

General Membership Meeting Minutes for March 29 at Musket Ridge

Josh Ricketts, Musket Ridge PGA Pro

1. The **Mason-Dixon Golf League** is a Monday evening 9-hole golf association designed to give players friendly competition in a relaxed environment. All events are handicapped and include two closest to the pin prizes as well as a skins game. Players earn points according to performance in both gross and net categories. The weekly fee includes green fee, cart fee and prizes.
2. **Blue-Gray Tournament Series** - A FedEx Cup-style tournament series, the Blue-Gray tournament series is designed to give members a fun and competitive tournament schedule. All Blue-Gray members are automatically enrolled in this series. Others may participate in the Series with the purchase of a Blue-Gray Membership.
3. Aeration is scheduled for Monday April 14. Of course this depends on the availability of the equipment and the weather.
4. The bunker project continues in 2016 with the reconstruction of 12 bunkers this year. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-April.

Introduce the Board Officers and Chairmen

1. Rob Wheeler, Treasurer
2. Darrell Blevins, Membership Committee Chair (Scheduler)
3. Bob Frucella, Handicap Committee Chair
4. Tom Rowlett, Past Club Representative, Webmaster, MISGA Division Director for Division II and 2016 President of MISGA
5. Kevin Cannaday, Ryder Cup Committee Chair
6. Russ Stoneman, Chair, Rules Committee Chair

Approve the Meeting Minutes from October 13, 2015

1. The meeting minutes were approved for inclusion in the current minutes without being read.

2016 Membership Information

1. Currently we have 74 members.
2. Last year we had 72 members on Opening Day and wound up the season with 82.

Introduce New Members

1. We introduced the new members: **John Babyak, Mark Hagerty, Kirk Isenbart, Richard Keen, Robert Kahmer, Frank Jamison, Gene Perticone, and Larry Snody** who is a returning new member.
2. **Tim Brewer, John Craig, Jim Forsythe, and Pete Gilmore** will not return this year.
3. Welcome **Milton Zepp** to the meeting. Milton is fighting an illness and stopped by to see his MISGA friends, both of them.
4. Rob Wheeler has helped out today. He is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on April 14.

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Treasury Report (Rob)

1. We have about \$2,000.00 in the bank.

Schedule Updates

1. We currently have 57 MISGA mixers on the schedule and a few more may be added (Richland and West Winds).
2. That does not include our Opening Day Tournament, the Musket Ridge MISGA Tournament in October, the Ryder Cup competition on October, the MISGA two-man and ABCD qualifiers and state tournaments. That is essentially the same number we had scheduled last year. We will not be going to Waynesboro, but we picked up the Naval Academy.
3. We have four dates this year when more than one mixer is scheduled on the same date. **4/4 Fountain Head (Fountain Head had originally scheduled a different date with us and then asked to change the date because of their aeration schedule) and Hunt Valley; 7/6 Challedon and Bowie (We typically have less than 10 members go to Bowie); 8/16 Cross Creek and Montgomery; 9/14 Crofton and Navy (has a limit of 20).**
4. Ryder Cup Matches
5. Division II ABCD and Two-Man Tournaments
 1. Division II qualifier for the two-man is at Rattlewood on June 20.
 2. Division II qualifier for the ABCD is at Challedon on July 11
 3. State Two Man Tournament is at Wild Quail on August 4
 4. State ABCD Tournament is at Norbeck on August 11.

Shirt Update

1. Please see the Musket Ridge website for specifics on ordering shirts for 2016.

Rules Changes for 2016

Rule 3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

The Rule has been amended to provide further guidance on:

1. The procedure for a competitor who is uncertain of how to proceed and decides to play two balls; and
2. How the Committee should determine which ball is to count in such situations.

In addition, the Rule has been expanded to provide guidance on which ball counts when the Rules do not permit the procedure used for either ball.

Exception to Rule 6-6d. Wrong Score for Hole

This new Exception provides that a competitor is not disqualified for returning a score for any hole lower than actually taken when this is due to failure to include one or more penalty strokes that, before returning his score card, the competitor did not know he had incurred. Instead, the competitor incurs the penalty prescribed by the applicable Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes for each hole at which the competitor has committed a breach of Rule 6-6d.

