

Ratings & Rulings

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A Publication for FSGA Volunteers

Hot Summer Days!



Support GHIN!

As an FSGA volunteer, we are asking you to help us get to the right people and get the GHIN Handicap System into your club.

Many of your clubs are not using the GHIN Handicap System provided by the FSGA and USGA, and we need your help with getting your club to make the change. Florida is one of the few states not using a uniform handicap system state-wide. The GHIN Handicap System is the largest system in the United States and is used by more than 9,000 clubs and 2 million golfers nationwide. In Florida, over 500 clubs and 165,000 golfers use the GHIN System. Consider some reasons why your club should make the switch.

- Special Pricing.
- Networked to more than 9,000 clubs nationwide. Perfect for seasonal golfers!
- Post scores online and receive revised handicap by email.
- Correct, consistent, and compliant golf handicaps from the USGA.
- Touch-screen computer systems are provided at no charge.
- Tournament Pairing Program (TPP) provides the most complete tournament management program.
- The FSGA GHIN support staff available seven days a week

I'm asking for your help. Please talk to your club staff and officials about setting up an appointment so we can better show them the GHIN Handicap System. Please call Aaron Skoviera, Director of GHIN, at (813) 632-3742 with any questions or to set up an appointment.

Thank you and please call us with any questions.

GIMMIES

Membership Numbers

Currently, more than 3,200 individuals have signed up for membership. We ask that all volunteers join the FSGA and support your State Golf Association. Renew your membership today at www.fsga.org. Also, nearly 800 clubs have signed up as 2004 FSGA Member Clubs. Encourage your club to join the FSGA! These membership numbers are at an all time high!

Scholarship Recipients

Six students were recently awarded scholarships from the Future of Golf Foundation. If you know of a worthy candidate, please call the FSGA or print a scholarship application from www.fsga.org. This season's recipients are: Jonathon Chase Webb, Caitlin Robinson, Danny Claude, Christine Calvagno, Ryan Mellinger and Claire Starzyk.

NW Club Challenge - Volunteers in the Panhandle encourage your club to participate in the NW Club Challenge on October 23-24 at Camp Creek GC in Panama City Beach. The format is 36 holes of stroke play with the total of the low 3 of the 4 gross scores counting for each round. Sign up at www.fsga.org and save \$10.

Welcome New Volunteers

Please welcome the following individuals as new FSGA committeemen. They will be volunteering at tournaments and/or course rating. Tracy Graham, Elliott LaVercombe, Bob MacPherson, Michael McGovern, Joe Modica, Bruce Pendleton and Bill Woolgar. Welcome!

Winter Series Schedule

Start planning for next season! The 2004-2005 Winter Series schedule is set and includes some great sites. An additional tournament was added to next season's schedule making eight Winter Series events.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

December 8 & 9, 2004

entries close November 22, 2004
PGA Golf Club
Port St. Lucie

January 10 & 11, 2005

entries close December 27, 2004
Venetian Golf & River Club
North Venice

February 7 & 8, 2005

entries close January 24, 2005
Timacuan Golf & Country Club
Lake Mary

February 21 & 22, 2005

entries close February 7, 2005
Hammock Creek Golf Club
Palm City

March 21 & 22, 2005

entries close March 7, 2005
Bloomington Golfers Club
Valrico

April 4 & 5, 2005

entries close March 21, 2005
ChampionsGate Golf Resort
ChampionsGate

FOUR-BALL EVENTS

January 24 & 25, 2005

entries close January 10, 2005
Hernando Oaks Country Club
Brooksville

March 7 & 8, 2005

entries close February 21, 2005
Walkabout Golf Club
Mims

H. S. Rules Seminars

Throughout August, the FSGA will conduct 12 Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) Rules of Golf Clinics. Jack, Jim, Pete and Tom will travel the state educating high school teams on the Rules of Golf. For the second year, players are encouraged to attend with their golf coach.

Last year, more than 1,800 coaches and students representing over 600 high schools were in attendance. This will be the fifth year that the FSGA has been involved with the high school clinics. The FSGA staff will discuss common rules scenarios in a fun, interactive manner.

