



2022 SPRING NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I watch golf being played in sunny, warm Florida from my cold, dreary Michigan living room, I am hoping Spring will make its presence known sooner than later. After all, we deserve grass turning green, trees and plants bursting with flora, fauna emerging from their burrows as we anticipate the arrival of March 20, 2022; the Vernal Equinox and the warm breezes to follow. Time for golf in Michigan.

If you have been fortunate to play throughout the Winter or have been disciplined enough to participate in a weekly health regiment, you should not experience the aches and pains associated with swinging the club after an extended hiatus. Good news for us procrastinators, we still have eight weeks before our WMGA opening day. – Plenty of time to get the kinks out of the body and get the kinks out of the head. – The latter being the more daunting task.

I find it interesting the WMGA is celebrating our 87th year and the LPGA is celebrating their 72nd year. Impressive fact for a bunch of golfing gals from Michigan. I hope all of you are planning on returning for the 2022 season. I realize we all have faced challenges the last couple of years, and it looks like this year will have its own unique tribulations. – Mainly the increase in golf fees and fees in general! Your Board has worked diligently to present a schedule that is both appealing and diversified while keeping the price attractive. I am honored that YOU choose to belong to WMGA and, by being a member, sustain the life of this wonderful organization. We ask that you invite other qualified females to join while keeping in mind, golf is supposed to be fun!

In closing, I will leave you with this quote; “In your approach to golf, no one can tell you what to do. Just as in life, you are presented with options. It’s up to you to decide which ones suit you best.” – Sandra Haynie

Well, I am going to clean out my golf bag and being an optimist, I am going to toss all those crumbled masks. See you May 4th at Oxford Hills.

Best,
Barbara

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Web Site

<https://www.womensmetgolf.org>

My Lifelong Journey on Long Blades

By Judy Smouter

Fifty years ago at the age of 21, I was preparing for the USA Olympic Speedskating Trials in Milwaukee. Even though my efforts were notable, it was not to be that I make the Olympic team. It was hard to accept but the time on the clock said it all. Those making the team were some of the most successful speedskaters of all times. Dianna Holum, gold medalist in the 1500m, Anne Henning, gold medalist in the 500m and bronze medalist in the 1000m and future Olympic medalists, Sheila Young and Leah Poulos were all a part of that terrific line up. Even though I didn't make the team, since I was a Michigan State college student, I was asked to compete in the International University Games taking place in Lake Placid which was like a mini-Olympics. It was a dream come true. Fast forward to present at the age of 71, I came back to speedskating 6 years ago and started competing again as a Master's speedskating athlete. Why, because I love to skate.

Recently, I went back to Milwaukee to skate in the National Age Group Long Track Speedskating Championships. With much training behind me, I tackled each race with a give it all attitude and it worked. I established new national records for each race in my age group and won the gold for the Master's Women Division, defeating 30+ and 60+ year old competitors. It was finally my time. The competitive season is not over yet. Just like 50 years ago I will be competing in Lake Placid April 1-3, this time in the National Age Group Short Track Speedskating Championships. Hopefully I'll break some records there as well. All I know is that I thank God for my good health and making me a longevity athlete. Life is full of surprises. If you don't first succeed, try, try again. Amen.

Speedskating lifelong accomplishments:

- 1963- began speedskating with the Wolverine Sports Club at 13 years old
- 1971- USA National Team; participated in the Olympic Trials
- 1972- Michigan State Senior Women Champion
- 1972- North American Senior Women Champion
- 1972- Federation of Sport University (FISU) Games in Lake Placid- USA participant
- 1972-1974- trained in the Netherlands and won several regional races
- 2019- Master's Women Short Track Age Group Nationals (65-69 yrs.) Champion
- 2022- Master's Women Long Track Age Group Nationals (70-74 yrs.) Champion and established records in the 500-, 800-, 1000-, and 1500-meter races

Judy –then and now- 1972 Senior Women North American Champion, 1972 Senior Women Michigan State Champion and 2022 Age Group National Master's Women Long Track Champion



THE RULES OF GOLF DEMYSTIFIED

Start off the season on right foot! After golf on May 11th, we will be offering a Rules Refresher which will focus on some of the most common situations like the one left—taking relief! Be the one in your foursome who knows the rules and is no longer relying on others to get them through their round. The USGA also has fabulous videos to help you out.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/topics.html>



Score Posting 2022

Just a reminder you are responsible for posting all scores played under the Rules of Golf, not just the rounds played with Women's Met. As your Handicap Chair, I expect all WMGA scores to be posted no later than the day after golf, Thursday. Also, please post WMGA Club Championship events as competition events. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Suzanne Madej

If you have **COMPLIMENTS** for any course we are playing, please share them with the golf course. **ALL COMPLAINTS** should be brought to the attention of the board.

Don't Believe Everything You See On TV

As Spring approaches, many of us find ourselves in front of the TV, watching professional golf while we wish it were warm enough to get out on the course ourselves. This can be a great pastime but can also leave us feeling a bit confused. Why do the professional players seem to get breaks that we don't? The simple answer is...because they play by different rules. Well, not really.

