

CHICAGO SINGLES GOLF

Chicago Chapter - American Singles Golf Association - January 2021

FUN - FELLOWSHIP - FAIRWAYS



President's Message

It is truly an understatement to say that many are glad 2020 has come and gone. Global Pandemic. Social Strife. Political Turmoil. Economic Uncertainty. Joblessness. Climate Disasters. Any of these crises could have easily touched any of us or someone we know. For all of this to come to bear in 2020 has been overwhelming.

And yet, ASGA Chicago survived an incredibly difficult year. With the promise of vaccines becoming available, 2021 has the opportunity to return to a greater feeling of normalcy. We don't know how long or to what degree protocols and restrictions will continue, but we should benefit from how it was managed by the Board.

This is ASGA Chicago's 22nd year as a chapter of the American Singles Golf Association. We are all very fortunate to have the great game of golf tie us together. There are few things in life that are so absolutely frustrating and incredibly endearing all at the same time. Add to this the chance to make lasting friendships and social connections, you have a great recipe for every time out on the course.

Let's make this a great year.

~Tom U



Golf Chair Message

Happy new year to everyone, and a heartfelt thanks to Tom Ullsperger for once again joining the board of ASGA Chicago, taking over as president for 2021. Tom has served multiple times in different roles over the course of our 22-year history, and we very much appreciate his willingness to serve again. This group only continues because of those willing

to volunteer their time and effort to see that it does.

I'm beginning the process of booking courses for the upcoming season. This is my third season doing the scheduling, so I think I'm getting the hang of it. As always, your input as to courses you'd like to play and those you'd maybe rather not see on our schedule is appreciated.

We're crossing our fingers that by the time our season rolls around, COVID 19 will be under control and on its way out, and some of the restrictions we saw last year will be lifted. We will, however, plan to continue the practice of having people pay the courses individually, rather than have a coordinator collect from each person then pay the course the total amount due. This makes things a lot easier for both the outing coordinators and the treasurer. There may be courses that still require a deposit and a single payment from the group, but hopefully not more than a few.

Because of this change in payment process, we're getting out of the coupon busi-

NATIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

Events Open to All Members Nationwide

FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

Multi-Chapter Events (MCEs) will be curtailed until we begin to feel safe to travel. ASGA National expects our next event will be Memorial Day Weekend, 2021, if that. We're all hoping for success with the vaccine distribution. If things appear to be improving, we may plan a trip to Scotland for August or the Barcelona side of Spain for September of 2021. A return trip to Cabo may be in the offing as well. These three locations represent the best turnouts in ASGA's history since we started doing events outside of our country ten years ago. Stay tuned!

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



President

Tom Ullsperger
tomu7@hotmail.com
708-508-1045

Chairman of the Board

Alice Zyks

Golf Chairperson

Marie Bush
Sue Herman

Social Chairperson

Kathi Brown

Membership Chairperson

Rick Bachman
rbachman60@gmail.com

Communications Chairperson

Kathy Hendrickson
Cindy Pausic

Treasurer

Deborah Backman

Webmaster

Tim Ryan

Legal

Robin Rash



ness. If you have any ASGA Chicago coupons from 2019, you can cash them out through the end of this year by sending them to our treasurer, **Deb Backman**. If you don't turn them in by the end of this year, you can use them for confetti next New Year's Eve! Stay warm and well,

~Marie Bush, Shrub8@hotmail.com

Editor's note: The Board slate was unanimously approved with 31 members responding.

NEWSLETTER

If you have a newsletter article/notice, please submit it to clpausic@aol.com. Next month please send on by February 5 for February's newsletter.

Website

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



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

About Our Members

(THIS REPORT RAN 01/08/2021)

Happy Birthday to these members:

Tracy Rae Crow - 01/27
Tim Dowling - 02/08
John Edmonson - 01/16
Cathy Hill - 01/12
Eugene Keefe - 01/17
Sharon Meyer - 01/02
Margaret Onken - 02/10
Donna Salvatore - 02/09
Charles Schmidt - 02/07

These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)
Kathleen Gallo - 01/31/2021

These members recently renewed:

Leonard Benbenek
Bernadette Glass
Ed Horak

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)

Linda Blinks - 11/30/2020
Cristina Chertes - 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

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 77 members.

How to Cure the Shanks

By Keely Levins, GolfDigest.com

We know, we know. You don't even want to talk about the shanks for fear bringing the subject up will cause you to catch them. But like it or not, you might find yourself in a situation where you're going to want to know a solution. Though awful, the plague of the shanks is curable.

First thing you have to do is take a break from the course. You need some alone time to sort this out on the range. Start by checking in on a few basics. Make sure you're standing tall with your chest up during the swing, don't hold the club too tightly, and make sure your weight isn't sneaking up toward your toes. David Leadbetter told us that not tending to all of these little things could be the root of your struggles.

He also gave us a drill that will cure your shanking woes.

Set up like you're going to hit it, and then put a tee in the ground just outside the toe of the club. While you're swinging, think about keeping the grip end of the club near your body. "Miss the tee at impact, and you'll hit the ball in the center of the face," says Leadbetter.



