## THE SOURCE FOR NORTHWEST GOLF NEWS The oldest golf publication in the Northwest - Since 1988

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### Know the rules: When it comes to taking relief do it the right way

Inside Golf rules expert Pat Campbell takes a look at making sure you take relief the right way from your ball landing on the rocks near a sign( right) to a casual water to ground under repair. It's always important to know when you get relief and the right way to take it. Please see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper for more on the rules.



## **WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF**

### **NW** juniors finish second at Drive, Chip and Putt

A pair of junior golfers from the Pacific Northwest finished second at the finals of the Drive, Chip and Putt competition at Augusta National Golf Club - the weekend before the Masters.

Kasey Maralack of Snoqualmie, Wash. and Kate Ly of Portland both finished second in their respective age divisions at the finals of the national competition.

Maralack took second in the girls 14-15 age division - and it was the fourth time she had qualified for the national finals as well. Maralack reached the finals of the Drive, Chip and Putt for the first time at age 9. She is one of the top junior players in the Pacific Northwest and attends Mount Si High School

Ly finished second in the girls 10-11 age division finishing just 1 1/2 points behind the winner of the division.

### **Northwest Women's Open** set for June at Twin Lakes

The annual Northwest Women's Open Presented by PNW Equipment is set for June 28-30 at Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club in Federal Way, Wash.

The event is open to professionals and amateurs. Sara Rhee, a former University of Washington player, won the 2020 event at Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club.

The tournament kicks off with a one-day Pro-Am on June 28 before the tournament takes place on June 29-30.

For more information and to sign up see www.northwestwomensopen.com

### Make sure you pick the right set of tees to play from

Have you ever wondered what the right set of tees are for you to play? Here is an idea about what the right tees are to play next time you tee

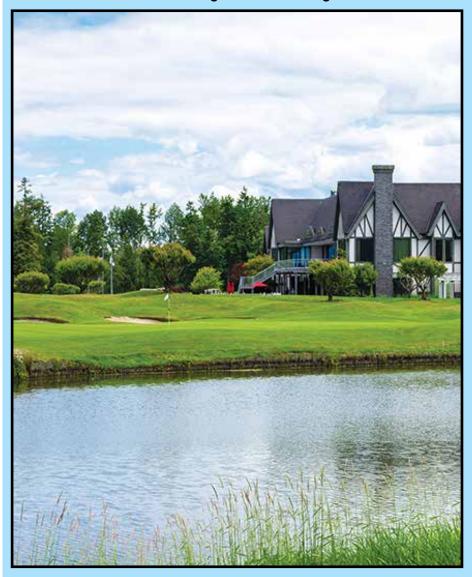
### Avg. drive - Recommended Tees

300 yards - 7,150-7,400 yards 275 yards - 6,700-6,900 yards 250 yards - 6,200-6,400 yards 225 yards - 5,800-6,000 yards 200 yards - 5,200-5,400 yards 175 yards - 4,400-4,600 yards 150 yards - 3,500-3,700 yards 125 yards - 2,800-3,000 yards 100 yards - 2,100-2,300 yards

### **Rules Quiz**

A player hits a shot and the ball either comes to rest "out of bounds', is not found within a three minute search time, is known or "virtually certain" to have came to rest in a "penalty area" or the player determines the ball to be unplayable. There is one procedure and penalty that is always available or required in these circumstances. What is it? See Page 2 of this section of Inside Golf Newspaper for the answer.

### **Destination NW Washington: Terrific golf abounds**



Northwest Washington is loaded with top quality golf courses to choose from with places like Loomis Trail in Blaine (above) and Swinomish Golf Links in Anacortes (right). From the Olympic Peninsula to the Kitsap Peninsula to the greater Bellingham area, you will not be disappointed if you make a golf trip to Northwest Washington with its scenic beauty and challenging golf courses. Please see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper for more.



## **Championship season** in the Northwest kicks off in May with the **Washington Open**

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 with all of the major championships returning to their places on the golf calendar.

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.

Here's a look at the 2021 schedule (tournaments are open to both professionals and amateurs):

- Muckleshoot 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
- 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.

## **Pacific Northwest** takes center stage for **USGA** with Four-Ball event at Chambers Bay

Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash. will find itself in the national spotlight again when it hosts the USGA Men's Amateur Four-Ball Championship May 22-26.

Chambers Bay, along with The Home Course in DuPont, Wash. will host the first two qualifying rounds of the tournament before the teams who quality get set for the match play part of the tournament.

This will be the first USGA championship to be held at Chambers Bay since the 2015 United States Open that was won by Jordan Spieth. The U.S. Amateur in 2010 was also held at Chambers Bay and The Home Course was again the companion course for that tourn ment as well.

