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APRIL 2020

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



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Dear New England PGA Professionals,

On behalf of the NEPGA Board of Directors, we are reaching out regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. This virus is affecting all of us, and nobody has been immune to the disruption in their daily routines and lives. Changes to what we considered normal, and changes that no one could have ever imagined are now becoming reality. We hope that every person reading this, your families, your friends and your loved ones have remained safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. Unfortunately, it is quite possible that in the near future we are all going to know someone who has been affected by COVID-19.

The Board of Directors of the NEPGA feels that it is important to clarify what we as an organization believe and feel our responsibilities should be. First and foremost, our responsibilities as an association is to support and protect our members while also communicating any pertinent information as it relates to the coronavirus. Last week there was much confusion over what the state orders in the New England Section meant for golf. We are represented by members in five states, (MA, NH, VT, ME, RI,) and each state has their own unique set of mandates and orders, which has only increased the confusion within our Section.

Our priority was to communicate clear and definitive information to our members what their state orders meant for them and their facility. Where golf was deemed non-essential and golf was no longer allowed to be played, we conveyed that order to our members. We did this to provide as much information as possible, so it could be shared with club leadership and facilities could respond accordingly. When we realized that in some cases the maintenance of the golf courses would be disrupted, we worked with the allied golf associations to make sure that order was reversed and course maintenance became essential. Under no circumstances could any facility survive if they were not allowed to tend to their top asset.

It has never been our stance or belief that we should in any way interfere with the mandates that our state government leaders or health officials have set forth. We feel that those guidelines as to how to operate and exist safely within their respective demographic should be left to the experts. We are not scientists, doctors or experts in virology and do not think that anyone who is not directly involved with researching the virus should be formulating opinions on what proper protocols should be. This is most certainly true when potential loss of life could be the result of choosing to ignore those mandates and guidelines.

We know as well as anyone the importance of golf and the role it plays in society. We as an association are being impacted deeply every day and no one wants the game of golf to be played daily more than we do. As some states have closed for



It has never been our stance or belief that we should in any way interfere with the mandates that our state government leaders or health officials have set forth.”

golf and others have remained open, we have received countless correspondence from our members. Many of those correspondence have shared instances where staff at facilities that have remained open do not feel safe in how those facilities are operating. Even more disheartening are reports of clubs that chose to remain open even though their state has ordered them to close.

It has never been our stance to dictate to anyone how they should operate or conduct their business. It is clear to us that the government officials have allowed for people to use their judgement as to what the proper procedure looks like in these unusual times. Unfortunately, what was witnessed this past week in many scenarios has shown that good judgement is not being used by everyone.

We implore all golf course operators to do what is right in order to keep all of their employees, staff, members and customers safe. If your facility is allowed by government officials to remain open, then we urge you to utilize all applicable social distancing guidelines and preventative best practices, as recommended by the CDC. We feel that the first obligation of everyone is to protect the health of your staff and customers. If your facility is located in a state that has deemed golf non-essential and the government has ordered you to close, then we urge you to follow the regulations that have been set forth. Any conscious decision

to do otherwise, in either scenario is simply unconscionable and inhumane. Choosing to ignore state and federal mandates and guidelines only sheds a poor light on the golf industry as a whole.

We also ask that all facilities please think long and hard about the decisions that affect what services you offer if you are in fact even allowed to be open. The interaction of staff with all players coming on property is another opportunity to expose more people to the virus. For the safety of all, and the long-term health of the game of golf, we ask that you base your decisions on science and facts—not on what your opinions or wishes for today may be.

Please know that the NEPGA is passionate about the game of golf. We care deeply for you and are sensitive to the hardships being endured by everyone. We are all ready to get back to work and conduct the business of golf as only PGA professionals can. We are not willing to defy state orders and worse yet expose anyone unnecessarily to this virus and compromise someone's health. Golf is in a unique position to be one of the first activities that we may all enjoy once this has passed. The members of the NEPGA will be the first ones on property; ready, willing, and able to serve all of those who enjoy this great game when it is safe again to do so.

We appreciate the cooperation and support of all the allied associations during these challenging times. It is more important than ever that we band together to do what is right for all so that we may get back to enjoying golf as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

The NEPGA Board of Directors

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mike Higgins
Executive Director
New England PGA



Phil? Hey! Phil? Phil? Phil Connors? Phil Connors, I thought that was you!

Every morning Ned Ryerson would greet Bill Murray's character Phil Connors this way in the 1993 classic movie, *Groundhog Day*. For the past month many of us are being greeted by our own Ned Ryerson day after day after day. Bing! (if you've seen the movie you will get the Bing reference.)

I know every one of you have received communication from every restaurant you have ever eaten at, every store you have ever shopped at, every airline you have ever flown, every website you have ever visited, and every association you are a part of. Everyone is trying to communicate as best as possible what they are doing, how they are doing, and if they have a plan. Communication during this time is more important than ever. As a Section staff we have virtual staff meetings three days a week. Most of the meetings don't even include an agenda, it is just great to see the rest of the team and check in.

One of my favorite NBA Players of all time was Steve Nash. Nash was an exciting player to watch and I always enjoyed seeing how he made the others around him better. When Nash won the league's MVP award after the 2004-2005 season he amazingly led the league in only

two categories - Assists and Touches. It wasn't scoring or rebounding. It wasn't playing time or field goals. He led the league in high fives, fist bumps and butt slaps. Nash was the ultimate teammate. He was the player you wanted on the court with you and he was that player who brought out the best in you. Well, for the past month the New England PGA has been trying to be Steve Nash. We obviously have been keeping our hands to ourselves and not attempting to butt slap you, but we have been trying to be a great teammate for our PGA Professionals, our partners and provide as much support as possible.

Communication and information are so very important during these challenging times. Our business, our profession, our world has been impacted and there are so many moving parts that information is changing by the minute. The New England Section wanted to try and calm the troubled waters a bit and become the clearing house for valuable information. We started by creating the go-to information location for everything COVID-19 on our website. We are communicating messages from our allied golf associations and well as the PGA of America. We created and collected best practices highlighting what PGA Professionals are doing to communicate with their members while both are working from home, and some creative ideas to stay engaged and active with members. Those best practices also include ideas on how to keep your staff as well as your members safe.



PGA Professionals are leaders at their facilities, and more importantly you need to be leaders at home with your families.”

We created a NEPGA Member only online forum where you can ask and pose questions to your fellow PGA Professionals and respond to questions and share concerns. We have been conducting weekly town hall meetings to provide updates as well as bring industry experts to assist with your personal and professional situations. The Section will continue to roll out live and recorded education seminars to keep PGA Professionals sharp and active during the shutdown. We are allowing complimentary access to NEPGA University, and we have asked NEPGA Professionals to send along golf instruction videos that we can share on our social media outlets. The Section just rolled out a new NEPGA Full Swing Podcast, where staff will conduct great interviews with industry experts, local celebrities as well as our own NEPGA Professionals!

The NEPGA is working with our friends from Nextgen Golf to roll out an online college recruiting seminar with experts that help college-bound golfers and their families navigate the challenges of

selecting and playing golf in college. We expect over 2,500 to attend!

The New England Section has worked with our friends from the five state golf associations within our Section boards, the golf course owners, as well as the superintendent's association. We have worked together to formulate communication to our state leaders so that when golf is deemed safe and approved, it can be played safely by implementing facility best practices which will keep staff and golfers out of harm's way.

As hard as we have been working I want to acknowledge that many of you are working from home. Many of your spouses or significant others are working also from home. If you have a college student they are more than likely home with you taking online classes and if you have an elementary, middle or high school student they are home as well.

