

LIMERICK TIMES

APRIL 2018

THE GOLF SEASON IS UPON US



GOLF HUMOR

SORRY ABOUT THAT DOUBLE, HERE LIGHTEN UP

- If you think it's hard to meet new people, pick up the wrong golf ball on the course sometime.
- Q: What's the problem with my golf game?
A: You're standing too close to the ball... after you hit it.
- Wife: I'm sick and tired of your obsession with golf! Husband: Why, is it driving a wedge between us?
- Golfer: This is the worst golf course I've ever played on! Caddie: This isn't the course, sir, we left that an hour ago.

Lakelimerick.com

Handicaps and How They Work

USGA 10-3. Reduction of Handicap Index Based on Exceptional Tournament Scores

In determining a handicap index, the following formula is used (based on 20 scores or more).

- 1) Determine the handicap differentials by subtracting the course rating from the player's score, multiplying by 113, then dividing by the course slope rating, and rounding off to the nearest tenth.
- 2) Average the lowest 10 handicap differentials
- 3) Multiply the average by .96
- 4) Delete all digits after the tenths. No rounding off in this step.

Eligible tournament scores are scores 3.0 strokes lower than the player's regular handicap index. Take the average of the two best tournament differentials that are eligible. That number is subtracted from the player's regular index. A chart is referenced to determine the amount of the restriction. See example below. The chart is located in the USGA Handicap System Manual.

Player's handicap index is 17.3
Player's tournament index is 10.3
Player's difference is 7.0
Handicap Reduction Table reads 5.0.
Player's new index is $17.3 - 5 = \mathbf{12.3R}$

Eligible tournament scores are kept for one year.

Override the reduction. The Handicap Committee may cancel the reduction of a player who has been injured and has tournament scores prior to the injury that cause the reduction.

The Committee may also modify the reduction by cutting the reduction in half. If a player has an index of 15.0 and gets reduced to 10.0R, the new modified handicap would be 12.5M.

It is important to know that our handicap system is designed to show a player's *potential*, not their average. This means that you are not supposed to always play to your handicap.

I do think it is important to understand how the handicap system works. You certainly do not need to know the math, but be able to recognize when a problem exists with your handicap. We have a Handicap Committee (or myself) to help you understand your handicap, and any fellow competitor's handicap. If a handicap is incorrect on a scorecard made up by a Tournament Committee, it is your responsibility to correct the mistake. The Committee is not responsible for mistakes on scorecards.

Local Rules

When playing the sixth hole, the seventh tee rockery is now a part of the cart path. You may take **nearest point of relief** no nearer the hole, without penalty. Later we will be installing a drop area for those that are unsure of how to proceed.

Many areas that have rocks or split-faced cottage stone on the paths to keep carts from entering onto the grass are **obstructions**. If your ball lies in the rocks in such a manner as to affect your swing or stance, you may take free relief. The rocks and the blocks are a part of the paths, so you will need to take relief from both as if they are one which is “the nearest point of relief from swing or stance”.

On hole number two, we have removed all red stakes that designate the ditches as lateral water hazards. Those areas are now “French Drains”, which gives the player an opportunity to take a free drop from swing or stance *without penalty*..



Match Play

We are offering four ball match-play events this year. You can choose your own partner, or have the Pro Shop find you one. The signup sheets are available in the Pro Shop. **Deadline for signing up is April 30th**. The Men’s is called “The Lake Limerick Men’s Best Ball” and the Women’s is called “The Lake Limerick Women’s Best Ball”. See below for how the handicaps work.

Below are some things you may want to know about match play competitions!

Match play is an interesting format with distinctly different rules than “Stroke Play. To play matches *incorrectly* ruins the fun of match play. To play *correctly*, each player will announce their handicap and the player with the higher handicap will receive the difference in strokes as they fall on the scorecard. So, if player A has a 15 handicap and player B has a 22 handicap, then each player will reduce their handicap by 15 strokes. Thus, player A will not receive any strokes and player B will receive seven strokes. If it is a four-ball match, this is when two players play their better ball against the better ball of two other players. Again, all players play off the low handicapper (all players reduce their handicap by the lowest handicap of the foursome).

A **hole** is *won* when one side has a lower score than the other side. A hole is *halved* when they have the same score on a hole. A **match** is won when a player or a side is up more holes than they have left to play. At this point the match is over. Putts can be conceded only by the opponent/s. A match can be conceded by a side. A stroke, hole or match that is conceded cannot be withdrawn.

Strategy is an important part of match play. To get the fullest out of match play, it is important to always play in turn. In the case of a team competition, if a team is farther from the hole, they can have a partner who is closer to the hole than the other team, play first instead. The player/side with the “honors” tees off first, and then the player farthest from the hole plays first (even if one is on the green and the other is off the green) (except when a partner decides to play first). This gives the next person a chance to react to the opponent’s shot by changing his strategy for the hole. A player/team is deemed to have the honors when that side wins a hole. They keep the honors until they lose a hole. On the first tee, the honors are determined by flipping a coin.

