



MISGAGRAM

Volume 131 – June 2017

www.misga.org

President's Message



At the Annual Reps Meeting at Prospect Bay on April 10, no one voiced the need to make any major changes to the way Mixers are run. The reasoning being that clubs waive greens fees, and that offsets the problems of rising costs of golf and food, plus the travel distances between clubs. In other words, Mixers are still a really good deal.

A major concern still involves the speed of play. Solutions include: not overbooking; watching other's shots so that lost balls can be found; planning shots while waiting for others to hit; having the A player or home player move the foursome along; keeping up with the foursome ahead of yours; hitting when ready, and not waiting for a team member to hit just because they may be further from the hole; teeing from the tee box that helps one play at their best and least time consuming; parking the cart to the far end of the green being puttied on. There are many more, so please share them with your Reps.

At the Mixers I have attended this year, I remain impressed by how much fun most seem to have talking about their games at the meals served after golf. I also liked the manner in which The Naval Academy announced the winners of that day. They made it a point to say from which club each of the winners was from. I think that added a lot to the festivities.

Congratulations to Ruggles Golf Club, which joined MISGA, and Division II. They are the third new club to join us in 2017. Jim Wilcox

**Maryland
Interclub
Seniors Golf
Association**

President
Jim Wilcox

Vice President

Greg Morris

Secretary

John Babyak

Treasurer

Dick Schwinger

The MISGAGRAM is the official newsletter of the organization published on the web site four times each year. The mission of the MISGAGRAM is to provide information of common interest to association members. The MISGAGRAM can be read or downloaded at:

www.misga.org.

The publication months for the MISGAGRAM are:

March

June

September

December

Noteworthy events and announcements for away activities, and articles of general interest may be submitted to the editor at any time for publishing. The closing dates for publication are:

10 March (March)

10 June (June)

20 Sept. (September)

20 Dec. (December)

All materials should be sent via e-mail to:

tgnome1@gmail.com

Bob Hodges

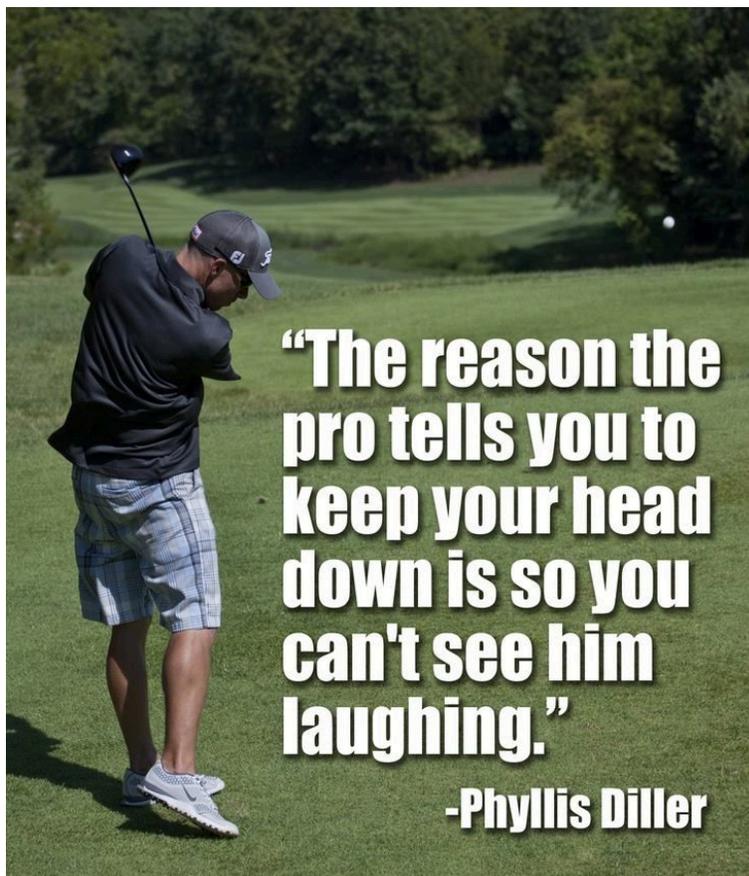
MISGAGRAM Editor

Celebrations

At a recent Mixer at Holly Hills (4/19/17) Stanley Moser from Compass Point had a Hole in One. Hole # 6 (Recent switch of nines) 156 Yards using a 3 Wood and playing with Chuck Fulton, Bob Isle and Dan Sunday—this is a nice Prize! also check other winnings

