



News

August 2017

Maplewood Golf Course—4050 Maple Valley Highway—Renton, Washington 98058

"I threw a little fit to try to see what would happen."

- Justin Thomas on what he did when his putt on the 10th at the PGA Championship didn't drop, before later going in.

The Prez Sez;

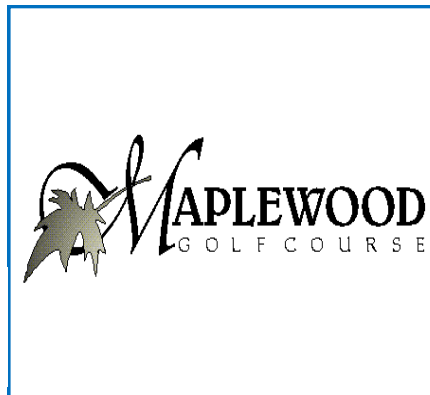
Wow what a change in weather we have had since our last newsletter. Talk about the dog days of summer. It doesn't get any better than this in the Northwest. The course is running fast and the greens are running true, although they may be a little slower than normal due to the amount of water that the crew is putting out to keep up with the heat. Overall I think the course is playing a little tougher than normal with these dry conditions. Thru all this though we must give a shout out to Steve and his crew for the excellent job that they put forth to ensure that we have an excellent place to play not matter what mother nature throws at us.

We are currently into our hottest time of our schedule with all the summer events. Our participation has been good with an average of 100+ players per event. With the large participation there has been a lot of extra work that Craig has put in to make our events run as smooth as possible. But there is also some things that we can do to assist. Those are making sure on the signup sheet to put print your first and last name legibly, get your pre-pay complete by end of business on Wednesday and show up to the course at least 30 minutes before tee time. A side note on the pre-pay. If you don't pre-pay by the specified time you must pay the late fee. There are no exceptions to this and the pro-shop cannot wave the fee. We recommend that you put have a credit card on file in the event you are unable to get to the course. All of these things go a long way in helping out the tournament committee. The other thing that has been going pretty good is the pace of play. We have noticed a reduction in our pace of play now that we have started the trial of using the time clock. Everybody has done a great job keeping up with the group in front, but we still have a few players that need to do a better job. Each event we have had 1 – 2 groups that haven't punched their scorecard in the allotted time. Currently we are just gathering information, but next year we will be implementing a penalty. Any group that doesn't punch their score card within the allotted time will be assessed a 1 stroke penalty on the 18 th hole.

Also the board will be making an adjustment to the previous announcement on the Play it Forward rule, stay tuned.

Have a safe rest of the summer, stay cool and see you at the Mapes.

The Prez



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Handicap Chair	James Postma
Tourn. Director	Craig Johnson
Rules Chairman	Will Reynolds
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Tournament Director

Golf Genius - The learning curve for the new USGA tournament software has been challenging. I appreciate the support of the membership as new features have been added this year to Golf Genius and I learn more about the capability. The leaderboard for each tournament can be displayed on the Golf Genius website. I am currently working on removing the USGA logos on the splash page.

Play It Forward - The Play It Forward rule was introduced earlier this year. The initial rule will be reviewed and updated by the board. I have used this rule in the past few tournaments. The Play It Forward rule has made the game more enjoyable for me.

Pace of Play - This year the Men's Club purchased a time clock to help the membership be aware of their pace of play in our tournaments. As noted in other reports in this newsletter, we have seen an improvement in the time to complete a round. One suggestion is that people have their scorecard punched before they head to their cars to put their golf clubs away. Some groups were 20 minutes behind the time stamp for the group in front of them. Another suggestion is that you don't take a phone call on the course during your tournament round. The phone call delayed the group by five minutes. The group was at out of position on a couple holes but recovered.

Sign-up or Tee Sheet - The signup sheet for our tournaments is available in the Pro Shop on Saturday three weeks before the next tournament. This year, the tee sheet does fill up very quickly. The tournament committee will be investigating ways to make the signup more equitable. I have noticed another problem which has significant impact on my preparation of the tournaments. When signing up a group for a tournament, the person reserving the tee time should make sure that his group is paid by COB (close of business) the Wednesday before the tournament. After Wednesday night, I am using the signup sheet to setup the tournament. I will approve any requests for additions or changes. The Pro Shop will direct any late requests to me. I will only allow late additions to complete a twosome or balance out a flight.

