

INSIDE GOLF NEWSPAPER

LPGA Legends event set for White Horse cancelled for 2021

The LPGA Legends Tour, featuring stars like Juli Inkster (right), was hoping to make a trip back to the Pacific Northwest for 2021 at Kingston's White Horse Golf Club after missing out on the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But with on-going issues due to the pandemic, the tournament has been put on hold once again for the 2021 season. The LPGA Legends Tour is hoping to return in 2022.



PHOTO: SCOTT BISCH ©

WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

PGA of America reverses course, allows range finders

The PGA of America announced that it will allow the use of distance-measuring devices in its three professional major championships – PGA Championship, KPMG Women's PGA Championship and KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship – starting this year.

The devices will first make an appearance at the PGA Championship, May 20-23 at Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Ocean Course in South Carolina.

"We're always interested in methods that may help improve the flow of play during our Championships," Jim Richerson, president of the PGA of America, said in a media release announcing the news. "The use of distance-measuring devices is already common within the game and is now a part of the Rules of Golf. Players and caddies have long used them during practice rounds to gather relevant yardages."

The PGA of America becomes the first major body to allow the devices in all its premier professional events. There has been speculation for years that such devices might help speed play, as players and caddies won't have to walk off yardages to sprinkler heads and other fixed positions.

The United States Golf Association's Rules of Golf have allowed the use of laser rangefinders and GPS devices in casual play and tournaments since 2006, but a local rule allowed a tournament committee to ban such devices. At elite professional levels of play, the devices still have not been embraced for competition rounds, though they have been allowed in the U.S. Amateur since 2014. They are still not allowed during competition rounds at PGA Tour events or at the U.S. Open and British Opens.

In keeping with Rule 4.3a (1), the devices allowed can report only on distance and direction. Devices that calculate elevation changes or wind speeds, or that suggest a club for a player as well as other data, will not be allowed.

Central Oregon Shootout set for April tournament

The event might look a little bit different but some of Central Oregon's top courses are getting set to join together to host the 2021 Central Oregon Shootout.

The event is set for April 23-25 with the format calling for two-player teams with three different formats at Black Butte, Eagle Crest and Aspen Lakes Golf courses. There will be a different format each day at each course.

For more information about the Shootout, please see the story inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.

Rules Quiz

Question: A player inside the teeing area makes a practice swing and lightly "ticks" the ball knocking the ball off of the tee. The player does not know what to do. That ball is now in play. The player lies one. True or False? Please see the answer on page 2 of this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.

King, Gardner will enter Pacific NW Section Hall of Fame

Marcus King of Sahalee Country Club and Mark Gardner of The Creek at Qualchan have been elected as the 57th and 58th members of the Pacific Northwest Section PGA Hall of Fame.

King has served 16 years in governance of the Pacific Northwest Section and Western Washington Chapter, highlighted by his term as president of the Section in 2013-2014. He has a record of committee service spanning three decades, including a term on the National Apprentice Committee. The General Manager of Sahalee Country Club, King has mentored many PGA Members to become general managers at their own facilities.

Gardner has served 18 years in Inland Empire Chapter governance, including three terms as president and chairing four committees. He also spent 10 years on the Pacific Northwest Section board of directors. An accomplished player, Gardner won the 1988 Section Championship, where he qualified for the PGA Championship. He is a 10-time participant in the Hudson Cup and Senior Hudson Cup Matches. Gardner co-founded the Rosauers Open and the IEPGA Assistant Championship.



Gamble Sands: A Northwest award winner



Since opening for play back in 2014, Gamble Sands Golf Course in Brewster, Wash. has been an award winner and a course that is on golfer's must-play lists. And for good reason.

The course was named among the best new courses in the country when it opened and it ranks among the best in Washington for public courses.

And, most recently, has been named one of the top resort courses in the country by *Golfweek*. For more on Gamble Sands and what it has to offer, please see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



USGA, Royal and Ancient re-engage golf industry about proposed changes to golf equipment rules

The USGA and The R&A are re-engaging with the golf industry on the Distance Insights project, which aims to help achieve a more sustainable long-term future for golf.