To top this off he won a 50/50 and was first or second place —Now that is what I would call a Fantastic Day! Bob Fitzsimmons, Rep and Holly Hills had another great day of golf, lunch and camaraderie

The Lighter Side



OBITUARIES

G. Gardner Shugart, Jr passed away Jan 31, 2017 in Milford, DE. He retired after working for the Dept. of Administrative Services with the State of De. He was an active member of the Milford Lions Club, Milford Public Library, Ave Methodist Church and Shawnee CC. He loved playing golf and was involved in MISGA for a long time. In his memory give your grandchildren an extra hug, play a round of golf, or take the time to share kind words with the people you love.

William David Roberts passed away on Mar24,2017 at the Delaware Hospice Center in Milford, DE. He served in the National Guard for several years and worked as a salesman for Verizon before retiring. He worked part time at Rookery North. Bill was an outstanding softball player and loved playing golf and really enjoyed MISGA.

2017 PAST PRESIDENTS (ABCD) "TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE" MEETS

On Wednesday - May 3, 2017, MISGA Tournament Chairman Lloyd Stimson battled the congestion of Indian Head Highway, the bustling traffic of the Metro Beltway and easily traversed the Inter-County Connector (ICC) to the picturesque and idyllic Norbeck Country Club in Rockville, MD. He met with the members of the MISGA leadership team and the Norbeck CC management staff to make plans for the MISGA 2017 Past Presidents (ABCD) Championship Tournament. The purpose of the "planning meeting" was to discuss the administrative and operational activities of the tournament (e.g., format, tee placements, handicap allowances & adjustments, schedule, food & beverages, entry fees, prizes, etc.) and to review the associated documents for accuracy and adequacy (e.g., website flyer, bulletin board poster, entry form, rules sheet, finance report, etc.). Attendees at the meeting were L-R below: Gary Manion (Tournament Consultant); Paul Hawkins (NCC MISGA Asst. Club Rep); Lloyd Stimson (MISGA Tournament Chairman); Charlotte Kates (NCC Director of Operations); Mike Barillo (NCC Head Pro); Jake Jacobi (Div. IV Tournament Chairman, PP-ABCD Tournament Coordinator & NCC MISGA Club Rep) and Mike Grantham (NCC Asst. Pro - not in photo).



2017 SUMMER FROLIC

The 2017 MISGA Summer Frolic will be held again at Liberty Mountain Resort in Fairfield / Carroll Valley, PA. This also is the site of the MISGA Statewide Fall Board of Directors meeting which will be held @ 4:00 p.m. after golf on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. The meeting is in the Highland Lodge Millstone Room.

Folks who attended last year had a great experience staying in the Highland Lodge, which not only serves as the “nerve center” for the resort, but houses the hotel, golf Pro Shop, Fitness Center, Spa, several restaurants and meeting rooms. It truly is a very nice facility and one that can accommodate our needs. Most overnight accommodations and meetings will be held in the Highland Lodge, and our Wednesday evening social and sit-down dinner and the Thursday after-golf “up-scale” luncheon both will be held in the Alpine Room at the resort. The schedule of events follows.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

- Board of Directors Golf - Tee times begin at 10:00 a.m - 11:20 a.m.
- 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. = Board of Directors Meeting, Highland Lodge Millstone Room
- 6:15 p.m. - Board of Directors Dinner - Eagle & Owl Restaurant

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. = Breakfast in Highland Lodge Eagle & Owl Restaurant
- 10:00 a.m. Golf for all Participants via Consecutive Tee Times
- 5:30 p.m. = Cash Bar Meet and Greet Social in Alpine Room followed by
- Dinner / Awards and Prizes - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 14, 2017

- 7:00 – 8:15 a.m. = Breakfast in Highland Lodge Eagle & Owl Restaurant
- 8:30 a.m. = Shotgun Golf Mixed Scramble
- 1:00 p.m. = “Bon Voyage” Up-Scale Buffet Luncheon / Awards in Alpine Room

Participant costs presently are being established and as in prior years there will be several options for folks staying 3 days & 2 nights and/or 2 days & 1 night. Costs include golf, prizes, lodging and meals. There also will be options for commuters that include golf, prizes, and/or meals. With regard to lodging double occupancy is preferred and folks who do not want to stay in the lodge will be accommodated in The Fairway Building. Single / Individual rooms will be available but at a slightly higher per night fee.