Rule 14-1b. Anchoring the Club

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A new Rule is introduced to prohibit anchoring the club, either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point”, during the making of a stroke.

Rule 14-3. Artificial Devices and Unusual Equipment; Abnormal Use of Equipment

Several amendments have been made to Rule 14-3, including:

1. A statement of principle has been introduced to confirm what guides the governing bodies in determining whether use of any item is a breach of Rule 14-3;
2. For clarity, the previous reference to “unusual use of equipment” has been changed to “abnormal use of equipment”; and
3. The penalty for a player’s first breach of Rule 14-3 during a stipulated round has been modified from disqualification to loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play, with disqualification applied as the penalty for a subsequent breach of the Rule.

Rule 18-2. Ball at Rest Moved By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Rule 18-2b (Ball Moving After Address) has been withdrawn. This means that when a ball moves after a player has addressed it, the application of a penalty under Rule 18-2 will be based purely on whether the player caused the ball to move.

Rule 25-2. Embedded Ball

Notes have been introduced to:

1. clarify when a ball is embedded; and
2. confirm that a Committee may introduce a Local Rule allowing relief without penalty for a ball embedded anywhere through the green.

Rule 26-2. Ball Played Within Water Hazard

The Rule has been reformatted solely for clarity. There has been no substantive change.

Appendix I. Local Rules; Conditions of the Competition

Former Parts A and B of Appendix I relating to Local Rules are consolidated to provide all of the pertinent information on specific Local Rules in a single location.

Appendix IV. Devices and Other Equipment

Part 5 relating to distance-measuring devices is amended so that, when a Local Rule permitting the use of distance-measuring devices is in effect, there is a breach of Rule 14-3 only if a player uses the device for some other purpose that is prohibited by that Rule. Previously, when the Local Rule was in force, a player was in breach of Rule 14-3 if he used a distance-measuring device that also contained other features whose use would breach Rule 14-3, regardless of whether such other features were actually used by the player.

Appendices II, III and IV

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Statements on equipment conformance and product submission processes were removed from Rules 4, 5 and 14-3 to eliminate redundancy with Appendices II, III and IV. The revision to consolidate these statements in the appendices is non-substantive and done solely for efficiency.

Rules of Amateur Status

Rule 3-1b. Prize Money to Charity

New Rule 3-1b is introduced to enable an amateur golfer to participate in an event where prize money or its equivalent is donated to a recognised charity, provided the approval of the Governing Body is first obtained in advance by the organiser.

Rule 4-3. Golf-Related Expenses

New Rule 4-3 is introduced to clarify that an amateur golfer may receive reasonable expenses, not exceeding actual expenses incurred, for non-competition golf-related activities.

Rule 9-2b(i). Period Awaiting Reinstatement; Professionalism

The recommended guidelines on periods awaiting reinstatement are amended to provide that a period in breach of the Rules of six years or more (previously five years or more) should result in a period awaiting reinstatement of two years. In addition, the Rule is amended to provide that, if an applicant for reinstatement has played extensively for prize money, consideration should be given to the level of competitions and the applicant's performance in those competitions in determining whether the applicant's period awaiting reinstatement should be extended.

New Handicap Rules for 2016

In tandem with the 2016 updates to the Rules of Golf, the United States Golf Association has announced revisions to the USGA Handicap System™, effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Six significant changes are among those noted in the new 2016 - 2017 edition.

Those significant changes include:

- **Definition of a tournament score:** Additional guidance is provided to Committees conducting competitions regarding the definition of a tournament score, placing greater emphasis on "significant events." The definition excludes fundraising events and regular league play, in favor of designated competitions such as a member/guest or club championship, local amateur tournament or national qualifying and competition. ([Section 2: Definitions](#))
- **Adjusting hole scores:** A revised decision provides clarity for acceptable scores in limited situations where the player has not played a hole(s) under the Rules of Golf, but his or her score would be sufficiently accurate for handicap posting purposes. Three areas covered under the examples include: 1) where the Local Rule is not in effect, but a player chooses to use a Distance Measuring Device or preferred lies; 2) where a player does not wish to cause undue delay; or 3) where

