CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF SINGLES GOLF ® IN AMERICA

# CHICAGO SINGLES GOLF

Chicago Chapter - American Singles Golf Association - June 2020

## **CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS**



#### **President's Message**

We're Back!!

ASGA Chicago has started the 2020 season subject to

Phase 3 COVID-19 restrictions. Foursomes at 10-minute intervals, power carts (single rider unless same household), and practice areas are allowed while maintaining social distance. Courses still have modifications in place to limit contact and touch points like no rakes, raised cups, no ball washers or water coolers, and limited clubhouse access. More details and a link to the state guidelines are on the ASGA Chicago website.

While this lets us get together on the golf course, we still need to abide by the restrictions on social gatherings and the course rules related to facility access and possibly masks. For the time being there

will be no on-course contests or tournaments, but hopefully the next phase will further relax the guidelines.

So, check out the events listed on the website and follow the instructions to sign up. Good golf and socially-distant fun awaits! Be safe and hope to see you soon on the links.

~Alice Zvks



Golf Chair Message

you're all aware by now, the state's restrictions on golf have eased up a bit. The changes are primarily that we're back to foursomes, tee times no less than 10 minutes apart, and you don't need to have a physical limita-

tion to use a cart. One person per cart is

allowed unless you're in the same household. Practice areas are allowed to be open at 50% capacity. For those walking, you'll still need to bring your own cart. We still need to: social distance by staying at least 6 feet apart, no touching the flag sticks, raised cups or gadgets on the stick to eliminate the need to reach into the cup to remove the ball, rakes removed from bunkers, no gathering before or after rounds, and no tournaments. Some of the courses will have the pro shops open to pay inside (where you'll need a mask and be limited in the number of people allowed in at the same time). Here's a link to the restrictions that were posted on our website: https://asqachicago.org/

Due to the ongoing restrictions, we will not have any on-course contests, and I will continue to take RSVPs for our events.

#### NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATIO

Upcoming Multi-Chapter Events (see SinglesGolf.com/events) ASGA National is slowly working towards TWO multi-chapter events for this year, however, contracts have not been signed but we are "penciled-in" with anticipation of signing soon. Details out soon\*:

- ASGA in Charleston, SC—Labor Day Weekend. Arrive at the Francis Marion Hotel on Thursday, Sept. 3, depart Sunday, Sept. 6. (Labor Day is Sept. 7). Package includes 3 nights' stay. 2 rounds of golf, 3 breakfasts, welcome reception and 3 dinners.
- Reunion in Pinehurst—Arrive Sunday, Nov. 8, depart Wednesday, Nov. 11. Package includes 3 nights' stay, 2 rounds of golf, 3 breakfasts, welcome reception and 3 dinners.
- Bringing in the New Year 2021—Arriving in Florida on Sunday, January 3, departing January 6. Looking at locations now. We believe we'll get some great rates when, as traditionally happens, the crowds return home after the New Year's holiday. Stay tuned.

All events subject to change once contracts have been signed.

#### LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

#### **Next Meeting**

TBD

**Meeting Location** 

Our Chapter Website: www.ASGAChicago.org

Meetup Website: https://www.meetup.com/ASGAChicago/

(See next page for list of officers and board members.)

#### **National Office**

Office Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm, M-F (Eastern) National Office: 980-833-6450 or 1-888-GOLFMATE

Go to www.SinglesGolf.com/MyAccount to make changes to your address, phone, etc. To join or renew your dues, go to www.SinglesGolf.com/join

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#### **Chicago Chapter**

of the **American Singles Golf Association** 



#### **President**

Alice Zyks atiger1989@sbcglobal.net

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> **Golf Chairperson** Marie Bush

**Social Chairperson** Kathi Brown

Sharon Meyer

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Richard Bachman rbachman60@gmail.com

#### **Communications Chairpersons**

Cindy Pausic

Kathy Hendrickson

#### Secretary

Christine Coyne

#### Treasurer

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Tim Ryan

Where allowed, we will continue to have you pay the course directly. If we can at some point get back to gathering before or after the rounds and hold on-course contests, we will consider returning to our normal outing format. Where courses have outdoor patios, if you stop for a drink after the round, please continue to respect everyone's space to allow for social distancing. regardless of your personal views on the topic.