The entry form for the 2017 Summer Frolic will be available after March 15, 2017 on the MISGA.org website. It also will be distributed to 2016 participants, as well as to all MISGA Division Directors to send to their respective club representatives and then to all MISGA members.

SEND PAYMENT with ENTRY FORMS

DEADLINE FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

SEND TO:

***ED MASOOD
10843 Archer Lane***

Williamsport, MD 21795

Make Checks Payable to:

MISGA Div 2 SF

Cell Phone: 301.221.7821 Email: gcemasood@gmail.com

FALL FROLIC October 22 to October 27, 2017:

This year we will stay and play golf at Omni Resort's "Amelia Island Plantation", Amelia Island, Florida. We have been to Amelia Island in the past prior to the Amelia Island purchase by Omni Resorts. Most of us will be staying at the Oceanfront "Run of the House Hotel". We will be playing the Ocean Links and Oak Marsh courses. Several golf holes are adjacent to the Ocean beaches which provide spectacular Ocean views.

Check in will be 4:00 pm Sunday evening October 22, 2017. Sunday evening there will be a short orientation meeting followed by a cash bar and a light reception (No dinner). Breakfast and dinner are included each day with check out after breakfast Friday morning October 27, 2017. Lunch is not included; however, it is available at the hotel or other venues at the complex. The non golfers will have a one day local tour including lunch.

The Amenities include complimentary self parking, on property transportation, resort beach access, use of the Health & Fitness Center and Deluxe Internet access. Some of the optional amenities that are available (costs to be paid by the user) are: the Resort Spa offering several "Spa" services, bike rentals, and numerous other optional tours.

THE APPLICATION FORMS ARE ON THE WEBSITE: MISGA.ORG. (See Frolics & Flings).

I would appreciate it if the Division Heads and club representatives would promote this event and post this information and the application forms on each club's bulletin board.

For complete information, please see the applications that are on line under MISGA.ORG. –Fall Frolics. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me at 301-292-1597 or e-mail petesorge233@gmail.com.

Peter Sorge, MISGA Events Chairman

HOLE HANDICAP vs HOLE DIFFICULTY

When discussing hole "handicap" designations (*i.e.*, *#1 handicap hole*, *#15 handicap hole*, *etc.*), there has been much misunderstanding about differentiating between **hole handicap** and **hole difficulty**. The two are not the same. Many mistake a hole's **handicap** designation for the **difficulty** level of the hole. A hole that has been designated as the *#1 handicap hole* does not mean that it is the most difficult hole on the course. Likewise, a hole that has been designated as the *#18 handicap hole* does not mean that it is the easiest hole on the course.

According to Section 17 of the *USGA Handicap System* manual, **HOLE HANDICAP** is the **allocation of strokes to a player so that middle and higher-handicap players will be able to halve a hole with lower-handicap players**. The hole that has the highest stroke count differential between the lower-handicap players and the middle to higher-handicap players will be designated the *#1 handicap hole*. The hole that has the lowest stroke count differential between the lower-handicap players and the middle and higher-handicap players will be designated the *#18 handicap hole*.

HOLE DIFFICULTY is a measure of how tough it is for all players to make a par on a hole. The hole that has the highest average stroke count above par will be classified as the most difficult hole of the course. The hole that has the lowest average stroke count above par will be classified as the easiest hole of the course. The *USGA* manual further states that a handicap stroke should be an equalizer and should be available on a hole where it most likely will be needed by the higher-handicapped player to halve the hole. Difficulty in making a par on a hole is not an effective indicator of the need for a stroke. Also, Section 17-1 states that in allocating the order of handicap strokes to the 18 holes of a golf course, consideration should be given to the likelihood of the strokes being equalizers, rather than winning strokes.

BOTTOM LINE:

Hole Handicap: How tough it is for higher-handicap players to *halve* a hole with lower-handicap players.

