

## **WLGA Board Meeting August 19, 2021**

Present: Tracy Hallen, Vicky Muma, Karen Wirth, Sherri Vogel, Marion Hansen, Nylda Eckhoff, Alice Creamer, Debbie Koon, Randy Patterson, Dotty Hartnett

Meeting called to order and minutes from the June meeting approved.

Treasurer's report: Vicky Muma: No significant change. 106 members, \$5,678.72 balance, dues \$4710.

Upcoming Events: Karen Wirth

Solheim Cup: 10-7 drawing party ( 6 pm), Friday, 10-8 2 pm alternate shot. All will play from the same tee. If needed, you may be changed to a different tee to balance teams. If so, you will be asked before the event if you are willing to move tees. If you change tees, it will only be for the alternate shot format. For clarification, all alternate shot matches will be played from like tees ,ie Burden vs Burden or Azalea vs Azalea. Saturday, Oct 9, 9 am shotgun, format 1BB and a single head to head 9 hole match. You will play from the tee you designated on these matches. Luncheon to follow play. Charity is a Philanthropic organization to benefit women's education. Bring to the drawing party an old piece of jewelry. It will be remade into something new. There will be a sale Oct 23 and you will need a ticket to get in. Location will be announced on LGA Reporter.

Sign up on Foretees, deadline to sign up is September 29. \$35 check made out to WLGA, with an envelope in the ladies locker room. ,

Member-Member: November 5-6. Theme -Give My Regards to Broadway. Friday cocktail party (time tbd 5pm or 6 pm) There will be a charity associated with the event with the donation to be announced at a later date. Format tbd.

Standardization of event and play day:

The executive board met to determine standardization of event and play day formats as it relates to the World Handicap System and Stroke Allocation. They met (Zoom) with Tom Johnson, Carolina Golf Association USGA Director of Handicapping. A brief synopsis of the meeting: stroke allocation does not matter with the new world handicap. USGA did extensive research using statistics to come to this conclusion. He stated that on our course, Burden players have an advantage on some holes and Azalea players have advantage on other holes, balancing it out. USGA in the past has used collected scorecards to determine stroke allocation but no longer recommend this process as it is time/effort consuming and ultimately does not matter.

- If playing a net tournament, it does not matter what tee is played as long as it is flighted by handicap and one is playing their own ball.
- Gross events must be flighted so play is from the same tees.
- If multiple people are hitting the same ball (scramble, captains choice, shamble, alternate shot etc), all must hit from the same tee box.

A more detailed synopsis of the meeting is attached to these minutes.

The executive board recommended the following be implemented for LGA play and tournaments using the World Golf Handicap guidelines. All were voted on by the board and passed, setting the standard for future LGA play.

- 1) The LGA weekly games will continue to be formatted and scored per current practices, with separate flights for Azalea and Burden players.
- 2) LGA Shotgun events, which are generally 4 person teams configured with an A, B, C, and D player, will be played from a single tee box, per current practice.
- 3) LGA tournament organizers (Match Play, Ham & Egg, Solheim, and Member/Member) will use USGA/WHS guidance to format these events ( flighted, may be mixed teams) .
- 4) NO LGA event shall institute a 10 shot differential for tournaments.
- 5) The LGA will continue to allow LGA players to choose their own tee location for weekly play, following current practices where players can change once during the year.
- 6) Players can choose their tee location for these LGA tournaments: Match Play, Ham & Egg, Solheim, and Member/Member. This location may change from one tournament to the next. Handicaps will be determined by the player's tee location. Ringers, birdies and chip-ins will not count for these tournaments.
- 7) Given that the USGA sees Stroke Allocation as essentially "irrelevant," The LGA will continue using the Stroke Allocations as currently assigned.

Scoring Committee: Tracy Hallen for Kim Crouse:

- Weekly play signups will continue on Foretees through the end of 2021 for LGA play
- Correct Scoring when not playing all holes: One must play 14 holes of golf to post a score. If a hole does not count for a game, you may skip the hole and take par plus handicap, known as Net Par. (Rules of Handicapping 3.2 When a Hole is Not Played) Skipping a hole in the middle of the round without due reason is contrary to USGA Rules but is allowed per our LGA Play Day Procedures.

If you start the hole and do not finish, record either 1) your Most Likely Score or 2) Net Double Bogey if your Most Likely Score exceeds your max score. (Rules of Handicapping 3.3 When a Hole is Started But a Player Does Not Hole Out)

There is a chart to guide you in calculating your Most Likely Score. All this information can be found on the Rules of Handicapping website:

<https://www.usga.org/handicapping/roh/2020-rules-of-handicapping.html>

- It was questioned on LGA play days, when there was one course available (one closed for aeration etc) whether one could play Wednesdays for the LGA game. This motion was voted on and failed to pass. You must play the LGA game on a Thursday or a Saturday.