These are challenging and scary times for families. When you throw the financial component into the mix there is a lot of fear out there. Fear is normal. Fear is real. I want you to know that you are not alone, and we

are all in this together. I want you to know that I think you are all doing a great job. PGA Professionals are leaders at their facilities, and more importantly you need to be leaders at home with your families. You are all facing a lot of adversity and I am proud of each of you.

I have and will continue to try and make myself as available as possible to each and every NEPGA Professional. Please know that you can always connect with either myself or any of your talented NEPGA staff if we can ever be of service. Golf will not look the same once we get back up and running and as of today, I cannot tell you what our NEPGA events will look like for the remainder of the year, but I can promise that whatever we are able to do, we will make it safe, fun and as normal as we can.

God bless and stay safe.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Higgins

IT TAKES TWO

The New England PGA and its six Chapters operate about 160 tournaments each year for PGA Professionals, each with an attractive purse and many with first-tee give-aways which help attract large and competitive fields each week. In turn, NEPGA tournaments are among the best offered by the PGA of America's 41 Sections.

While we at the NEPGA would love to take credit for the robust and successful event schedule each year, the events would not be nearly as successful without our dedicated partners who help fund tournament purses, supply tee gifts, and tour New England to meet you, the PGA Professional, face-to-face whenever possible. Without our partners, it would be impossible for our tournament staff to operate events that would draw deep and talented fields.

In 2019 alone, NEPGA partners enhanced the on-course tournament experience with driving accuracy and closest to the pin contests, raffles, hole-in-one giveaways, shootouts, and even a cocktail party. And let's not forget the season-long 1st & 10th Tee Challenge! Each helps give individual NEPGA tournaments a unique identity, and adds to the experience for the entire field.

Our relationship with our partners runs much deeper than bolstering tournaments. Two partnerships in particular are invested in improving lives through the game of golf by teaming with the NEPGA Foundation. Avidia Bank donates a percentage of every purchase made with the NEPGA Avidia Bank MasterCard back to the NEPGA Foundation. Avidia has contributed more than \$35,000 to the NEPGA Foundation over the last two years through the card. Similarly, Tournament Solutions donates a portion of all sales to New England PGA Professionals back to the NEPGA Foundation through the 'Fore The Foundation' initiative, producing a nearly \$10,000 donation in 2019.

Each and every partnership is valuable to our Section. We understand that not every Professional can do business with every one of our partners, but we ask that when possible, please try to support the partners who support our Section.







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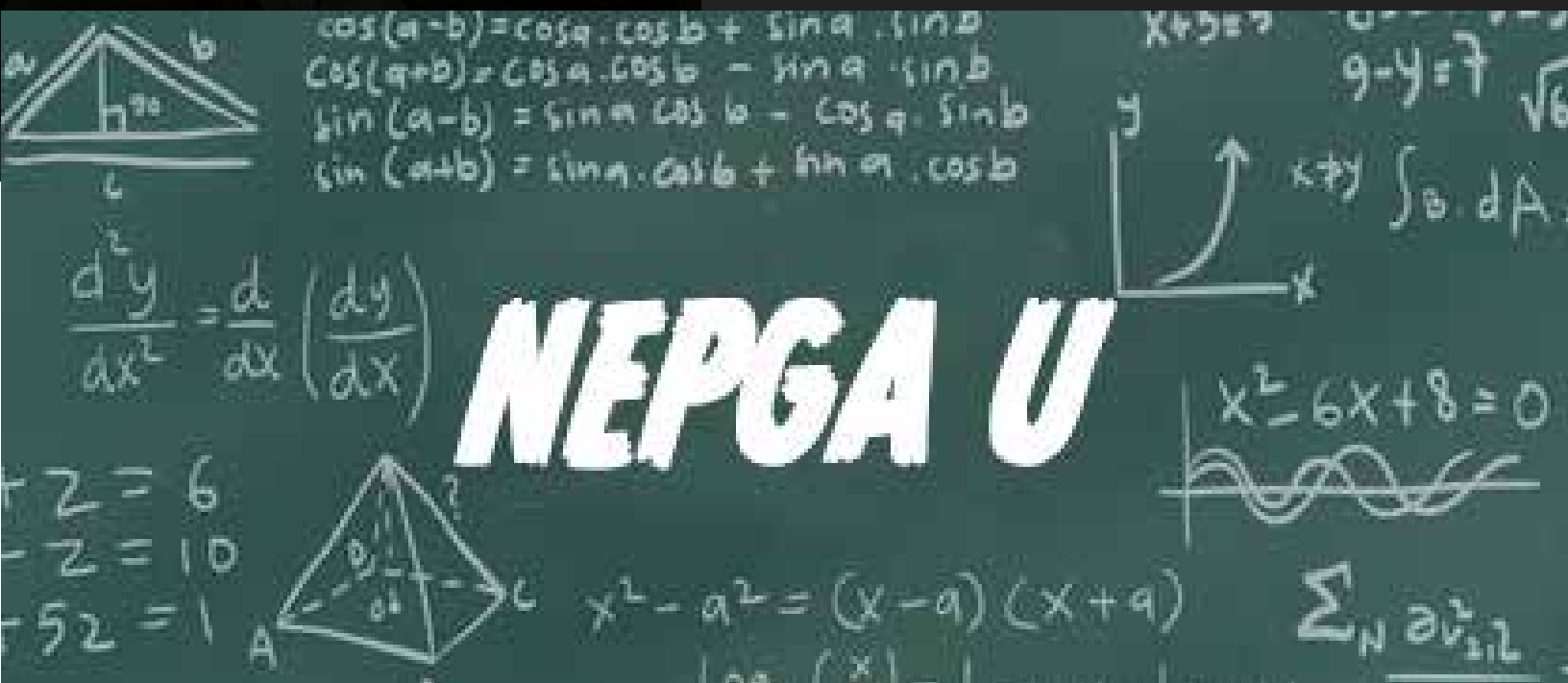
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NEW ENGLAND PGA STRIKES EXCLUSIVE CBD PARTNERSHIP DEAL WITH HARBOR HEMP COMPANY

The New England PGA and Harbor Hemp Company have teamed up to make Harbor Hemp the exclusive CBD Partner of the NEPGA.

Harbor Hemp, based in Coventry, Connecticut, first debuted to the New England golf market at the 2019 Connecticut Golf Show, and will return to the show later this month.

"CBD is a relatively new space for golf," NEPGA Executive Director Mike Higgins said. "The New England PGA is excited to partner with a local company that has high quality products, and that is excited to support our NEPGA Professionals and their members."

Harbor Hemp will serve as the Presenting Partner of the NEPGA Pro-Pro Stroke Play Championship, a one-day, 36-hole Championship that will return to The Haven Country Club on July 20.

"We are delighted to be the exclusive CBD partner of the NEPGA, as well as the presenting partner of the NEPGA Pro-Pro Stroke Play Championship," said Glen Boggini,

co-founder of Harbor Hemp Company. "With more and more golfers using CBD to help with performance and training, being recognized by such a prestigious organization as the NEPGA shows how far the industry has come and we are excited to take CBD into the future of golf."

CBD, short for cannabidiol, is used to promote general health and wellness. Harbor Hemp offers a variety of products that can be taken through different methods, including oils that are dropped under the tongue, creams that are applied topically, and water-soluble products to be infused into a beverage. Harbor Hemp also offers pet biscuits for dogs. All of Harbor Hemp's products are manufactured using CBD derived from US-grown, non-GMO, pesticide-free hemp and every batch is independently lab-tested for purity and quality.