Each week you will receive a Notice to Players (also called the Player Memo, or Hard Card) that explains the specifics about the course or the tournament that is being played. One example might be the addition of a Drop Zone on a hole that doesn't readily accommodate the standard dropping rules for a yellow or red penalty area. Other items contained in the Notice to Players are any Local Rules that may be in play. In addition to the USGA Rules of Golf, there are numerous "Local Rules" that can be adopted by the Committee, when they feel certain circumstances should be accommodated. We often see these in play when watching professional events on television. Two examples come to mind:

Temporary Immoveable Obstructions (TIOs)

These are obstructions that are on the course, that would not normally be there. Professional events involve grandstands, TV towers, tents, concession stands, and other obstructions that would not be considered a normal part of the challenge of playing the course. If local rule F-23 is in place, the player is allowed both physical relief and line-of-site relief from these obstructions, something very different from what is normally allowed under the rules.

Sprinkler Heads Close to Putting Greens

We often see professional players given free relief from sprinkler heads that are in the line of their stroke, even when their ball is not on the putting green. This happens only if local rule F-5 is in place to allow it. The reason we see it so often is that many of the courses played in these tournaments have closely mown grass surrounding the greens and putting from off the green is a common practice. This local rule allows players the same conditions they would have if they were putting on the green with an obstruction in their way.

The fact that there may be local rules governing play does not change the published USGA Rules of Golf. It simply allows the Committee to make certain adjustments to the rules when the course, playing conditions, or pace-of-play requirements might call for it. The important thing to remember is to always read the Notice to Players carefully before beginning play. You may learn things that can benefit you or provide more options as you play your round. And if you have any questions regarding the Notice to Players, ask them before play begins.

Liz Cantu



2022 WMGA MATCH PLAY LEAGUE

Match play is a hole-by-hole competition and has different rules and scoring from Stroke Play. WMGA's match play league is played during our regularly scheduled play dates and is an optional 3 round, flighted competition (4 flights: Champ, First, Second, and Third). Each player is guaranteed two matches. In the event you lose in the first round of play, you play a consolation round on the second date scheduled so that all participants are guaranteed 2 matches. 2 points are awarded for each match played. No additional payment is required.

You must be signed up and available to play on all three match play dates. This season's match play dates are:

- July 13 at Kensington
- July 20 at Pheasant Run
- July 27 at Twin Lakes

Should you have any questions on the rules of Match Play you can check out this USGA link for a detailed explanation: <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/topics/match-play.html> or you can contact our Match Play league coordinator, Joan Cleland, 248-310-6064, (jcleland12@comcast.com).

**A bit of advice for all of us:
A bad attitude is worse than a bad swing.
Payne Stewart**

NEWSLETTER

Photos Wanted! In 2022 I would ask that you consider taking some candid shots on the golf course and sharing them with me for inclusion in our Newsletter. We all love photos—so take them of your group or of a particular hole that is so gorgeous or possibly that closest to the pin that was almost a hole in one. I cannot guarantee they will be included in the Newsletter, but I would love to have more possibilities to sort through. Thanks. Bafriis@comcast.net.
Belinda

2022 SCHEDULE

May 4	Oxford Hills	Oxford
May 11	Greystone	Washington Township
May 18	Indian Springs	White Lake
May 25	Lake Forest	Ann Arbor
June 1	Tanglewood	South Lyon
June 8	Blackheath	Rochester Hills
June 15	Pontiac CC	Waterford
June 22	Links at Gateway	Romulus
June 29	Fieldstone	Auburn Hills
July 6	Links of Novi	Novi
July 13	Kensington	Milford
July 20	Pheasant Run	Canton
July 27	Twin Lakes	Oakland
August 3	The Majestic (8:30)	Hartford
August 10	Boulder Pointe	Oxford
August 17	Heather Hills	Romeo
August 24	Huron Meadows	Brighton
September 7	Eagle Crest	Ypsilanti
September 14	Atlas Valley (9:00)	Grand Blanc

**RUN, DON'T WALK, TO THE NEAREST POST OFFICE
TO SEND IN YOUR 2022 REGISTRATION
BEFORE APRIL 1 TO
AVOID LATE FEES!**

THE 7 STAGES OF THE TEE-BOX WAITING GAME

The USGA strongly encourages a brisk pace of play. Here's how to survive your journey through the occasional standstill as you wait on the group ahead

by EVAN ROTHMAN • illustrations by DON BROWN



STAGE 1: THE POSE

A regal stance suggesting indulgence for the hold-up, so long as it ends presently.



STAGE 2: TEAM-BUILDING

The delay affords a chance to forge camaraderie; a bad joke is traditional.



STAGE 3: THE EFFICIENCY EXPERT

Magoo's futile search for his ball provides the needed window to master the lost art of chipping with a driver.



STAGE 4: KABUKI THEATER

Is it possible that the zombies ahead are completely oblivious? Windmilling the arms while jumping up and down should clarify the matter.



STAGE 5: ZEN ACCEPTANCE

Commencing mantra: "I am bigger than my anger... I am bigger than my anger..."



STAGE 6: BLIND RAGE

Is that jerk really plumb-bobbing from a fairway bunker?!?!



STAGE 7: FAIRWAY CLEAR

Drive snap-hooked out of bounds. Reload. Contemplate the appeal of bass fishing.