



MSGA Newsletter

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June 2020 - Volume 10, Issue 6

June Tournaments

PLEASE NOTE: Tournaments are subject to any restrictions that might be in place at the time of play. If in doubt, check with the host course to see if the tournament has been postponed or cancelled.

- 6/01/2020
Junior Camp
Indian Springs Ranch GC (Eureka)
- 6/01/2020
PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
Whitefish Lake GC (Whitefish)
- 6/01/2020
RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am
Hilands GC (Billings)
- 6/01/2020
Senior Interclub
Eaglerock GC (Billings)
- 6/02/2020
Ladies Invitational
Hilands GC (Billings)
- 6/03/2020
Junior Golf Tournament
Town & CC of Miles City (Miles City)
- 6/04/2020
Optimist Zone Qualifier
Lake Hills GC (Billings)
- 6/05/2020
Riverstone Health Hospice Tourn.
Laurel GC (Laurel)
- 6/05/2020
Young Life
Eaglerock GC (Billings)
- 6/05/2020 - 6/06/2020
Fins & Skins
Indian Springs Ranch GC (Eureka)
- 6/06/2020
4 Person Scramble
Stillwater GC (Columbus)

Frequently Asked Questions

Emily Hulse, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator



As we get rolling for the summer golf season, I wanted to address a number of Frequently Asked Questions that we are getting from you. There have been a lot of changes this year, with the new World Handicap System, with the USGA network merge, and with issues related to COVID-19 restrictions, so it's understandable that there is some confusion.

Why has my Handicap Changed? And what is an Adjusted Gross Score?

The World Handicap System was released on January 1, 2020, and many things have changed within the Handicap System. This includes the formula to calculate your Handicap Index, the formula to calculate your Course Handicap, the method to calculate your maximum hole score (also known as Net Double Bogey), new daily revisions, and the addition of new safeguards. You'll want to bring yourself up to speed with these changes. The Top 5 changes are available to read at www.msgagolf.org/top-5. Please feel free to print it out and share with your friends! You can also learn more about the World Handicap System at www.usga.org/whs.

Do we have new ID#s? Can I use the GHIN software?

On January 1, 2020, all associations were merged into the USGA Network. This happened behind the scenes and does not mean that all associations use the same handicap software. If you are confused about the network merge, please read the FAQ sheet at <http://www.msgagolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/World-Handicap-System-FAQ.pdf>. It will answer many of your questions.

Our Pro Shop has removed the score posting kiosk because of COVID-19.

How do I post scores online? The login the club gave me doesn't work.

When Montana received new ID#s, the login method for members new to the system changed. Sometimes, people have set up a login in the past and have forgotten. And, when a person does a password request through the handicap software, the password is changed to a temporary code. For all of these reasons, there is no "once size fits all" explanation of what your login is. You can find out your login in 2 ways: 1) Send in a login request to support@msgagolf.org. We're glad to help and are monitoring emails daily, working hard to get your requests answered as soon as possible. 2) Your club has access to this information in their Administration program. However, some pro shops and staff are limited due to COVID-19 requirements, so if they are unable to help you, please feel free to reach out to us. ... Continued next page

6/06/2020

Cole's Western Wishes
Pryor Creek GC (Huntley)

6/06/2020

Independence Bank/Nemont Scramble
Scobey GC (Scobey)

6/06/2020

Trestle Creek Open
Trestle Creek GC (St. Regis)

6/06/2020 - 6/07/2020

CVGC Memorial
Cabinet View GC (Libby)

6/06/2020 - 6/07/2020

Glacier Bank 2 Person Better Ball
Polson Bay GC (Polson)

6/07/2020

2 Lady Best Ball
Canyon River GC (Missoula)

6/08/2020

PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Asst Champ.
Rock Creek Cattle Co (Deer Lodge)

6/08/2020

RMSPGA (YC) Scholarship Pro-Am
Laurel GC (Laurel)

6/08/2020

Senior Interclub

The Briarwood GC (Billings)

6/09/2020

RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am Ladies
Yellowstone CC (Billings)

6/11/2020

Explorer Academy
Pryor Creek GC (Huntley)

6/11/2020

Fireman's Open

Marias Valley G&CC (Shelby)

6/12/2020

2 Man Par 3

Airport GC (Wolf Point)

6/12/2020

Home Builders Association Toolbelts
Pryor Creek GC (Huntley)

6/12/2020

KSEN Farm and Ranch
Marias Valley G&CC (Shelby)

6/12/2020

Roberts Community Foundation
Yegen GC (Billings)

6/12/2020

Western Ranch Supply
Eaglerock GC (Billings)

6/12/2020 - 6/14/2020

Ladies Bud Light
Forsyth CC (Forsyth)

6/12/2020 - 6/14/2020

Lake City Open

Polson Bay GC (Polson)

6/13/2020

Big Sky Ski Education Foundation
Big Sky GC (Big Sky)

FAQ ... from previous page

I can't post scores online or with the app. It says "Score posting is currently disabled" or "Your club does not allow score posting from this app." Or, the "Post a Score" button has disappeared.