For more information on the USGA Four-Ball Championship, see www.usga.org.

## **Chambers Bay named as host** for the 2021 Pacific Coast Am

The 54th Pacific Coast Amateur Championship will be held July 20-23, 2021 at Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash. This will be the second time Chambers Bay has hosted the championship, with it previously being held there in 2017. This year's championship had been scheduled to be held at historic Royal Colwood Golf Club in Victoria, B.C., but the continued restrictions and uncertainties in crossing the U.S.-Canada border due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic made it necessary to find a venue in the U.S.

Last year's championship, which had also been scheduled to be held at Royal Colwood, was canceled completely due to the pandemic.

The Pacific Coast Amateur routinely attracts players from around the world with resumés boasting illustrious victories in other jewel amateur golf events. It remains the West Coast's elite-level event that is circled on all amateur golf calendars in North America and around the globe. The Pacific Coast Amateur has regularly received an "A" strength ranking by the World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR).



Chambers Bay has been named to host the 2021 Pacific Coast Amateur tournament.

# Even the pandemic can't keep the college golfers off the course for the spring season

Coaching a small college women's golf team can be challenging enough. But throw in the Covid-19 pandemic and you have even more to worry about.

At Highline College, a school just south of Seattle, the women's golf program has been in place for five years. Improvement has been slow and steady.

But last spring things took a turn - just like they did everywhere else in the world. The 2020 spring golf season got cancelled and students were forced to take classes online and not even get a chance to enjoy the college experience on campus.

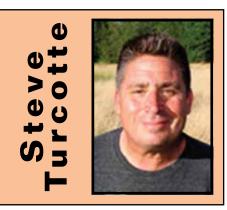
When fall rolled around - same thing. But the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) decided that golf was a sport that could be done despite the pandemic. Highline played in three tournaments and the ladies got the taste for college golf.

As spring got closer, it seemed that there might not be a season. But the NWAC, led by commissioner Marco Azurdia, made the call to allow sports - all sports - back on the field, in the gym and on the course. The ladies are in the midst of a six-tournament season with some twists. There are no overnight stays, only able to play in local tournaments. But hey, at least they are out there.

And one more thing. There is Covid testing for all the players - and yes the coaches - before every tournament. I hate to get that swab jammed up my nose as much as the next person, but if something like that lets the ladies back on the course for some type of spring season, then I am all for it.

Highline Athletic Director John Dunn went over the top to make it possible for all of the Highline athletes to compete, buying the right testing kits and getting the facilities in shape, along with facilities director Barry Carel.

Before our first tournament at the Home Course all five players and both coaches got tested. All were negative. The results on the course for the Highline squad are looking up and when our ladies were teeing off it was a pleasure just to see them in a tournament. The pandemic might be around for a while, but at least some things seem to be



getting back to somewhat of a sense of normalcy.

We might not have a NWAC league championship or any overnight stays, but at least the ladies are playing. It was something that didn't look possible even a few months ago.

Steve Turcotte is coach of the Highline College Women's Golf Team and editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at sdturcotte@comcast.net.





Highline College golfers are doing the right things in order to play this spring by getting tested and wearing masks.



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### Double Bogey





## Evidently there is no Equal Opportunity on LADIES DAY."

Harold Bluestein PGA

### Rules Answer

• Answer: "Stroke and Distance". The examples are all outcomes covered by Rules 17, 18 and 19. "Stroke and distance" means you cannot gain any benefit of distance towards the hole from the spot where the previous stroke was made and you incur a one stroke penalty. The fact is that "stroke and distance" is always an option available to a player no matter where the ball comes to rest on the golf course or the circumstance that leads a player to choose to use "stroke and distance."

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

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TRY OUT TOPTRACER TODAY!

## Northwest Hall of Famer Mengert passes; Registration open for Drive, Chip and Putt

Pacific Northwest Golf Hall of Fame member Al Mengert passed away at age 91, one day before his birthday. Mengert grew up in Spokane, WA and became a highly accomplished golfer in his youth. He won the 1946 and 1947 National Jaycees Junior, considered the precursor to the U.S. Junior Amateur. Mengert was the top-ranked amateur in the world in 1952, when he won the Northwest Open Invitational. Later that year, he ended a remarkable amateur career to become a PGA Professional, where he would rise to even greater heights.

Mengert played in PGA events and later Senior PGA tournaments while serving as a head pro around the country, including Tacoma Country and Golf Club. He won the 1966 Northwest Open Invitational as a professional at Tacoma C&GC. He won the Washington Open Invitational four times: in 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1971 and holds the tournament record for most consecutive wins. Mengert also won the PNW PGA Professional Championship in 1968 and 1969.