The FSGA will also assist the FHSA by administering the Florida State High School Championships in November on four courses simultaneously in St. Lucie county. The dates have been changed and the new dates are November 2-3, 2004.

2004-2005 PGA/USGA Rules Workshops

The USGA has announced the PGA/USGA Workshops on the Rules of Golf schedule for 2004 - 2005.

Register online at www.pgalinks.com beginning August 12 or call 800-474-2776 after August 13. The registration fees are \$250.

4-Day Rules of Golf Workshop
Port St. Lucie - January 5-8, 2005
Deadline December 27, 2004

Orlando - March 7-10, 2005
Deadline February 25, 2005

**Tournament Administration
Workshop**
Ponte Vedra - March 13-16, 2005
Deadline March 3, 2005

How Strong are your Club's Committees?

As a USGA Member Club, your by-laws at each club shall form a Tournament (Golf) Committee and a Handicap Committee following these general guidelines:

Tournament Committee is to arrange and schedule with the management of any golf course as necessary, and conduct all intra-club and inter-club competitions.

Handicap Committee composed primarily of members with the responsibility to establish a fair and proper system of handicaps in accordance with procedures set forth in the USGA Handicap System Manual.

Does your club comply with the USGA Handicap Compliance Checklist?

Do you have the proper number of members within these committees meeting USGA requirements?

Does your Handicap Committee communicate effectively with all members?

We hope your club's committees are successful, and we are here to help your club achieve that goal. Please do not hesitate to call us with questions to help attain that success.

Please review the latest dates now scheduled for the USGA/FSGA Handicap Certification Seminars.

We also need your help gathering the names of your club's committee members and the handicap vendor used at your club. Please call us to review that we have the most current information.

2004-2005 Florida Junior Tour Schedule

Date	Entries Close	Location
Sept. 11-12, 2004	August 11	Bear Lakes CC, West Palm Beach
September 18-19	August 18	Bloomington GC, Valrico
October 2-3	September 1	PGA Golf Club, Port St. Lucie
October 9-10	September 8	PGA Golf Club, Port St. Lucie
November 27-28	October 27	Walt Disney World, Lk Buena Vista
December 18-19	November 17	Orange Cty Nat'l, Winter Garden
January 8-9, 2005	December 8	The Forest CC, Ft. Myers
February 5-6	January 5	Country Club of Ocala, Ocala
March 24-26	February 23	Celebration GC, Celebration
April 23-24	March 23	Lemon Bay GC, Englewood
April 30-May 1	March 30	Eagle Creek G & CC, Naples
May 7-8	April 6	University Park GC, University Park
May 21-22	April 20	Legacy Golf Club, Bradenton
June	TBA	Sawgrass CC, Ponte Vedra Beach

Sign up to volunteer at www.fsga.org

GIMMIES

Handicap Seminars ADDED

More Handicap Seminars have been added to the schedule in order to certify a Handicap Chairman at every club. The Handicap Seminars are intended to better educate more golfers to the USGA Handicap System. You can register at www.fsga.org or call the office.

New Dates

August 17 - Sugarmill Woods CC, Homosassa

September 8 - The Villages Hacienda G & CC, The Villages

October 13 - Bent Tree CC, Sarasota

November 8 - Inverrary CC, Lauderhill

Earpieces Available

You can now purchase your very own earpiece for \$10. Call Alyson Bartell at the FSGA office, (813) 632-3742 or email abartell@fsga.org to order yours today!

GolfWeek

FSGA Members can now receive 25 issues of GolfWeek for only \$24.95 and get a free sleeve of golf balls. Log on to www.fsga.org to order your subscription today!

Billy Graham

FSGA Volunteer Billy Graham recently won his third Canadian Match Play Championship. He also won the Championship in 2000 and 2003. Billy, who rates in Section 1 and volunteers at tournaments, won the Legendary Senior Amateur in Laurel, Mississippi in June.

Tracy Allen

FSGA President Tracy Allen was recognized in the July/August 2004 edition of Wisconsin Golfer for his commitment to the game. Tracy is a former Wisconsin State Golf Association Junior Champion and three-time letter winner at the University of Wisconsin.

