

President's Report by Roy Burchill



It's a new year and a new look for our newsletter.

We are always seeking ways to improve our members' experience.

The most significant change in 2018 was our continued adoption of Golf Genius. Not only does it run our tournaments behind the scenes, but it also offers the real-time scoring feature. The vast majority of members are entering their scores after completing each hole which creates a real-time leaderboard. Let's have 100% usage this year!

While many members like the leaderboard, I have also heard from several who looked at the leaderboard, saw they were in contention and then their round went south. Beware!

In 2019, the most significant change we anticipate impacting all members is a redesign of our website. The current version was designed many years ago and an update is long overdue. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to an implementation date.

A major difference between 2018 and 2019 directly impacting our golf will be construction on the South Course from February thru September. Improvements to the course will include irrigation system upgrade, turf renovation, and upgrades to some tee boxes, bunkers and cart paths. Holes #6 and #13 will each be split into 2 holes during construction so that 18 holes are always open.

Significant changes to the Rules of Golf are effective in 2019. Take some time to read the article in this newsletter and watch the videos. It is your responsibility to understand the Rules of

Golf, particularly the local rule the Club is adopting for lost balls and balls hit out of bounds.

Welcome to our newest Board Member, Ed Carter. Ed brings a strong background in technology to the board as well as experience with Golf Genius.

At its annual dinner, the board reelected all officers to remain in their current roles for 2019. At that dinner, I thanked the board for their hard work this year. Our dedicated board members put on 60 tournaments per year, manage the prize fund, penalize you (sorry!), manage the finances, manage membership, etc. Every board member is making a solid contribution; we have never had a stronger board than we do right now!

When I became President, my first priority was to develop a positive relationship with the management of Torrey Pines GC. I meet with them after almost every weekday tournament we play at Torrey Pines. Golf course managers Mike Jones and John Howard are very pleased with our efforts regarding pace of play including our regular communications with members and the use of time clocks. Occasionally, we have poor pace of play and sometimes we have issues with the course. We share this feedback (both good and bad) with each other and hopefully do better as a result.

If you have feedback about any aspect of your membership with the club, we can only do better if you share that feedback with me. Please email your criticism, compliments, random thoughts and questions to me at royburchill@gmail.com and I guarantee you will receive a reply.

Best wishes for a prosperous New Year and a year in which your golf game exceeds your expectations!

Torrey Pines Reservation System

Many members use the online reservation system to make tee times. The City is trying to eliminate late cancellations of tee times. To do so, they are penalizing card holders who either cancel late or do not show up for their tee time. If you have 3 offenses, your ability to make reservation will be suspended. The length of suspension depends on the number of violations you have accumulated.

If you change your reservation to a different time within 48 hours of your originally scheduled reservation, you will receive an email warning you that this is considered a late cancel. The City is working on upgrading their system so it understands the difference between a cancellation of a reservation and a change. Meanwhile, if you change a reservation and receive a notice of late cancellation, let the starter know when you check in and he/she will remove the late cancel from your record.

Special Use Permit

The club's access to Torrey Pines is governed by a Special Use Permit (SUP). This is an agreement between the club and the city that defines our access to the course including number of tournaments, number of players, etc.

We just signed a SUP for the next three years through 2021. We are guaranteed 24 weekday tournaments each year and one weekend tournament each month. Our access will be impacted in 2021 because of the US Open. Construction on the North Course will begin immediately after the Farmers Insurance Open resulting in the loss of some holes immediately. Not long after the entire course will be closed for much of the year. South Course access will primarily be reduced for about a month before the US Open.

The only way our guaranteed access can be hurt is if our pace of play is not acceptable. We could be relegated to later tee times. This one of the reasons we focus on pace of play. It is each member's responsibility to ensure your group keeps up with the group ahead of you. If we don't take this seriously, the actions of a few could affect everyone.

2018 Champs

Our club runs over 60 tournaments every year, but some of them are considered "major tournaments". Winning one of those majors is a big achievement. Champions win some nice prize money and for many of our tournaments they advance to an SCGA tournament. Their entry fee for the SCGA tournament is paid for by our golf club. Let's recognize our 2018 major champions!

The first major was the Weekday SCGA Better Ball of Partners in May. The winners of this event were **Dave Rodas** and **Franc Happ**. They moved on to the SCGA Four Ball Qualifier.