### 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.

### **Chambers Bay has academy programs**

Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash. is offering a variety of academy programs for golfers of different ages to improve their games.

High School Prep Clinics are available for high school players looking to improve their games and have their sights set on college golf.

The PGA Junior League is open to players 17 and under and players will receive coaching from PGA instructors and have organized team practice sessions and regular matches.

Welcome2Golf is a way for beginners to learn their way around the golf course.

Taylor Made Fittings will help get the right clubs in your hands.

### 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, 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.

### Registration open for Drive, Chip and Putt

The USGA, Masters Tournament and PGA of America announced that registration for 2021 -22 Drive, Chip and Putt qualifying is now open.

Local qualifying began May 1, and will continue throughout the summer with 330 events in all 50 states for boys and girls, ages 7-15.

All qualifying events will follow protocols to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. These include wearing face coverings, social distancing and minimizing spectators.

Top performers at the local level will advance through sub-regional and regional qualifiers in July/ August and September/October, respectively. From these qualifiers, 80 finalists – 40 boys and 40 girls – will earn an invitation to compete in the National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday, April 3, the eve of the 2022 Masters Tournament.

Local qualifying began Saturday, May 1, 2021, at Miami Shores Golf Course in Troy, Ohio. The full breakdown and schedule of 2022 Drive, Chip and Putt qualifying is as follows:

Local (May/June/July/August): 330 host sites throughout all 50 states; 3 juniors advance in each age/gender category from every venu

Subregional (July/August): 61 host sites in more than 30 states; 2 juniors advance in each age/gender category from every venue

Regional (September/October): 10 host sites in 10 regions; 1 junior advances in each age/gender category from every venue

National Finals (April 3, 2022): 80 total participants at Augusta National Golf Club.

### 2021 tourney schedule

If you are looking to stay competitive in the 2021 golf season, the Pacific Northwest Golf Association and WA Golf make it easy for you with a series of some terrific tournaments. Here is a look:

### **PNGA tournaments:**

- June 8-10: Senior Men's Amateur at Wine Valley, Walla Walla, Wash.
- June 8-10: Super Senior Men's Amateur at Wine Valley, Walla Walla, Wash.
- June 8-10: Senior Women's Amateur at Wine Valley, Walla Walla, Wash.
- June 8-10: Super Senior Women's Amateur at Wine Valley, Walla Walla, Wash.
- $\bullet$  July 19-23: Women's Amateur at The Home Course, DuPont, Wash.
- July 19-23: Women's Mid-Amateur at The Home Course, DuPont, Wash.
- July 26-31: Men's Amateur at The Idaho Club, Sandpoint, Idaho.
- Aug. 9-13: Men's Master-40 at Wildhorse Resort, Pendleton, Oregon.
- Aug. 16-20: Junior Boys Amateur at Palouse Ridge, Pullman, Wash.
- Aug. 16-20: Junior Girls Amateur at Palouse Ridge,

  Outlinear, March

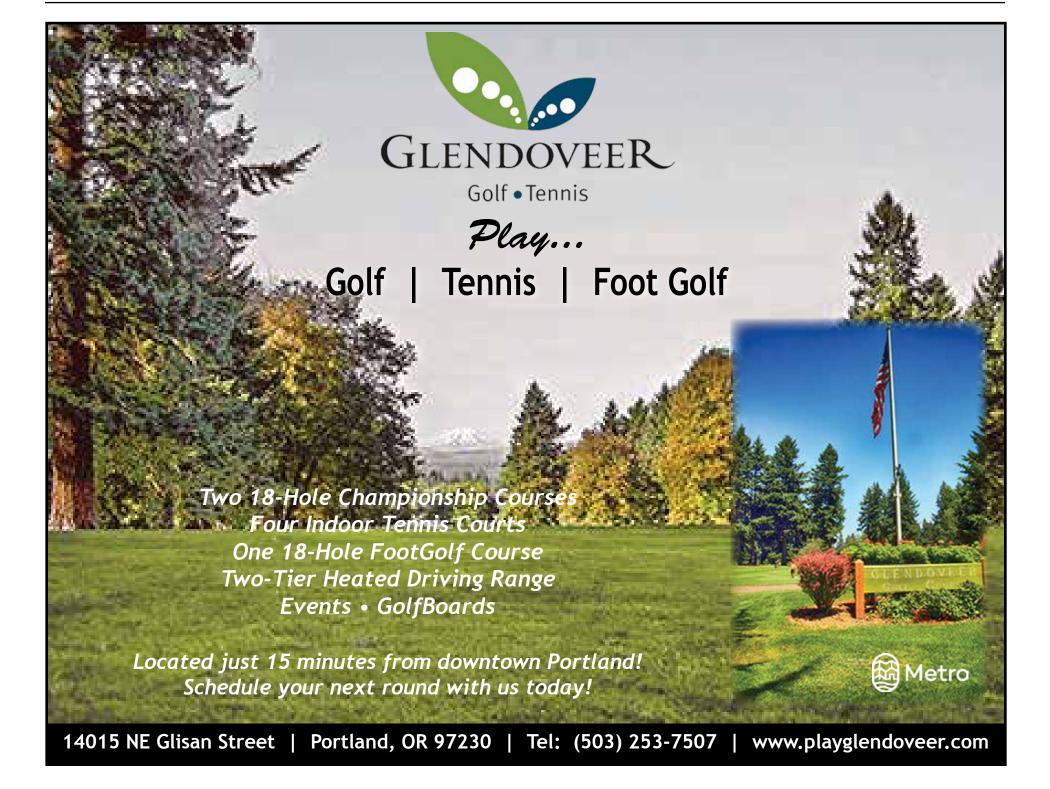
  Outlinear
- Sept. 14-16: Men's Mid-Amateur at Silvies Ranch, Seneca, Ore.