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the situation is outside of the player's control, such as an incorrectly marked golf course. ([Section 4: Adjusting Hole Scores](#))

- **Posting scores when a player is disqualified:** To improve alignment with the Rules of Golf, the revised Handicap System is clearer about what scores are acceptable when a player is disqualified. In general, a score is acceptable for handicap purposes even when a player fails to hole out, or apply a Rule that affects the rights of another player. If the disqualification breach is determined to provide an advantage for the player, the score is deemed unacceptable for handicap purposes. ([Section 5-1: Acceptability of Scores](#))
- **Anchoring and posting:** A new reference concerns a player who anchors the club while making a stroke during a round and fails to apply the appropriate penalty or an adjusted hole score (Section 4-2). Since the score would not be reflected as playing under the Rules of Golf, it would be unacceptable for handicap purposes. ([Section 5-1: Acceptability of Scores](#))
- **Playing alone and necessary peer review:** To further support the key System premise of peer review, scores made while playing alone will no longer be acceptable for handicap purposes. This change underscores the importance of providing full and accurate information regarding a player's potential scoring ability, and the ability of other players to form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a posted score. ([Section 5-1: Acceptability of Scores](#))
- **Committee responsibilities:** In an effort to assist the Handicap Committee with its responsibilities, this revision addresses a player with a temporary disability or permanent disability who has a Handicap Index that is no longer reflective of his/her current potential ability. In the particular instance cited, the Committee will no longer assign a local handicap (denoted with the letter "L" for local use only), but instead will issue a (temporary) modified Handicap Index (denoted by the letter "M"). This change supports the portability of a disabled player's handicap, so that it can be used outside the player's home club. ([Section 8-4c: Handicap Index Adjustment by Handicap Committee](#))

Reminder on Weather Decisions for MISGA Events

1. If there are any questions about the weather, call the pro shop. The general rule for play is if the golf course is open for play, the MSGA event is on.

Volunteers

1. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help this season.
2. Dennis Lape and Tom Davies will be handling most of the 50/50 and closest to the pin obligations again this year.
3. Harry Goad has joined our Handicap Committee.

Tuesday/Thursday Golf at Musket Ridge

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1. Vince Shemansky has volunteered to organize this effort. He will now be referred to as Commissioner Shemansky.
2. Six people are signed up for the first event on April 21.
3. Tee times are dependent on what else is scheduled at the club that day.

Name Tags

1. Anyone interested in a name tag, please contact Rob Wheeler. New members will receive a name tag at no cost. Old members will be charged \$4.25.

Musket Ridge Sign Up Page

1. The Posting Date opens up at 9:00 a.m.
2. The Deadline closes at noon.

Highlights from the State MISGA Meeting on February 24

1. Division III is down to 4 club members and is considering merging with another Division. Harbortown is being renovated and may not be a MISGA club when it is reopened. Easton Club (River House was sold at auction on February 26.
2. Division V is also considering a merger with another Division. Deer Run and Green Hill futures are still unknown.
3. Tentative approval was given for West Winds to rejoin MISGA this year.
4. Richland (Hollow Creek) is also interested in rejoining MISGA. We are doing a course evaluation tomorrow and I anticipate that Richlands may receive tentative approval to rejoin MISGA this year.
5. The Two-Man Tournament this year will be at Wild Quail (Delaware) and the ABCD will be at Norbeck. Dates are on the MISGA website. No information or signup are available yet.

Highlights from the Division II MISGA Meeting on March 28

1. Division II Two-Man Qualifier will be on Monday, June 20 at Rattlewood.
2. Division II ABCD Qualifier will be on Monday, July 11 at Challedon.

Golfer of the Year Rules for 2016

1. Same scoring rules as last year.

Five Home Mixers to Qualify for Closing Day Discount

Russ Stoneman

1. Russ asked for volunteers to work the Quicken Loans National PGA Golf Tournament, also known in previous years as The Kemper Open or the A. T. & T. National (hosted by Tiger Woods) is returning again this summer to Congressional Country Club in Bethesda.
2. Anybody who is interested should contact Russ.