CSRA: Marion Hanson:

Houndslake 8-30, Savannah Lakes-Tara 9-16

Social: Nylda Eckhoff:

September 2 Shotgun: Country music theme. 46 current players signed up, would love to have at least 2 more to make even teams. BB format from the Azalea tees. Sign up on foretees by 8-28.

Nov 18 shotgun, honoring vets with a vet representing each branch teeing off on the pars 5's. This will be a breakfast, starting at 8:30, with a concurrent meeting, then a shotgun at 10:30. There will be plenty of time to hit the driving range after breakfast.

Team: Sherri Vogel

Next team play is Wednesday 8-25 at Mt Vintage

The final team play is in September at Woodside, with a luncheon following play.

Exchange day at the Reserve:

September 29, 9 AM shotgun, at the Zoeller Course, Hollow Creek at the Reserve. Cost \$50, check made out to WLGA, with an envelope in the locker room. Format is 2BB, with ABCD teams, consisting of 2 players from the Reserve and 2 players from Woodside. Mulligans for purchase, and separate closest to the pin contest for both clubs. The entry fee includes golf and a plated lunch. You may choose chicken sliders or apple salad with grilled chicken at sign up. Cash bar with \$8 speciality drinks.

Deadline to sign up 9-22, with 95% handicap of 9-22 used. If it rains, there will be lunch and drawing for prizes, and a coupon for later play.

Sign up on ForeTees.

Choose your tees

Choose your lunch

For reference in selecting appropriate tees

Reserve Tees Zoeller course

Red 4910 yards

Gold 4246 yards

Woodside Cupp

Burden 5250 yards

Azalea 4650 yards

Rules:

If you hit and clear the water on Jones 8 or 17, and it rolls back into the water, it is a yellow hazard and you must go back and re-tee or hit from the dropzone.

Respectively submitted

Dotty Hartnett

## **Zoom Meeting with Tom Johnson - August 9, 2021**

### **Carolina Golf Association, USGA Director of Handicapping**

Present: Tracy Hallen, Dotty Hartnett, Vicky Muma, Karen Wirth, Kim Crouse, Lawrette McCann, Chandler Jagodzinski.

Tom started the meeting by stating that with the World Handicap System handicap is calculated playing against par. It is a purely math formula which is different from the formula used a few years ago. This change has not only impacted how a player's course handicap is calculated, but also has changed the importance of Stroke Allocation.

Tracy asked Tom to help us navigate concerns when events are played using a variety of tee boxes.

Tom suggested that our league should first map out which formats we use for our golf events. Recommended formats can be found under the rules of golf or handicapping in USGA. Following the USGA guidelines when using different games will ensure fair play per the USGA's researched standards/

#### **Stroke Allocation:**

“I am always amazed at how many golfers think their results are skewed because the club does not have those values correctly assigned. While the USGA offers some basic recommendations for a club to use to make those determinations, this decision is totally left up to each club. The primary reason the USGA does not care about protecting these values the same way they protect course rating values is because these allocations are pretty much irrelevant. The USGA and the R&A studied the results of millions of scores and found that if stroke index allocations were randomly changed to other values there would be no impact on a player's handicap index and almost no impact on tournament results. I mention this because I don't want us to spend a bunch of time chasing an issue that will not change the outcome of your events.” ~ Tom Johnson

- It has been statistically proven that stroke allocation is irrelevant.
- It makes no difference where strokes fall on holes, even if playing from different tees. Where one may get an advantage on a hole, one may have a disadvantage on another hole.
- It is unfair to have different handicap strokes for different tees if competing from different tees.
- The USGA calculates the slope, rating, and par of golf courses. It does not pick where strokes may fall, that is left up to the club (handicap committee). However, the WHS will

provide Stroke Allocation based on course rating if a club wishes (attached at end of this summary)

### **Guidance for event formats:**

Net tournaments can include play from different tees in the same flight *if* each player is playing their own ball (Fourball, Match Play, etc).

Gross events must separate players into flights, with all players in a flight playing from the same tee.

Tournaments in which multiple players hit a single ball (shamble, scramble, alternate shot) must separate teams into flights, with all teams in the flight playing from the same tee.

Weekly play follows the rules of golf, with the recommendation that we continue to flight by tee box since the group is large enough.