### WA Golf Championships:

- May 13-14: Men's Four-Ball at Desert Canyon, Orondo, Wash.
- May 13-14: Senior Men's Four-Ball at Desert Canyon, Orondo, Wash.
- May 17-18: Women's Four-Ball at Rainier Golf and
- CC, Seattle.

   June 15-16: Senior and Super Senior Women's Amateur at Fairwood CC, Renton.
- June 15-17: Women's Amateur and Mid-Amateur at Fairwood CC, Renton.
- July 6-8: Men's Amateur at Gold Mountain, Bremerton, Wash.
- Aug. 23: Mixed Champman at Canterwood CC,
- Gig Harbor.

   Aug. 30-31: Men's Mid-Amateur at Bellingham Golf
- and CC, Bellingham.
  Sept. 21-23: Senior and Super Senior Men's
  Amateur at Kitsap CC, Bremerton.
- For more information see the website www.thepnga. org or wagolf.org.



## Canada's Mackenzie Tour will take its final qualifying tournament to the Home Course

The Mackenzie Tour - PGA Tour Canada announced that its seventh and final 2021 Qualifying Tournament originally scheduled for Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada, on May 24-27 will move to the United States. The Home Course in the Tacoma, Washington, suburb of DuPont is the new site, with adjusted dates of June 8-11 for the 72-hole, no-cut tournament.

Players who registered for and expected to play in Canada will now compete in this Qualifying Tournament, which will offer a full membership card to the winner, exemptions for the first half of the season for those finishing in second to sixth places and conditional status for those in seventh through 25th places (and

Since its inaugural year of 2013, the Mackenzie Tour has traditionally begun its seasons at the end of May or early June. The Tour will alter that plan and make an announcement about its regular season schedule later this month.

We held out hope that we would be able to play our final Qualifying Tournament at Crown Isle Resort, a long-time Tour partner," said Mackenzie Tour Executive Director Scott Pritchard. "Unfortunately, we just needed to make a plan of certainty due to the current COVID-19 public-health restrictions in Canada."

The Mackenzie Tour recently completed its sixth Qualifying Tournament of the year, in Pine Mountain, Georgia, at Callaway Gardens Resort. Last month Patrick Cover earned medalist honors, joining Camilo Aguado, Luis Gagne, Keenan Huskey, Jeffrey Kang and Clay Feagler as players who earned the right to play in every 2021 tournament via the Qualifying Tournaments. An additional 30 players are exempt through the season's first half and the player reshuffle based on performance, with more than 100 more players securing conditionally exempt status.

"After not conducting a season in 2020, we are

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The Home Course in DuPont will host the Mackenzie Tour's final qualifying tournament June 8-11.

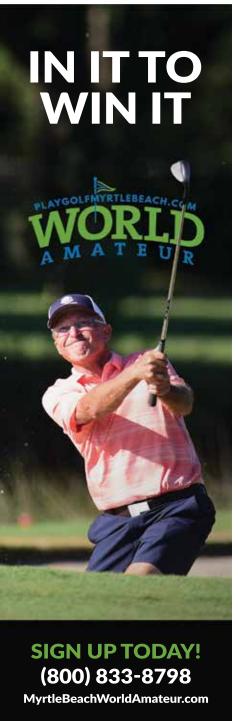
looking forward to a summer slate of events that will allow our members to pursue 2021-22 Korn Ferry Tour cards," Pritchard continued. "We look forward to making an announcement about the season in the near future."