We've had some rainouts, but several fun events, too. I'm seeing a lot more people starting to sign up for our outings. Check the website, watch for the email blasts, and be sure to sign up for outings without delay. as spots are going fast. I'll add tee times where I can, but there's no guarantee, so sign up early.

Stay well, and I hope to see you on the links soon!

~Marie Bush, Shrub8@hotmail.com



The month of May continued its 3 years of wet records as 12 golfers had signed up for Old Orchard on May 10, but only 2

braved the chilly wet weather to get back in the game at our first scheduled event with post COVID restrictions. Kudos to Tom G and Mike M for slogging through 12 holes, with **Mike** taking honors for finishing all 18.



Sixteen golfers including four \*ArbcretumClub ASGA alumni had a great day

for golf in twosomes on a rare sunny Saturday at Arboretum on May 16. It was good to see old friends in the parking lot before and after the round, and waving to each other while out on the course.



We had another wet Sunday on May 17 at Coyote Run so the round was rained out. It's

been rescheduled for Sunday, June 28, so we'll give it another shot. Watch for updates on the website and in the email blasts.



May 23 at Prairie Landing Landing was an iffy kind of day, starting out sunny, but calls for

rain and possible storms in the midafternoon. Six of the eight who signed up came out to play anyway, with only four finishing the round. It was only briefly interrupted by passing rain, and yes, a little bit of lightening off to the south. There were reports of a wrestling match with an electric walking cart that had run amuck, with Rob wrangling it in place while **Wayne** struggled to disconnect the battery from underneath. Wayne took the incapacitated machine home, while Rob was apparently invigorated by the tussle and finished with an awesome 1 over par round. Congrats on that! Thanks to **Colleen** for some lovely photos of the course.





What a great day for golf! OPLAR CREEK The sky was blue, the course was green and foursomes

were back! Spirits were high and ASGA accepted the watery challenges of Bridges at Popular Creek on Saturday, May 30th. We had some amazing shots including a near hole-in-one by Tom Golbach on hole 17, birdies by Kurt Kupitz (hole 4) and Marie Bush (hole 9). We extended a great welcome to our newest member, Barry Mathews, who impressed us with some awesome shots and positive energy. We ended the round with a refreshing beverage on the course patio. Thanks to Bridges of Popular Creek and Marie Bush for helping us ease back into the sport we love and cherish.









If you have a newsletter article/notice,

please submit it to <a href="mailto:clpausic@aol.com">clpausic@aol.com</a>.

Next month please send on by July 5 for July's newsletter.



ASGA Chicago website: http://asgachicago.org/



ASGA calendar: <a href="http://asgachicago.org/">http://asgachicago.org/</a> <a href="index.php/events/">index.php/events/</a>

#### **About Our Members** (THIS REPORT RAN 06/08/2020)

#### Happy Birthday to these members:

Richard Bachman - 06/12 Susan Barton - 06/04 Sherry Brandys - 06/21 Cristina Chertes - 06/25 Marie Di Virgilio - 06/24 Joanne Jacobs - 06/04 Mari Lou McCann - 07/04 Diane Meister - 07/01 Greg Mieczynski - 07/02 Cynthia Pausic - 06/20 Lynn Wesley - 06/20

#### These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)
Matthew Kogan - 06/30/2020
Robert Lewandowski - 06/30/2020
Mari Lou McCann - 06/30/2020
Seth Porter - 06/30/2020
Raymond Vogel - 06/30/2020

#### Welcome newest members:

Barry Mathews - Joined 05/18/2020

#### These members recently renewed:

Susan Barton Kathi Brown Cathy Hill Tom Ullsperger Eileen Zittnan

#### These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)

Christine Coyne - 04/30/2020
David Halper - 05/31/2020
Kathy Hendrickson - 04/30/2020
Katherine Maraffino - 05/31/2020
Susanna Menn - 04/30/2020
Pamela Prest - 04/30/2020
John Reavy - 04/30/2020
Karol Stirneman - 04/30/2020
Jay Thompson - 04/30/2020

To renew your dues today, go to SinglesGolf.com/renew If you wish to renew over the phone, call 980-833-6450, M-F, 9-2 Eastern Time.