The Weekend SCGA Better Ball of Partners event was held in June. The winners were **Carlee Gilchrist** and **Tommyjoe Valenzuela**. They also move on to the SCGA Four Ball Qualifier.

The Weekday Senior Championship was held on two consecutive weeks in June. The Senior Net Champion was **Michael Fitzgibbons**. He earned a slot in the SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Net Division). The Weekday Senior Gross champion was **Paul Albitz**. In October, Paul won a playoff with the Weekend Senior Low Gross champion to earn another slot in the SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Senior Gross Division).

In August, the Club Championship was held with a qualifier and multiple rounds of match play. The overall Club Champion is **Louis Gabbara**. Louis also earned a slot on the SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Championship Division).

The Weekend Senior Championship was held in October. The Senior Low Gross winner was **Pete Wlodkowski** who lost a playoff with Paul Albitz as mentioned above.

Our club had one final slot in the SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Net Division). The flight winners for each of the championship tournaments engaged in a playoff in October to fill that slot.

Weekday Senior Championship: **Larry Jones, Robert Palmer and Hughie Thomas**

Weekend Senior Championship: **Arno Tuulik and Chuck Madeksiak**

From the Club Championship: **Marc Couillard, Brandon Richards and Mark Russell**

Not everyone could make it to the playoff, but **Marc Couillard** won and earned the final entry to the SCGA Tournament of Club Champions (Net Division).

Rules of Golf - 2019

The Rules of Golf are undergoing a major change beginning in 2019. **You, the golfer, are responsible for knowing the rules and playing by the rules.** Here are some of the major changes:

- Search time for a lost ball is now 3 minutes, not 5 minutes.
- When dropping a ball, it is no longer dropped from shoulder height. It is now dropped from knee height.
- If you accidentally double hit the golf ball, it is no longer a penalty stroke.
- You cannot ground your golf club in a bunker, but incidental touching is permitted.
- Loose impediments in hazards, including bunkers, can be removed without penalty. However, the golf ball still cannot be moved.
- You may ground your club in a penalty area.
- If you mark your ball on the putting green and then put it back and the ball then either moves by itself or by the wind, you are to replace the ball, no penalty.
- You are allowed to leave the flagstick in the hole when putting.

- **Lost ball:** This is a local rule which the club has elected to adopt for all tournament play. The video below best describes this new rule. To summarize, (1) estimate where the ball was lost; (2) estimate a straight line running from the hole to the point your ball was lost; (3) estimate the nearest edge of the fairway, no closer to the hole; (4) take two club lengths from that point, no nearer the hole; (5) your drop area is now between the edge of the fairway and two club lengths in the fairway. **Note that you may still opt to hit a provisional shot and if you do, you must play that ball and this local rule will not come into play.**

Rule Change Highlights Video:

<https://youtu.be/chPOtflUHC0>

Lost Ball Rule Change Video:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10156542899754369&id=88356969368&refsrc=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F&_rdr

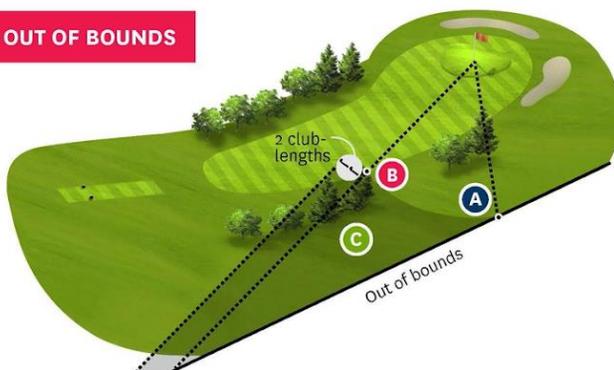
All USGA Rule Changes:

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/major-changes.html>

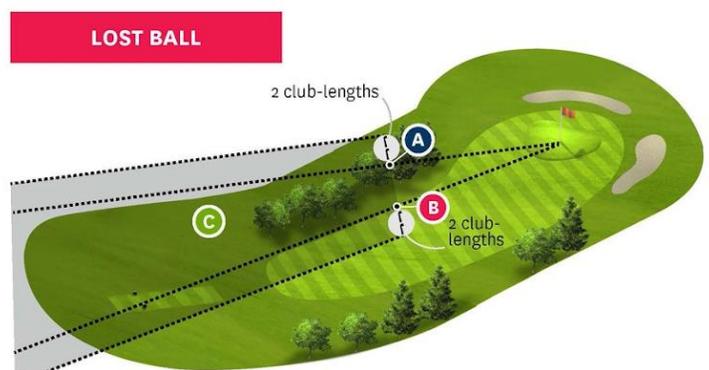
GOLF'S NEW RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE

A new Local Rule will provide an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds. This new Local Rule will be available beginning January 1, 2019.

BALL OUT OF BOUNDS



LOST BALL



If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you will now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

A **DETERMINE SPOT** where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

B **FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE** no closer to the hole.

C **DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA** as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.

Members Eligibility to Play in SCGA Qualifying Tournaments

TPMGC has adopted a rule which will insure members we send to SCGA Championships are active participants in the Club.

In order for any member to participate in a tournament which sends its winner to a SCGA Championship, that member must have played in at least 2 club events since the preceding corresponding event.

Events affected by this rule are SCGA Better Ball Qualifiers and Senior Club Championships for both Weekday and Weekend as well as the Club Championship. The TPMGC Net Champion playoff uses these events as qualifiers as well.

Weekday Update by Bob Hood

Our weekday schedule for 2019 is posted on the web site <http://www.tpmgc.org/thursday/schedule/>.

As we did in 2018, we scheduled most tournaments at Torrey Pines GC during the warmer months when the rough is low and it is not cart paths only. Therefore, we will have mostly away tournaments in the winter months. As we normally do, 16 tournaments are scheduled on North and 8 on South.

We have another great away schedule for 2019. New courses this year include Bonita Golf Course on January 10 and the Crossings on June 27. Our Spring Fling on Monday April 8th will be at Bernardo Heights rather than Riverwalk. We play 7 times on private courses and will also be returning to Barona in October.

Some new formats will be added, including two-person Scramble, best ball of A/B, C/D, 3 best balls of four, maybe a Hero/Bum as well as additional Pinehursts and Stablefords. Of course, the Turkey Shoots will be in November and December.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the SCGA Better Ball of Partners on May 2, and the Senior Championships played on May 30 and June 6.

We look forward to a fantastic year of golf in 2019.

Weekend Update by John Hoffman

Thanks to all participants throughout 2018 which helped make the events enjoyable and rewarding. Special thanks to our hard-working team which sets up the scorecards, determines the flights and produces results on a timely basis. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Terry Mason and John Donnelly among many others for their ongoing efforts to support our Club.

In 2019 we will continue to have a variety of formats and opportunities to experience the Torrey Pines courses. Please take a moment to review the schedule on the TPMGC www.tpmgc.org/weekend/schedule and mark your calendars.

Let's continue to focus on improving our pace of play and have ALL participants use the on-line scoring app through Golf Genius. Let's make 2019 our best golf year ever!

Use Your Prize Fund to Get a \$500 Visa Gift Card

With the increase in payouts for our tournaments, some member's prize fund accounts have some pretty hefty balances. If you don't need new golf equipment right now, your other option is to purchase a \$500 Visa card (\$15.90 added for fees). The Visa card can be used for anything. You can pay your green fees with it, buy a gift for you or someone else, or golf equipment from any store. You've played well to accumulate all of this money so why not reward yourself? A Visa card normally takes about 10 days to be delivered once it is ordered. To request a card email: prizefund@tpmgc.org.

TPMGC Board of Directors

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Roy Burchill - *President*
Larry Prosi - *Vice-President*
Brian Dresser - *Secretary*
Ken Bien - *Treasurer*

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Steve Arkin - *Technology / Tournaments Lead*
Michael Berg - *Handicap / Rules and Conduct*
Ed Carter - *Pace of Play*
Brian Cincotta - *Penalties*
Johnnie Donnelly - *Asst Weekend Tournaments*
John Hoffman - *Weekend Tournaments*
Bob Hood - *Weekday Tournaments*
Ruben Huerta - *Player Assistant*
Gary Paluso - *Membership*
Stephen Shushan - *Prize Fund*