Dubbed "The Home of Golf in the Northwest," The Home Course, a Mike Asmundson-designed layout that opened in 2007, will be the site of the upcoming United States Golf Association's men's 2021 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship. It has previously hosted the 2014 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links, numerous USGA qualifying tournaments and the prestigious Sahalee Players Championship, one of the nation's top amateur tournaments. The Mackenzie Tour and The Home Course signed a three-year agreement that

will run until 2024, with the course serving as the site of future Qualifying Tournaments.

"The Home Course has seen so many important golf tournaments since its inception, and we are more than happy to welcome these players as they hope to move on to the Mackenzie Tour and the path that leads to the PGA TOUR," said Justin Gravatt, general manager of the Home Course.

It's been more than 60 years since the PGA TOUR or one of its affiliated Tours has held an event in the Greater Tacoma area. The PGA TOUR's 1960 Carling Open was at Tacoma's Fircrest Golf Club, a tournament won by Ernie Vossler. Fircrest also hosted the PGA TOUR's Tacoma Open in 1945 and 1948, tournaments won by Jimmy Hines and Ed Oliver, respectively.





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## **Amateur Swingle claims the crown at Northwest Senior Championship**

Amateur Mike Swingle of Aldarra Golf Club (Falls City, WA) won the PNW Senior Players' Championship over a strong field of 133 other PNW PGA Professionals and amateurs.

PGA Professional Tony Robydek of Meadow Park GC (Tacoma, WA) and PGA Professional Mark Knowles of McCormick Woods GC (Port Orchard, WA) finished in second place. Knowles led after the first round with a 68.

Amateur Don Bidinger of Tacoma Country and Golf Club tied for fourth with amateur Pat O'Donnell of Arrowhead Golf Club at 145. Billy Bomar of Prairie Falls Golf Club tied for sixth with amateur Greg Chianello of the Reserve.

Winning the team Four-Ball competition was a tie between PGA Professional Billy Bomar of Prairie Falls GC (Post Falls, ID) and Mike Kerns of Riverbend GC (Kent, WA) and the team of PGA Professional Scott Larsen of Larz Golf and Brad Karns of Columbia Edgewater CC (Portland, OR).

### Northwest major schedule is set

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. Here's a look at the 2021 schedule:

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- 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.

### Twin Lakes Best Ball May 15

The inaugural Twin Lakes Best Ball Presented by PNW Equipment is set for May 15 at Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club in Federal Way.

The event will be a one-day tournament with teams of two players. Entry fee is \$180 and includes tee prizes, lunch, golf and range balls.

Call 253.200.6864 for more.

### Did you know....

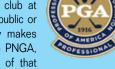
• The Washington Golf Youth on Course

program, which provides \$5 rounds of golf at participating courses to kids age 6-18, increased its membership by 60 percent in 2020. It has over 5,600 members, who played an



estimated 25,000 rounds in 2020. It is the largest Youth on Course program in the Pacific Northwest. Visit WAgolf.org/YOC for more information.

• Being a member of the OGA, IGA or WA Golf through a men's or women's club at your facility, whether public or private, automatically makes you a member of the PNGA, eligible to receive all of that association's benefits, including



receiving Pacific Northwest Golfer magazine in the mail. Visit thepnga.org for more information.

## **Tour Players With Northwest ties**

#### **PGA Tour**

- Kevin Chappell Kirkland 163rd on the list with \$229,331
- Ben Crane Portland No Events
- Joel Dahmen Clarkston 83rd on the list with \$988,481
- Robert Garrigus Gresham No Events
- Scott Harrington Portland 155th on the list with \$274,208
- Ryan Moore Puyallup 179th on the list with \$164,271
- Cheng Tsung Pan Ex-UW 84th on the list with \$984,516
  Andrew Putnam Tacoma 81st on the list with \$996,678
- Kyle Stanley Gig Harbor 110th on the list with \$688,297
- Nick Taylor Ex-UW 126th on the list with \$521,578
- Aaron Wise Ex-Oregon 56th on the list with \$1,254,855

### **Korn Ferry Tour**

- Alistar Docherty Vancouver, Wash. 257th on the list with \$2,514
- Robert Garrigus Gresham 156th on the list with \$25,016
- Andres Gonzales Olympia 151st on the list with \$27,490
- Alex Prugh Spokane 126th on the list with \$42,122
- Dylan Wu Medford 25th on the list with \$202,623

