



SUNNYVALE MEN'S GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

SMGC AND THE RULES OF GOLF

Part of the responsibility of NCGA clubs like the SMGC is to ensure that its members are properly trained in the rules of golf. This is important not only for our club tournaments, but even more so if you are fortunate enough to play in more serious events such as any of the NCGA qualifiers coming up – the Zone and the 4-Ball Low Net.

As the club continues to get new members and people are playing in more and more tournaments, it is imperative that we all know how to properly interpret and apply common golf rules as they arise. Reading *The Rules of Golf* is not the most enjoyable reading, so the SMGC is looking at additional avenues which demonstrate and explain the rules in a more palatable fashion. In the coming months we will be making a concerted effort to expose you to the rules. There may even be quizzes or online forms you may be required to fill out to ensure you have read and understood certain rules as they are brought up. In the end, it is the responsibility of all members to know and apply *The Rules of Golf*. Here's an example to get you started:

Failure of Players to Apply Known Penalty

Q In a match, a player discovers at the 2nd hole that he has 15 clubs in his bag contrary to Rule 4-4a, but his opponent refuses to apply the penalty. The extra club is declared out of play and the match continues. The Committee disqualifies both players. Is this correct?

A Yes. Since the players agreed to waive the penalty, they should be disqualified under Rule 1-3.

- from www.barryrhodes.com

TOURNAMENT TALK

Due to a rain-out we have rescheduled the NCGA 4-Ball Net Qualifier for February 20 at the Sunnyvale Golf Course. One two-man team will advance to the next stage of qualifying to be held April 1 at a course TBD. The price is \$140 per team without cart, and the first tee time is 10 am. We are past the cut-off date, so call John Szarka at 831-636-1408 to see if room remains.

Bob Heihn directs a point par event at Lake Chabot in Oakland on February 27. The cost is \$58 with cart, and the first tee time is 10 am. The cut-off date is February 17. Sign up online or call Bob at 408-557-8653 to play.

Come enjoy the day in Napa on March 6. Les Cheong directs the event at Napa Kennedy that costs \$64 with cart. The first tee time is 9:30 am and the cut-off date is February 24. Sign up online or call Les at 408-396-6902 to join the fun.

The club returns to Lone Tree in Antioch on March 13. Jim Perko directs this point par event that starts at 8:07 am and costs \$68 with cart. The cut-off date is February 26. Sign up online or call Jim at 408-739-1159 to play.

The local NCGA Zone Qualifier is being held on March 20 at Sunnyvale. The top two winning twosomes will represent the club at Poppy Hills and Spyglass Hills later in the year. The cost is \$150 per team without cart and the first tee time is 8 am. The cut-off date is March 10. To sign up, register online or call John Szarka at 831-636-1408.

FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

March 27, 2010 San Juan Oaks

Cost: \$78 with cart
 Director: Jay Dameron
 Phone: (408) 712-0227
 Field Size: 28
 First Tee Time: 8:30 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off Date: March 17

This Freddy Couples course in Hollister is a premier golf destination that has hosted PGA qualifiers in addition to a PGA exhibition match a few years ago. The grass driving range is outstanding, and the greens are always in fantastic shape, albeit treacherous.

Do your scoring on the front nine since the back nine has one of the toughest stretches of holes anywhere, starting with the long par 4 13th to the even longer par 4 17th. You will appreciate the point par format on some of these holes if you're not hitting it pure that day.

White tees: Rating: 70.9
Slope: 130 Yards: 6,342

Blue tees: Rating: 72.6
Slope: 134 Yards: 6,712

April 3, 2010 Diablo Creek

Cost: \$65 with cart
 Director: Bob Heihn
 Phone: (408) 557-8653
 Field Size: 28
 First Tee Time: 10:00 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off Date: March 19

Diablo Creek is located in Concord on Port Chicago Highway adjacent to the Concord Arsenal. It plays as a par 71, but is rated 72.7/122 from the Blue tees and 70.5/117 from the White tees. The course is remarkably flat, but has plenty of mature tree-lined fairways and water throughout the course which can make it difficult to play.

The course normally plays longer than the yardage due to wind and generally soft turf. With few exceptions, the greens are relatively flat with gentle contours. A fun place to play.

White tees: Rating: 70.5
Slope: 117 Yards: 6,409

Blue tees: Rating: 72.7
Slope: 122 Yards: 6,830

April 10, 2010 Poplar Creek

Cost: \$71 with cart
 Director: John Balsley
 Phone: (650) 678-2191
 Field Size: 28
 First Tee Time: 10:00 am
 Format: Low Net
 Tees: Black
 Driving Range: No
 Cut-off Date: March 27

This local golf course off 101 in San Mateo is short, but has some challenges awaiting you. The opening hole is a friendly, wide par 5, but it's immediately followed by a long par 4 that dog-legs to the right with OB right and water left. Don't try to bite off too much with your tee shot here. The 6th, 7th, and 8th holes are all short, drivable par 4s where you should hopefully get your scoring done.

