

Ratings & Rulings

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A Publication for FSGA Volunteers

Volunteer Appreciation Days

This day is for you - FSGA Committee Members! Join fellow volunteers for a day of lunch and golf compliments of the FSGA. If you are an active volunteer, please register online at www.fsga.org to sign up for the site of your choice. Join us as we recognize you, our outstanding volunteers.

Tuesday, October 3

**The Grand Club, Cypress Course, Palm Coast
9:00 shotgun – lunch will follow**

Wednesday, October 4

**ChampionsGate Resort, National Course, Kissimmee
11:30 lunch – 12:30 shotgun**

Thursday, October 5

**PGA Golf Club, Dye Course, Port St. Lucie
8:30 shotgun - lunch will follow**

Friday, October 6

**Fiddlesticks CC, Long Mean Course, Fort Myers
11:30 lunch – 1:00 shotgun**

Monday, October 9

**Hunters Green Country Club, Tampa
8:30 shotgun – lunch will follow**

Wednesday, October 18

**Kelly Plantation Golf Club, Destin
11:30 lunch – 12:42 tee times begin**



GIMMIES

2006 Membership

Thank you to all volunteers who have joined the FSGA in 2006. More than 3,500 individuals joined the FSGA this year exceeding last year's total membership. Also, over 850 clubs have signed up as 2006 FSGA Member Clubs. We have almost reached our goal of 900 clubs. FJT membership has opened for the new season and currently, more than 370 juniors have registered. Please tell juniors at your club about this great Tour and opportunity to compete in high-end competitions at some of the state's top courses.

NW Club Challenge

Volunteers in the Panhandle, please encourage your club to participate in the NW Club Challenge on October 21-22 at Windswept Dunes Golf Club in Freeport, just north of Destin. The format is 36 holes of stroke play stableford scoring with the total of the high 3 point totals of the 4 scores counting for each round. Sign up at www.fsga.org.

Chrysler Club Championship

For the second year, the FSGA will conduct the Chrysler Club Championship for club champions across the state. This year, Falcons Fire Golf Club in Kissimmee will host the championship on October 7. Please tell your club about this opportunity for their Club Champion to compete for the chance to advance to the Chrysler Championship and the Bob Hope Celebrity Championship in California. More information can be found at www.fsga.org or contact Megan Cushman at mcushman@fsga.org.

The FJT is Growing & We Need YOUR Help!

Now in its fourth season, the Florida Junior Tour (FJT) has grown to 20 events. We need your help to continue conducting first-class events for Florida's juniors. Please sign up online to volunteer and the opportunity to watch Florida's future of golf.

DATE OF EVENT	LOCATION/AGE DIVISION
September 9-10	Venetian Golf & River Club, North Venice (16-18)
September 23-24	Lake Wales Country Club, Lake Wales (13-15)
September 23-24	Bear Lakes Country Club, West Palm Beach (16-18)
October 21-22	Country Club of Ocala, Ocala (13-15)
November 24-26	Walt Disney World, 54 holes (Boys 13-15 & Girls 16-18)
November 24-26	Orange County Nat'l, Orlando, 54 holes (Boys 16-18)
December 2-3	MetroWest Golf Club, Orlando (13-15)
December 2-3	Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club, Dade City (16-18)
December 9-10	North Shore Golf Club, Orlando, Q-Series (16-18)
January 6-7	PGA National Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens (13-15)
January 13-15	Belleair Country Club, Belleair, 54 holes (16-18)
February 3-4	Conservatory at Hammock Beach, Palm Coast (16-18)
February 10-11	Fox Hollow Golf Club, Tampa (16-18)
February 10-11	Magnolia Point G& CC, Green Cove Springs, (13-15)
March 3-4	Southwood Golf Club, Tallahassee (16-18)
March 17-18	Rio Pinar Country Club, Orlando (13-15)
April 7-9	Shingle Creek Golf Club, Orlando, 54 holes (13-15)
April 28-29	Lemon Bay Golf Club, Port Charlotte (16-18)
May 19-20	Gainesville Country Club, Gainesville (13-15)
May 26-28	The Club at TwinEagles, Naples, 54 Holes (16-18)

2006-2007 Winter Series

We also need your assistance with the Winter Series events scheduled to start in December. Volunteer sign up is now open online.