#### **Champions Tour**

- Fred Couples Seattle 12th on the list with \$859,676
- Bob Gilder Corvallis No Events
- Brian Henninger Eugene No Events
- Peter Jacobsen
   Portland
   No Events
- Kirk Triplett Pullman 32nd on the list with \$394,199

#### **Mackenzie Tour (Canada)**

- 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 137th on the list with \$3,758
- Jing Yan Ex-UW 63rd on the list with \$41,238

### LPGA Symetra Tour

- Jamie Huo Kent No Cuts made
- Jimin Kang Seattle No Events
- Mallory Kent Seattle No Events
- Sadena Parks Tacoma No Events
  Gigi Stoll Tigard 9th on the list with \$19,394
- Kim Welch Ex-WSU No Events



## PNW Equipment Women's Open June 28th-30th, 2021

Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club
Federal Way, Washington

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June 28: PNW Equipment Women's Open Pro-Am June 29: First round PNW Equipment Women's Open June 30: Second round PNW Equipment Women's Open

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## The Lesson Tee: Here are some tips if you are looking to improve your drives

Everyone wants to and needs to be a wonderful driver of the golf ball. In my mind "the driver" is the most important golf club in the bag to better golf and more fun. It is every golfer's dream to smash drives down the fairway. I would like to give a few ideas how to enhance your success with this "offensive weapon" to add to your golf

Most golfers when asked what kind of shot they hit with their driver or for that matter any shot, they reply, "I just try to hit it straight." I believe hitting straight shots is too difficult to achieve on any consistent basis.

If you curve the ball either way and somewhat master that curve, you can use the whole fairway. This concept gives the player rough line to rough line or even tree line to tree line which is twice as wide than attempting to hit it straight down the middle. Contrary to popular belief the greatest players in the world curve their shots. Most also master one curve as a stock shot or a go to shot.

Secondly, the set up with the driver (and all clubs) is very key and important. Most players come "over the top" of the proper plane of the swing. The driver swing should be shallower or more from the inside than any club in the bag, because it is longer and teed up. This is the case whether you draw or fade the ball.

You must create more tilt of the upper body to the right at address to help enhance depth to your golf swing. This tilt will help the player from the "inside" on the downswing. Swinging "on plane" and coming from the inside is very important to better driving of the golf ball. Most players not only need more tilt to the right at setup and a better swing plane from the inside, they also need a stronger golf grip. The stronger grip is more in the fingers in the left hand showing three knuckles on top of



the left hand. Perhaps show more of the logo of your glove at address then match the angle of the right hand with the left hand on the golf club.

- More tilt to the right at address.
- Stronger grip.
- Come from inside on the downswing.

I'd like to share an effective tool to monitor and help you come from the inside and swing more on the proper downswing plane. This will help your driving of the golf ball. Place a shaft in the ground with a swimming noodle on the end of it. Set your driver shaft on the noodle and take your set up.

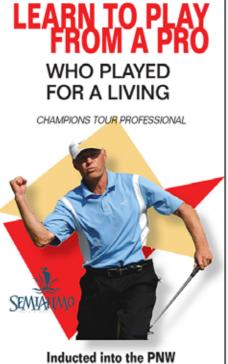
Back up about 3 inches away from the noodle and then take one step forward toward the target and place a tee. (photo 2). This is where you will

Now make sure you set up with tilt, a proper grip and come from the inside swing under the shaft. Make several practice swings then smash away. Hopefully you will see a difference.

Jeff Coston is a former PGA Tour Player and 23-time Pacific Northwest PGA Player of the Year. He can be reached at Semiahmoo Resort for appointment by calling 360.201.4590 or see www. ieffcoston.com.







**PGA Hall of Fame** 

23-time PNW PGA Player of the Year All time Major Tournament Winner in NW golf history

"Jeff Coston is one of the most talented golfers I've ever played with. Beyond that, he's one of the nicest guys I know

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## Rules of the Game: What is free relief and who decides?

We can't wait to get back out on the golf course as soon as conditions allow us, but oh, the soft squishy conditions, the water collected on the green, the ruts made when a cart has found its way to a soft area. Given that one of the basic principles of golf is to play the course as you find it, purists will take a lot of pride in doing so and convincing you to do the same. So, what is free relief and who decides?

Temporary water is found in the definitions of the Rules of Golf so let's look at what it is and what it is not

First, what it is: it is a temporary accumulation of water on the surface of the ground that is visible either before or after taking your stance. You notice they don't include "visible while taking" your stance. That means no excessive pressing down with your feet, no bouncing up and down while you exclaim, "See, there's water, watch! Oh, you missed it, watch again."