There is no, nor has there ever been a 10 shot differential rule in USGA rules, no matter the format. "It is amazing to me how many clubs impose rules that limit the playing handicap between partners. No such rule exists in the handicap system. No such rule has ever existed in the handicap system. However the Rules of Golf allow such limitations to exist if the club wishes to use them. This once again comes from Section 5A from the Committee Procedures Guide in the Rules of Golf that says the committee can make any handicap limitations they wish to see including the maximum number of strokes allowed and to limit the difference between partners." ~ Tom Johnson

These limitations usually apply to an entire field, with an example of a tournament having a max handicap of 18 or our LGA league limiting the handicap to 40.

There is a "Tee it Forward" chart that suggests what tee box a player should use, calculated by distance one hits the tee shot (attached at end of this summary).

Tom stated that the USGA with the rules of golf are trying to make the game more inviting and easier to understand.

### **Executive Board Recommended Standards for LGA Weekly, Shotgun, and Event Play (based on a meeting following the Zoom meeting):**

- 1) The LGA weekly games will continue to be formatted and scored per current practices, with separate flights for Azalea and Burden players.
- 2) LGA Shotgun events, which are generally 4 person teams configured with an A, B, C, and D player, will be played from a single tee box, per current practice.
- 3) LGA tournament organizers (Match Play, Ham & Egg, Solheim, and Member/Member) will use USGA/WHS guidance to format these events. This will give the organizers backing from the USGA that their event is "fair."
- 4) NO LGA event shall institute a 10 shot differential for tournaments.

- 5) The LGA will continue to allow LGA players to choose their own tee location for weekly play, following current practices where players can change once during the year.
- 6) Players can choose their tee location for these LGA tournaments: Match Play, Ham & Egg, Solheim, and Member/Member. This location may change from one tournament to the next. Event organizers may ask a player to play a specific tee box to even the field, but this move is optional.
- 7) Given that the USGA sees Stroke Allocation as essentially “irrelevant,” The LGA will continue using the Stroke Allocations as currently assigned.

# How stroke index allocation works under the World Handicap System™

## Who determines the stroke index allocation at a golf course?

While it is ultimately up to the Handicap Committee at each course to determine their stroke index allocation, the World Handicap System includes a recommended method designed to accommodate both stroke play and match play.

The procedure can be summarized in the following three steps:

### Step 1: Course Rating data is evaluated

The course contacts the local Allied Golf Association (AGA) to start the process and determine the best tee to use for each gender in the evaluation. The AGA then uses effective playing length and obstacle data gathered during the most recent Course Rating as the basis for evaluation.

The benefit of using Course Rating data is that it provides a simple, objective method without having to collect scorecards from a wide range of players, which can be challenging and produce inconsistent results.



### Step 2: Holes are ranked based on difficulty

The Course Rating data is then used to generate a **raw ranking** of the difficulty of each hole **relative to par**. This results in net par and net double bogey calculations that are more equitable.

To help spread out strokes over 18 holes, the front 9 is assigned odd strokes and even strokes are assigned on the back 9. This can be switched if the back 9 is decidedly more difficult than the front 9.



### Step 3: Additional adjustments may be made

Match play is most equitable when consecutive low strokes and low strokes at the beginning or end of each nine are avoided. As a result, other minor adjustments may take place. For example:

Hole #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Raw Ranking	11	5	15	3	17	7	13	1	9
Final Allocation	11	5	15	1	17	7	13	3	9

Hole #	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Raw Ranking	12	16	8	2	4	10	18	6	14
Final Allocation	12	16	8	2	6	10	18	4	14

The final recommended allocation is then provided to the club and subject to further adjustments if needed.

For more information or to learn more about the WHS, visit [usga.org/whs](https://usga.org/whs)

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM  
R&A USGA

# Tee<sup>it</sup>FORWARD

If you want to have more fun on the golf course and maybe play a little faster, *TEE IT FORWARD* may be just the game for you. *TEE IT FORWARD* can help you play from tees best suited to your game, based on how far you hit the ball.

This new national initiative from The PGA of America and United States Golf Association will take place at golf facilities nationwide from July 5-17, but you can do this anytime.

Use the *TEE IT FORWARD* Guidelines to help select which tees to play.

Tell us what you think. Go to [PlayGolfAmerica.com/TEE IT FORWARD](http://PlayGolfAmerica.com/TEE IT FORWARD) to share your comments and enter to win prizes.

## GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING TEES

DRIVER DISTANCE	RECOMMENDED 18-HOLE YARDAGES
275	6,700-6,900
250	6,200-6,400
225	5,800-6,000
200	5,200-5,400
175	4,400-4,600
150	3,500-3,700
125	2,800-3,000
100	2,100-2,300

This chart is to be used as a guideline to help golfers potentially align their average driving distance with a course length that is best suited to abilities