"Playing sports for many years, including standing on the practice tee for 30 years, has put a lot of extra pressure on my feet and my knees," said Dave Tiedemann, Head PGA Professional at Shelter Harbor GC. "Harbor Hemp's Zero THC Oil and Pain Cream has helped ease my pain and improved how I get my 6-foot-7 frame around on a daily basis. I have tried many products over the years from magnets to other pain relievers without much luck. Harbor Hemp has been exactly what I had hoped for and more."

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11 NEPGA PROFESSIONALS HONORED AS 2020 SECTION AWARD WINNERS

*Rob Jarvis, PGA, receives 2020 NEPGA
Golf Professional of the Year
recognition*

A man who has held many titles within the New England PGA will gain yet another this year, as Rob Jarvis, PGA (Bangor Municipal GC), headlines the list of 2020 NEPGA Award Winners as the Golf Professional of the Year.

Throughout his 26-year career, Jarvis has made a significant impact at both Bangor Municipal and the NEPGA. The NEPGA President from 2015-17, Jarvis was the Section's first President from Maine and the youngest in the Section's history. He currently serves as the President of the NEPGA Foundation, an arm of the Section he helped create during his term as President. Prior to his presidency, Jarvis served as the Maine Chapter Awards Committee Chair, and soon after was elected to the Maine Chapter Board of Directors. After serving in that capacity for several years, he was elected as the Maine Chapter District Director in 2013, a position he held until being elected as NEPGA President in 2015. At Bangor Municipal GC, Jarvis has helped grow membership by nearly 50 percent since 2016, growing from 275 members to over 400.

"Winning NEPGA Golf Professional of the Year is an incredible personal recognition, but as any prior winner will tell you, this award is really a team achievement," Jarvis said. "I am so grateful for those around me that have played a pivotal role in any successes I may have had along the way."

The 2020 NEPGA award winners represent four of the Section's six Chapters, including the Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine Chapters. Five of the 11 award-winners will take home a Section award for the first time.

Award winners are chosen through a selective process. After being nominated to the NEPGA Awards Committee and Board of Directors by a fellow PGA member, nominees complete and submit their application. The Awards Committee then reviews each application before making its recommendations to the NEPGA Board of Directors.

The 2020 NEPGA Awards Dinner will be Saturday, November 14 at Renaissance Golf Club in Haverhill, Mass.



2020 NEPGA Special Award Winners:

Golf Professional of the Year:

Rob Jarvis (Bangor Municipal GC)

Assistant Golf Professional of the Year:

Jo-Anna Krupa (Belmont CC)

Patriot Award:

Josh Olney (Orleans)

Player Development:

Paul Coutoumas (D.W. Field GC)

Teacher of the Year:

Shawn Hester (TPC Boston)

Merchandiser of the Year (Private):

Graham Cunningham (Framingham CC)

Merchandiser of the Year (Resort):

Gordon Swennes (Wentworth By The Sea)

Merchandiser of the Year (Public):

Phil Davis (Beaver Meadow GC)

Youth Player Development:

Kelli Kostick (Windham CC)

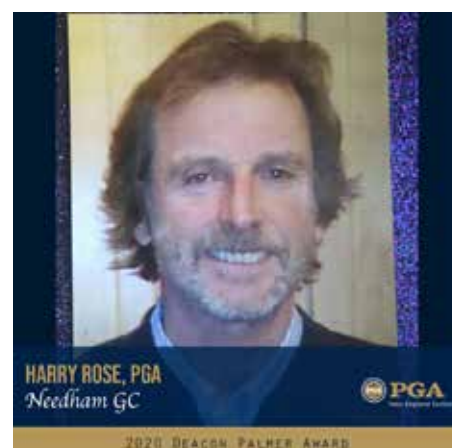
Bill Strausbaugh Award:

Jim Salinetti (Winchester CC)

Deacon Palmer:

Harry Rose (Needham GC)

2020 NEW ENGLAND PGA SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS



NEPGA COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER

The New England PGA COVID-19 Resource Center has the most up-to-date information and resources regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on the golf industry in each state within the New England Section boundaries. This page includes NEPGA informational resources and links to important information from state authorities, State Golf Associations, and other golf industry organizations. The page is updated as new information becomes available, so check back regularly.

[VISIT THE RESOURCE CENTER](#)



New England PGA Resources



NEPGA Events

[NEPGA Event Status](#)



NEPGA Survey Results

[Survey Results](#)



NEPGA Webinar - March 17

[Watch](#)



Alliance of MA Golf Organizations Letter to Gov. Baker - March 24

[Read](#)

State COVID-19 Resource Links



Maine

All golf courses must cease all operations through April 30.

[Click Here](#)



Vermont

Golf courses have been deemed as non-essential and ordered to close for play as of March 25 through April 15, 2020. Golf course maintenance is allowed during this time.

[Click Here](#)



New Hampshire

Golf courses have been deemed as non-essential and ordered to close for play as of March 26 through May 4, 2020.

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HOW TO PLAY NEW ENGLAND'S MOST EXCLUSIVE GOLF COURSES

Steve Foley doesn't miss many opportunities to play golf.

In the first nine weeks of 2020 he logged 15 rounds, "and I have not gone south," he adds.

Steve usually plays about 200 rounds per year and keeps it interesting by mixing in some of the finest and most exclusive courses in New England. Belmont Country Club, Weston Golf Club, Shelter Harbor Golf Club, TPC Boston, Myopia Hunt Club, and Worcester Country Club are among his annual appointments.

That lineup naturally turns some heads at his home course, New England Country Club. When fellow members ask how he gets on all those exclusive courses each and every year, his answer is simple: The New England Series. The New England PGA's amateur tour annually boasts more than 25 events at the finest and most exclusive courses in New England.

"I get that question all the time," Steve said. "I'll tell them how I get on and I say 'listen, this is open to you too! You have the time, you can play one, you can play 20, whatever you want to do. If you've got a little vacation time and a little slack time, hey, there's probably one that will work to your favor. I stress that all the events are on private tracks that most of us are not going to get

"I stress that all the events are on private tracks that most of us are not going to get on."

on. There isn't another tour out there that has the quality of courses or the amount of courses that are offered."

The New England Series is as competitive or as laid back as each individual golfer makes it. Men and women ranging from low single-digit to 20-plus handicaps are active on the tour, and tournaments include men, women and senior divisions, each with gross and net competitions, and a net stableford competition, providing a competition level for every player.

"I'm competitive by nature, but I'm 72 years old and I'm not going to keep up with the 30 year-olds," Steve said. "I have a 7 handicap and I feel very fortunate that I'm at that point in my life. I enjoy the fun. If my day is going sideways, it's going sideways. What can I do about it? I make the most of it."

In 2020, the New England Series will host its second annual Players Invitational. The Invitational is a season-long competition culminating in a championship round at Essex County Club, Golf Digest's #73 course in America. Exemptions into the event are given based on members' season-long Player of the Year points in Gross and Net divisions, and through a participation exemption.

Individual New England Series memberships cost \$125 and include unlimited guest privileges, personalized stat-tracking, and some outstanding New England Series merchandise. Corporate memberships are also available. Discounts are offered for Police Officers, Firefighters, EMS employees and active & retired military personnel.

The 2020 season begins April 20 at TPC Boston, which reminds Steve of his only complaint about the tour.

"I just wish they would start two weeks earlier," he said. "I'm ready to go. Come on, step on it."

