CFI FRRATING 29 YFARS OF SINGLES GOLF® IN AMERICA CHICAGO SINGLES GOLF Chicago Chapter - American Singles Golf Association - December 2020

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON



Keep an eye out for the Chicago ASGA Board Member Ballot coming via email soon. There are open board positions. Please consider being more involved in the Chicago ASGA and becoming a board member. Contact a current board member for more information.



Golf Chair Message

In case you haven't read the latest issue of Chicago District Golfer from the CDGA, there are a couple articles that talk about the huge surge in golf rounds played this year. There were a lot of newbies to the game, and many who had gotten away from it came back to it this last season. That bodes well for the health of the sport over the next couple years. Courses in our area that were in for a rough road back in

April made up for it and then some over the course of the year. I expect we'll continue to see increased demand for tee times in the warmer climates over the winter and as we get into our new season here in the spring. Be sure to talk up our group to both your golfing and newto-golf friends over the off season, then bring them with you to check us out starting in April.

A reminder it's time to renew your CDGA membership if you keep your handicap through them. For the 2021 season, you have the option to renew through our local ASGA Chicago chapter for \$30. If you chose this method, send a check payable to ASGA Chicago to Deb Backman (202 E Forest Knoll Dr., Palatine, IL 60074), and send your name and current CDGA member number to Tim Dowling (timdowling00@gmail.com). If you haven't been a member before, you can sign up through Tim as well. Reach out to him with any questions. Renewals will be processed starting in January.

If you prefer to renew via the CDGA website, the cost will be \$40 if you sign up for auto renewal. If you opt out of auto renewal, the cost for the 2021 season will

The year-end holidays are approaching, so what's on your wish list? New clubs? New shoes? New tech gear? I hope you get everything you're wishing for! Enjoy the holidays.

~Marie Bush, Shrub8@hotmail.com

NATIONAL EVENT INFORMATION Events Open to All Members Nationwide

Upcoming Multi-Chapter Events (see SinglesGolf.com/events)

 Bringing in the New Year 2021—Arriving in Florida on Sunday, January 3, departing January 6. We'll be at the Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes - Orlando. We believe we've got some great rates as traditionally the crowds return home after the New Year's. Details at SinglesGolf.com/NewYears

LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

Next Meeting

TBD

Meeting Location

TBD

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



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If you have a newsletter article/notice, please submit it to clpausic@aol.com.

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



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



ASGA calendar: http://asgachicago.org/ index.php/events/

About Our Members (THIS REPORT RAN 12/08/2020)

Happy Birthday to these members:

Kate Dudley - 12/10 Donald Hanson - 12/29 Cathy Hill - 01/12 Sharon Meyer - 01/02 Sheila Ramacci - 12/31

Welcome newest members:

Robert Davidson - Joined 10/06/2020 Donna Salvatore - Joined 10/19/2020 Gary Viverito - Joined 10/20/2020

These members recently renewed: Mark Tolle

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)
Linda Blinks - 11/30/2020
Cristina Chertes - 11/30/2020
Ed Horak - 11/30/2020
Douglas MacFarlane - 11/30/2020
John Miller - 11/30/2020
Robin Rash - 11/30/2020
Carol Reichart - 11/30/2020
Scott Wilson - 11/30/2020

Our chapter currently has 74 members.

How to Defuse a Blow-Up Hole By Fran Pirozzolo, GolfDigest.com

It's not uncommon for golfers of all abilities to have a hole or holes that they routinely play poorly. And they aren't just adding bogeys to the scorecard. It's often a catastrophic meltdown, hitting drives way off course, skulling chips, leaving balls in the bunker and finishing things off with a putting exhibition that looks like they're *trying* to miss the hole. Curiously, the challenges that these holes present don't seem to correlate

with the performance of the golfer. The holes might be difficult, but quadruple-bogey difficult? There's more to the story than just a golfer struggling to negotiate a tough par 4.

One of the reasons is that golfers often give these holes higher regard than all others. They exaggerate their importance and draw on the negative memories from previous attempts to play it. They can't wait to tell playing partners about how many bad breaks they've had on that hole and how these breaks seem to happen only to them. This type of defeatist attitude makes it really hard to score, because you think that even if you hit a great drive or solid approach, something bad will still probably happen.

Many great players avoid blow-up holes by dealing with their negative experiences in a much healthier way. Jack Nicklaus was famous for not remembering blunders others were positive he had made. To be clear, Nicklaus did make those mistakes, he just chose to disregard them—at least when he was playing.

Golfers who get gobbled up by certain holes don't use this tactic. Instead, they obsess about their mistakes, which makes them even easier to access in their minds later. If this sounds like you, it's likely you no longer have the ability to act like Jack and suppress negative thoughts about a particular hole or holes—we neuroscientists call this the "you can't *not* think about a white bear" phenomenon. So what can you do? Try a reboot.

The next time you reach the tee of a personal blow-up hole, treat it as if it's a new experience. Perhaps go with an iron off the tee instead of driver; maybe lay up short of the water hazard you normally try to carry. Or if your strategy has been conservative all along, be more aggressive. Cut the dogleg, go for the par-5 green in two, whatever gives you a fresh perspective on the hole. And, finally, try not to care what anyone thinks of your approach. Focus only on what you can control—your attention and effort. That's what Jack would do.