Golf Tip of the Month

Golf is all about the “round swing”. The “round swing” means turning on the backswing, then turning through the ball into the follow through. This move is called the “inside to inside” swing. The club comes from the inside (slightly) back to the ball, then back to the inside. To try to swing inside out, or to the right of the target, requires the player to delay the turn too much, moving too much laterally, then throwing the arms and the club away from the body too much. The person that comes “over the top”, causing the shot to be pulled to the left of the target, does so by throwing the shoulders and arms out away from the body when starting the downswing. So, either way, the arms and the club are not connecting to the body from hip high to hip high on the downswing.

Recently, Justin Thomas was not playing well. His dad is a PGA Professional that has taught Justin. He told Justin that the swings he saw, Justin was not marrying his arms with his body on the follow through. I have always called this “club-head throw away”.

A good drill for correcting this action is to take short swings back and forth from hip high to hip high. Make the swings back and forth in sequences of 10 or so, non-stop. The idea behind this is to try to turn back and through slightly with the arms feeling like they are working together with the body. You will notice some players like Jordan Spieth doing this drill prior to many shots. When you go to a full swing try to feel the arms and club closer to the body as in the practice drill.

See the video below of Ben Hogan doing the drill.

<https://youtu.be/AmPuzgBXEM>

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Playing with the Pro

My wife Katie and I will start playing our course with other couples about the first of May. Look for the signup sheets towards the middle of April.

Pro Am events

I will also have a signup sheet for those that would like to play other courses in **Pro Am events**. If interested, stop in and sign up. This is a great opportunity to play other courses in competition at great prices.

Ron Stull, PGA Golf Professional

“The Lumpy Donut”

The greens crew does a wonderful job setting up the golf course! However, they often get blamed for the hole being raised up causing putts to curve away from the hole that do not have the speed to get over the cup’s lip. This is very common this time of year and when its wet due to rain at any time. The green’s crew uses a cup setter to make the hole level with the surface when they change the cups. Dave Pelz, author of *The Putting Bible* states that the hole is often raised because of the player traffic walking close to the hole. This pushed the green material towards the path of least resistance which is the hole. Because we have a cup liner (it would happen anyway) the material at the holes edge gets pushed up. Dave Pelz calls this “the lumpy donut”. Some players call it the volcano effect. Either way the greens department gets blamed for not setting the cups correctly when they actually are setting them right.

The cure to help the situation is what you should be doing anyway. That is to make all putts go one-half a putter length (about 18”) past the hole when you are intending to make the putt as opposed to trying to lag the putt up close to the hole. When the greens firm up in the summer, it is less of a problem.

Golf Etiquette

As you can see from the article on “the lumpy donut”, the green’s contours are changed from player traffic on the green. Therefore, it is important to be aware of all player’s position on the greens to avoid walking in their line of the putt. It takes some time for the green to recover back to its original position, if it will at all. When the greens have a great deal of moisture in them, the players in front of you are causing what I refer to as “randomness of putting”. This means that it will seem like the putt will break differently each time you hit the putt. This is because it can hit at a slightly different spot in the foot prints or at different speeds. The “randomness of putting” also occurs because of different types of Poa Annua and other types of green turf growing at different directions and different heights.

Snow King and Queen Results

Men’s Snow King from the White and Blue Tees (four best rounds total):

1 st	Scott Eichhorn	249	\$34.00	Pro Shop Credit
2 nd	Lance Levine	259	\$25.50	Pro Shop Credit
3 rd	Dean Dyson	269	\$17.00	Pro Shop Credit
4 th	Fred Hewins	273	\$ 8.50	Pro Shop Credit

Men’s Snow King from the Red and Gold Tees (four best rounds total):

1st	Fred Hewins	257	\$30.00	Pro Shop Credit
2ndT	Vern Duggan	260	\$15.00	Pro Shop Credit
2ndT	CJ Zentner	260	\$15.00	Pro Shop Credit

Women's Snow Queen from the Red and Gold Tees (four best rounds total):

1st	Cindy Gainey	288	\$27.50	Pro Shop Credit
2ndT	Elen Gaschet de L'isle	298	\$16.50	Pro Shop Credit
2ndT	Cindy Taylor	307	\$11.00	Pro Shop Credit

Personal Best

Congratulations to Vern Duggan with his score of 38 for nine holes on February 9th.

Spread the Word

If you, or someone you know, doesn't receive our newsletter via email come on down to the Pro Shop and sign up! Give us your e-mail address and you'll get a newsletter containing updates and golf tips every month.