2020 NEW ENGLAND SERIES SCHEDULE

April 20	TPC Boston - PPD
April 27	Turner Hill - PPD
May 4	Wannamoisett
May 5	Rhode Island CC
May 11	Worcester CC
May 13	Cape Cod National
May 18	Warwick CC
May 19	Shelter Harbor GC
June 8	Pocasset GC
June 15	Lake Winnepesaukee
June 22	Renaissance GC
June 29	Fall River CC
July 13	Myopia Hunt Club
July 20	Foxborough CC
July 27	Kernwood CC
Aug. 10	Ocean Edge
Aug. 24	Thorny Lea GC
Sept. 3	Plymouth CC
Sept. 14	The Ridge Club
Sept. 21	Whitinsville
Oct. 1	The Bay Club
Oct. 5	Woods Hole
Oct. 7	Belmont CC
Oct. 19	Tedesco CC
Oct. 22	Essex County Club
Oct. 26	Kittansett



*P*herfect Impact

Kelly Hunt of Manchester CC launched Golfers.net to inspire a community of women leaders in the golf industry

When it comes to gender diversity among PGA Professionals, the numbers are staggering. Only about five percent of PGA Professionals are women, roughly 1,500 of the 29,000 PGA Professionals in the United States.

When Manchester Country Club (Bedford, New Hampshire) assistant professional Kelly Hunt was one of nine women in a 56-person PGA Level I seminar, the issue didn't seem quite so glaring.

"The educators made it very clear that that was an anomaly, and it is normally much less," she said. "That inspired me to do a little bit of Google searching and I quickly learned that I was part of a very small group of people."

"Seeing is believing. If we see women in these leadership positions, young girls will look up to them and maybe one day strive to be in that leadership position too."

Kelly has a history of facing challenges head-on, so she didn't let the stats intimidate her. Instead, she focused on a solution. That's when her website, Golfers.net, was born. Kelly launched the site in January as part of her capstone project before graduating from Seattle U, which she did this March. Her goal with the site is to connect female leaders in the golf industry, and she has already featured almost a dozen women. By sharing their stories and building a network of leaders who encourage women to work in golf, she is working to make a difference.

"Being female in the industry is abundantly important," she said. "I grew up playing golf and I went to hundreds of different golf courses and I honestly cannot recall a time when I saw a female working in a golf shop or teaching on a range. Why would anyone like me ever think that would be a career path? At the end of the day, seeing is believing. If we see women in these leadership positions, young girls will look up to them and maybe one day strive to be in that leadership position too."

While the women featured on GolfHers share a common thread, their individual stories shine through. There's Sayre Hopper, assistant professional at Carmel Country Club (North Carolina), the only female on the golf staff at the 36-hole facility. There's Karina Davila, who transitioned from Veracruz, Mexico to Lewiston, Idaho to play collegiate golf at Lewis-Clark State College and is currently one of three golf assistants at Indian Canyon GC in Spokane, Wash.

There's fellow New England PGA Professional Allison Mitzel, who was identified as a future leader within the PGA of America when she was selected to the 15-person 2020-21 PGA LEAD Class. Kelly also shared her own unique and challenging path into the golf industry.

"It's been inspiring to see the support it's getting from men and women alike," she said. "My general manager posted on LinkedIn and my second blog post got 2,000 views. That really put things into perspective that 'hey, you're doing something that matters, it might be hard and you're going to need a lot of support along the way but I need to keep doing this.'"

One question Kelly makes sure to ask everyone she interviews is "how do we get more women working in the golf industry?" She has compiled the answers onto a page of Golfers.net to serve as a resource for other professionals.

"I know that one of the PGA's goals is to get more women working in green grass facilities, I know that initiative was launched in 2013. But if we look at the numbers, I don't think they've increased to the amount that they could have. So I want to say 'hey, here's a guide of all of these ideas that these 20 women have given to me about how we can get more women working in green grass facilities or interested in the PGM program.' Eventually that tab will be a guide. How can we bring awareness to this career path that so many women, like myself, did not know about for so long?"



Can't Touch This

What you need to know as Handicap-Posting season begins in New England



Dear Fellow NEPGA Professionals,

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy during this extremely strange and troubling time, and that your and your families' health is unaffected as we all wait out the Coronavirus together. Surely we are anxiously awaiting the day that we can all get back outside and back to our usual routines, but all we can do for now is make the best of this unexpected quality time with our families and pets at home. While golf is temporarily banned in my home state of Massachusetts, I for one have dug up my old copy of the Tiger Woods Golf video game from 2012 – desperate times call for desperate measures, when you're facing the familiar springtime itch to play some golf!

As of the time I'm writing this, not everyone in the Section is in the same boat as me—several states in New England are still allowing golf to be played, albeit with certain social distancing measures in place. We can expect those social distancing considerations to still be the norm, at least for a short while, once courses start opening again when the epidemic has mostly run its course. As such, the USGA has loosened up a bit on their Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping, to allow golfers to play the game they love, without unduly compromising their health or the integrity of the game.

Perhaps the most common points of contact on the golf course are the

#RulesToTheMax

*Max Doctoroff, PGA
New England PGA Tournament Director*

flagsticks, as it's common for at least one player in every group to touch a flagstick 18 times per round. In order to keep the risk of virus transmission to a minimum, the USGA has authorized the Committee to prohibit players from touching the flagstick in their Code of Conduct. While the Committee has the right to assign blanket penalties for breach of this Code, it is not recommended, since many players will pull the flagstick out of years of habit (and not an intentional breach of the Code. It would be more appropriate to assign penalties only for intentional acts, not instinctual ones).

In a similar vein, cup liners are another common touch-point that could transmit the virus from person to person. In order to mitigate this, many clubs have found solutions such as raising cup liners above the surface of the green, or putting inserts in the cup that prevent a ball from falling into the hole (and therefore eliminating the need to touch the cup liner when removing a ball). While the Rules of Golf regarding this have not changed (i.e. a ball still needs to be holed in the traditional way if one is to play strictly by the Rules), the USGA is temporarily allowing scores under such conditions to be acceptable for handicaps. When applying this allowance for handicaps, players must use the most likely score guidelines described in Rule 3.3 of the Rules of Handi-



capping. Again, this is a temporary revision to the Rules of Handicapping, and is only in effect until the USGA retracts it.

The last major Rules clarification related to illness prevention has to do with bunkers, since bunker rakes are another common touch-point that could transmit a virus from golfer to golfer. Many clubs have removed all the rakes from the golf course, resulting in un-raked bunkers in many cases. In order to deal with this, the USGA has specified that Committees may institute a Local Rule that deems all disturbed areas in a bunker as ground under repair, allowing players to drop a ball elsewhere in the bunker, within one club length of the disturbed area. Please note that under ordinary circumstances, this type of relief is not appropriate, as occasionally finding your ball in a footprint is part of the game, but these are not ordinary circumstances. The USGA offers several other suggestions, of more and less severity, for how to deal with the absence of bunker rakes, and you can find those in their FAQ.

Remember that if you should choose to institute any of the measures described above, it is up to the Committee whether or not the scores are allowable for handicapping purposes (i.e. even though the USGA will accept the scores, the Committee can decide that they are not acceptable for their club). Please see the USGA's FAQ at the link on this page for more details on the topics above, as well as some solutions for certifying scorecards while social distancing, or reach out to me directly for more info. Stay safe, and I hope to see you all as soon as possible.



COVID-19 RULES AND HANDICAPPING FAQs

The guidance below supplements a memo released by the USGA as to how the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping apply in response to questions received from golf course owners, administrators, tournament organizers and golfers. You can view that memo [here](#).