The governing bodies are issuing specific Areas of Interest to help mitigate continuing distance increases and three proposed changes to the Equipment Rules to ensure their effectiveness in relation to distance limits.

The delivery of research topics related to hitting distances and golf's sustainability was delayed in 2020 to allow the golf industry to focus on the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Areas of Interest notice, sent to golf equipment manufacturers, follows the conclusions of the Distance Insights Report delivered last February. It is the first step of the established Equipment Rulemaking Procedures, which give the opportunity for golf's stakeholders to provide research and perspectives on topics that might lead to equipment Rules changes.

In addition, three proposals related to Equipment Standards were also sent to the manufacturers and have been published – two to modernize equipment testing protocols and the other to consider the adoption of a Model Local Rule that would provide flexibility for committees, if they so choose, to limit the maximum length for clubs other than putters from 48 to 46 inches. Notice and comment periods have begun immediately to invite feedback on each of the three proposals from golf industry stakeholders.

- The Areas of Interest notice addresses two specific Areas of Interest: The potential use of a Local Rule that would specify the use of clubs and/or balls intended to result in shorter hitting distances. This would enable committees conducting competitions to stipulate whether such equipment should be used. It could be available at all levels of play and would also allow golfers playing outside of competition to choose for themselves.

- A review of the overall conformance specifications for both clubs and balls, including specifications that both directly and indirectly affect hitting distances. This review would consider whether any existing specifications should be adjusted or any new specifications created to help mitigate continuing distance increases. It would not consider revising the overall specifications to produce substantial reductions in hitting distances at all levels of the game. A list of club and ball specifications to be reviewed can be found in the official notice.

The topics are purely areas for research. No solutions or decisions are being proposed.

Viva Golf Vegas: No shortage of courses and stories when it comes golf in Las Vegas

There is no question when golfers put together a traveling idea - that Las Vegas is usually at the top of the list. It was for me and a buddy when we decided to hit the road to Vegas for some gambling and golf - and a few adult beverages as well. OK, and maybe some gambling, too.

Las Vegas is a place that seems to have it all when it comes to a golf trip. In fact, sometimes there might not be time for golf when the tables are hot or the right teams are winning in the sports book.

But on this trip, it was about the golf. And this time we got a taste of the private country club life and the Scottish golf life.

Las Vegas is still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic and there are deals to be had. We found one at the Westgate (formerly the Hilton) which offered two nights and a round of golf at Las Vegas Country Club for \$130 per person. \$130? To play one of the best private courses in Las Vegas? And two nights? No brainer.

The Las Vegas Country Club has been around since 1967 and from the day it opened was a playground for Dean Martin and his golfing buddies. They played on a daily basis. In fact, in 2019 the club unveiled a statue of Dean Martin just outside the clubhouse.

This is a course with plenty of history. In 1981 the FBI was flying a plane overhead to check on any potential mob activity. The plane's engine stalled and the pilot tried to land on a fairway. A golf cart got in the way and the pilot ditched in a pond near a green. The FBI quickly had the plane pulled out as not to tip off the mob they were an eye in the sky. The club later purchased a replica plane and it sits in the pond today. In fact, it was used in the movie Casino.

The course also played host to the first million-dollar purse on the PGA Tour in 1984 with the Las Vegas Panasonic Pro-Celebrity Classic. A total of 19 PGA Tour and LPGA Tour events have been played at Las Vegas Country Club.

If you are looking for another side of golf, the Royal Links offers Scottish golf in the Las Vegas desert. All 18 holes are modeled after some of the most famous holes on the other side of the Pond like the Postage Stamp green at Royal Troon and the Road Hole from



St. Andrews. In fact, your tee shot on the 10th hole needs to be hit over a scoreboard to get back to the fairway. And the clubhouse is made of stone and looks like something right out of Scotland.

Viva Golf Vegas.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at sdturcotte@comcast.net.



The FBI crashed a plane into a pond at Las Vegas Country Club (bottom); Royal Links is a Scottish Vegas treat.