Our chapter currently has 73 members.

#### **FIX YOUR PUTTING STROKE**

The Worst Miss: Short & low: The problem is, you're slicing your putts—here's why

#### ~Todd Anderson, GolfDigest.com

Let's take a step back and consider what it means to slice a putt. It's no different than slicing a drive: The club cuts across the ball from out to in with the clubface open. And just like with the driver, the result is a weak shot that veers off line. The difference in putting is, instead of the mid-air theatrics of a ball peeling into the trees, the sliced putt simply comes up short and to the right of where you wanted (for righties). Less dramatic, but no less frustrating.

Why does this happen? If you're like a lot of golfers, you watch your putts roll by lifting your head and turning your body toward the hole. When the shoulders rotate open, the club gets dragged with them on an out-to-in path. That sounds like a pull, right? Well, it would be if the putterface were square to that path, but

it's usually open when you cut across the ball. That means a glancing strike with an open clubface—and a putt that misses short and low.

By contrast, picture how the pros watch their putts. They stay in their posture and swivel their heads so their eyes can track the ball. Jack Nicklaus is one that comes to mind—how he stayed in his trademark putting posture for so long—or Jordan Spieth today. Like all the great putters, they know that a stable body is crucial to consistency on the greens.

You might be thinking, Why does it matter if I turn to the hole after the ball is gone? Because you're starting to turn before impact; you're already halfway out of your posture by the time the putter meets the ball. The fix here—the one thing I want you to think about—is staying down and keeping your body square.

Here are two drills to work on.

First, hit some three-footers left-handonly with your right hand holding your left shoulder in place. If the left shoulder stays down, you'll swing the putter toward the hole. You can also do this drill with your left hand choked down so the grip is against the forearm. That gives the sensation of your left arm and the putter moving together down the line with the face square. After a while, putt normally and strive for the same feel.

For a second drill, set up five feet from a hole and place a ball marker just behind your ball. The marker should be partially hidden when you take your address. Practice hitting putts focusing on seeing the ball move away from the marker. This drill will keep your head down a fraction longer and help the putterhead swing on a straight path with a square face.

These practice drills will help you stop peeking too soon. Once you calm the instinct to chase the ball with your eyes, you can focus on swiveling your head toward the target, like the pros do. Know what else you'll be doing like the pros? Pulling the ball out of the hole.



# "Better 6 Feet Apart than Six Feet Under" And Other Quips of the Day

- Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.
- I could never decide where to go for Easter . . . the Living Room or the Bedroom.
- Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- Homeschooling is going well. Two students suspended for fighting and one teacher fired for drinking on the job.
- I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks, we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone.
- This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog . . . we laughed a lot.
- So, after this quarantine, will the producers of *My 600 Pound Life* just find me or do I find them?
- Quarantine Day 25: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You must gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.
- My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.
- Day 15 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
- I'm so excited . . . it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?
- I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.
- Day 26 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year. I'm offended.
- They said that a mask and gloves were enough to go to the supermarket. They lied, everyone else has clothes on.
- And lastly, I know a great joke about Corona Virus, you probably won't get it though.

AND HOPEFULLY, NO ASGA MEMBER OR FAMILY MEMBER WILL GET IT EITHER!

#### **COVID-19 Rules and Handicapping FAQs**

The guidance below supplements a memo released by the USGA as to how the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping apply in response to questions received from golf course owners, administrators, tournament organizers and golfers. As was noted in that memo, it is not the intended purpose of the below guidance to either encourage or discourage anyone from playing the game, but rather, in our governance role, to help golf course operators, committees and golfers better understand how the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping apply to the various questions we have received.

The questions received fit into four main topics. In each of the four topics below, the guidance provided serves both to directly answer the questions asked as well as cover additional considerations that might also serve useful.