Snow and natural ice may be considered temporary water when on the ground. The Rules of Golf even allow you the option of deeming them to be loose impediments. As a result, you may either move the snow and ice or move your ball, free relief.

Now, what it is not; temporary water is not in a penalty area. Water in a penalty area is part of the penalty area, period; even if it is a puddle that obviously results from the recent rain. Relief is only available under penalty area relief. Dew and frost are not temporary water, they are just dew and frost, no free relief anywhere.

Manufactured ice is water that has been changed by human intervention and is an obstruction, so again free relief.

Those are all pretty straightforward. Where the discussions come is on the clarification that the Rules of Golf state as follows: "It is not enough for the ground to be merely wet, muddy or soft or for the water to be momentarily visible as the player



steps on the ground." That water visible as you step on the ground is just soft ground. Those ruts caused by someone inadvertently driving on said soft ground are ugly but there is no free relief from them under temporary water, but possibly under Ground Under Repair. If it's not marked as such by signage or painted with white; play a second ball and plead your case to the committee. (Be sure to state your intention to play a second ball before making a stroke at either your second ball or the ball being played as it lies).

What does the free relief look like? Find the nearest point of complete relief, measure one club length to determine your relief area, drop and play on. There are three conditions to determining the nearest point of complete relief to keep in mind. It is: Nearest to the ball's original spot, no nearer to the hole than that spot.

In the required area of the course (generally in the same area of the course that you are playing, for example in the general area which includes both the fairway and the rough, in the bunker that you find yourself in, on the putting green). Where the condition does not interfere with the stroke.

For more information check out the rules of golf videos on usga.org. Enjoy these spring days!

# Ryan Young: How to set your golfing goals for 2021 season

2021 has the potential to be the best season for golf in history, and I want to help make it your best season as well! With golf being the safest sport to play this year, we are seeing record numbers returning to the course. If this surge includes you, now is the time to dream big and create a goal for your game. Whether it is to compete in the U.S. Amateur or break your career best, let me help map out a strategy to achieve your golfing goals.

First, define your long-term golfing goals. Don't sell yourself short during this process. For the average golfer, this could mean going from breaking 90 to being a single digit handicap.

For an advanced golfer, this could mean breaking par in a tournament. Whatever your current status is, create a dream goal that you can work for beyond 2021. Make sure it is something you can keep track of easily, like a score, handicap, or top finish in a tournament.

Then, create a sub-goal for 2021 that will keep you on track to achieve your long-term goal. For that same average golfer, this could mean averaging 85 or lower this year. For the advance golfer, this could mean shooting par in a tournament or getting your handicap to a +2. If lined out correctly, this sub-goal should be a reach, but one that is achievable this season with the proper game plan.

Finally, create a game plan to achieve your 2021 sub-goal. For that average golfer hoping to average 85, that means lowering your score by one stroke each month for the next five months. In order to improve one stroke, you will need to determine what areas of your game to focus on (odds are its putting and short game). Get a lesson from a local PGA Professional to help determine what part of your game needs the most work. After the lesson, put in purposeful practice

Ryan Young



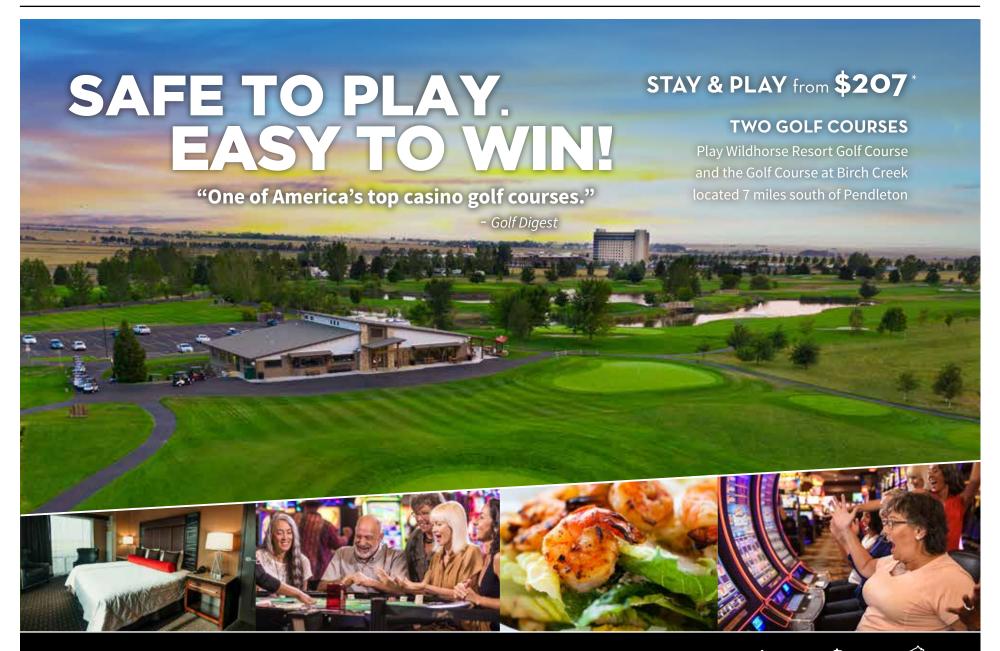
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time, track your stats during future rounds, and repeat as necessary.