Tee Time - Rule 6.3a states that a player must arrive within 5 minutes of the starting time ready to play. Otherwise it is a two stroke penalty or loss of hole in match play. Because of signup sheet issues (i.e. entire groups dropping out), the tee times have been shifted up from 9 to 18 minutes. An email will be sent to participants in the tournament with the latest starting times. A copy of the latest starting times are in the Pro Shop as well. Therefore I recommend that everyone have a valid email address provided to the Men's Club.

Weekly Competitions - The Men's Club provides a weekly competition each week beginning on Saturday and ending on Friday of the next week. During the off season the weekly competition may run two weeks. The entry fee is \$2 per entry. You may enter as many times as you want to. You also may win multiple times.

Your card will be disqualified for some of the reasons enumerated below:

1. You did not sign up on the weekly competition sheet. The sheet is the only way to confirm your status as a competitor.
2. You will be disqualified if the card is not signed by you and/or attested by Men's Club member that you played with.
3. Date is missing. The only way to determine if you played during the weekly competition interval or distinguish between multiple entries.
4. Handicap missing or wrong I will be sending out a list of guidelines and rules for the weekly competition.

Sincerely,
Craig Johnson
Tournament Dude

From the Pro-Shop

This summer has marked the launch of two significant new programs at Maplewood. Both of these are designed to improve the experience for each one of our Customers and help to make our course one of the best values for the condition in the Pacific Northwest.

Our e-Marketing program launched the first week of June and provides those participants that "Opt-In" the ability to receive daily promotional offers for reduced rate green fees, driving range specials, and the occasional combined offer with the River Rock. The bulk of these promotions will be sent via text messages due to the time sensitive nature of the offers. For those that also provide their e-mail address, notifications will be sent for tournament announcements, Pro-Shop merchandise specials, and other special events here at Maplewood. To-date, we have over (400) Customers that are participating. As a reminder, it's "FREE" to join and is as simple as texting "Renton Golf" to 468-311. You can also opt-in by going to the Maplewood website and clicking on the "Renton Alert" logo and follow the instructions. For those that want to use the "good old manual" method, we have forms in the Pro-Shop that you can complete the next time you stop by. Any way you join, your potential for savings starts immediately!!

The other program that we kicked-off in June was our "4-Rs Adopt-A- Hole". Over the years we have held a number of "divot parties" where members of both the Men's and Ladies' clubs have volunteered to spend a few hours a couple times a year to fill divots around the course. While this has been greatly appreciated, and does accomplish the desired result, it tends to be a short term fix to the challenge all players face, especially in the spring, summer and fall months when we are playing the ball down. In addition, a number of you regularly pick up a sand bottle each time you head to the first tee and help by filling divots. This brings us to today where we have "borrowed" the 4-Rs program from Glendale Country Club where their members are doing a great job helping to maintain the standard of course conditions they have grown to expect. Recognizing that Glendale is a private club, and as such their members have a vested interest in the course, there are many of our members that take an equal amount of pride in Maplewood. The hope with this program is to leverage that pride and look for others to take that same level of commitment in helping maintain the already excellent conditions we enjoy. The program entails not only filling/replacing divots, but also fixing ball marks and raking traps on your assigned hole, as well as reminding your playing partners to do the same on their hole(s). The ultimate goal is to eliminate the need for future divot parties and to leave the course in better condition than you found it. There are a number of signs posted throughout the Clubhouse and Driving Range with the hole assignments corresponding with the first letter of your last name.

We are excited with the introduction of these programs and look forward to your participation (and feed-back), for both. Please feel free to contact me directly with anything else you feel would help to improve the overall experience at your course.

On behalf of the Pro-Shop and Maintenance Staff members, I'd like to again express our sincere appreciation for your help in making Maplewood one of the best public courses in the region.

Most of all, thank you for your business!

Doug Mills

18 Excuses for Not Turning in a Score

This really happened. We were negotiating a small wager on the first tee a week ago, and I asked my friend Greg for his handicap. "Twelve," he answered, "and you're a 6 so I get three shots a side." "Wait a minute," I said. "What about the 75 you shot at Winged Foot West last month? How can you still be a 12 if you shot 75 on a course rated 74.5?" "I didn't turn that in," Greg answered. "My club won't take any scores shot out of the section."