Individual

December 6-7, 2006
PGA Golf Club, Port St. Lucie

January 22-23, 2007
Hunter's Green CC, Tampa

February 18-19
MetroWest Golf Club, Orlando

March 19-20
Victoria Hills Golf Club, DeLand

April 1-3
The Majors Golf Club, Palm Bay
Winter Series Championship

Four-Ball

January 8-9, 2007
CC at Deer Run, Casselberry

February 5-6
Country Club of Ocala, Ocala

March 5-6
Dunedin Country Club, Dunedin

**HIGH SCHOOL
CHAMPIONSHIPS
OCTOBER 24-25, 2006
Sign Up to Volunteer @
www.fsga.org**

Course Rating Update

As we approach our "busy season", we thought we'd update you on our progress thus far in 2006. We've had a very successful rating season so far with 100 men's ratings completed and 85 women's ratings completed.

We're also in the process of undergoing a massive reorganization of all the office course rating files. We are currently digitizing each club file to our main server as a backup and to allow online viewing of the files. Not only does this protect us from theft or loss, but it will also allow us to streamline the entire rating process. This process will allow us to make available to the Captain/Co-Captain, through the website, the two most recent rating workbooks and/or Form 1's. Basically, we're scanning all paper Form 1's from existing ratings and moving current Excel workbooks to individual club folders on our server. When and only a club requests a new rating, this "old" information will be accessible for the Captain if he or she needs it.

We're also working on the much promised "online course rating request form". Our goal is to allow any course requesting a rating to do so through our website electronically. Once completed, the website will automatically forward a request to the Captain as well as add it to your online rating schedule. We feel this will not only provide a much more efficient service to the member club but also allows us to instantly send the request to the rating captain, thus eliminating "slow mail" as Mr. Robideau calls it. Many thanks to our I.T. Manager Patrick Melton for expediting the process. Hope all of you had a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you at a Volunteer Appreciation Day!

Stay with your Group!

Everyone knows about the Rule that says that you have to be at the tee on time and ready to play. But what about the second half of that Rule?

Rule 6-3b says that "In stroke play, the competitor must remain throughout the round in the group arranged by the Committee unless the Committee authorizes or ratifies a change."

In a recent Championship played in groups of three, two consecutive groups ended up as twosomes as a result of a withdrawal and a no show. Part way through the round, they found themselves waiting to play and thought that if they joined together as a foursome, they could speed up play for themselves and the following groups. Their intention was good but it resulted in a breach of Rule 6-3b and the associated severe penalty of disqualification.

2007 PGA/USGA Rules Workshops

Registration for the 2007 PGA/USGA Rules Workshops open online at www.usga.org on October 4 and by phone on October 11 at (908) 234-2300, ext. 5100. Reserve your spot early!

4-Day Rules of Golf Workshops

Port St. Lucie

January 7-10, 2007

Deadline December 28, 2006

Port St. Lucie

January 7-10, 2007

Deadline December 29, 2006

Orlando

March 12-15, 2007

Deadline March 2, 2007

Ponte Vedra Beach

March 18-21, 2007

Deadline March 8, 2007

Introductory (2-day) Rules of Golf Workshop

Port St. Lucie

March 2-3, 2007

Deadline February 20, 2007

GIMMIES

New Volunteers

Please welcome the following new volunteers to the FSGA: **Marvin Weinstein, Bill McDermott, Carole Schroeder, Richard Derbes, Shane Basso, Michael Quinlan, Matt Woollen, Dave Fleming, Gomo Greer, David Kauppinen, Geneo Langlois, Kim Haskins, Richard McBride, Kurt Hoffmann, Vincent Labella, Maryann Chapman and John Dickey.**

Annual Dinner

The 2006 Annual Dinner is scheduled for Friday, November 17 at Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club in Tampa. The Annual Dinner is where we recognize our 2006 Champions as well as award the Players-of-the-Year and Volunteers-of-the-Year. We will also induct the second class of the Florida Golf Hall of Fame.