Enjoy the nice restaurant and bar after your round. You have a wonderful view of the golf course from the Poplar Creek Grill.

Black tees: Rating: 70.1
Slope: 117 Yards: 6,042

**FUTURE TOURNAMENTS,
CONTINUED**

LOCAL RULES AT SUNNYVALE

**April 17-18, 2010
Sunnyvale Directors' Cup**

- Cost: \$130 per person (no cart)
- Director: John Szarka
- Phone: (831) 636-1408
- Field Size: 48
- First Tee Time: 10:00 am
- Format: 36-holes low net
- Tees: Blue
- Driving Range: No
- Cut-off Date: April 10

Come play the Directors' Cup, a 2-day 36-hole low net Major event. As this is an SMGC Major, Player of the Year Points are doubled. These two-day events are fun, yet grueling.

You may choose who you wish to play with in your foursome for Saturday, but on Sunday you will be assigned a foursome based on your current position in your flight. There will be food after your round of golf on Sunday, along with the awards ceremony.

The winners of each flight of the 2009 Directors' Cup were **Larry Lopez, Brian Silva, Steve Marble, and Chuck Richmond.**

Blue tees: Rating: 70.2
Slope: 118 Yards: 6,248

This month we spotlight hole number 16 at Sunnyvale. This has always been one of the harder holes at the course, mainly because of the many different hazards and out-of-bounds that surround this hole.

To the right of the fairway is a row of white stakes. If your ball ever comes to rest to the right of these stakes, your ball is out-of-bounds and you must play again from your original spot with an additional stroke penalty. Thus, if you hit it out-of-bounds to the right from the tee box, you have to tee off again, and you are hitting your third shot. There is also out-of-bounds behind the green, with the defining white stakes behind the protective screen. This rarely comes into play, but it can, so be aware.

To avoid going out-of-bounds on the right, many players tend to bail out by hitting their drive to the left. However, there is a water hazard if you go too far left. That hazard is a *lateral* water hazard except for the part of it on the far left that crosses in front of the 15th tee box, where it is a *regular* water hazard. Finally, the big lake in front of the green is a regular water hazard. This means that if you land over the hazard, but your ball rolls back into the hazard, you must drop *behind* the hazard (you cannot drop on the side closer to the green).

The protective fence behind the green and the pump house are considered immovable obstructions and you can take appropriate relief without penalty. Keep in mind that there are drop areas near the ends of the protective fence that you can also utilize without penalty if you are obstructed by the fence.

SMGC Board of Directors	President	Jay Dameron
	Vice President	Les Cheong
	Secretary	Bob Heihn
	Treasurer	John Balsley
	Handicap Chairman	John Szarka
	Tournament Chairman	Jim Perko

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

De Laveaga January 16, 2010

First Flight

38 pts	Jay Dameron	\$40
37	Yongsheng Yang	30
36	Les Cheong	20
35	Larry Lopez	5
35	Bob Heihn	5

Second Flight

41 pts	Rick Colen	\$40
36	Steve Cope	30
35	Kim Post	20
32	Dale Wilson	10

Pacific Grove January 30, 2010

First Flight

67 net	John Balsley	\$40
69	Larry Lopez	20
69	John Mendoza	20
69	Jim Perko	20

Second Flight

67	Yongsheng Yang	\$40
68	Rick Colen	20
68	Dale Wilson	20
68	John Szarka	20

THE SAND TRAP

I have recently discovered a well-written, detailed, and entertaining golf blog called The Sand Trap (www.thesandtrap.com). Whether you would enjoy this website or not depends on if you like the style of the writing of course, but I personally make it a point to read the latest updates whenever I can.

One of the more recent interesting posts is about golf pros on the driving range (http://thesandtrap.com/pga/pros_on_the_range). The author discusses a very accurate observation, that amateurs almost never use training aids or alignment guides when on the driving range, but pros almost always do. There are numerous photos from recent PGA tournaments of pros on the driving range. Most of them are using alignment aids, umbrellas, shafts against the head, and others. The most amusing one is a photo of Vijay Singh who "combines the 'hold this club against my hip' with an umbrella barely to the right of his target line, a glove under his left arm, the eyes of two trained individuals, and an alignment stick on the ground." Yes, there's a photo that shows this.

If you have any other interesting golf-related websites that we might find useful, please let me know via email at lesc@smgc.us. —Les Cheong