#### **FLAGSTICK**

May a course remove all flagsticks to minimize the possibility of exposing players to coronavirus?

May a committee introduce a code of conduct that does not allow players to remove (or even touch) the flagstick?

- The flagstick serves an important purpose in the game of golf that is as an indicator to a player as to where the hole is located on the putting green or a target for shots.
- If a Committee decides to set-up a golf course without flagsticks, consideration should be given as to how best to support such a decision by providing players the location of each hole on the green. Whether this is general guidance (such as in the right front portion) or through a detailed hole-location sheet.
- As another means of minimizing exposure to players, a Committee might decide to introduce a code of conduct that prohibits players from touching or removing the flagstick. As is authorized under Rule 1.2b, such a code could also include penalties (such as one penalty stroke or the general penalty) if a player is in breach of its standards.
- Before a Committee decides to introduce such a restriction, it is recommended that consideration be given to the fact that removing the flagstick is an instinctual, even automated, act for many players. Drafting such a code of conduct to restrict only deliberate acts to affect the outcome of the hole would be reflective of that reality and would mean that a player who instinctually removes the flagstick would not get a penalty in doing so.
- If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

#### **BUNKERS AND BUNKER RAKES**

We have removed all bunker rakes from our course to help stop the spread of coronavirus. What options do we have for players who end up in unraked areas?

- By removing rakes from the course, the Committee has various options as to how best to address the likely possibility of a player's ball coming to rest in an unmaintained area of sand and should consider which is the best approach under your unique circumstances.
- If you have limited play and most players at your course use a golf cart, the best approach might be to ask that each player takes a rake with them.
- If it is decided that no additional Rules will be put into effect to deal with these areas, it would be advisable to strongly encourage that players try their best to smooth the disturbed area with a foot or a club.
- Additional options could include changing the status of bunkers to be part of the general area. This would give players additional options under multiple relief rules (Rules 16 and 19) and would remove the restrictions normally in effect under Rule 12.
- Ground under repair could be used in two different manners. The first being to declare all bunkers to be ground under repair and treat them as part of the general area. This would allow players the option to take free relief outside the bunker under Rule 16.1. The second is to treat disturbed areas only as ground under repair. This would still allow a player free relief from such areas, but would require such relief to be taken elsewhere within the bunker.
- As a last resort, we have fielded questions as to whether a Committee may add a preferred lies local rule that would allow a player to place the ball elsewhere in a bunker without penalty (such as within one club length of where the ball came to rest). While that may seem like a good option in that it requires players to play from the bunker, there will be times when no effective relief would be available to a player, such as when a bunker is frequently played from and large areas are unraked. It would be recommended that the other options, such as those listed above are considered first, noting that using

the ground under repair options above ensure a player will get full relief and when dropping from knee height, balls very rarely plug.

• If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

#### SCORECARDS AND SCORING

We are holding a competition, but want to limit how scorecards are exchanged both between players and after the round to the Committee. Do you have any recommendations?

- The Rules already allow numerous options to address these concerns noting that certifying a score does not require a physical signature, nor does it require a physical scorecard.
- If a Committee wishes to run a competition using a form of electronic scoring, this could come in many forms, such as asking that each marker send an email to the Committee and the player he or she is marking for, including the player's hole-by-hole scores. The player can then reply to verify the accuracy of the card.
- When electronic methods are used, such as the email example above or similar methods that involve text messaging, the Committee should decide when a scorecard would be considered to have been returned. For example, this could be when the player responds certifying that the scores are correct or some other action that the Committee might consider more appropriate.
- A Committee might also wish to employ the above method but also combine these with a physical scorecard by having
  the marker take a picture of the completed scorecard and either email or text it to the Committee using the same process
  described above.
- If physical scorecards are the preferred method, a Committee may wish to have the player and marker not exchange cards but rather verbally communicate the hole-by-hole scores to the Committee verbally in the scoring area. Additionally, verbal confirmation could be a substitute for the physical signature. As with the electronic scoring methods described above, the Committee should be diligent to clearly define when a scorecard has been returned, such as when a player leaves the golf shop if that is where the process takes place.
- If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

#### MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOLE: NOT REQUIRING THAT PLAYERS HOLE OUT

A number of questions have been received that relate to modifying the hole so that players no longer need to reach into the hole to remove a ball to minimize the possibility of exposing golfers to coronavirus.