Hole Difficulty: How tough it is for all players to *par* a hole.

Lloyd Stimson

Modernizing Golf's Rules

As most of you know the R&A and the USGA are changing the rules of golf effective January 1, 2019. The new proposed changes are currently out for review and input from all golfers until August 31, 2017. The proposed changes will have two editions; 1) will be the Rules of Golf and 2) The players edition, a condensed version with the focus on us as golfers.

Here is a summarization of the major changes, written in the style of the new Player's Edition of the Rules.

1. When Things Happen to Your Ball in Play

a. Ball at Rest Accidentally Moves

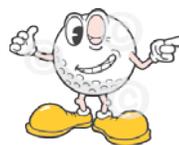
- i. Accidentally moving your ball while searching for it: There is **no longer a penalty**.
- ii. Accidentally moving your ball or ball-marker when it is on the putting green: There is **no longer a penalty**.
- iii. New standard for deciding if you caused your ball to move: You will be found to have caused you ball to move only if that is **known or virtually certain** (that is, it is at least 95% likely that you were the cause).

b. Replacing a Moved or Lifted Ball

- i. New procedure when you don't know the exact spot where your ball was at rest: You must **replace the ball on its estimated original spot** (rather than drop the ball at that spot); and if the estimated spot was on, under or against growing, attached or fixed objects (such as grass), you must **replace the ball on, under or against those objects**.

c. Ball in Motion Accidentally Deflected

- i. Your ball in motion accidentally equipment, your caddie, the flagstick for you or a flagstick: There is **no longer a**



hits you, your someone attending removed or attended
penalty (such as when

2. Taking Relief

a. Dropping a Ball in a Defined Relief Area

- i. Relaxed dropping procedure: The only requirement is that you hold the ball **above the ground without touching any growing thing or other natural or artificial object**, and let it go so that it **falls through the air** before coming to rest; to avoid any doubt, it is recommended that the ball be *dropped* from at least one inch above the ground or any growing thing or object.
- ii. Defined relief area: The ball needs to be dropped in and played from a **single required relief area** (whereas today you are required to drop a ball in one area, it can roll away, and you need to re-drop if it rolls to any of nine specific places).

- iii. Fixed measures define the relief area: You use the fixed distance of **20 inches or 80 inches** to measure the relief area (no longer using one or two club-lengths); this can readily be measured by using **markings on the shaft of your club.**
- b. Lost Ball
 - i. Reduced time for ball search: A ball is lost if not found in **three minutes** (rather than the current five minutes) after you begin searching for it.
- c. Embedded Ball
 - i. Relief for embedded ball in the general area: **You may take relief if your ball is embedded anywhere (except in sand) in the general area** (which is the new term for “through the green”), except where a Local Rule restricts relief to the fairway or similar areas(this reversed the default position in the current Rules).
- d. Ball to Use in Taking Relief
 - i. Substituting another ball: You may continue to use the original ball or substitute another ball, whenever you take **either free relief or penalty relief** under a Rule.

3. Special Rules for Specific Areas of the Course

a. Putting Green

- i. Putting with flagstick left in the hole: **longer a penalty** if you play a ball green and it hits the unattended hole.
- ii. Repairing damage on the putting green: You may repair **almost all damage (including spike marks and animal damage)** on the putting green (rather than being limited to repairing only ball-marks or old hole plugs).
- iii. Touching your line of putt or touching the putting green in pointing out target: There is **no longer a penalty** if you or your caddie does either of these things, so long as doing so does not improve the conditions affecting your stroke.
- iv. Replacing your ball if it moves only after you had already marked, lifted and replaced it: Anytime this happens on the putting green, you replace the ball on its spot – **even if it was blown by the wind or moved for no clear reason.**
- v. Your caddie marks and lifts your ball on the green: There is **no longer a penalty** if your caddie does this without your specific authorization to do so.



There is **no** from the putting flagstick in the

b. Penalty Areas

- i. Penalty areas expanded beyond water hazard: Red- and yellow-marked “penalty areas” may now cover **areas the Committee decides to mark** for this purpose (such as **deserts, jungles, or lava rock fields**), in addition to areas of water.

