

From the President

DEAR NSGA MEMBER:

Welcome to the 2011 version of the NSGA program and membership roster. We look forward to an exciting and joyful year.

As indicated in my earlier President's letter, we always need new members. Being a senior organization, we lose a few each year. Please help the organization's continued growth by seeking out and signing up new members. This should be somewhat easier now that the minimum age requirement has been lowered to 50.

As usual, we have some great courses for this season. We recommend you get your entries in early for the events in which you wish to play. Please note that three events are scheduled for Tuesday this year and one starts at 9:00. We would like to keep them all the same day of the week and same time, but holidays and club management sometimes preclude that. Thank Tournament Director "Skip" Semin for lining up these outstanding courses for us.

The Nebraska Golf Association will again assist Tournament Director, Mick Shonsey, in getting the events set up and keeping the website up to date. Their help is greatly appreciated. Please keep this in mind as they ask for volunteers to help with some of their functions. Be sure to check the website schedule of events to ensure your team is included in the ones for which you signed up. If you do not find your team listed, contact Mick Shonsey prior to the event to confirm you are in, or to determine the reason you are not listed.

This is your organization. We want you to be a part of and to enjoy it. If you desire to be a board member, or have any suggestions for the betterment of the organization, please contact me or another board member to voice desires or concerns.

Please note the dates for the State Event to be held at Oak Hills Country Club in Omaha on August 29 and 30. We certainly encourage you to sign up.

Finally, we want to thank Ron Purdy for his undying dedication to the NSGA as its Secretary/Treasurer for the last 19 years. Great job, Ron!

Thanks for being a member and we look forward to seeing you at our events.

Sincerely,

Randy Daehling, President



GOT TIME ON YOUR HANDS AND LOVE GOLF? BECOME A NEBRASKA GOLF ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER!

Because it administers nearly 60 days of competition and conducts over 25 Course Ratings each year, the NGA is always looking for good volunteers. Whether it's the starter on the first tee, an official in the scoring tent or a course rating team leader - every organized event and rating needs great volunteers.

Currently we have three categories of NGA volunteers: rules officials, tournament volunteers and course rating volunteers.

Rules Officials provide on-course assistance to tournament players with regards to the Rules of Golf and pace of play. Rules officials are given assignments by the NGA based on their knowledge of the Rules of Golf and their experience in officiating. To assist officials the NGA offers numerous educational opportunities and necessary training.

Tournament Volunteers assist in activities that don't require extensive training such as: on-course scoring, registration, pace of play check-point monitors, scoring assistants, starters, spotters, and standard bearers.

Course Rating Volunteers assist the NGA in rating over 25 golf courses per year. This program is vitally important to the integrity of the USGA Handicap System since the entire system revolves around accurate USGA Course and Slope Ratings. Individuals who would like to serve as a course rater receive training before becoming part of a rating team. Successful course raters are analytical by nature and enjoy working with numbers.

For further information on becoming an NGA volunteer please call the NGA office, at (402) 505-4653 or e-mail Gary Austin at gaustin@nebgolf.org.

Nebraska Senior Golf Association

2011 OFFICERS

President.....Randall K. Daehling, Lincoln
Vice President.....Ronald E. Purdy, Grand Island
Secretary/Treasurer.....Murray Krambeer, Bellevue
Director of Tournaments.....Mick Shonsey, Omaha
State Tournament Director.....Mick Shonsey, Omaha

DIRECTORS

Dale W. Ames.....Norfolk
Gary L. Austin.....Omaha
John J. Cannella, MD.....Grand Island
Randall K. Daehling.....Lincoln
Robert E. Emerson.....Columbus
John A. Fecht.....Lincoln
Murray Krambeer.....Bellevue
Gayle L. Meints.....Columbus
Garry E. Meyer.....Grand Island
James T. Perdew.....Hastings
Ronald E. Purdy.....Grand Island
Robert E. Schultz.....Lincoln
Larry “Skip” Semin.....Lincoln
Mick Shonsey.....Omaha

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Glen R. Gabrielson.....Omaha
Donald R. Sammet.....Lincoln

NSGA IMPORTANT NOTICE

The number of players allowed in each event will be limited to 128. This will help complete play in a reasonable time **IF** everyone keeps up with the group ahead. With this many people there will be occasional hold-ups, but try to keep up! Slow play is the biggest complaint we get from participants!

