



MSGA Newsletter

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Reflecting Back and Looking Ahead

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The last two years has been quite a journey for the MSGA Handicap Department, and it seems like we've finally reached the summit! Club and member training started in late 2019 for the new World Handicap System, COVID brought its own challenges starting in early 2020, and we switched to GHIN/USGA Handicap Software in 2021. Because we've had so many changes, it may be a bit of a blur to you. Since golf is wrapping up for winter, now is a good time to catch up on anything you might have missed.

Do you remember the top 5 changes with the World Handicap System (WHS)? They include 1) new Handicap Index calculation, 2) new Course Handicap calculation, 3) new maximum hole score calculation (Net Double Bogey), 4) change to daily revisions, and 5) safeguards were added (PCC-Playing Conditions Calculation, Soft/Hard Caps, and ESR-Exceptional Score Reduction).

All of these changes were big leaps from the previous Rules of Handicapping! If you are confused about any of the changes, please review the article at msgagolf.org/top-5. Each of these was talked about in ...*Continued next page*

MSGA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



The MSGA scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors who have been involved with golf. This involvement may include participation on a high school team or in a junior program and need not be presently participating. It is NOT based on golf skill, and is available to both boys and girls.

Applications can be downloaded from msgagolf.org/msga-scholarship-application and must be received no later than March 15, 2022, so mail early! Recipients will be announced after April 25.

Girls Junior Americas Cup Coming To Montana!

The Girls Junior Americas Cup (GJAC) is an annual competition that rotates among 18 teams from Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, Northern California, Southern California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Northern Nevada, Southern Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, San Diego, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Next year, Montana is host to the GJAC, the first time since 2003. It will be played at Green Meadow Country Club in Helena, on July 26-28, 2022.

The GJAC was established in 1978 by founder Joan Teats. The boys enjoyed a version of this tournament for several years, so Joan decided to create a similar tournament where girls could showcase their team talents for college coaches. All 18 teams are located in the Western part of the US, Canada, and Mexico. This tournament is heavily recruited by college coaches. To qualify to play on Team Montana, participants are among the top 4 girls at MSGA divisionals, then among the top 4 girls at the Montana State Junior Championship. Montana sends a team each year to the GJAC and BJAC tournaments, with costs funded entirely by the MSGA.

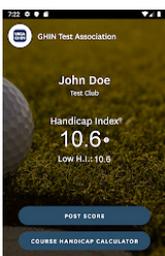


WE NEED YOUR HELP! Hosting a JAC tournament is a considerable cost, and funded entirely by the host team's association. Next summer will be no different. The MSGA will need assistance absorbing this challenging expense. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the tournament, organize a charity tournament, or ...*Continued next page*

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more detail in the November 2019 - March 2020 newsletters, which you can access at msgagolf.org/newsletter-archive. You can also visit usga.org/whs for more explanations and helpful videos.

With COVID came peculiar changes at your local course, like raised cups or missing rakes. Guidance to allow for COVID safety measures was offered by the USGA ([click here for more information](#)). Now that we've been through two seasons, some clubs have eased up on, or removed, some of these measures, but at the guidance of their local county health department, since situations differ around the state. We're not out of the woods yet, but by now we know the COVID etiquette pretty well. We'd like to thank all of our courses and their staff for their big efforts to keep you safe during these last two years!



The switch to GHIN was new for many of you, but familiar to our snow birds, who were already using it in their out-of-state associations. The change has been well accepted! COVID changed many things about golf, but the biggest is the way people are posting scores -- from the majority using the club kiosk to the majority now using the smartphone app. Have you tried the GHIN app or ghin.com yet? If not, and you need help logging in, now's the time to get set up for next season. You can contact us at support@msgagolf.org for assistance.

Because the GHIN app is so heavily used, its development has been given top priority, with additional stat tracking coming soon. The GHIN app is free to use, with an option to upgrade for premium GPS features.

In this newsletter, we often answer frequently-asked Handicap questions (Handicapping FAQs). If you have any questions you would like answered or discussed in future newsletters, please email me at emily@msgagolf.org, and I would be glad to include them.

GJAC ... from previous page

volunteer your services at the event, the MSGA would sincerely appreciate the help!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact mbryson327@yahoo.com. To make a donation to help offset costs, please contact jim@msgagolf.org or emily@msgagolf.org (if by credit card). Thanks so much for your support!