We agree these messages are confusing (we have a request in to change these), but they are really just notifying you that your MSGA membership has expired. Score posting will be disabled until you renew. If your club has enabled online renewals, you will see a link to "Upgrade/Renew Membership" when logged in online (you won't always see this in the app). If your club does not allow online renewals, you will need to renew with them directly. Once you are reactivated, the score posting feature will be enabled.

I can't change my username or any other changes in my Profile. It gives me an error message.

It doesn't tell you this, but the system is requiring a zip code (we have a request in to fix this). If there isn't a zip code already in your Profile, it will not let you save any changes. Simply enter the zip code and any other changes, and you will be good to go.

Why are there restrictions on handling flagsticks and bunker rakes, and what have they done with the holes/hole cups? Will my score still count to post in the handicap system?

In an effort to limit COVID-19 exposure, the USGA has recommended some modifications to the course. Frequently touched surfaces are required to be cleaned frequently. The golf course staff can only realistically clean so much, so these modifications were implemented by most courses. The USGA has issued a statement to temporarily allow scores to be valid for handicap purposes with these modifications, using Most Likely Score guidelines, and so on. You can read more detail at <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rulesarticles/covid-19-rules-and-handicapping-faqs.html>.

Whats the deal with 1 person/cart?

As much as the course would like to allow more than 1 person/cart (unless of the same household), the current guidelines from the Governor's office are restricting this. They are grouping golf carts into the Social Distancing category, probably because, unlike sitting at a table in a restaurant, seating is much closer together, and more areas are being touched by the cart occupants. Please be patient with the clubs, as they are trying to be compliant and keep you safe. There are instances where the local county health department is allowing 2/cart, but this decision is only permissible at the county level, and is determined by the current COVID-19 situation in that county.

Golfing is a distanced sport. Why would I consider wearing a mask?

When you are on the course, you are likely already distanced from others, but what about in the locker room, the parking lot, the clubhouse, or in the pro shop? In areas where distancing from others is difficult, the CDC recommends wearing a mask to minimize your exposure. Not concerned about yourself? Then, please consider protecting your loved ones and others in the community that you come in contact with, and who may be more susceptible.

You may have questions that aren't listed here. If so, please feel free to reach out to us at support@msgagolf.org, and we will be glad to help you. Please also share this information with your friends to help eliminate some of the confusion during this very eventful golf season!

The Raised Cup Dilemma

Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

If your course has temporarily raised the cups, does that make scoring easier or harder? Since the ball no longer falls into the hole, it's become a judgment call whether it really would have gone in.



The USGA is temporarily allowing the use of raised cups by applying "Most Likely Score" guidelines (see [Rules of Handicapping, rule 3.3](#)). However, not applying this properly *may result in lower scores*. Players need to apply it consistently and accurately to protect the integrity of their Handicap Index.

Even with Most Likely Score guidance, scoring remains a matter of opinion. You think your shot should count, but maybe your opponent doesn't. The player has the final say, but the USGA is basically saying, "We're counting on you to do the right thing." So, be honest with yourself. Was your ball really on a good line and moving at the right speed to go in? Or, would it probably have hit the edge of the hole and kept going?

If you are posting scores that are much lower than you are used to playing, it could be that you aren't judging your putts correctly. If very many golfers are doing this, it can throw off the PCC (Playing Conditions Calculation) adjustments at your course. Or, you will be seeing some ESR (Exceptional Score Reduction) adjustments. When posting scores for handicap purposes, we want to get it right.



True, the USGA is allowing raised cups during this time. But, they are not recommending this for use in competition. The preferred alternative for both recreational play and competition is "to place an insert into the hole that sits below the surface of the putting green and allows the ball to come to rest on the insert of the hole, either entirely or partially below the surface of the green" (see USGA guidance [here](#)). Slices of pool noodles work great for hole inserts.

Using the hole inserts instead of raised cups makes the judgment call much easier for players, and makes for a fairer competition. These are good things for courses to consider during this time. Of course, once COVID-19 is no longer a threat, the official USGA rules will resume and hole liners or raised cups should no longer be used at that time.

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!