A ten-day sign-up period, commencing the day booklets are mailed or made available on the website, will allow members to get their entries submitted. A drawing will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. All entries received within those ten days will be separated by event. A lottery-type drawing will be conducted for events with more than 64 entries to determine the field. Up to ten more teams will be drawn for a standby list.

When the 64 teams are finalized, they will be posted on the NSGA website, along with a list of standby teams.

This is the only random drawing that will be held. All other events will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Entries for events not full after the initial ten-day period will also be posted on the website and will be updated as other entries are received. A standby list will be posted when these events fill to 64 teams.

Those entries not drawn will be returned to one of the team members, along with the submitted check or a refund check from the NSGA. Please be patient. This may take a while, particularly if you're on the standby list. You may make it in later due to cancellations.

We strongly recommend players check the events on the website to ensure your team is listed if you think you are signed up for a certain event.

With the number of members we have, we obviously can't guarantee every team will get into every event they want to play, unless the team buys the "All Events Coupon". We feel these procedures provide the fairest way to get maximum participation and be fair to all members.

SANDBAGGING CONCERNS?

The handicap system is one of the great things about the game, because it enables players of all abilities to compete against one another on a level playing field. At least it's supposed to. But if you sit down in any grillroom, you'll hear complaints about players whose handicaps are, shall we say, a bit suspect.

The NSGA is doing its part to combat this problem by taking steps to strengthen its own Handicap Committee. The Handicap Committee, with your help, will act as a watchdog and have the power to step in, if necessary, and adjust a player's handicap index.

The most important safeguard against sandbagging is what the USGA calls "peer review." Peer review is the process of providing a reasonable and regular opportunity for members of a golf club to play golf with each other, and of providing access to scoring records and USGA Handicap Indexes for inspection by others. It's basically your obligation to note concerns and report them before they result in a net 59 or 60.

The NSGA recognizes that any player can have a great round. But when there's a pattern of low scores in tournaments, it raises a red flag. The nature of the handicap system, which is based on the best 10 of the previous 20 scores instead of a player's average score, militates against low net numbers. This means that even rounds in which the player "merely" shoots to his Course Handicap (i.e., his net score matches the Course Rating) is actually a strong showing, because that should happen in roughly only one of every four rounds. A net score of three strokes below the Course Rating is a once-a-year occurrence for most players with honest handicaps, while a net score in the low 60s is a once-in-a-lifetime thing, if you're lucky.

Still, without peer review and the power of the Handicap Committee, the system alone can't stop a determined sandbagger. The human element is important. Virtually all sandbagging falls into one of three categories. The simplest way to sandbag is by "forgetting" to post all your scores. A more nefarious method is for a player to post a score higher than he actually shot. A third way can be much more subtle, under the heading of manipulating the round.

Ignorance of the system is unacceptable. The sad fact about sandbagging is that its existence spoils some of the fun of competition for the vast majority of golfers with honest handicaps, whether they win or lose. That's why the NSGA wants your help to really do something about sandbagging.

Begin by posting all your scores using Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) which sets a maximum score you can take on any hole, based on your handicap (e.g., a 7 for a 10-19 Course Handicap). Next, practice peer review. If you want to review a player's scoring record you can do so on the web in the comfort of your home at www.ghin.com. Finally, we encourage you to contact the Handicap Committee if you think there might be a problem.

Let's work together under the guidelines of the USGA Handicap System to make NSGA competitions as fair and equitable as possible.

NSGA

WEB PAGE

(New and Improved)

WWW.NEBGOLF.ORG/NSGA

1. About the NSGA (Administrative Guidelines)
2. Officers and Directors
3. How to join (Membership Application)
4. List of events and openings
5. List of event winners
6. Point Standings
7. Access to NGA and USGA information