

MAPLEWOOD Men's Club Newsletter

One of the largest, friendliest and most active golf clubs in the area.

September 2021



MEN'S CLUB BOARD

President	Brian Espe
Vice President	Jerry Bruce
Secretary / Treasurer	Dennis Maples
Handicap Chairman	James Postma
Tournament Director	Craig Johnson
Rules Chairman	Terry Graham
Trustees	Dan Cabot Ken McCollim
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THE PREZ SEZ

As we are approaching the end of our season, we have reached some highs that we haven't seen for some time. Our membership topped 400 (449) and add in another 212 associates the club is at an all time high. We have also had a great year on the tournament front as most of our events topped 100 players. Throughout the course of a record breaking Summer, the greens crew did an exceptional job keeping the course in great condition even with a shortage of staff members. Many thanks to the crew for everything they did. Also the pro-shop staff had it's challenges with a smaller staff and the many

challenges it had with a higher volume of players getting out on the course.

We are in an election year and you should have received an email that nominations for all officers is in progress. If you would like to run or nominate somebody for any of the positions please contact Jerry Bruce (ingolfwetrust@msn.com). The term is for 2 years and the following members are not running for re-election. Vice President Jerry Bruce, Tournament Director Craig Johnson and myself. If you would like to get involved and help build the future of our club, being a board member is a great way.

I would also like to thank the Riverrock for their support during this past year. They too have been experiencing staffing issues, but as things started to open up and business picked up they have done their best to keep up with the demand. I would like to express some concern on an incident that happened a few weeks ago as a few members got upset showed some displeasure with John and Barb over outside seating. As members I know we expect a lot, but we can't think that we deserve more than other customers. We need to follow the rules just like anybody else.

We still have a few events left on the calendar. Let's continue the trend we have going and finish strong. The annual awards banquet is scheduled for January 29th. Save the date as we will be honoring our 2021 winners and kicking off the 2022 season.

Stay Safe and healthy
The Prez

FROM THE MANAGER

We have had a beautiful summer with great weather, very little rain, and mostly mild temperatures. The Golf Course has been very busy, and the turf has handled the heavy traffic very well. The maintenance staff has done a great job keeping the course in top shape and the pro shop staff has done a great job getting customers through the Pro Shop and onto the course. Like other businesses around this area, both the Golf Course and the River Rock have been low on staffing numbers all year. Please continue to have patience as we all work through these times that are not what they used to be. What used to be the norm in life is now totally different for most businesses.

We added the online Tee Times booking option in June and it has been very well received by customers. We added new LED lamps to the driving range light poles and new heaters and timers for the upstairs hitting stalls to get ready for the colder temperatures. Our hours of operation will switch to 7am - 8pm starting September 27th. As we get into November our hours will then switch to 7am - 7pm.

A new golf cart fleet of 60 carts was ordered in April of this year and because of parts shortages the delivery date has now been pushed to late November. We will be looking at doing some smaller projects through the fall and winter months to get the course ready for 2022.

Thank you all for making Maplewood your golf course of choice.

Thank you
Steve Meyers
Acting Manager

FROM THE PRO SHOP

A big thank you to Brian Espe, Jerry Bruce and Craig Johnson for their years of service to the Maplewood Mens's Club as well as working with our staff. Your dedication has made our men's club so special. We all will miss your leadership.

Mike Toll

Three Rules that most of the time are done incorrectly

It's been two years since the revised Rules of Golf came into effect. But some still seem to be causing a headache. Let's look at these individually.

Knee-high drops? There were some who thought the very sport was about to unravel. The revised Rules of Golf came into effect at the start of 2019, and, despite the initial hype, we all came out of the other side pretty much intact. But even though we've had two years to get used to them, there are still parts of the new rules themselves that continue to cause golfers problems. So, let's get into them and see if, once and for all, we can embed these things into your brains and save you from a potential rules' disaster out on the golf course...

"Nearest" point of "Complete" relief

Do not confuse **nearest** with **nicest**. This is one of the most common rules fails I see on the course.

What is nearest point of complete relief? It's defined in the Rules as the reference point for taking free relief from an abnormal course condition, dangerous animal condition, wrong green, or no play zone. It's also used when taking relief from some local rules. The Rules say it is the estimated point where the ball would lie that is: nearest to the ball's original spot, but not nearer the hole; in the required area of the course and where the condition from which you're taking relief doesn't interfere "with the stroke the player would have made from the original spot if the condition was not there".

So, what's the problem? Let's say a player's ball lands in an area of ground under repair. Instead of first finding out whether the nearest point of complete relief is they simply pick it up and drop it on the side that gives them a good lie. But the Rules of Golf strictly interpret what the nearest point of complete relief is: "A player is not allowed to choose on which side of the ground under repair the ball will be dropped, unless there are two equidistant nearest points of complete relief."