Creating goals for your game and a game plan to achieve them is a process. This process should be fun! When you break it down in this manner, you are more likely to schedule out time to practice and bring you back to the course more than ever. It's a simple game plan when you think about it, but one that has proven results. Track your progress, have fun, and report back.

I would love to hear how it goes!

For more help creating and achieving your golfing goals, follow me on YouTube or Instagram at Ryan Young Golf. Or, visit our website to schedule an Initial Assessment & Game Planning Session - www.chambersbaygolf.com/instruction.



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## Myths about establishing a handicap

### Think having a handicap isn't for you? Think again.



Get a Handicap!

Below we dispel some myths that have been ingrained in the minds of many golfers about getting and maintaining a handicap.

### Handicaps are only for really good golfers

Any golfer, whether they're a novice or a seasoned player, can establish a handicap index at any time in their golf journey. The underlying purpose of the Handicap system is to level the playing field so golfers of differing abilities can compete fairly with each other for a more enjoyable game.

### I'm not a good enough golfer to get a handicap

Establishing a handicap index and posting your scores consistently provides you with a tool for tracking your progress and will only make you a better golfer. Obviously, watching your scores go down is fun to see, but when your scores aren't getting better, that's your cue to make adjustments or to take a lesson for a tune-up.

### I only golf for fun

Having a handicap takes your game to a whole other level of fun. Sure, golf is an individual sport, but with a handicap you can have a friendly competition or side games with other handicap holders in your group regardless of differences in playing ability.

If you enjoy the challenge of competition and want to play against golfers with similar or better skill levels, consider entering a golf tournament. Many tournaments, including WA Golf championships, require a handicap to ensure that you are placed in the proper division for a fair competition.

Planning a dream golf trip to play Royal County Down or the Old Course at St. Andrews? If you don't have a handicap yet, better give yourself enough time to play and post scores for three 18-hole rounds of golf to get

your handicap. Some golf clubs abroad require proof of handicap to play on their course.

### You have to post a lot of scores to get a handicap index

With the new World Handicap System, you only need to post a total of 54 holes, made up of 9- or 18-hole scores, to get your handicap. The more scores you post, the more accurate your Handicap Index.

### It takes too much time

There's an app for that. The USGA GHIN app makes it convenient to post your scores. You can post after

every hole, after every round or post scores later when get you home.
Just do it as soon as practical after your round. Your Handicap Index will be updated overnight and your score will be included in the daily Playing Conditions
Calculation for that course.

### I don't want to do math

Again, there's an app for that. Simply upload your scores on the app and GHIN takes care of the computation for you. Your Handicap Index is adjusted daily.

### I have to join a club

This one is actually not a myth.

Core to the USGA Handicap System is the idea of peer review and oversight, hence the requirement to be a member of a certified USGA "golf club" to maintain a handicap. Fortunately, WA Golf has more than 600 clubs to choose from throughout

Washington and Northern Idaho. Think of them more like communities of golfers who get together to play for fun, competition and camaraderie. Still not your thing? Many WA Golf clubs offer an Associate level membership providing only your USGA Handicap Index and its computational services with no strings attached, while still receiving other WA Golf member benefits. Visit wagolf.org/join to learn more about different membership options.

### I need a handicap to play golf

Washington Golfer

18.0

Not true at all! In fact, you don't even have to keep score! Additionally, many golf events run formats,

such as Scramble or Shamble, which encourage entries from golfers of all skill levels and don't require a handicap. But, if you've ever considered getting one, don't let any of the above myths hold you back.

### Ready to establish your handicap?

WA Golf is a USGA approved provider and administrator of GHIN (Golf Handicap and Information Network) services.

Visit wagolf.org/handicap to get started or for more information.

Post your scores and track your playing history with the official USGA GHIN app, free to all WA Golf members and available from the App Store or Google Play.









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