As was noted in that memo, it is not the intended purpose of the below guidance to either encourage or discourage anyone from playing the game, but rather, in our governance role, to help golf course operators, committees and golfers better understand how the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping apply to the various questions we have received.

The questions received fit into four main topics. In each of the four topics below, the guidance provided serves both to directly answer the questions asked as well as cover additional considerations that might also serve useful.

FLAGSTICK

May a course remove all flagsticks to minimize the possibility of exposing players to coronavirus?

May a committee introduce a code of conduct that does not allow players to remove (or even touch) the flagstick?

The flagstick serves an important purpose in the game of golf – that is as an indicator to a player as to where the hole is located on the putting green or a target for shots.

If a Committee decides to set-up a golf course without flagsticks, consideration should be given as to how best to support such a decision by providing players the location of each hole on the green. Whether this is general guidance (such as in the right front portion) or through a detailed hole-location sheet.

As another means of minimizing exposure to players, a Committee might decide to introduce a code of conduct that prohibits players from touching or removing the flagstick. As is authorized under Rule 1.2b, such a code could also include penalties (such as one penalty stroke or the general penalty) if a player is in breach of its standards.

Before a Committee decides to introduce such a restriction, it is recommended that consideration be given to the fact that removing the flagstick is an instinctual, even automated, act for many players. Drafting such a code of conduct to restrict only deliberate acts to affect the outcome of the hole would be reflective of that reality and would mean that a player who instinctually removes the flagstick would not get a penalty in doing so.

If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

BUNKERS AND BUNKER RAKES

We have removed all bunker rakes from our course to help stop the spread of coronavirus. What options do we have for players who end up in unraked areas?

By removing rakes from the course, the Committee has various options as to how best to address the likely possibility of a player's ball coming to rest in an unmaintained area of sand and should consider which is the best approach under your unique circumstances.

If you have limited play and most players at your course use a golf cart, the best approach might be to ask that each player takes a rake with them.

If it is decided that no additional Rules will be put into effect to deal with these areas, it would be



advisable to strongly encourage that players try their best to smooth the disturbed area with a foot or a club.

Additional options could include changing the status of bunkers to be part of the general area. This would give players additional options under multiple relief rules (Rules 16 and 19) and would remove the restrictions normally in effect under Rule 12.

Ground under repair could be used in two different manners. The first being to declare all bunkers to be ground under repair and treat them as part of the general area. This would allow players the option to take free relief outside the bunker under Rule 16.1. The second is to treat disturbed areas only as ground under repair. This would still allow a player free relief from such areas, but would require such relief to be taken elsewhere within the bunker.

As a last resort, we have fielded questions as to whether a Committee may add a preferred local rule that would allow a player to place the ball elsewhere in a bunker without penalty (such as within one club length of where the ball came to rest). While that may seem like a good option in that it requires players to play from the bunker, there will be times when no effective relief would be available to a player, such as when a bunker is frequently played from and large areas are unraked. It would be recommended that the other options, such as those listed above are considered first, noting that using the ground under repair options above ensure a player will get full relief and when dropping from knee height, balls very rarely plug.

If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

SCORECARDS AND SCORING

We are holding a competition, but want to limit how scorecards are exchanged both between players and after the round to the Committee. Do you have any recommendations?

The Rules already allow numerous options to address these concerns noting that certifying a score does not require a physical signature, nor does it require a physical scorecard.

If a Committee wishes to run a competition using a form of electronic scoring, this could come in many forms, such as asking that each marker send an email to the Committee and the player he or she is marking for, including the player's hole-by-hole scores. The player can then reply to verify the accuracy of the card.

When electronic methods are used, such as the email example above or similar methods that involve text messaging, the Committee should decide when a scorecard would be considered to have been returned. For example, this could be when the player responds certifying that the scores are correct or some other action that the Committee might consider more appropriate.

A Committee might also wish to employ the above method but also combine these with a physical scorecard by having the marker take a picture of the completed scorecard and either email or text it to the Committee using the same process described above.

If physical scorecards are the preferred method, a Committee may wish to have the player and marker not exchange cards but rather verbally communicate the hole-by-hole scores to the Committee verbally in the scoring area. Additionally, verbal confirmation could be a substitute for the physical signature. As with the electronic scoring methods described above, the Committee should be diligent to clearly define when a scorecard has been returned, such as when a player leaves the golf shop if that is where the process takes place.

If a Committee takes any of the above actions, it is at the discretion of the Committee whether scores would be acceptable for handicap purposes.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOLE; NOT REQUIRING THAT PLAYERS HOLE OUT

A number of questions have been received that relate to modifying the hole so that players no longer need

to reach into the hole to remove a ball to minimize the possibility of exposing golfers to coronavirus.

These have included some courses setting holes so that the hole liner remains an inch or two above the surface of the green while others have placed various objects into the hole or around the flagstick (such as foam pool noodles or plastic piping) so that a ball is unable to fall to the bottom.

While in all of these instances, the ball is not holed per the Rules of Golf (Rule 3.3c), a round played under these conditions will result in an acceptable score for handicap purposes using the most likely score guidelines (see Rule 3.3 of the Rules of Handicapping).

While the most likely score procedure is intended to support certain formats of play where the player is not required to hole out (such as in match play when the player's next stroke is conceded or in fourball stroke play when a partner picks up), it is also temporarily in effect where the above described safety measures are being used.

When using most likely score, the player should consider the number of strokes most likely required to complete the hole, and determine whether the ball would have been holed or not. Most likely score is at the player's best judgment and should not be used to gain an unfair advantage.

This measure is temporary and in effect within the United States until advised otherwise by the USGA.

The above guidance will continue to be updated. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping departments using the information below:

Rules of Golf Department

rules@usga.org

908-326-1850

Handicapping Department

hdcquestions@usga.org

908-234-2300 Ext. 5



Jacy Settles

NEPGA Director
of Junior Golf



**PGA Junior
League Registration
is Open**

*Discover team golf experiences
with expert coaching from PGA &
LPGA Professionals for boys and
girls, ages 17 and under, of all skill
levels*

PGA Jr. League is the flagship youth pillar program of PGA REACH. The aim is to make PGA Jr. League accessible to all children, regardless of circumstance.

This unique approach highlights team play versus individual competition and serves as a feeder system to transition youth golfers to existing junior golf programs, such as those offered by local PGA Sections.

Dear NEPGA Foundation Family,

In response to the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation that is present within our New England PGA Section, the NEPGA Officers, Board of Directors and Staff are working diligently to provide clear and concise information to all our constituents regarding the start of our season and the many events that coincide. We are paying close attention to the suggestions made by our local and national governments, the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control as it pertains to our PGA Members and operations, and will act accordingly to maintain the safety of everyone involved.

We want to make you aware of a few resource items and happenings at the NEPGA, the NEPGA Foundation and the Junior Tour:

NEPGA RESOURCES

NEPGA COVID- 19 Resource Center

NEPGA Event Status webpage (for all NEPGA events, including juniors)

GENERAL INFORMATION

2020 NEPGA Jr. Tour Membership is open. [Click Here](#) to learn more about our new member referral program.

PGA Jr. League season is postponed until May 10th however players can continue to register for the season. More information about PGA Jr. League can be found at pgajrleague.com

Drive, Chip & Putt: The 2020-21 Drive, Chip and Putt qualifying season will be canceled. More information can be found [HERE](#)

Safety is our top priority. We will continue to engage our community through various emails, social media channels and online at NEPGA.com and NEPGAJuniorTour.com. Be sure to check out the NEPGA Jr Tour Social Media outlets for helpful golf tips, trivia, education and NEPGA COVID-19 Information.

