

WMGA Quarterly Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2019

The Board meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Board members in attendance were:

Bob Creager, President
Mark Cichocki, Tournament Chair
David Franek, Handicap Chair

Jim Fairall, Director
Joe Smith, Treasurer
Vince Serio, Recording Secretary

Representing The Woods Club:
Sally Johnston
Ron Springer

Representing the WWGA
Becky Almeter, President
Fran Compton, Rules Chair

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. The WWGA representatives were invited to participate in the first two items of business as they affect both organizations. The following issues were discussed:

Local Rules:

The 2019 revisions of the USGA rules provide that individual clubs may adopt local rules to address unique conditions of the individual courses without getting express approval of the USGA or the WWGA, so long as they use the language in the model rules provided by the USGA. The following two issues were discussed as potential issues for local rules at The Woods:

- **Ball lost or out of bounds:**

The 2019 USGA rules provide that, as an option to the preexisting stroke and distance rule, clubs may adopt a local rule permitting a player who has lost a ball or hit out of bounds to get relief by:

1. Determining the point where the ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course or crossed out of bounds;
2. Moving from that point to the edge of the fairway;
3. Taking a two club length drop into the fairway but no closer to the hole; and
4. Taking a two stroke penalty.

For example: If a tee shot is hit out of bounds, it can be brought back two club lengths into the fairway nearest the point where it crossed the out of bounds and the player will be hitting his/her fourth shot.

The Board, the WWGA and the Woods Club representatives agreed to adopt and publish this local rule, provided that players also have the option of imposing the preexisting stroke and distance rule (hitting a provisional ball and taking a one stroke penalty, if the original ball is not found in bounds).

Proposed language of local Rule:

“When a player’s ball has not been found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the *course*, or
- Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.

b. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the *hole* being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, **but** is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the *general area*, and
- Must not be nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball *in play* under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was *lost* or *out of bounds* is no longer *in play* and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the *course* before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But, the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is *known or virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).

- **No Play Zones**

It was proposed that the boards consider adopting a local rule establishing no play zones in areas where abnormal course conditions exist that pose a danger to golfers or their equipment, i.e., roots and rocks. Examples of such conditions that are not likely to be corrected by normal course maintenance include the left rough of the fifth and eighth fairways. It was proposed that such areas, predominated by roots and rocks, be considered no play zones where relief would be provided with no penalty by moving the ball to the nearest point of relief, no closer to the pin.

Concerns were raised that a broad classification of no play zones, i.e., roots and rocks is too subjective and may lead to disagreements between competing players. It was further mentioned that there is a fairness issue because players who hit a pulled shot into trouble would be given an advantage over players who hit into the fairway because the nearest point of relief from the no play zone may result in a clear shot to the green.

No consensus was reached and it was decided that the handicap/rules chair from the WMGA and WWGA would review this issue in more depth and report back to the Boards on whether to adopt a local rule.

Alumni Membership

Sally advised that she has been seeking the WMGA and WWGA input about establishing a new alumni membership category for residents who move from The Woods community but would like to retain their membership in The Woods Club and their eligibility to participate in WMGA/WWGA tournaments. She advised that an alumni membership would be available to individuals who held a class A or Class B (with upgrade) membership for five or more years and paid the same membership fees as all other class A members. Though some had questioned the appropriateness of non-residents being eligible for participation in championship tournaments, there would be no difference between a Legacy member and the proposed Alumni member fully participating in championship events.

The Board and the WWGA representatives concurred with the designation of Alumni Memberships with full rights to participate in all tournaments, including championships.

This concluded the joint WMGA/WWGA portions of the discussions and the WWGA representatives excused themselves from the meeting.

'85' Rule and Stroke Adjustment for Forward Tee

At the last Board meeting it was decided that only those players whose age and handicap totaled 85 or more are eligible to play the forward tees. It was further decided that the three shot course adjustment for competing from different tees would be made by subtraction from the forward tee handicap. This decision was predicated on the view that adding three strokes to a low handicapper had significantly more impact than subtracting 3 from a high handicapper.

Though this rule change has been publicized to all members on multiple occasions, Ron advised that a number of those signing up for the Frostbite are not aware of these changes. A

discussion then ensued about whether it is more or less appropriate to add the 3 tee adjustment to the white tee or subtract from the green tee handicaps. Either option is supported by the USGA rules. Irrespective of the basis for the initial decision, it was pointed out that we would more likely get adverse reaction by subtracting 3 strokes from the forward tees than we would by adding three to the white tee handicaps.

The Board decided to reverse the earlier decision and apply the three stroke adjustment by adding to the white tee handicap.

Match Play

Rules for the match play have not yet been posted.

Mark will contact David Gilbert for details from last year's match play.

Member-Guest

There were 30 responses to the e-mail question about interest in the Member-Guest with half indicating that they would not be playing. Participation dropped off this past year and there were serious concerns about whether we would recoup our fixed costs for the tee gifts. There are two basic issues the Board must address:

1. Should we have the tournament and, if so;
2. Who will manage it?

Though someone needs to lead, this typically requires a committee to handle tee gifts, food and beverages, the Calcutta, etc. That leader does not need to be a board member. Without significantly more interest than was evidenced from the e-mail response, it is questionable whether this tournament would be viable. Both Ron and Sally expressed their strong interest in seeing this tournament continue.

Ron will try to identify someone who is interested in managing the Member-Guest. Once a leader is identified, the board and the Woods Club will encourage participation.

Frostbite

So far 39 members have signed up, with more expected this week. Weather forecast appears to be iffy with temperatures in the low to mid 60's and a chance of showers. A full breakfast will be served as a buffet.

Budget

The budget presented for discussion at the last meeting was approved with one modification, increasing the food cost for the Frostbite to \$12 per person.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.

Prepared by:
Vince Serio, Recording Secretary