2022 MSGA Tournaments:

M&W 2 Man 4 Ball
May 21-22, Old Works GC

STATE JUNIORS
June 20-21, Laurel GC

WOMEN'S STATE, MID, & SR AM
July 14-16, Lake Hills GC

GIRLS JUNIOR AMERICAS CUP
July 26-28, Green Meadow CC

MEN'S STATE, SR, S.SR AM
July 28-30, Riverside CC

MEN'S STATE SENIORS
August 2-4, Flathead Valley area

MEN'S MID AM
August 11-13, Marias Valley GC



GOLF SEASON ENDS IN MONTANA

Montana's official golf season for 2021 ended October 31. Any rounds played in Montana between November 1 and March 31 are not valid and shouldn't be posted for handicap purposes.

However, scores played *where it is in season during this time period* (ex: Arizona) are valid and should be posted to your score record. For a list of official seasons observed by each Association, [click here](#).

If you have more than one score record, please [contact us](#) and we'll help you merge them into one GHIN record that is shared between your Association memberships.

Congratulations to our newest Ace Club Members!

Did you get a hole-in-one? [Click here](#) to see how to get your MSGA Hole-in-One Certificate!



Doug Williams, 9/2/21, Green Meadow CC, Hole #5, 112 yds, 9 Iron
Randy Long, 8/20/21, Polson Bay GC, Hole #4, 183 yds, 4 Iron
Bernie Oglietti, 8/18/21, Madison Meadows GC, Hole #8, 136 yds, 8 Iron
Chris Toppen, 7/25/19, Village Greens GC, Hole #4, 143 yds, 7 Iron
Darian Higbee, 4/27/07, Meadow Lark CC, Hole #12, 165 yds, 8 Iron



Congratulations to our NEWEST WINNERS!

NOVEMBER'S DRAWING:
Austin, Texas - Kathy Hutchinson, Ennis
\$200 cash - Dominique Preputin, Havre

**** DECEMBER'S TRIP PRIZE is Lake Como, Italy ****

RULES OF AMATEUR STATUS WILL CHANGE JANUARY 1ST



Golf's new Rules of Amateur Status, published by the USGA and The R&A, will take effect on January 1, 2022. The work is the latest step by the governing bodies to make the Rules easier to understand and apply and follows the modernization process of the Rules of Golf in 2019. The new Rules were informed by golfer and golf industry feedback as a part of a comprehensive review, to ensure they continue to reflect how the modern game is played by millions of golfers around the world.

The purpose of the Rules is to maintain the distinction between amateur and professional golf and to ensure that amateur golf, which is largely self-regulating with regard to the Rules of Golf and handicapping, is free from the pressures that may follow from uncontrolled sponsorship and financial incentive. They are intended to encourage amateur golfers to focus on the game's challenges and inherent rewards, rather than any financial gain.

The revised Rules remove many of the restrictions that previously applied to amateur golfers, while ensuring that the integrity of the game is protected by limiting the form and value of the prizes an amateur golfer can accept.

As part of the modernization effort, the new Rules identify only the following acts that will result in a golfer losing their amateur status:

- Accepting a prize with a value exceeding the prize limit (\$1000/£700) or accepting prize money in a handicap competition.
- Playing as a professional.
- Accepting payment for giving instruction (although all current exceptions still apply, such as coaching at educational institutions and assisting with approved programs).
- Accepting employment as a golf club professional or membership of an association of professional golfers.



Click picture to enlarge infographic

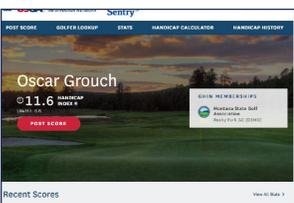
To achieve this simplified approach, the following key changes have been introduced:

- Distinguishing between scratch and handicap competitions in terms of the prizes that may be accepted.
- The prize rule applies only to tee-to-hole competitions played on a golf course or a simulator, but no longer apply to long-drive, putting, and skills competitions that are not played as part of a tee-to-hole competition.
- Eliminating all advertising, expense-related, and sponsorship restrictions.

The new opportunities provided by lifting sponsorship restrictions and the ability to accept prize money up to the increased limit of \$1000 or £700 in scratch-only competitions will be of significant benefit to elite amateur golfers looking for ways to fund golf-related expenses.

Grant Moir, Director of Rules at The R&A, said, “We are delighted to be rolling out the modernized Rules of Amateur Status today. These Rules play an important role in protecting the integrity of our self-regulating sport, but the code must evolve to meet the needs of the modern game. This is particularly important for modern elite amateur golf, where many of the players need financial support to compete and develop to their full potential. The new Rules give them this opportunity and will help to make the game even more inclusive.”

The new Rules are accompanied by guidance notes, an overview document, and explanations that detail the rationale for why changes have been made and, in some instances, why they have stayed the same. These materials can be found at www.usga.org/amateurstatus.



Have you logged in online or with the GHIN app? Don't know your login? Contact us at support@msgagolf.org.



Want to add something to the newsletter?
Contact us at:
support@msgagolf.org
1-800-628-3752, ext 1