FOLLOW NEPGA Jr Tour:

[NEPGA Jr. Tour Facebook](#)

Twitter: [@NEPGAJRTOUR](#)

Instagram: [@NEPGAJUNIORS](#)

We will continue to work with our allied associations, neighbors, families and constituents to support one another and promote public health. Thank you for your continued support. We will weather this storm together and emerge stronger.

Sincerely,

Jacy Settles
Director of Jr. Golf
New England PGA Foundation



Staying engaged while apart is the key to keeping our PGA Jr. League community strong. We'll be aggregating our favorite activities here over the coming weeks, so be sure to bookmark the page below and keep an eye out for new ideas.

PGA JR. LEAGUE COMMUNITY

BINGO



PGA Jr. League Bingo

PGA JR. LEAGUE WORD SEARCH



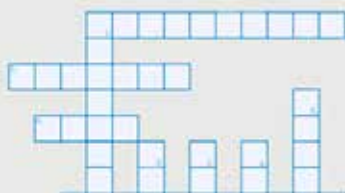
PGA Jr. League Word Search 2

PGA JR. LEAGUE CARD GAME SCORE								
PLAYER NAME	FLAG #1			FLAG #2			FLAG #3	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

PGA Jr. League Card Game

CROSSWORD ACTIVITY

Review what you've learned! Match the definitions to the crossword:



PGA Jr. League Crossword Puzzle

SCORING

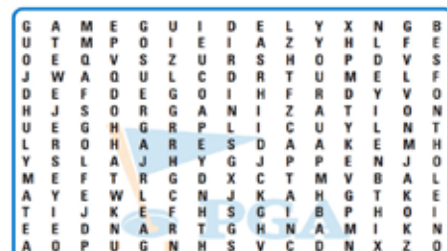
PGA Jr. League uses MATCH PLAY scoring, which means each hole is won by the team who holed their ball in the least amount of strokes.

To earn points, you must win more holes in a flag than your opponents. Here's the breakdown of points available per flag...

- ▶ **[1 POINT]** Your team wins at least 2 out of 3 holes, or wins 1 hole and ties 2 in the flag
- ▶ **[0.5 POINTS]** Your team ties all 3 holes in the flag, or your team wins 1 hole, loses 1 hole and ties 1 hole
- ▶ **[0 POINTS]** The other team wins more holes than your team

PGA Jr. League Scoring

PGA JR. LEAGUE WORD SEARCH



PGA Jr. League Word Search

GET TO KNOW THE GOLF COURSE

- 1. GENERAL AREA:** This covers all other areas of the course (including the fairway and the rough). If it's not any of the below, it's the general area!
- 2. TEEDING AREA:** You will play from this area when you start each hole. Your designated tees will be what's best based on your age!
- 3. PUTTING GREEN:** The part of the golf course made for putting. Be extra careful when walking on it!
- 4. BUNKER:** A specially prepared area of sand.
- 5. PENALTY AREA:** If your ball comes to rest here, you may either play it as it lies, or take a penalty stroke to move it out. It may not always have water, so keep an eye out for red or yellow.

PRO-TIPS

- Follow these steps and take care of the course!
- ▶ Walk softly on the greens. Never run or stomp your feet!
 - ▶ Always rake the sand before leaving the bunker!
 - ▶ Repair your divots. Fix your ball marks and your friends', too!

Create Your Own Golf Course

ACTIVITY

Can you spot the six differences in the pictures below?



Spot The Difference



PGA Jr. League Coloring Pages



Phone
(508) 869-0000

Email
cclayton@pgahq.com

Web
nepga.com/tournaments/doubles-golf



ABOUT....

A partnership between PGA Sections. Jack Nicklaus and the creators of PGA Jr. League to grow the game and revenue for PGA Professionals. Doubles

Golf is a rebranding of the two-player scramble which allows for a less stressful approach to golf in both recreational and competitive play.

REGISTER
YOUR COURSE TODAY AT
DoublesGolf.com

01

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

PGA Professionals can host their own Doubles Golf Club Championships.

02

SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Men's, Women's, Senior and Mixed-Doubles Club Champions will advance to a Section Championship

03

2020 DOUBLES GOLF[®] AM. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Section Champions will advance to the 2020 US Doubles Golf Am. Championships at the Bear's Club in November.



Joan Stuart

NEPGA Director
of Accounting
& Finance

Attention all NEPGA Members and Associates!

Updating Employment, Classification, and Section Affiliation is an important step for all members and associates at this time of year as it relates to the annual dues invoices that will be created for fiscal year 2020/2021. Please take the time to review your information not only including employment, classification, and section affiliation but also your preferred address, mobile and home phone, and your email address on your personal dashboard at www.pga.org.

Please be sure to submit any changes by April 15, 2020. If you have any questions, please call the office 508.869.0000 or email jstuart@pgahq.com.

Annual dues are invoiced as of May 1, 2020 and are payable by June 30, 2020 to avoid suspension and assessment of the Late Fee.

Changes to CareerLinks Coming: Please Complete your Job Preferences Today!

The PGA Career Services team has collaborated with the Technology Department to update the systems used by both employers and job seekers. As part of this update, we are beginning the transition away from the CareerLinks system and will use the Job Board located on PGA.org for the posting of all management level positions.

As part of a multi-step process, we are asking all PGA Members & Associates to provide their "Job Preferences" on pga.org. By answering five simple questions relative to your job search preferences, you will begin to see positions that align with your preferences highlighted on your PGA.org home page. All PGA Members and Associates should complete their profile by [clicking here](#), even if you are not an active job seeker.

This change is seen as a necessary evolution which creates a member-focused system that allows all members to see every position posted by the Career Services team. During a short transition time, the Career Services team will continue to use the CareerLinks notification system to make you aware of positions posted on the PGA Job Board.

If you have any questions or issues setting your Job Preferences, please contact your local PGA Career Consultant, Jim Remy, PGA (jremy@pgahq.com).

ADDITIONAL PGA RESOURCES TO HELP YOU THROUGH THE COVID-19 SITUATION

PGA of America
COVID-19 Resource Center

[CLICK HERE](#)

Disaster Relief Fund

[CLICK HERE](#)

Member Assistance Program

[CLICK HERE](#)

PGA Specialized Program

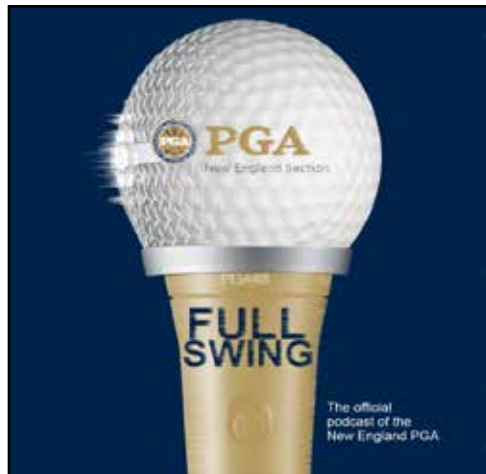
[CLICK HERE](#)

PGM Associate Program

New timeline - Associates now have nine years instead of eight from their Level One Start Date to graduate from the PGA PGM Program to meet all election requirements and become elected to PGA Membership.



Congratulations to Brian Moskevich, PGA (Manchester CC) and his family, who welcomed daughter Emersyn Mae Moskevich to the family on March 11.



The NEPGA is proud to launch Full Swing, the official podcast of the NEPGA. Check out Episodes 1-3, and be sure to subscribe to be the first to know when new episodes drop!