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Double Bogey



Harold Bluestein PGA



Rules Answer

• Answer: False. The player must have had the intention to make a stroke and strike the ball. A practice swing is not a stroke. Rule 6.1a; Rule 6.2a (3). See definition of "in Play" first bullet.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his rules questions each month.



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Central Oregon Shootout ready for April tournament; U.S. Open qualifying dates and sites are all set for NW

The 2021 Central Oregon Shootout is set for April 23-25 at some of Central Oregon's top golf courses including Black Butte, Eagle Crest and Aspen Lakes. But things might look a little different this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

There will be no Thursday evening gathering, everyone will get their Tee prizes the morning of the first day of play in correspondence with flighted course rotations.

The fee as is the same \$650 per team. In lieu of the Thursday eve gathering, an increase in the value of Tee Prizes & KP's prizes will take place.

The tournament format calls for three different formats including best ball, scramble and stableford.

The plan is calling for split tees and tee times instead of a shotgun. Tee times will most likely start at 9:30 a.m. Lunches will be boxed and available for all golfers in the event.

All Team members are encouraged to ride together. If you traveled together, are staying together and playing together, you can ride together. There will be two carts per group, you can decide to walk or ride.

If anyone has questions or wants to pre-register, please call at 541-595-1292 or email Dmccleery@blackbutteranch.com.

Local U.S. Open qualifiers are set

The United States Golf Association (USGA) announced local qualifying sites for the 121st U.S. Open Championship. The U.S. Open will be contested at Torrey Pines Golf Course (South Course), in San Diego, Calif., for the second time from June 17-20, 2021. Local qualifying, conducted over 18 holes at 109 sites in 43 U.S. states and Canada, will take place between April 26-May 18.

"Professional and amateur golfers worldwide have a pathway to emerge from the thousands who will attempt to earn a place in this year's U.S. Open at Torrey

Pines Golf Course by competing in this two-stage qualifying process that was established in 1959," said John Bodenhamer, USGA senior managing director, Championships. "Allied Golf Associations and Golf Canada, with the cooperation of the USGA's five regional offices, are joined in this collaborative effort for both stages. In 2020, U.S. Open qualifying was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an all-exempt field at Winged Foot Golf Club. The USGA accepted 9,125 entries for the 2019 championship at Pebble Beach (Calif.) Golf Links. The record of 10,127 entries was established for the 2014 championship on Pinehurst Resort & Country Club's Course No. 2, in the Village of Pinehurst, N.C.

- The Northwest local qualifiers will be:
- May 3 at Bremerton's Gold Mountain Olympic Course.
 - May 10 at Willamette Valley Country Club in Canby, Ore.
 - May 10 at Gamble Sands in Brewster, Wash.

Hope Vision tournament rescheduled

A winter storm in February has caused the Hope Vision Foundation virtual tournament to be rescheduled to March 15-28. It will be held virtually where players can choose any course to play between March 15-28.

Hope Vision Foundation aims to provide services to people with vision loss. Erin Seefeldt MD and her sister Genevieve Rogers-Llerena started the foundation because they knew that too many people were not able to receive services they need.

They recruited likeminded physicians, nurses, eye care specialists and local business people to help make the foundation a reality. They are hoping to open a Vision Center in South Puget Sound where people can receive cost free care. It all takes money so they are trying to come cup with fundraising ideas.

See their ad in this issue for more information about

where to sign up and thier website to learn more about the Hope Vision Foundation.

PNGA cancels Lamey Cup

The Pacific Northwest Golf Association alongside our Member Associations have been monitoring the COVID-19 situation very closely with respect to travel considerations including the status of the U.S./ Canadian border, flight restrictions/availability, as well as quarantine and vaccination policies.

Executive Directors and Championship staff had a conference call to discuss the current situation as well as concerns for our players and staff in regards to international travel, health and safety. Based on the current information available, the difficult but responsible decision was made unanimously to cancel the 2021 PNGA Lamey Cup.

Due to the uncertainty around the actual opening of the border and the mandatory quarantine policies in effect, it would be nearly impossible to conduct this event in May.