Volunteer Spotlight: Rick Greenleaf

Born and raised in New York City, Rick Greenleaf went to undergraduate school in Connecticut and later to University of Pennsylvania for his MBA. In his time after school, Rick worked in the transportation industry, consulting and later for an import/export company. While in Pennsylvania, Rick volunteered with the Philadelphia PGA, Golf Association of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Golf Association. In 1997, Rick and his wife Heidi, started coming to Florida, on and off in the winters, and stayed at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens. Now, they live at Jonathan's Landing permanently. Rick got into the golf business in 1988 as a sales rep for Ashworth on the east coast. He later left Ashworth to start his own business called The Links Collection (www.thelinkscollection.com) that distributes golf apparel and accessories to corporations. Rick and his wife still own that business today.

Rick also has another job! He is employed with the Golden Bear Tour in Palm Beach where he works 3-4 days a week. He acts as a Rules Official and helps with tournament operations just as he does with the FSGA. In 2001, Rick attended an FSGA Rules Seminar and ever since, he has been volunteering as well as playing in events. Now, Rick enjoys the Rules of Golf most as well as helping with Pace of Play. Rick says, "I have met some wonderful people associated with the FSGA." He has attended many FSGA and USGA Rules workshops. Rick does not see himself retiring in the near future. "I enjoy what I'm doing, why would I retire."

Rick and Heidi have two grown daughters. He enjoys playing golf in his spare time as well as reading and traveling.



Quick Facts About Golf Courses

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

A typical 18-hole golf course covers approximately 125 - 150 acres of land. The total landmass of golf courses in the United States equals about 1/2 the state of Connecticut.

A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.

Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.

Golf courses have a cooling effect during the hot summer months. The average temperature on the golf course is typically 5- 7 degrees cooler than a residential area and 7 - 15 degrees cooler than an urban downtown setting.

The infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is home to four holes of the Brickyard Crossing golf course. The remaining 14 holes outside the oval are accessed through a tunnel under the track.

Golf courses delay play on frost-covered turf (especially greens) because stepping on frost-covered grass causes the frozen leaf cells to rupture. The turf will turn brown and eventually die.

What is the origin of the stimpmeter? In the early 1900s, a man by the name of Edward Stimpson was looking for a means to create more fairness in the game of golf. Specifically, he was looking to make putting surfaces on a particular course all relatively the same speed. He developed the stimpmeter to achieve this purpose. By using this device, he could determine, for example, if the fourth green was the same speed of the 17th. The device is often misused and misinterpreted by the novice and avid golfer alike. It is best used to compare greens on the same course, NOT to compare greens from one course to another.

How much has technology and research improved speed and quality of a putting green? In the early 1960s, professional tour event superintendents cut putting green turf heights at about 1/4 inch. Today, the height of putting green turf for professional tournament competition is 1/8 inch or less.

Golf courses have a positive impact on the economy. It is estimated that more than 25 million people annually spend 2.5 billion hours outside, playing one of the nation's 17,000-plus golf courses. The impact of golf facilities on the economy is \$20 billion annually.

FSGA Staff Directory

Jim Demick	Executive Director jdemick@fsga.org
Alyson Bartell	Membership Manager abartell@fsga.org
Les Brown	Tournament Director lbrown@fsga.org
Megan Cushman	Club Relations mcushman@fsga.org
Peter Dachisen	Tournament Director pdachisen@fsga.org
Deborah Ferree	Accountant dferree@fsga.org
Andy Green	Director of Course Rating agreen@fsga.org
Darin Green	PJ Boatwright Intern dgreen@fsga.org
Ken Hagamann	Director of Course Rating khagamann@fsga.org
Patrick Melton	IT Manager pmelton@fsga.org
David Mock	Regional Manager/GHIN fsgamock@aol.com
Jack Pultorak	Dir. of Rules & Competitions jpultorak@fsga.org
Aaron Skoviera	GHIN/Handicapping aaron@fsga.org
Joe Stein	Regional Manager/GHIN jsteinfsga@aol.com
Tom Zaras	Tournament Director tzaras@fsga.org