Episode 1: Jason Sobel of The Action Network

LISTEN

Episode 2: John Paesani, PGA

LISTEN

Episode 3: LPGA star Megan Khang

LISTEN



PGA

UPDATE FROM PGA HEADQUARTERS

PGA of America Pledges To Golf Emergency Relief Fund

The Golf Emergency Relief Fund provides short-term financial assistance to certain workers in the golf industry that are the backbone of our sport and facing significant financial hardship including those suffering as a result of COVID-19. This relief effort was initiated through a lead, multi-million dollar pledge by the PGA of America. The effort is also being supported in a variety of manners by a number of industry organizations including the GCSAA, PGA TOUR, LPGA, USGA, NGCOA, and AGM.

The [online portal](#) is designed to offer information about the Golf Emergency Relief Fund program. If you are facing a difficult situation, you can easily determine if you're eligible for program assistance and apply online. And if you're looking

This relief effort was initiated through a lead, multi-million dollar pledge by the PGA of America.

to support workers in the golf industry in need, there are many ways to make a contribution to the fund including online.

Determine your eligibility and apply online

CLICK HERE

Support workers in the golf industry in need by making a contribution

CLICK HERE

Helping You Navigate COVID-19

As operators, each of you are experiencing information overload. We, at the PGA of America, stand united with you and want to help you and your facility make responsible decisions regarding your operation, understanding that state and local regulations are changing by the hour. It is paramount that you stay current with CDC and state and local health officials' guidance in real time. [Click here](#) for state health department information about the coronavirus.

The virus has not been contained and we must do our part to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As you know, guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and government restrictions are changing daily, and a number of facilities were required to close over the last week, based on mandates from state and/or local officials.

On Monday (March 16), President Trump reduced the size of groups and social gatherings to no more than 10 people. We recommend adhering to that guidance just as we are at PGA Golf Club and Valhalla Golf Club.

We need to be prepared for golf to be a viable source of outdoor recreation for as long as possible.

2020 Dues Procedures

In accordance with tax rules applicable to 501(c) 6 not-for-profit organizations, the PGA of America must collect annual dues. Please note that we will do so under revamped procedures that take into account the significant challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic for our Members and Sections.

PGA Professionals will now have two payment options:

Pay full dues amount any time through July 31, 2020 without penalty or late fee.

Pay Section dues amount only any time through July 31, 2020 without penalty or late fee. Pay National dues (\$100), Life (\$44), Liability (\$12) and MAP (\$5) by October 31, 2020 without penalty or late fee.

"During these extraordinarily challenging times for so many PGA Professionals, we have worked closely with our 41 sections to find the best path forward regarding 2020 dues payments," said PGA President Suzy Whaley.

"While we wish it was possible to waive dues for all members, as a 501(c) 6 not-for-profit organization, IRS regulations do not allow us to take such an action. Please note your PGA Board of Directors has approved delaying the \$100 national dues payment until October 31st and is also moving up the annual Section funding payments from late June to April 1st to immediately help the business continuity of the 41 Sections. We understand the incredible pain that is being felt in the field. As you likely know, we are constrained as an Association in many ways by the rules of being a non-profit entity but pledge to continue to explore every avenue possible towards helping our PGA Professionals and Sections through these unprecedented times."

Based on the fact that Member dues are the lifeblood of our PGA Sections, PGA Professionals who have not paid their Section dues by July 31, 2020 will have to be moved to non-active status.

However, a PGA Professional can still pay Section, National, Life Liability and Member Assistance Program (MAP) by June 30, 2021 to "re-establish" Membership. Given these extraordinary circumstances, the PGA of America will waive any late fee and re-establish membership in full.

If the Section portion is paid by July 31, 2020, but the National, Life, Liability and MAP is not paid by October 31st, 2020, the PGA Professional will have to be moved to non-active status as of October 31, 2020. However, the PGA Professional can still pay National, Life Liability and MAP by June 30, 2021 AND "re-establish" their Membership. The PGA of America will waive any late fee and re-establish membership in full.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the PGA Membership Department directly at 1-800-474-2776.

CHAPTER ROUND UP

NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND THE SECTION

CAPE COD & RHODE ISLAND *submitted by Mickey Herron, PGA*

Thank you to our partners in Rhode Island & the Cape!

Titleist/FootJoy

David Moynihan & David Woods

Ahead

Dan & Melissa Dempsey

Turtleson

Jeff & Sandy DiBona

2020 Cape Cod Spring Meeting Sponsor

YRI

Jeff & Sandy DiBona

2020 Cape Cod Spring Meeting Sponsor

Cleveland/Srixon/XXIO/Asics Golf Shoes

Matt Howard

Cape Cod & Rhode Island Chapter Events

Spinal Technology

James Tierney, President

Cape Cod Junior Golf Featured Sponsor

15th Golf Club

Bradford Sherman, PGA

Dutch Wessner Player of the Year Award

Maui Jim Sunglasses

Gene Gonzalez

Baxter's Cape Cod

Restaurateur Jeff Baxter

Cape Cod Pro-Pro Hyannisport

Tournament Solutions

John Lawrence

Rhode Island & Cape Cod Chapter Championships

Cape Air

Mike Miguore

Miacomet Spring Invitational

The Lanes Bowl & Bistro

Jeff Moore

Pacasset Pro-Am, Eastward Ho! Pro-Am

Callaway Golf

Peter Guild

Rhode Island & Cape Cod Chapter Tournaments

Country Club Enterprises

Keith Tortorella

Miacomet Spring Invitational

Miacomet Nantucket Island

Alan Costa

2020 Rhode Island & Cape Cod Chapter Championships

Harbor Hemp Company

Evan Boggini

Avidia Bank

Cliff Thompson

PGA TOUR

Remy Martin Fine Champagne Cognac

Bright View Landscape Services

VERMONT

submitted by Jim LeClair, PGA

Please remember any professional wishing to participate in the chapter's Pro-Ams or any other section event must fill out an automatic deposit form to receive payment. This form can be found at <https://p.ga/ach>.

The Vermont Chapter would like to thank its many partners from 2019 and the upcoming season. A special thanks goes out to Dealer.com, Northstar Fireworks, Golf Value Book, Farrell Distributors, Avidia Bank, PGA Tour, Club Car Enterprises, W&B Golf Cars, Five Star Golf Cars, Callaway Golf, Titleist Golf, Antigua, Bushnell, Cleveland Golf, Srixon, and Ping. Without all the support from our partners our chapter would not be nearly as successful year after year. The chapter members really appreciate it! Everyone stay safe and enjoy an early spring.

The Vermont Chapter 2020 schedule can be found at <https://nepga.com/chapters/vt-chapter/>

MAINE *submitted by Don Doyon*

COVID-19 UPDATE

Out of an abundance of caution for everybody's health and wellbeing, the Maine Chapter Spring Meeting has been postponed to an undetermined date. However, registration for all Maine Chapter events is now open and will still be operating as usual during this time. If any event needs to be cancelled or postponed a full refund will apply.

Since this situation is extremely fluid, we are asking for patience and understanding as the status of some or all these events may change in the coming days and weeks. The Chapter schedule will be updated as rapidly as possible with any changes in status, and all Members are encouraged to check back periodically.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out and thank you for your patience and understanding. We will continue to be in touch with our Members regarding Chapter activities and recommendations. In the meantime, stay safe and stay healthy.