Rick Lamberton passes away

Richard H. Lamberton II, the long-time golf professional at Portland Golf Club, has passed away.

Rick Lamberton, of Portland, Oregon, passed away in January. He was 56 years old. A golf professional at Portland Golf Club since 1990, Rick's passion was teaching and he gave thousands of lessons. He coached beginner golfers to some of the best players to come out of the state of Oregon, including Ben Crane, Gigi Stoll, the Harrington family and Dave Lebeck.

Youth on Course a boon for kids

Ever since it started, the Youth on Course organization has been a boon for kids looking to get into the game of golf. With the price of golf sometimes fairly high, the Youth on Course program has been a way

for kids to play a round of golf for \$5 - at a variety of golf courses around the country. The program is quite popular in the Pacific Northwest as many courses offer the \$5 program for youths looking to play a round of golf. Youth on Course has taken away the barriers of cost for kids to play.

Over 100,000 kids, age 6-18, have signed up for the program and have access to over 1,400 golf courses around the country for \$5 or less. The program has subsidized over 1,000,000 rounds of golf for kids and has saved families \$8 million in greens fees. Also, Youth on Course is offering college scholarships - making \$250,000 available every year. For more info, see the www.youthoncourse.org or WAgolf.org/YOC.

Myrtle Beach World Am Aug. 30-Sept. 3

Looking for the ultimate tournament challenge, then the Myrtle Beach World Amateur just might be your answer. The tournament will feature over 3,000 players and is set for Aug. 30-Sept. 3 at some of Myrtle Beach, and South Carolina's top courses.

The tournament features divisions for men, women and seniors. There is also a gross division. Each player will play four rounds in their division with the top players from each division meeting for the world championship on the fifth and final day of the tournament.

Players will play a different course each day and the format calls for stroke play with net scores.

For more, call 800.8733.8798.

Washington Golf Pass offers deals

The Washington Golf Pass is one way that golfers in the Pacific Northwest can save on deals. The pass is available for free for WAGolf members and is a way to save money on every round you play golf. The pass is good for courses in Washington and Northern Idaho and will save you money on rounds and golf packages. See www.wagolfpass.com for more.



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Gamble Sands: Northwest course is an award winner

By Steve Turcotte, Inside Golf Editor

I remember my first trip to Gamble Sands in 2014. The course was not open yet and we couldn't even figure out how to get to the course. We went down a gravel road, through some apple orchards and alongside some apple crates. We went the wrong way. Called the pro shop and they talked us in.

As they say, that was then, this is now.

From that day on the gravel road, it's hard to imagine what has happened at Gamble Sands, which is located in the Eastern Washington town of Brewster. The course became an instant award winner. Resort rooms have been built. A putting course similar to the Himalayas Putting Course at St. Andrews has opened. A new 14-hole short course will open in May.

And the awards well the awards just keep piling up at Gamble Sands.

The course (called the Sands Course) has been named among the top resort courses in the country, on a list which includes Pebble Beach and Bandon Dunes. the course has been ranked as the No.1 course you can play in Washington by *Golfweek*; *Golf Magazine* called Gamble Sands the best course in Washington in 2020-2021 and one of its top 100 courses in the country; *Golf Digest* said Gamble Sands is America's Best 18 holes since 2000 (No. 2 on the list).

You get the idea.

The idea for golf all came from the Gebbers Family, which owns acres and acres of apple orchards in Eastern Washington. Wade Gebbers decided he wanted to get into the golf business, so he set aside some land, hired David McLay Kidd and went to work. Oh, and by the way, Kidd is the one who designed the Castle Course at St. Andrews, Bandon Dunes and Tetherow.

The course opened in 2014 and was an instant hit with the reviewers and golfers alike. OB Sports was brought in to manage the facility. And together they have created one of the top resorts in the country.

The course itself sits on 115 acres and overlooks the Columbia River Valley. It can play as long as 7,200 yards or shorter from different tees. With wide fairways and generous greens, the course is a treat for every level



of golfer.