Tournament Chairman's Meeting

The annual Tournament Chairman's meeting is set for November 18 at Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club. The schedule of activities and additional information will be mailed shortly to all Tournament Chairmen.

USDGA

This summer, Bill Giese volunteered with the United State Deaf Golf Association (USDGA) in the Panhandle at Marcus Pointe GC where he helped deaf youth learn the game of golf. This event was one of 20 golf camps of the USDGA.

Giving back to the game

by Donna Riley-Lein
as published in The Villages Daily Sun on Monday, August 14, 2006

A foursome of Villagers have stepped up to the tee and taken their love of golf to the next level as volunteers for the Florida State Golf Association.

Scrib Kelly, Neil Dufresne, Mike Lonergan and Len Veraldi gear up for days at a time to rate courses and help run FSGA-sanctioned tournaments throughout the state.

“We volunteer during the tournaments,” Kelly said. “We handle registration, work as starters, we help set up the course, serve as rules officials, and enforce pace of play.”

“We’re trained to do all the jobs,” Lonergan said. “We get moved around the tournament as they need us.”

“We never know what we are doing until we get to the tournament,” Kelly said.

All of the volunteers take a one-day course to bring them up to speed on the basics of volunteering. They agreed that the most daunting part of their training is mastering the arcana known as the “Rules of Golf.”

“To be a rules official, you take a one-day course first. That’s to see if you can stand the five-day course,” Kelly joked.

“We can handle most of the routine questions ourselves,” Dufresne said. “If we have a serious question, we have radios on the course and can contact one of those guys who got a 100 on the rules test.”

Kidding aside, all three agreed that any golfer who enjoys the game would already be well prepared to volunteer. That sentiment was echoed by Jim Demick, the FSGA’s executive director. Demick said that FSGA currently has 400 volunteers.

“We’re looking for new people to bring along,” Demick said. “We have volunteers of all skill levels. Golfers of all backgrounds and skill levels can help out. All the volunteers like golf, and like giving back to the game.”

“Most of the training is on the job,” Lonergan said, “and you have clearly written responsibilities.”

In order to do all those jobs, the Villagers have to get up early enough to be at the tournament site by 7 a.m., or travel to training sessions. Depending on the distance, they may spend the night away from home, but there are compensations.

“There’s a lot of travel, but you get to see a lot of courses that are strictly private; courses you’d never otherwise see,” Kelly said.

“It’s so much fun to see the courses and tournaments. You see players coming up, and players who put you in awe,” Dufresne said.

Another job volunteers do, Demick said, is rate courses.

“A course rater spends a full day on a course, doing a lot of measurements and scientific statistical analysis,” Demick said, explaining that ratings allow handicaps to be standardized.

Kelly found the FSGA by accident.

“I was on the Internet looking into getting my handicap, when I saw the link on the FSGA Web site for volunteers,” Kelly said. “It looked like fun, and I have the time.”

“I had made a commitment to get involved in volunteer activities when I retired,” Lonergan said. “I met Neil and Scrib in a golf tournament and decided to look into it.

“I absolutely love the game,” Lonergan continued. “It reflects life, and unless we support the game and make it better, golf will not grow.”

Without volunteers, Kelly said, the FSGA would not be able to hold sanctioned tournaments, especially the junior events that qualify up-and-coming golfers for national competition.

“Depending on the tournament, it takes six to eight volunteers for a tournament of 100 players,” Kelly said.

“This is huge,” Lonergan said. “The junior tournaments are what Tiger (Woods) was doing while he was growing up. We run 15 junior events annually for golfers 13-18 years old. It’s the only way any golfer can progress to national tournaments.”

Lonergan estimated that there are about 800 players in the junior program, and he added that the FSGA also sponsors tournaments and a variety of championships for players of all ages. He said the FSGA sponsors 134 tournaments, which adds up to 250 days per year of competition.

FSGA Staff Directory

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