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Normally the Annual Chapter Awards are revealed at our spring meeting, but due to the meeting being postponed the award winners are listed below. Recipients will receive their plaques at the Chapter fall meeting. Congratulations to all our winners.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Professional of the Year | Keenan Flanagan |
| • Assistant Professional | Pat Kowker |
| • Horton Smith Award | Scott Mayer |
| • Bill Strausbaugh Award | Chris Twombly |
| • Player Development | Casey Cox |
| • Youth Development | Abby Spector |
| • MOY Private | Chris Twombly |
| • MOY Resort | Zach Zondl |
| • MOY Public | Don Roberts |
| • Teacher of the Year | Casey Cox |
| • Patriot Award | Don Roberts |



Keenan Flanagan
2020 Maine PGA
Professional of the Year

2020 PARTNERS / SPONSORS

Our 2020 schedule includes sites with a long history of hosting Chapter events. We have also added some new venues such as Pro-Ams at Dutch Elm GC and Sunday River GC. On the Junior Tour we will be going to Sheepscot Links and Purpoodock Club. Also, Gorham CC will be hosting the Junior Championship.

Neither schedule would be possible without the generous support of our many partners listed below:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Adidas Ahead | Harbor Hemp |
| Ame & Lulu | Mizuno |
| Avidia Bank | Mohegan Sun |
| Bridgestone Golf | New England Golf Cars |
| Bushnell | New England Golf Guide |
| Callaway | PGA Tour |
| Cleveland/Srixon | Ping |
| Club Car Enterprises | Remy Cointreau/Goslings |
| Cobra/Puma | Stitch Golf |
| Cutter & Buck | TaylorMade |
| Five Star Golf Cars | Titleist |
| FootJoy | |

SENIORS

submitted by Dennis Selvitella, PGA

The tournament schedule for the Seniors Association is completed with dates and times for the Seniors Pro-Ams.

April 22	9:00	Spring Meeting - PPD	Belmont CC
May 21	9:00	Pro-3Am	Gannon GC
June 16	8:00	Pro-3Am	George Wright
Aug. 10	10:00*	Pro-3Am	Tatnuck CC
Sept. 17	9:00	Pro-3Am	Bass Rocks CC
Oct. tba	9:00	Fall Meeting	Kirkbrae CC

*Shotgun start

NEW HAMPSHIRE

submitted by Ken Hamel, PGA

Greetings all. A lot has changed in the past month and we are now in "unchartered territory" with what is going on right now. Things are moving fast and changing daily, I will keep you posted on any information that comes my way.

The New Hampshire Chapter is lucky to have such an active playing Chapter and will host 22 events this season. This may change with the circumstances we are currently facing. With that said we do have sponsors that support the Chapter as well as the NEPGA. We would like to thank those sponsors and would like all members to make sure they say thank you when you get a chance. Avidia Bank has been a major sponsor for all New England PGA events and members. They have been great and offer great services for our members and the general public. The PGA Tour, Mohegan Sun, and New England Golf Cars (Yamaha) have again signed on to sponsor many events around New England. Titleist is again the ball sponsor for the New Hampshire Chapter Pro-Am events. They give golf balls to the amateurs CTP's each week. TaylorMade has also agreed to sponsor a New Hampshire Chapter Pro-Am. We are thankful to these sponsors as all of them directly benefit the PGA Professional.

I would like to thank everyone in the New Hampshire Chapter for the support they have showed me as I transition into my new role as Operations Manager. I look forward to starting events as soon as this crazy time passes. In the meantime, please be safe, use commonsense, and take care of yourself and your family.

ASSISTANTS

submitted by Ed Doherty II, PGA

The NEPGA Assistant's Association, like much of the golf world at the moment, has been affected by the current environment. The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing meetings, golf tournaments and everyday life to be more challenging. With that being said, my hope is to organize a spring meeting accompanied by a golf tournament. A virtual meeting will be explored as a back-up plan. We are continuously receiving updates and will distribute a golf schedule once it is available.

With most of us either working from home or unfortunately not working at all, we should use this time to gain some extra certifications through webinars and virtual learning platforms. Some that I have chosen to complete are the PGA's Specialized Program, US Kids Certified Coach, and Superspeed Training. We can also earn MSRs through NEPGA U. I would invite all of you to please share any other recommendations for certifications or training so we can continue to learn during this difficult time.

I would also like to thank our partners Event Man and Turtleson, for without them much of what we do would not be possible. Last, but certainly not least, I'd also like to welcome new partner, Southern Tide.

NEPGA Assistants Association Board

President, Edward Doherty: Black Rock Country Club
Vice President, Matt Alwin: Dedham Country & Polo Club
Secretary, Patrick Bigelow: Winchester Country Club
Past President, Jo-Anna Krupa: Belmont Country Club
Tournament Chair, Ryan Train: Tedesco Country Club
Director at Large, Sean Fellows: Abenauqui Country Club

MASSACHUSETTS *submitted by Jacy Settles*

We hope you and your families are healthy and comfortable as we all react to this unprecedented difficulty this spring. As a precaution to keep all our MA Chapter Members healthy and safe, it has been decided (Per NEPGA Board) that all in-person NEPGA events through the end of April have been cancelled or postponed. As such, the MA Chapter 6-6-6 (TPC Boston) and Spring Meeting & Pro-Pro (Marshfield CC) will not be conducted as scheduled.

We are hopeful that we may be able to re-schedule those events and will communicate the new dates of the events as soon as we are able, if applicable.

Thank you for your understanding during this trying time, our first priority as always is the well-being of our NEPGA Professionals, and we hope to see you as soon as possible once the tournament season is able to begin. Please reach out to Jacy Settles at jsettles@pgahq.com if you have any questions about this or anything else on your mind.

Thanks so much,

Jacy Settles



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

NEWLY ELECTED PGA MEMBERS

William J. Galvin Jr., PGA A-8
Bradford Country Club

NEW ASSOCIATES

Kyle E. Gagne B-8
Andover Country Club

Kyle H. Dobbs B-8
The Bay Club at Mattapoisett

Eric E. Fernandez B-8
Sandbaggers Practice Range

NEW CLASS A TRANSFERS

Art Decko, PGA LM

Jan P. Murken, PGA A-4
The Woodlands Club

Tyler C. Krause, PGA A-24
The Aquidneck Club

Thomas M. Lucko, PGA A-8
Winchester Country Club

Steven J. Kaufmann, PGA A-8
Cohasset Golf Club

Thomas C. May, PGA A-1
Weston Golf Club

NEW QUARTER CENTURY MEMBERS

Brian S. Diamond, PGA A-6

Daniel R. Lehmann, PGA LM

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Drew Chapman, PGA	A-1	The Links at Mass Golf	Tyler C. Krause, PGA	A-24	The Aquidneck Club
John A. Dalrymple, PGA	A-4	Rockland Golf Course	Thomas M. Lucko, PGA	A-8	Winchester Country Club
Nicholas A. Desjardins, PGA	A-8	Tedesco Country Club	Thomas C. May, PGA	A-1	Weston Golf Club
Edward J. Doherty II, PGA	A-8	Black Rock Country Club	Richard V. Molesky, PGA	A-1	Stonebridge Country Club
William J. Galvin Jr., PGA	A-8	Bradford Country Club	Jan P. Murken, PGA	A-4	The Woodlands Club
John R. Hickson, PGA	A-1	Chequessett Yacht & CC	Jeffrey T. Niejadlik, PGA	A-1	Stow Acres Country Club
Nicholas S. Johnston, PGA	A-8	Warwick Country Club	Eric P. Sandstrum, PGA	A-8	Keene Country Club
Steven J. Kaufmann, PGA	A-8	Cohasset Golf Club	Ryan D. Train, PGA	A-8	Tedesco Country Club