There's always a reason. People who don't turn in scores, especially low scores, always have a good reason. So do people who hold up 7-Elevens, but "Round Outside of Section" was a new one on me. I added it to my list:

- * I was playing with my wife.
- * I didn't know the Course Rating.
- * I didn't know the Slope Rating.
- * I was in another state.
- * I was playing in a match and picked up twice.
- * I only played 16 holes.
- * I just got lucky.
- * My club takes only home-course scores.
- * The tees weren't really the blues and they weren't really the whites so there was no course rating.
- * I was on vacation.
- * I don't turn in scores from Myrtle Beach.
- * We were bumping the ball.
- * We played the back nine first.
- * I was using rental clubs.
- * It was my second 18 of the day.
- * The weather was bad.
- * It was Sunday and I was walking my dog.

Terrific excuses, all, but Round Outside of Section, for some mysterious reason, was my Eureka. The clouds parted. I saw the light. Aha, I said to myself, I have a U.S. Golf Association Handicap. A lot of other people don't. The USGA Handicap System, according to its manual, "is based on the assumption that every player will...report every acceptable round for handicap purposes, regardless of where the round is played." Acceptable rounds, says the USGA, include rounds of 13 holes or more (Foreshortened rounds are completed by giving yourself on the remaining holes a par, plus any strokes you're entitled to. If you're a 6 and the hole is ranked 6 or lower, you take a bogey.) They include out-of-section or out-of-state rounds. They include match play rounds.(If you're conceded a putt and it's improbable you would have made it, add one.) They include rounds played with spouses, children and small animals tagging along. They include rainy rounds and sunny ones. You can wear a swimsuit and slippers and it still counts. As long as you're playing the Rules of Golf, i.e., not playing two balls.

I recently played six rounds in Ireland on courses with no course or Slope ratings. Do I turn them in? Absolutely, says USGA Director of Handicapping Dean Knuth. My handicap chairman will determine an approximate course rating based strictly on yardage Greg considers this hogwash. He's a 12 under a system that allows the discarding of scores shot out-of-state, out-of-section or when playing with his wife. He also doesn't count incomplete rounds, vacation rounds or rounds played on courses where he forgot to get the Course Rating.

So my 6 and his 12 are like apples and oranges. I should have my head examined for even thinking about giving him six shots. This is not sour grapes from a guy who can't play to his handicap. I play to it frequently or I wouldn't have it. Nor is it an attack on sandbaggers--though it amuses me that fellows who regularly rail against the welfare system should rely on what amounts to a handout system when they play golf. Still, all's fair if it's the same handout system we're using. But we're not. Handicaps were meant to allow players of different levels to compete on an equal basis. If those handicaps are based on different systems of collecting scores, then that's not possible.

Thanks to Greg, I have a new policy toward first-tee negotiations. If your handicap and mine are close to the same, within a couple of strokes, I'll suggest we play even. If they're not, I ask this question: "How many of your last 20 rounds did you record?" If the answer is 20, I'll ask for or give the difference in our handicaps. If the answer is other than 20, I'll be happy to play even--or for fun.

James

Rule Golf with Golf Rules

All of a sudden we're half way through the year! At least the weather is what we've all been hoping and waiting for.

A handful of tournaments have passed and we're also through Rules Quiz #3 already. Participation in both will only make you a better, more knowledgeable player and help make our, your Men's Club be the best in the region. Thanks to all who have challenged themselves with both.

Changes with leadership within the golf course, has advanced play of our course. The course is actively working with the Men's Club to adapt these changes to the course rules to make our daily play a better experience. Local rules are established to help us all better deal with these new situations. For your best chance to take advantage of this, get and stay familiar with our Local Rule changes. Even keep a copy in your golf bag. They're developed to help all with making our play a better experience.

Rules changes have also been incorporated with our tournaments. Pace of play has been and will be tracked with the end of round clock we're now using. The intent is to make pace of play better for all. For the tournaments to date, we're by and large doing well. Slow groups will be made aware of their 'slow' times and continued slow play will be addressed by the Tournament Committee. This will affect all players in that group. We're hoping it doesn't get to this. The Tournament Committee doesn't want it to get to this.

Be active within your group to keep your group's pace of play moving.

I can see better participation in our tournaments when members realize a later tee time won't mean an all-day ordeal. More players translates into more and better payouts.

May all get out to play often and enjoy the rest of the season.

Will Reynolds
Rules Chairman

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"MY WIFE MISUNDERSTOOD ME WHEN
I SAID 'I WAS GOING OUT TO PLAY
A ROUND'."

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Men's Club



www.maplewoodmensclub.com