

Ratings Rulings

NEWSLETTER FOR FSGA VOLUNTEERS

SEPTEMBER 2001

GIMMES

Alternate of the Year

Jon Weber of Atlantis did an unusual, but considerate act by volunteering to be the first alternate at a Mid-Amateur Qualifier at West Palm Beach's Bear Lakes Country Club. Weber, along with five other players, scored a 75 that day. However, there were only five qualifying spots left to fill!

The weather had already postponed play throughout the day and it was too late to start a playoff. To keep the six players from coming back the next morning and missing another work day, Weber volunteered to be the first alternate.

His noble act did not go unnoticed. The group treated Weber to some good cheer at the clubhouse to show their appreciation.

Update: We recently had a withdrawal from that qualifier, so Weber will be playing!

U.S. Senior Amateur

Tom Meeks, USGA's Senior Director of Rules and Regulations, competed at the U.S. Senior Amateur Qualifier at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville. Not having his "A" game that weekend, Meeks failed to qualify.



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Appreciation Days have been Scheduled

■Seven sites have been set for our Volunteer Appreciation Days to be held this fall. All active volunteers will receive an invitation to one of the sites based on the section they serve. Last year, over 150 volunteers attended and had a great round of golf and delicious lunch.

Golden Eagle G & CC
Tallahassee
Tuesday, October 9

Regatta Bay G&CC
Destin
Wednesday, October 10

TwinEagles G&CC
Naples
Monday, October 22

Champions Gate
Orlando
October 24

Selva Marina CC
Jacksonville
Friday, October 26

Bear Lakes CC
West Palm Beach
Monday, October 29

Palma Ceia CC
Tampa
Tuesday, October 30

FSGA Officials Speak to High School Coaches

■For the second year, the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSA) accepted FSGA's offer to have representatives speak on the Rules of Golf at coaches' meetings across the state.

Volunteers went to 11 sites during August and spoke with the coaches after Jackson's meeting. The presentations covered rules pertaining to player responsibilities, relief procedures, moveable and immovable obstructions, abnormal ground conditions, water conditions, lost or out-of-bound ball, provisional ball, and unplayable ball.

This information was not only beneficial for first-time coaches, but was also a good "refresher" for the experienced coaches. Volunteers reported that the meetings went well and the coaches had many questions for them..

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this effort to improve the state's junior golf programs!

Mallory Privett Palm Beach Gardens

Tom Zaras South Miami

Ray Norman Melbourne

John Ives Gainesville

Pep McPhillips Fort Walton Beach

Randy Walford Tallahassee

Jim Demick Tampa

Jack Pultorak Fort Myers

Jim Demick Eagle Lake

Tom Storey Orlando

Hole-In-One!!!

Ed Boyer, Course Rating Captain of Section 4, made a hole-in-one at St. John's Golf & Country Club in St. Augustine. Using a 9 iron, Boyer was on the 5th hole with 122 yards to the tee. A bunker in front of the green blocked his view, but the group playing ahead was watching and saw the ball fly into the hole.

Boyer and his team recently rated the course and was complimented by the golf professional on their performance. Good job, Ed, and congratulations!

Junior Seminar

Tournament Chairman, **Charlie Bedford**, and FSGA's Manager of Junior Programs, **Andrew Crabtree**, partnered with the PGA to conduct a seminar at Westchase Golf Course August 11 for area high school golf coaches.

Bedford spoke to coaches from Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando, Manatee, and Pinellas counties about golf rules and etiquette, while Crabtree informed them of FSGA's involvement in junior golf and high school programs.

PGA speakers presented information on how to coach golf and how to run good practice sessions. The overall goal was to give coaches more knowledge of the game and to help them run better high school teams.

New Course Rating Team in Section 6

Bob Kane of Ocala has stepped up as the Course Rating Captain for Section 6 and is putting together and training a new team. Previous Section 6 raters, as well as new raters will make up the team.

Rulings Called at Mid-Senior Championship

■ Tournament Officials kept busy making several rulings during the Mid-Senior Championship at the PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie. The FSGA officials correctly handled each of the following situations.