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 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)

APPLICATION TO JOIN ASGA RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP

Note: Meeting locations may vary. Upon joining, you will receive a monthly newsletter telling you about monthly meetings, outings, etc. If you have any questions, contact your local chapter leader or call 1-888-GOLFMATE or 980-833-6450. **Please complete information box at right.**

MONTH & DAY BORN _____
YOUR USGA HANDICAP® _____ or
AVERAGE GOLF SCORE _____

Dues are **\$89.00** (for 12 months) OR **\$178.00 for 24 months** (includes free ASGA logo'd shirt when joining for two years!). Best rate per year is **\$267** with our "buy 3 years, get 4th free + shirt" plan. Credit card users: JOIN BY PHONE: **1-980-833-6450** or FAX COMPLETED FORM TO **1-980-225-0231**. Your membership kit will be mailed upon receipt of payment. **Free shipping if ASGA shirt is ordered with application.**

PRINT CLEARLY - THE INFO BELOW SHOWS HOW IT WILL APPEAR ON YOUR CHAPTER'S ROSTER. (*SEE OPT-OUT CLAUSE BELOW)

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US? _____ CHAPTER YOU ARE JOINING OR RENEWING IN: _____

NAME _____ E-MAIL ADDR: _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

HOME (_____) _____ WORK/CELL (_____) _____ EMPL. BY _____

POSITION _____ () AVAILABLE FOR WEEKDAY GOLF () WILLING TO VOLUNTEER FOR CHAPTER

NOTE: ASGA DOES NOT CONDUCT BACKGROUND CHECKS ON APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP OR MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION. Golf can be a dangerous sport. Accidents can occur by you or another party striking a golf ball, by a golf cart turning over, or simply falling down steps. PLEASE TAKE ADEQUATE PRECAUTION when playing in ASGA events. Chapters and individuals running golf tournaments are not professionals but are volunteers, and therefore, you must assume additional responsibility for your own safety. Please abide by the safety rules posted inside your golf cart, at the golf course, as well as the official website of the United States Golf Association (www.USGA.org). If you have a safety concern, you must immediately bring it to the attention of the person(s) running an event, your chapter president or golf course management personnel.

LEGAL STUFF: Read this section in a larger font at SinglesGolf.com/Legal-Stuff

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK: I, the undersigned Applicant (hereinafter referred to as "Releasor"), in consideration of being permitted to participate in golf activities organized or sponsored by ASGA, Inc., d/b/a American Singles Golf Association, a Delaware Corporation, or its affiliate chapters in the United States and Canada, (the "Releasees") and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency is hereby acknowledged, hereby on behalf of myself and my heirs, distributees, guardians, and legal representatives agree to fully indemnify, defend, hold harmless, and not to sue Releasees and/or Releasee's directors, officers, employees, agents, and affiliates from and on account of any and all past, present, and future claims, debts, causes of action, damages, personal injuries, wrongful deaths, property loss, and property damage (including attorney's fees and costs relative thereto), whether due or not, direct or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, latent or patent, known or unknown, which in any way concern or relate to any act or omission of Releasees. Except in the event of any gross and willful negligence, I shall bring no claims, demands, actions and causes of action, and/or litigation, against Releasees for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, property damage, sustained by me in relation to the premises and operations of the golf course, including riding on golf carts or playing the game of golf. I am aware that participation in and/or observance of the golf activities and/or other activities sponsored by Releasees is or may be an inherently dangerous activity and may have health-related risks, and agree that I am voluntarily participating in and/or observing such activities with full knowledge of all dangers and risks involved. In addition, I hereby expressly assume all risks of injury, death, property loss, property damage, and other loss and damage which may occur relative to my participation in and/or observance of such activities. I understand and agree that this Release includes any and all claims based on the past, present and future ordinary negligence, action, and/or inaction of Releasees or Releasee's directors, officers, employees, agents, and affiliates. I acknowledge that I have read this Release, have been fully and completely advised of the potential dangers incidental and inherent to the participation in and/or observance of the activities organized and/or sponsored by Releasees, and am fully aware of the legal consequences of signing the Application Form acknowledging this Release. I agree that this Release, waiver and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of my residency, and that if any portion of this Release is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding continue in full force and effect.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Membership in the American Singles Golf Association (ASGA) becomes effective upon receipt of dues and is valid for the period of time requested as indicated on the application form, subject to these Terms and Conditions. I am 21 years or older, single (i.e. never married OR divorced OR legally separated OR widowed), and have read and accepted, as a condition of joining, the Release from Liability and Express Assumption of Risk shown above.

I understand that dues are non-refundable and are subject to change. I agree that all rosters, membership lists, e-mail addresses, or any other information provided to him/her as a result of their membership in ASGA are the property of ASGA and shall not be used for any purpose other than ASGA. I understand that the information provided on the Application for Membership 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.

*** OPT-OUT CLAUSE:** I understand that I may, at any time, request any information on me not to be reprinted, reproduced or distributed, such as home phone, address, etc. in or on any newsletter, roster, website, etc. Such request to be noted below in "Notes by Applicant" section or emailed to info@SinglesGolf.com. ASGA may not be held liable for inadvertent publishing of opt-out information.

PRIVACY: See our privacy policy at www.SinglesGolf.com/privacy

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

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/bylaws) and my local chapter's bylaws and policies as currently in effect.

See above Legal Stuff in larger font online at www.SinglesGolf.com/Legal-Stuff

NOTES BY APPLICANT: _____

JOIN FOR 2 YEARS - GET A FREE GOLF SHIRT!
JOIN FOR 3 YEARS - GET 4TH YEAR + SHIRT FREE!

- DUES - 24 Months - \$178 (includes free ASGA logo'd shirt - Most Popular!)
- DUES (Join for 3 years, 4th year free - \$267 (incl. free shirt - best value)
- DUES - 12 Months + ASGA logo'd golf shirt - \$119 (includes shipping)
- DUES - 12 Months - \$89

If a shirt is included, indicate () Male () Female Size: _____

Check Paid To "ASGA, Inc." Enclosed** TOTAL \$ _____

Please charge my major credit/debit card indicated below:

No. _____ Exp. _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED! By signing below, I agree to the Terms, Condition and Release ("Legal Stuff") as set forth at left and, if appropriate, authorize payment by my credit/debit card shown above.

Signature _____ Date _____

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

REFERRED BY: _____

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