Ted Zumbusch, 5/22/20, Meadow Lark CC, Hole #16, 156 yds, 28 Deg. Hybrid
Luke Schimgen, 5/14/20, Stock Farm Golf Club, Hole #17, 198 yds, 6 Iron
Ted Johann, 5/14/20, Whitefish Lake GC (South), Hole #16, 135 yds, 9 Iron
Bruce Rost, 4/22/20, Pryor Creek GC (Link), Hole #5, 133 yds, 7 Iron
Ollie Grindeland, 10/12/13, Pine Meadows GC, Hole #6, 153 yds, 9 Iron

6/13/2020

Bozeman Hawk Benefit Tournament
Cottonwood Hills GC (Bozeman)

6/13/2020

Bulldog Blitz
Mission Mountain GC (Ronan)

6/13/2020

EFMGA Open

Eagle Falls GC (Great Falls)

6/13/2020

Mammo Whammo Tournament

Lakeview CC (Baker)

6/13/2020 - 6/14/2020

2 Man Best Ball Fundraiser
Airport GC (Wolf Point)

6/13/2020 - 6/14/2020

287 Mad-waters Challenge
Madison Meadows GC (Ennis)

6/14/2020

Dick Seddon Memorial Scramble

Buffalo Hill GC (Kalispell)

6/15/2020

County Juniors

Eaglerock GC (Billings)

6/15/2020

First Security Bank Junior Golf Tour

Big Sky GC (Big Sky)

6/15/2020

PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am

Polson Bay GC (Polson)

6/15/2020

RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am

Riverside CC (Bozeman)

6/15/2020

Senior Interclub

Overland GC (Big Timber)

6/15/2020

Skip Koprivica HS Fundraiser

Missoula CC (Missoula)

6/16/2020

Missoula Junior Golf Tour

Larchmont GC (Missoula)

6/16/2020

Polson Junior Camp

Polson Bay GC (Polson)

6/16/2020

St. Vincent Healthcare Fortin Memorial

Yellowstone CC (Billings)

6/16/2020 - 6/19/2020

CSGA High School Academy

Missoula CC (Missoula)

6/17/2020

Polson Women's Golf Invitational

Polson Bay GC (Polson)

6/18/2020

Super Valu

Lake Hills GC (Billings)

6/18/2020 - 6/19/2020

Polson Junior Camp

Polson Bay GC (Polson)



Congratulations to our **NEWEST WINNERS!**

MAY'S DRAWING:

Las Vegas, Nevada - Todd Schmidt, Kalispell
\$200 cash - Gwen Graff, Henderson, NV

**** JUNE'S TRIP PRIZE is Denver Broncos Football ****

State Tournament Updates

Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

STATE JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIP



District qualifiers have been cancelled for 2020, but the State Juniors tournament will still be held at Cottonwood Hills GC in Bozeman, if conditions continue to be favorable and allowed by the County health department. Instead of playing in qualifiers, juniors can apply directly for the tournament. There is no entry fee to participate. There will be no advancement from this tournament to the Junior America's Cups or the Montana-Alberta Cup, which have all been cancelled for 2020.

You can apply by downloading an application from www.msgagolf.org/state-junior-championship. The deadline for entry is June 12.

STATE SENIORS TOURNAMENT



The Montana State Seniors Golf Association (MSSGA) has announced that they have cancelled the State Seniors Tournament for 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The MSSGA website states that "in a letter to members, the board explained that through its review and deliberation of numerous possibilities and contingencies, the board could not satisfactorily ensure the safety and well-being of tournament participants given that the majority of our members fall under the status of being in the vulnerable population, including those age 65 and older."

The USGA has cancelled this year's national senior championships, including the U.S. Senior Open. The Montana Senior Olympics has also been cancelled for the same reasons.

"Cancelling the event for the only time in 66 years was a very difficult decision," Kevin Hayes, MSSGA executive director explained. "But safety of our members and adhering to official guidance was compelling."

The MSSGA board wants to thank its Missoula partner courses — Canyon River, Larchmont, and the Ranch Club — for their assistance and understanding in the effort to conduct this year's event. They also thank their members whose support allows for our continuing operation and mission to promote senior golf in Montana. They "are anxious to restart this unique and special tradition next summer".

Questions may be directed to the MSSGA at mtseniorgolf@gmail.com, or at 406-439-0814 or 406-439-5701.

6/19/2020

Border States Golfing for a Cure
Lake Hills GC (Billings)

6/19/2020 - 6/21/2020

Men's Rocky Mountain Oyster
Forsyth CC (Forsyth)

6/20/2020

Mineral County Chamber Tournament
Trestle Creek GC (St. Regis)

6/20/2020

Pitch, Putt, & Drive
Polson Bay GC (Polson)

6/20/2020

Ryder Cup vs Glasgow (Women)
Airport GC (Wolf Point)

6/20/2020

Ryder Cup vs Wolf Point (Men)
Sunnyside GC (Glasgow)

6/20/2020 - 6/21/2020

Men's Roundup 2 Man Best Ball
Plentywood GC (Plentywood)

6/20/2020 - 6/21/2020

Oilfield

Marias Valley G&CC (Shelby)

6/20/2020 - 6/21/2020

Rock Chuck

Pryor Creek GC (Huntley)