Late for tee times

On day one, four different competitors showed up late for their tee times because they either went to the wrong tee or were not paying attention to the time. The starters let the other players in each group know it was getting close to their tee time so they had some evidence when the late player showed up. Announcing the groups at their correct times, the starters issued the penalty to the late players, who all arrived within five minutes of their time and incurred a two stroke penalty rather than being disqualified.

Molded grips and weighted clubs

There was a situation regarding weighted clubs. On the back nine of the South Course, an official saw a David Duval Momentos in a competitor's cart basket. The official took the club away and penalized the player four strokes for having too many clubs. After further review of the club, officials noticed it had a molded grip that made it non-conforming. So when the player came in to sign his card, he had to be disqualified for having a non-conforming club in his bag when he started his round. After checking with the USGA, FSGA tournament directors also found out the grooves on that club also make it non-conforming. So even if the club had a correct grip, the player still would have been disqualified.

Provisional ball

On the final day, a player played a "provisional ball" after he had hit his first ball into a water hazard. As soon as the player played his provisional ball; that ball became the ball in play. After finding his original ball in a water hazard, the player had his partners pick up his "provisional ball" and he played his first ball several times. **Bob Sommers** was called in and explained that the player was not allowed to play a provisional ball when he knew that his original ball may be lost in a water hazard and that his "provisional ball" had become his ball in play. When he played his original ball, that was a wrong ball. The player was told he had to correct his error before teeing off on the next tee or he would be disqualified. The player chose to accept the disqualification penalty rather than hold up play.

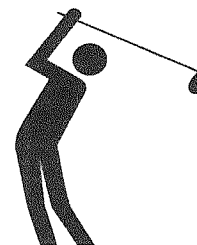
**USGA Qualifier Site Unplayable After Storm
Tournament Chairman Helps FSGA Reschedule**

Tournament Chairman **Johnny Williams**, Seminole, went above and beyond his duty in preparing to run the USGA Mid-Amateur Qualifier at River Wilderness Country Club in Parrish. Two days before the event, a tropical storm swept through the area that damaged trees and flooded holes at the course making it unplayable.

Working with the tournament staff, Williams found another course for the same scheduled day - St. Petersburg Country Club.

The FSGA staff then called every player - from Tennessee to Florida - and notified them of the site change.

Between Williams, St. Petersburg Country Club, and FSGA staff, not one competitor missed their tee time and the qualifier went off as planned. Thanks, Johnny!



Is Your Club Using GHIN?

■ Please remember that the FSGA's primary means of economic support is earned through distributing and maintaining the GHIN handicap system. If clubs did not use our service, the FSGA's capabilities would be dramatically reduced. (Then what would all of you - our busy volunteers - do with all your spare time?)

As FSGA volunteers and supporters, you know first hand the services that we provide to promote, protect, and preserve golf throughout the state. We are asking you to talk to your club's golf pros, general manager, and club members. Please encourage them to support their state golf association and in return they will have the most advanced and widely used handicap system in the country.

New Golf Bag Promotion

If you are the driving force in getting a club to join the GHIN system, you will receive a new Burton Golf Bag with the FSGA logo embroidered on the pocket. This is just a way for us to thank you for your efforts... and a little incentive for you to keep after those non-GHIN clubs and make them see we are the good guys!

Incorrect Scorecard Signed at U.S. Amateur Qualifier

■ **Andy Hollis** of Palm Beach Gardens was unfortunately disqualified after signing an incorrect scorecard at a U.S. Amateur Sectional Qualifier, which took place at the Orange County National Golf Center in Winter Garden July 30-31.

Hollis was paired with **Steve Albright**, Ocala, and **Ben Van Someren** of Melbourne on Saturday. Van Someren was assigned as Hollis' marker. After the round, both Hollis and Van Someren agreed Hollis had shot a 78 and signed Hollis' card.

Later that night, Albright was reviewing his score with his caddy and a question came up regarding Hollis' score. Specifically, they disagreed on how Hollis had played the 14th hole - whether he had shot a 6 or 7.