These have included some courses setting holes so that the hole liner remains an inch or two above the surface of the green while others have placed various objects into the hole or around the flagstick (such as foam pool noodles or plastic piping) so that a ball is unable to fall to the bottom.

While in all of these instances, the ball is not holed per the Rules of Golf (Rule 3.3c), a round played under these conditions will result in an acceptable score for handicap purposes using the most likely score guidelines (see Rule 3.3 of the Rules of Handicapping).

While the most likely score procedure is intended to support certain formats of play where the player is not required to hole out (such as in match play when the player's next stroke is conceded or in fourball stroke play when a partner picks up), it is also temporarily in effect where the above described safety measures are being used.

When using most likely score, the player should consider the number of strokes most likely required to complete the hole, and determine whether the ball would have been holed or not. Most likely score is at the player's best judgment and should not be used to gain an unfair advantage.

This measure is temporary and in effect within the United States until advised otherwise by the USGA.

The above guidance will continue to be updated. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping departments by going to www.USGA.org.



# GET READY TO TEE OFF

#### FOR MORE FUN - FELLOWSHIP - FAIRWAYS!

#### 4 WAYS TO JOIN:

- ◆ Call Us at 1-980-833-6450
- ♦ Fax This Form to Us
- ◆ Email/Mail This Form To Us
- ◆ Online (SinglesGolf.com/join)

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Note: Meeting locations may vary. Upon joining, you	sletter telling you about monthly eader or call 1-888-GOLFMATE	MONTH & DAY BORN YOUR USGA HANDICAP®			
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occur by you or another party striking a golf ball, by a g	golf cart turning over, or sim	ply falling down steps. PLEASE TAKE	ADEQUATE PRECAUTION when play	ying in ASGA events.	
Chapters and individuals running golf tournaments are	not professionals but are vo	olunteers, and therefore, you must a	ssume additional responsibility f	or your own safety.	
Please abide by the safety rules posted inside your gol nave a safety concern, you must immediately bring it to					
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<b>TERMS AND CONDITIONS:</b> Membership in the American Singles Golf Association ues and is valid for the period of time requested as indicated on the application for	m, subject to these Terms and Conditions. I		c. Eliciosed TOTAL	Ψ	
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hall not be used for any purpose other than ASGA. I understand that the informatic hip may be reproduced on the chapter's roster and distributed to other	on provided on the Application for Member-	Nο		Ехр	
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**DISPUTES:** In the event of any dispute of any matter or concerning the terms and/or conditions of membership, those matters and/or the interpretation of the terms and conditions shall be governed by the laws of the State of North Carolina and the parties

AGREEMENT TO POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (ASGA) AND LOCAL CHAPTER: By submitting this form and payment, I agree to abide by the "ASGA Policies" as outlined in the Policy section of www.SinglesGolf.com/policy as well as ASGA bylaws (www.SinglesGolf.com/pylaws) and my local chapter's bylaws and policies as currently in effect.

agree to submit disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement to courts of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Mail: ASGA, 1122 Industrial Dr. #107, Matthews, NC 28105

Credit Card Users Can Join By Calling 1-980-833-6450, 9-2 Eastern Time, M-F Join By Fax: 1-980-225-0231 or Scan & Email to Info@SinglesGolf.com

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# SINGLE? PLAY GUERI



The Chicago Chapter of the **American Singles Golf Association** 

### **WANTS YOU!**

We're 3,000 members in 75 cities and we're ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN! So if you're single (i.e. divorced, widowed, legally separated or never married) and enjoy meeting others through the game of golf, you're invited to inquire about membership by calling the American Singles Golf Association directly at 1-888-465-3628 (1-TRIPLE-EIGHT-GOLFMATE) Or visit our website at SinglesGolf.com

# Meet MORE Singles! Play MORE Golf! TEAR OFF A TAB BELOW

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