But that's not all. The Inn at Gamble Sands allows traveling golfers to book Stay and Play deals and offers rooms as big as 1,000 square feet with plenty of amenities, including a 24-person soaking pool.

The rooms sit overlooking the new Cascade Putting Course, a huge practice green that has bumps and hills and challenging putts.

And there is more to come. The new Quicksands Course will open this May. The Quicksands Course is a 14-hole shorter course that adds just another dimension to the resort.

There is also food on site with Danny Boy Bar and Grill.

For more on Gamble Sands see the website www.gamblesands.com.

Gamble Sands is an award winning golf course in Brewster, Wash.(top photo) and was designed by David McLay Kidd (pictured right).



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Muckleshoot Washington Open will kick off major tournament schedule

After a 2020 golf season where some of its major championships took on different looks, the PGA Northwest Section has announced the dates for its four major championships and for 2021, it all looks familiar.

There are the four major championships on the schedule and all set for three days of tournament action. In 2020, one of the championships was postponed and others were shortened to two days.

- Mukleshoot Casino Washington Open is set for May 24-26 at Meridian Valley Country Club in Kent.
- The Oregon Open Invitational will be played June 15-17 at Black Butte's Glaze Meadow Course in Central Oregon.
- The Rosauers will be played July 16-18 at Indian Canyon in Spokane. The tournament was postponed for the 2020 season.
- The Northwest Open Invitational is planned for

Aug. 16-18 at Walla Walla's Wine Valley Golf Club.

PGA pulls Trump course off schedule

The PGA of America cut ties to President Donald Trump when it voted to take the PGA Championship event away from his New Jersey golf course next year.

The vote came four days after the Trump-fueled riot at the nation's Capitol as Congress was certifying the election victory of President-elect Joe Biden. This is the second time in just over five years the PGA of America removed one of its events from a Trump course.

PGA President Jim Richerson says the board voted to exercise its right to "terminate the agreement" with Trump National in Bedminster, New Jersey. It canceled the PGA Grand Slam of Golf in 2015 at Trump National Los Angeles Golf Club after Trump's disparaging remarks about Mexican immigrants.

Golf teachers at Meadow Park

Correction: Photos were reversed in February listing of Golf Teachers Directory



Ben Talbot – PGA – Player Development Coordinator
(253) 473-3033 ext 2 – ben.talbot@tacomaparks.com – bentalbotgolf.com
Experience and Achievements
Turned professional in 2016 and became a PGA Member in Jan. 2020.
Ben has worked his professional career at Tumwater Valley Golf Club, GOLFTEC- Sugar Land and Chambers Bay. Ben has taught juniors and adults, from beginner to competitive players. Focusing on fundamentals, game management, and having a simplistic approach have always been Ben's top priorities.
Ben is a Class A PGA Professional, Level 1 First Tee Certified and Active in PGA Northwest Section and Western Washington Chapter tournaments
Ben has a BA in Marketing with a minor in Sports Management from Concordia University-Portland. Class of 2014



Joseph Kim – Teaching Professional
(253) 961-2207 – nwkg1991@gmail.com
Experience and Achievements:
A lifetime golfer & student of the game, Joseph has been a golf professional since 2004 and has been with Meadow Park Golf Course as an instructor since 2005.
Graduate of Clover Park High School – 1979
University of Washington – 1984
WPGA Teaching Professional since 2004
Attended Mike Bender Golf Academy – 2004
Low Career Round – 65 (-7) at Tumwater Golf Course
Participant in PGA Pro-Member Series in 2010 and 2011

Tour Players With Northwest ties

PGA Tour

- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • 178th on the list with \$103,914
- Ben Crane • Portland • No Events
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 107th on the list with \$433,312
- Robert Garrigus • Gresham • No Events
- Scott Harrington • Portland • 157th on the list with \$193,755
- Ryan Moore • Puyallup • 201st on the list with \$59,280
- Cheng Tsung Pan • Ex-UW • 83rd on the list with \$663,916
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 88th on the list with \$605,303
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • 95th on the list with \$525,498
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 101st on the list with \$466,602
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • 42nd on the list with \$1,074,849

Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistar Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • Finished 236th on the list
- Robert Garrigus • Gresham • Finished 147th on the list
- Andres Gonzales • Olympia • Finished 148th on the list
- Alex Prugh • Spokane • Finished 129th on the list
- Dylan Wu • Medford • Finished 16th on the list, earned PGA Tour card

Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 12th on the list with \$90,000
- Bob Gilder • Corvallis • No Events
- Brian Henninger • Eugene • No Events
- Peter Jacobsen • Portland • No Events
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 32nd on the list with \$383,485

Mackenzie Tour (Canada) - 2020 Tour Cancelled

- Derek Barron • Puyallup • No Events
- Alistar Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • No Events
- Chris Killmer • Bellingham • No Events
- Cory Pereira • Ex-UW • No Events
- Chris Williams • Ex-UW • No Events
- Eugene Wong • Ex-Oregon • No Events

LPGA Tour

- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • No Events
- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • No Events

LPGA Symetra Tour

- Jamie Huo • Kent • No Events
- Jimin Kang • Seattle • No Events
- Mallory Kent • Seattle • No Events
- Sadena Parks • Tacoma • No Events
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • No Events
- Kim Welch • Ex-WSU • No Events

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The Lesson Tee: If you are looking to improve your putting remember speed, speed, speed

Everyone wants to score lower. I know I do. The quickest way to improve scoring is around the greens. This month we are going to take a thumbnail look at a few aspects of putting.

I always express at my clinics and lessons that people focus 80% on line and only 20% on speed. I feel it should be the opposite when you are getting ready to putt.

Speed, speed, speed.

People three putt because of poor speed not poor line. When I putt best I have proper speed control.

If I have great speed, I have more trust. I also have great speed when I have target focus rather than mechanical focus. Ben Crenshaw has stressed this concept to me on many occasions. He told me he has never putted well thinking about his stroke. Hit many putts 30-50 feet focused on speed. Use an intuitive look at the line and a focused feel on speed, 80% speed and only 20% on line.

A second key to putting growth is "hit the ball solid." Hit the ball on the sweet spot of the putter. Practice this skill. Yes, it is a skill. Yes, it can be practiced. A helpful drill is to place a quarter on the green. Stroke the quarter and make it move. It's tougher than it looks.

Thirdly, a solid set up is important for consistent putting. When a player has their forearms on the same plane as the putter shaft and each other many stroke flaws will disappear.

Bending forward with the upper torso to where the shoulders are close to parallel to the ground will create a straighter back stroke. This occurs because the arms swing down the shoulder line.

Personally, I have found success setting up a bit underneath or to the right at address. This way I can see the line better. Again putting with your eyes focused on the target is very big.



I always express at my clinics and lessons that people focus 80% on line and only 20% on speed. I feel it should be the opposite when you are getting ready to putt.

My hands are over the ball at address rather than behind. Ben Crenshaw and Morris Hatalsky turned me on to this years ago.

To work on the mechanics of my putting stroke I often use a 2 x 4 turned up on it's side. I stroke the putter with the toe rubbing on the board. I also do the same with the heel of the putter rubbing and following the board. You can also hit putts doing this drill. And hopefully those putts will start to fall for the coming golf season.

- Speed
- Solid hit
- Solid set up
- Use the 2 x 4

Jeff Coston is a multiple Pacific Northwest PGA Player of the Year. Jeff can be reached at Semiahmoo by calling 360 201 4590. See jeffcoston.com for more.



Photo #1



Photo #2

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Rules of the Game: Sometimes it is OK to get some assistance

Last month we hung out on what could be construed as advice, this month we take a look at situations where the player gets information and assistance in other ways that will get you in the crosshairs of the Rules of Golf. There are two categories of Other Help, the help you can get from others and the help you can give yourself. Sounds strange to think that you can't give yourself help, but it comes up in a couple of places and Rule 10.2b addresses two of those.

It is common that a player cannot see his intended target from his location on the course, always through course design and never through our own play – don't we wish! Sometimes, we just want help in lining up our shot based on the bounce we expect from the terrain.