Standard Package Includes (Standard Package is for attendees who wish to have a roommate. Room-by-Myself packages also available. See below.)

- 2 rounds of golf at Disney's Palm and Lake Buena Vista courses
- 3 nights lodging at The Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes
- 3 \$15.00 breakfast vouchers to use towards breakfast each morning
- Sunday Reception & Arrival Dinner + two (2) add'l. dinners (Mon/Tues)

Add'l. Nights: Jan. 1 & 2-Not Available unless you book with hotel directly Jan. 6,7,8—\$290 or \$145 if shared (includes tax/fees)

Add'I. Golf: Day-of-Arrival golf Jan. 3 @ Disney Magnolia (11:24 tee times) \$89 Day-of-Departure golf Jan. 6 @ The Ritz-Carlton course (9am tee times) \$169 All prices quoted herein include taxes & gratuities. Carts & range balls included. * REUNION EVENT! Former members, married or not, may attend and bring their spouse @ a 3% upcharge. Others join at www.SinglesGolf.com/Join See full details at the event website: SinglesGolf.com/NewYears

GOLF: Shotgun start 12:30 on Disney's Palm Course on Jan. 4 followed by dinner at Shades of Green on property. On Jan. 5, we play Disney's Lake Buena Vista with an 8:30am shotgun start. Scoring: USGA "Play Own Ball" format; 2 best net balls of foursome. \$25 ASGA prize certificates awarded to winners. Range balls included each day. (Opt. rounds, see "Add'l. Golf" at left.) PAYMENT: Payment due when you register. There is a 25% cancellation fee on or prior to 12/03/20. Absolutely NO refunds after 12/03/20. To see our cancellation policy, go to the link at SinglesGolf.com/events (also see other terms and conditions). An e-mail confirmation will be sent to you upon receipt of payment. If you do not receive confirmation within 10 days of registering, you must call us at 980-833-6450, M-F, 9am-2pm, eastern time.

See info below regarding travel protection deadline.

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•	Day-of-Departure golf on Wed	• •			
+ \$ for FOUR = \$ TOTAL A	R 50/50 Raffle Tickets (put \$20 i	n this space). Two drawings MAKE CHECK** PAYAE	for 50% of pot each. I	Raffle tickets and mail to a	address in checkered box above.
* NOTE: Former ASGA r	nembers/spouses may attend	by paying an additional 39	6 to the TOTAL AMO	UNT shown.	Call 980-833-6450 to register.
FAX THIS FORM TO) 980-225-0231 or Scan	<mark>/E-Mail to: Irene@Sing</mark>	<mark>lesGolf.com or m</mark>	<mark>ail to addr</mark>	ress in checkered box above.
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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.



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- ◆ Call Us at 1-980-833-6450
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APPLICATION TO \square JOIN ASGA $\;$	MY MEMBERSHIP	MONTH & DAY BORN			
Note: Meeting locations may vary. Upon joining, you will receive a monthly news neetings, outings, etc. If you have any questions, contact your local chapter leads		YOUR USGA HANDICAP®			
or 980-833-6450. Please complete information box at right.		AVERAGE GOLF SCORE			
Dues are \$89.00 (for 12 months) OR \$178.00 for 24 months (includes \$267 with our "buy 3 years, get 4th free + shirt" plan. Credit card us 1-980-225-0231. Your membership kit will be mailed upon receipt of parint clearly - the info below shows how it will appear.	sers: JOIN BY PHONE: 1-98 payment. <i>Free shipping if A</i>	0-833-6450 or FAX COMPLE SGA shirt is ordered with ap	TED FORM to		
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esidency, and that if any portion of this Release is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding continue in all force and effect. ERMS AND CONDITIONS: Membership in the American Singles Golf Association (ASGA) becomes effective upon receipt of use and is valid for the period of time requested as indicated on the application form, subject to these Terms and Conditions. I m 21 years or older, single (i.e. never married OR divorced OR legally separated OR widowed), and have read and accepted,	Check Paid To "ASGA, In	, , , , ,	\$		
in 21 years or older, single (i.e. never married OK divorced OK legally separated OK woowed), and have read and accepted, s a condition of joining, the Release from Liability and Express Assumption of Risk shown above. <u>understand that dues are non-refundable</u> and are subject to change. I agree that all rosters, membership lists, e-mail	Please charge my major	Please charge my major credit/debit card indicated below:			
understand that uses are intri-retinated and are subject to claring, it agrees that all robusts, item learning in the didessess, or any other information provided to him/her as a result of their membership in ASGA are the property of ASGA and hall not be used for any purpose other than ASGA. I understand that the information provided on the Application for Memberhip may be reproduced on the chapter's roster and distributed to other ASGA members and published on www.SinglesGolf.com, otherwise, I will note at the bottom of this form if I wish certain information not to be published.	No		_ Exp		
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See above Legal Stuff in larger font online at www.SinglesGolf.com/Legal-Stuff

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

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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

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