauts during the 2018-19 season. In high school, Lawrence was an All-State selection during his senior year for Capital High.

World Handicap System Educational Videos
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

As part of the USGA’s continued education for the upcoming World Handicap System in 2020, here are links to the next 2 videos released in June. For a full archive of the videos, along with more information, go to www.msgagolf.org/whs and www.whs.com.

Video 4: Acceptability of scores for handicap purposes
Video 5: Course Rating and Slope Rating
A Note on Tournament Prizes and Cash

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Summer is officially here and thus tournament season has arrived as well. The MSGA appreciates the good works of charitable tournaments, local events, and good old-fashioned competition. High finishing participants receive all sorts of prizes and awards and it is important to have a refresher on what is permissible for amateur competitors to receive.

Cash prizes are not permitted, as they would violate the rules of amateur status. Click here for the complete USGA Rules of Golf information on this subject.

The following is a summary of the most common instances players face:

3-1. Playing for Prize Money

a. General
An amateur golfer must not play golf for prize money or its equivalent in a match, competition, or exhibition. However, an amateur golfer may participate in a golf match, competition, or exhibition where prize money or its equivalent is offered, provided that prior to participation he waives his right to accept prize money in that event.

b. Prize Money to Charity
An amateur golfer may participate in an event where prize money or its equivalent is donated to a recognized charity, provided the approval of the Governing Body is first obtained in advance by the organizer.

3-2. Prize Limits

a. General
An amateur golfer must not accept a prize (other than a symbolic prize) or prize voucher of retail value in excess of $750 or the equivalent, or such a lesser figure as may be decided by the Governing Body. This limit applies to the total prizes or prize vouchers received by an amateur golfer in any one competition or series of competitions. (Exception: Hole-in-one prizes - see Rule 3-2b below.)

Note 1: The prize limits apply to any form of golf competition, whether on a golf course, driving range, or golf simulator, including nearest the hole and longest drive competitions.

Note 2: The responsibility to prove the retail value of a particular prize rests with the Committee in charge of the competition.

Note 3: It is recommended that the total value of prizes in a gross competition, or each division of a handicap competition, should not exceed twice the prescribed limit in an 18-hole competition, three times in a 36-hole competition, five times in a 54-hole competition and six times in a 72-hole competition.

b. Hole-in-One Prizes
An amateur golfer may accept a prize in excess of the limit in Rule 3-2a, including a cash prize, for a hole-in-one made while playing a round of golf. Note: The hole-in-one must be made during a round of golf and be incidental to that round. Separate multiple-entry contests, contests conducted other than on a golf course (e.g., on a driving range or golf simulator), and putting contests do not qualify under this provision and are subject to the restrictions and limits in Rules 3-1 and 3-2a.

3-3. Testimonial Awards (awards for notable performances or contributions to golf as distinguished from competition prizes) ...Continued on the next page
**PRIZES ... from previous page**

*a. General*

An amateur golfer must not accept a testimonial award of retail value in excess of the limits prescribed in Rule 3-2.

*b. Multiple Awards*

An amateur golfer may accept more than one testimonial award from different donors, even though their total retail value exceeds the prescribed limit, provided they are not presented so as to evade the limit for a single award.

As always, if you have questions about a tournament you are running or a prize you believe could compromise your amateur status, please **reach out** to the MSGA.

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**NGF’S 2019 PARTICIPATION REPORT: ON-COURSE PARTICIPATION CLIMBS FOR FIRST TIME IN 14 YEARS AS OFF-COURSE JUMPS ALMOST 10%**

The ways in which people are playing golf and engaging with the game continue to evolve. To reflect this, the NGF several years ago expanded its definition of participation, part of an ongoing effort to more accurately measure golf’s overall consumer base — both on and off the golf course.

Participation in traditional green-grass golf has held steady in recent years, finding a new support level of approximately 24 million. In 2018, the number people ages 6-and-up who played at least one round of golf on a golf course increased incrementally to 24.2 million. While this rise from 23.8 million in 2017 falls within the margin of error for the NGF’s national surveys, it is the first measured increase in 14 years.

Off-course participation, meanwhile, increased by almost 10% in 2018, with an estimated 23 million people hitting golf balls with clubs at golf-entertainment venues like Topgolf and Drive Shack, at stand-alone ranges, and using indoor simulators. Despite the increasing popularity of golf entertainment facilities, the majority of off-course participation (12 million) still occurs at golf ranges, whether it’s on-course golfers honing their skills or beginners learning the game.

When combining those who played on a golf course with the 9.3 million others who played exclusively off-course, golf’s overall participant base has climbed to 33.5 million. This is a gain of 1.4 million participants from 2017, a 4% increase mostly driven by off-course gains.

For the traditional game, perhaps the most critical metric is the stable pool of roughly 20 million dedicated golfers. This group, estimated at 19.5 million Americans in 2018, accounts for 95% of all rounds-played and spending, and therefore is vital to golf businesses and those who make a living in the industry. Dedicated golfers represent 81% of those who play.

The industry continues to see encouraging signs when it comes to newcomers and interest in playing among non-golfers. An estimated 2.6 million beginners played on a golf course for the first time in 2018, a figure at or near historical highs. There are also 14.7 million non-golfers who say they’re “very” interested in playing golf. Almost half of this latent demand pool is comprised of former golfers with some experience, but who haven’t played on a course within the past year. The rest are people who have never played before on a course.

Looking ahead, the challenge for golf remains the same as recent years: providing more playing opportunities for those who express an interest in the game – potentially through non-traditional formats and offerings – and successfully converting more beginners into committed participants.