Believing Hollis had mistakenly marked the wrong score, Albright alerted Tournament Chairman, **Bruce Flower**, later in the day. The next morning when Hollis was asked to recall his play on hole #14, he remembered taking 4 strokes to get on the green and then 3-putting. His scorecard from the previous day had a 6 for the 14th hole. Subsequently, Flower had to disqualify Hollis from the qualifying match.

Hollis has not always been unlucky in his game. He claimed the Florida State Junior Championship Junior Division title in both 1998 and 1999.

Winter Series Schedule Set for 2002

■ The Winter Series Championships will continue in 2002 and the schedule has been set. There will be three Four-Ball Championships, as well as three individual events that will take place from December through April.

Not only has the schedule grown, but so has the competition. Unlike last winter, points will be awarded to competitors who finish with top scores. At the end of the season, players who have accumulated the most points overall will be recognized and presented awards.

Entry forms will be arriving in the mail soon. You will also be able to print them from the FSGA website.

Winter Series, Individual

December 4-5, 2001 Legacy Golf Club, Bradenton
January 28-29, 2002 Lake Jovita Country Club, Dade City
April 2-3, 2002 PGA National Haig Course, Palm Beach Gardens

Winter Series, Four-Ball

January 14-15, 2002 Magnolia Plantation Golf Club, Lake Mary
March 4-5, 2002 River Hills Country Club, Valrico
March 25-26, 2002 The Majors Golf Club, Palm Bay

GIMMES

Section 16 Takes a Road Trip...

It is great to know FSGA has such willing volunteers. **Brian Robideau**, Course Rating Captain of Section 16, and his team helped out another team that was in a pinch. Robideau's team traveled to a club in a neighboring county to perform both measurements and a course rating to meet the course's deadline. We appreciate and thank you, Section 16!

2002 USGA Rating Guides

Several Course Rating Captains have requested Rating Guide Books for their raters recently. We have learned the USGA will be printing new Guide Books that will be available early January 2002, so we would like to get along with our present short supply until then. As soon as we have the new release, we will advise you of the availability from the USGA. Contact Marcia if you are in desperate need and she'll try to come up with a copy for you. In the meantime, thanks for your patience.

FSGA Staff Changes

Marcia Morris was promoted to Manager of Course Rating in August. She will be working with the course rating captains and overseeing all aspects of the course rating and measuring process. Les Brown, Tournament Director, is supporting Marcia and he will be available to answer your questions, as well.

Hillarie Mastandrea has been hired as the Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Her responsibilities include writing press releases, developing the "Inside the FSGA" and "Ratings & Rulings" newsletters, membership marketing, and creating the annual Members' Guide.

From the Manager of Course Rating...

Thanks to all of the course rating captains who have communicated their good wishes and offered to help with the transition of management within the Course Rating department. It is nice to know there are so many helpful people in our ranks within the FSGA course raters and I am sure I will be calling on you for your help to my many questions!

Marcia Morris

Quick Quiz for Course Raters

Here are the answers to the quiz from the August newsletter. The correct answers are bolded. How did you do?

Question 1: The green target rating must be determined:

- a. After the Effective Playing Length factors are rated..
- b. Before the Bunker ratings are determined.
- c. Before the Recoverability and Rough ratings are determined.
- d. All of the Above.**

Question 2: An adjustment for obstacle squeeze is needed when:

- a. The tee shot must be hit between trees 15 yards apart 100 yards from the tee.**
- b. Water is 15 yards left and OB is 20 yards right of the center of the green.

- c. Firm, flat bunkers are 15 yards left and extreme rough is 20 yards right of the center of the fairway landing zone.
- d. Out of bounds is 30 yards left and water is 15 yards right of the center of the fairway landing zone.

Question 3. A green which has been divided into three circles to rate Green Target because of three relatively flat tiers has a Stimpmeter reading of 7 feet. Its Green Surface rating should be:

a.	4	0
b.	4	+1
c.	5	0
d.	6	0
e.	6	+1



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