6/21/2020

Father's Day Scramble
Polson Bay GC (Polson)

6/21/2020

Parent Child

Laurel GC (Laurel)

6/22/2020

County Juniors

Pryor Creek GC (Huntley)

6/22/2020

First Security Bank Junior Golf Tour
Riverside CC (Bozeman)

6/22/2020

PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am

Missoula CC (Missoula)

6/22/2020

RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am

Bridger Creek GC (Bozeman)

6/22/2020

Senior Interclub

Exchange City Par 3 GC (Billings)

6/22/2020 - 6/23/2020

Montana State Junior Championship
Cottonwood Hills GC (Bozeman)

6/22/2020 - 6/23/2020

Par Tee

Yellowstone CC (Billings)

6/23/2020

Missoula Junior Golf Tour
The Highlands GC (Missoula)

6/23/2020

RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am Ladies
Riverside CC (Bozeman)

6/24/2020
 County Juniors
 Yegen GC (Billings)

6/24/2020
 Ladies Invitational
 Buffalo Hill GC (Kalispell)

6/24/2020 - 6/25/2020
 RMSPGA Junior Championship
 Preston G&CC (Preston, ID)

6/25/2020
 Junior Optimist Pre-Qualifier
 Eagle Falls GC (Great Falls)

6/26/2020
 Chamber of Commerce
 The Briarwood GC (Billings)

6/26/2020
 City of Champions
 Lake Hills GC (Billings)

6/26/2020
 Optimist Club Shoot for Youth
 Pryor Creek GC (Huntley)

6/26/2020
 Quad Cup
 Marias Valley G&CC (Shelby)

6/26/2020 - 6/27/2020
 Cowtown Roundup Tournament
 Town & CC of Miles City (Miles City)

6/26/2020 - 6/27/2020
 Lewistown Charity Golf Classic
 Pine Meadows GC (Lewistown)

6/26/2020 - 6/28/2020
 Jamboree
 Laurel GC (Laurel)

6/27/2020
 Chrome Bar
 Stillwater GC (Columbus)

6/27/2020
 Ladies Bash
 The Briarwood GC (Billings)

6/27/2020
 ECCS 9 Hole Scramble Fundraiser
 Madison Meadows GC (Ennis)

6/27/2020
 Eekhoff Memorial Tournament
 Cottonwood Hills GC (Bozeman)

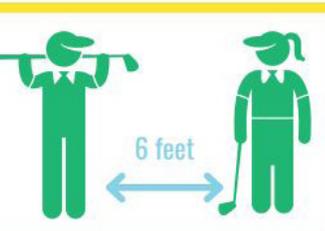
6/27/2020
 NEMHS Charitable Foundation
 Airport GC (Wolf Point)

6/27/2020
 Tiny's Tavern
 Pryor Creek GC (Huntley)

6/27/2020
 VFW Post 1634 Fundraiser
 Exchange City Par 3 GC (Billings)

6/27/2020 - 6/28/2020
 Hitchcock Memorial Best Ball
 Butte CC (Butte)

6/27/2020 - 6/28/2020
 State Couples Scramble
 Meadow Lark CC (Great Falls)

<p>1. ALWAYS stay six feet apart from others.</p>		<p>2. STAY HOME if you have a fever or feel sick.</p> 
<p>3. AVOID large gatherings on the first tee, driving range or after the round.</p>		<p>4. If in doubt... DON'T TOUCH IT.</p> 
<p>5. ALWAYS mark your ball clearly.</p>		<p>7. AVOID handshakes and high-fives.</p> 
<p>6. WEAR a facial covering when taking a lesson.</p>		<p>8. RESPECT the game and all involved.</p> 
<p>9. REMEMBER to wash your hands after playing.</p>		

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE



MULTIPLE RECORDS

The World Handicap System requires that multi-members have just one ID# and score record, which they will share between clubs and/or associations that they belong to. If this describes you, do you still have more than one active ID# and score record? If so, please **contact us** so that we can get you set up.

Your association membership is more than just having a handicap! You are supporting association functions that benefit all golfers, so sharing a record allows multi-members to support both associations. Your local club is also supported.

6/29/2020
 County Juniors
 Hilands GC (Billings)

6/29/2020
 First Security Bank Junior Golf Tour
 Bridger Creek GC (Bozeman)

6/29/2020
 PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am Juniors
 Village Greens GC (Kalispell)

6/29/2020
 RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am
 The Briarwood GC (Billings)

6/29/2020
 Senior Interclub
 Red Lodge Mountain GC (Red Lodge)

6/30/2020
 Missoula Junior Golf Tour
 The Ranch Club (Missoula)

6/30/2020
 Swinging For A Cure
 Laurel GC (Laurel)

Want to add something to the newsletter?

Contact us at:
 support@msgagolf.org
 1-800-628-3752, ext 1