If I could give you just one piece of rules advice, make sure you think very carefully about where that nearest point is before you pick your ball up.

Known or virtually certain

"There's a pond over there so my ball must be in it." No. No. Thrice no.

When deciding what's happened to your ball, whether it's in a penalty area, if it has moved, or what caused it to move, the standard you use in the Rules is "known or virtually certain".

But what you think that means and what the Rules say can be two different things. It means more than possible. It even means more than probable. You need to have "conclusive evidence" that the event in question happened. That means you need to have seen it, or witnesses saw it. There can be a very small degree of doubt, but the definition of "known or virtually certain" says: "All reasonable information shows that it is at least 95% likely that the event in question happened." So, if you've hit a wayward tee shot towards some water, you can't find it and you haven't seen a splash. Do you know it's gone in the penalty area? Can you be virtually certain? It's not enough to think, or assume, it's in there.

If you can't meet the known or virtually certain standard, you can't take penalty relief.

Temporary water

At the slightest sign of liquid on a fairway, some golfers do that dance - almost jumping up and down so they can try and claim relief from temporary water.

The definition of temporary water is quite clear: It can be seen before or after a player takes a stance "without pressing down excessively with his or her feet".

The Rules say it's not enough for the ground to just be wet, soft, muddy, or even for water to be "momentarily visible" as a player steps on the ground.

"An accumulation of water must remain present either before or after the stance is taken."

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

When the World Handicap System™ (WHS) was implemented in January 2020, three new safeguards designed to protect the integrity of your Handicap Index® were built into the system. Now that more golfers are seeing these features come into play, here are three things to know about each one:

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

1) The PCC is entirely based on scoring data.

Simply put, the PCC compares the actual scores made at a given course each day to the expected scores of the players who made them. If the number of players who score at or below their expected score is higher than anticipated, the course played easier. If the number of players who score at or below their expected score is lower than anticipated, the course played more difficult. PCC adjustments are applied automatically and clearly identified within a player's scoring record.

2) The more scores, the better!

For the calculation to take place, at least 8 scores must be posted at a course by players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 or below – and the more scores that are posted, the more reliable the data becomes. The calculation also takes into consideration each player's Course Handicap and the Course Rating™ and Slope Rating® of the tees that were played.

3) When you post matters!

The PCC takes place at the end of each day, so only scores posted on the day of play will contribute to the data pool. With that said, if you forget to post on the same day, the result of the PCC will still be applied to your score when it is posted – as long as you post it to the appropriate date.

So far in 2021, 58 percent of scores have been posted on the same day – let's all do our part to increase that number!

Soft Cap and Hard Cap

1) It starts with your Low Handicap Index®.

A Low Handicap Index serves as the baseline for the cap procedure and is the lowest Handicap Index achieved by a player within the 365-day period preceding the most recent score in their scoring record. A player does not establish a Low Handicap Index until they have 20 scores in their scoring record.

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM(CONT.)

2) The caps are applied automatically.

Each time your Handicap Index updates, the new value is compared to your Low Handicap Index and:

- If a 3.0 stroke increase takes place, the soft cap reduces the rate of upward movement beyond 3.0 strokes by 50 percent.
- If a 5.0 stroke increase takes place (after the soft cap is applied) the hard cap prevents any additional upward movement from taking place.

3) The Handicap Chair can override the cap - but only if necessary.

All of us as Maplewood golfers experience a poor stretch from time to time (Usually right before the winter series begins) - but since underlying ability does not typically change significantly over a short period, a player's Handicap Index usually works its way back toward their Low Handicap Index. However, if a player experiences an injury or illness that causes higher scores and the cap(s) to be applied, the Handicap Committee at their home club can override the cap by adjusting their Handicap Index to a level reflective of their current ability.

Exceptional Score Reduction (ESR)

1) A score that is 7.0 strokes or better than the player's Handicap Index is considered exceptional.

WHS research shows that a player who shoots an exceptional score is more likely than others to score at or below their Handicap Index in subsequent rounds. As a result, the ESR is designed to better reflect demonstrated ability and prevent a player from having an advantage.

2) The procedure is simple.

When a score is between 7.0 and 9.9 strokes better than the player's Handicap Index at the time the round was played, their Handicap Index is reduced by 1 stroke. If the score is 10.0 strokes or better, their Handicap Index is reduced by 2 strokes.

3) The impact of the ESR diminishes over time.

When an ESR takes place, a -1 or -2 adjustment is applied to the most recent 20 score differentials in the player's scoring record. However, scores made from that point forward will not include the -1 or -2 adjustment - unless they are also exceptional - which allows the ESR to work itself out of the player's scoring record over time.

For more information or to learn more about the World Handicap System, visit www.usga.org/whs.