As long as the ball is NOT on the putting green, you can request that someone stand on or close to the line of play, but that person MUST move away before the stroke is made. Similarly, an object such as a bag or towel can be laid down to indicate the line of play, again as long as the object is removed before the stroke is made. Failure to remove them is a breach of the rules and the result is the general penalty of two strokes in stroke play and loss of hole in match play.

The rules change however if the ball is ON the putting green. Now indicating the line of play is restricted to only the player and his/her caddie. Further, the player and caddie may only touch the putting green with "a hand, foot or anything he or she is holding but must not improve the conditions affecting the stroke in breach of Rule 8.1a". Setting an object down to indicate the line of play is now forbidden regardless of whether it is on or off the green and whether or not it is removed before the stroke is made. Once it has been set down for the purpose of indicating the line of play the player has breached Rule 10.2b and has added two strokes to the score of the hole in stroke play or lost the hole in match play. The Rules of Golf are serious about you not getting help of this nature even if you figure it all out without assistance from anyone else!



The Rules of Golf get pretty excited about another area where you are potentially benefitting from "other help". In the recent past, you could set a club or other object on the ground to assist yourself in helping line up your feet or body to take a stance as demonstrated in the picture. No more. Now, even if you back away from the stance and remove the club or other object before re-taking your stance you cannot avoid the penalty. The good news is you can still hold the club against your body to help with alignment as in the second picture.

There has been a clarification on the Rules of Golf in the next section of other help. This addresses the situations where a caddie is now prohibited from standing on or near the line of play behind the ball. Initially the player was penalized if he was in position to make the stroke regardless of whether the caddie moved away or not. The clarification allows the player to have the caddie step aside, the player to step aside, then resume the stance and the stroke without penalty.

Lastly, a player may not make a stroke while getting physical help from any other person. The player may also not make a stroke with any other person positioned in a way that gives the player protection from sunlight, rain, wind or other elements. That's right, no umbrellas held by someone else to protect you from the rain while you putt for the win.

Ryan Young: As you practice go ahead and grade yourself

In honor of schools starting back up in person, I want to write about a concept I teach my Academy students, both young and old – C's Get Degrees. We've all heard this saying as it relates to passing classes in school, but not necessarily on the golf course. This concept is a two-step process that will help students shoot lower scores without making any swing changes.

Step 1 : Grade your shots. As you hit balls on the range, grade your ball striking and proximity to the hole. For example, if you flush a 7-iron and land 15 feet from the target, then you get an A. If you chunk the ball 40 yards short of the flag, but determine you have a fighting chance to save par, then give yourself a C. If you swing and miss, then you get an F. Basically, if you think you can save a par, then grade it a C- or better. Do this for every club in your bag and figure out your GPA. Keep in mind, if you hit a shot a little thin but still lands close to your target, it can still be considered an A. Your GPA is based off your proximity to the hole and your ability to make par, not necessarily how well you made contact.

Step 2: Choose target lines on the course based off of your GPA. If you averaged B-grade shots on the range (typically missed your target 10-20 yards off line), then you know you can't take dead aim at tucked pins. Instead, choose realistic target lines where your average missed shot would still be close enough to save par. Playing for your misses rather than hoping for an A-grade shot will help you avoid the big numbers and make easier pars.

One thing to note, some of you will have a different GPA on the course than on the range. We all experience different levels of success between the range and course mainly due to the mental game. However, that is a lesson for another day.



Simply know that your ball striking on the course is more relevant than on the range. Take time to reevaluate your GPA post round and adjust your target lines accordingly next time out.

C's Get Degrees is a concept that puts less stress on your ball striking and more importance on your game management. It's the difference between trying to hit a golf ball and playing golf. In my opinion, it's the better and more fun way of playing the game.

So if you want to shoot lower scores this season, become aware of your actual ball striking ability and work harder on course management. For many of you, this means lowering your ball striking expectations and accepting average grade shots, after all, C's Get Degrees.

For help assessing your ball striking and improving your game management, please visit www.chambersbaygolf.com/academy, or reach out to me on Instagram or YouTube, @RyanYoung-Golf.

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