- ii. Expanded use of red penalty areas: Committees are given the discretion to **mark all penalty areas as red so that lateral relief is always allowed** (but they may still mark penalty areas as yellow where they consider it appropriate).
 - iii. Elimination of opposite side relief option: You are no longer allowed to take relief from a red penalty area on the **opposite side from where the ball last entered the penalty area** (unless a Committee adopts a Local Rule allowing it).
 - iv. Removal of all special restriction on moving or touching things in a penalty area: There is **no longer a penalty** if you touch or move loose impediments (such as leaves, stones and sticks) or touching the ground with your hand or your club in a penalty area.
- c. Bunkers
- i. Removal of special restrictions on moving loose impediments: There is **no longer a penalty** if you touch or move loose impediments in a bunker.
 - ii. Relaxed restrictions on touching the sand with your hand or club when your ball is in a bunker: You are now prohibited only from touching the sand (1) with your hand or club to **test the condition of the bunker** or (2) with your club in **the area right behind or in front of the ball**, in **making a practice swing** or in **making the backswing** for your stroke.
 - iii. New unplayable ball relief option: For **two penalty strokes**, you may take **relief outside the bunker** by dropping a ball back on a line from the hole through where your ball was at rest in the bunker.

4. Equipment You are Allowed to Use

a. Damaged Clubs

- i. Use of damaged clubs: **club that is damaged** matter how it happens (damaged it in anger).



You may keep using any during the round, no (for example, even if you

- ii. Replacement of damaged clubs: **You may not replace a damaged club**, unless you were not responsible for causing the damage.

b. Damaged Ball

- i. Substituting another ball for a cut or cracked ball: You may substitute another ball if your ball in play on a hole has become cut or cracked while playing that hole: but you are **no longer allowed to change balls solely because the ball has become "out of shape."**

c. Distance-Measuring Devices

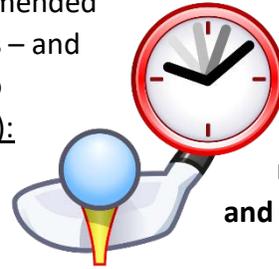
- i. DMDs allowed: **You may use DMDs** to measure distance, except when prohibited by Local Rule (this reversed the default position in the current Rules).

5. How to Prepare for and Making a Stroke

- a. Expanded restriction on caddie help with alignment: Your caddie is **not allowed to stand on a line behind you** from the time you begin taking your stance until you have made your stroke.

6. Promoting Faster Pace of Play

- a. Encouraging you to play promptly: It is recommended that you **usually** make each stroke in **no more than 40 seconds** – and **more quickly** than that – once it's your turn to play. This has now become **and responsible** play.
- b. Playing out of turn in stroke play ("ready golf"): Always been allowed without penalty, and **affirmatively encouraged** to do so in a **safe way for convenience or to save time**.
- c. New alternative form of stroke play: The rules recognize a new "Maximum Score" form of stroke play, where **your score for a hole is capped at a maximum** (such as double par or triple bogey) set by the Committee, so that you can pick up and move to the next hole when your score will be at or above the maximum.
- d. Other changes to help pace of play: The simplified dropping procedure, reduced time for ball search, expansion of penalty area, greater use of red penalty area and ability to putt with flagstick in the hole should all help pace of play as well.



7. Insisting on High Standards of Conduct and Trusting Player Integrity

- a. Playing in the spirit of the game: New provisions are added to reinforce the **high standards of conduct** expected from all players on the course and the Committee's discretion to disqualify players for **serious misconduct**.
- b. Code of player conduct: Committees are given authority to adopt their own code of player conduct and to set **penalties for the breach of standards in that code**.
- c. Elimination of need to announce intent to lift ball: When you have good reason to lift your ball to identify it, to see if it is cut or cracked or to see if you are entitled to relief (such as to see if the ball is embedded), you are **no longer required first to announce** to another player or your marker that you intend to do so or to give that person an opportunity to observe the process.
- d. Reasonable judgment standard: When you need to **estimate or measure** a spot, point, line, area or distance under a Rule, **your reasonable judgment will not be second-guessed** based on later evidence (such as video review) **if you did all that could be reasonably be expected under the circumstances** to estimate or measure accurately.

Wayne Rowland