

Good day to all

It is Christmas day 2018 – gosh, how the year has flown!

We use this final newsletter of 2018 to give some feedback, but mainly to thank everyone that was involved in any way with the Rules of Golf during the past year.

Thank you for your contribution to uphold the principles of the rules and in doing so, ensuring that all golfers can play this wonderful game on equal footing.

Involvement

It was a bumper year for our referees. We had 124 referees shifts at 35 tournaments run by Western Province Golf.

Furthermore, we had 47 referees shifts volunteering to work at 22 junior tournaments to help our junior players from an early age to correctly apply the rules when playing golf.

We did, however, this year withdrew from refereeing at league matches. The format is match play, where players deal with rules issues on their own, and a system was put in place where all team managers communicated with director of golf, Robert Larsen, who is also a qualified referee, should there be a query. This system worked well and led not only to savings on the budget, but freed up referees to be involved elsewhere where needed.

We have the schedule for next year available and allocation of referees will begin in the new year.

The new Rules

The end part of 2018 was overshadowed by preparing for the introduction of the new rules as of 1 January 2019.

We are proud that Helène Marais was asked by GolfRSA to be on the educational panel that presented the Level 2 Seminars country wide. She was involved in 7 of the 8 seminars.

As all accreditation (courses attended) falls away in the new year, all referees had to attend the level 2 rules seminar by the R&A to write the exam to be able to act as referees in the new year. I am very happy to report that all WP referees that attended, passed the exam with flying colours. We also had an additional session with all active referees where all practical aspects were dealt with. This will ensure that referees will be consistent in applying the new rules, especially where judgement calls need to be made.

Early next year, information will be sent out to everyone that has passed the old Level 3 TARS exam in 2016, as there will be an opportunity to sit an online Level 3 exam to recertify in the 2019 Rules. We have no time line of when the R&A will come out to South Africa to conduct a Level 3 TARS on the new rules. Therefore it is important to use this online opportunity to re-certify. Our principle of passing Level 3 (60%) or passing Level 2 with 80%, to be a referee, still applies. If you have attended the Level 2 seminar and written the current Level 2 exam and wish to either better your mark to above 80%, or if you did not pass and wish to re-sit the exam to pass – there will be an opportunity in the early part of 2019. We will keep you informed. If you wish to become a referee, contact Helène.

A new Rules of 2019 Level 1 day seminar is available. If clubs are interested in having these being held at your club, please contact Helène, so that we can organise it for you.

The biggest challenge now is to get the new rules out to all club golf players and especially league players at all levels so that everyone will at least be able to deal with the basic changes as of 1

January. The Players edition of the New Rules should now be available at all clubs. Please ask at your club's proshop.

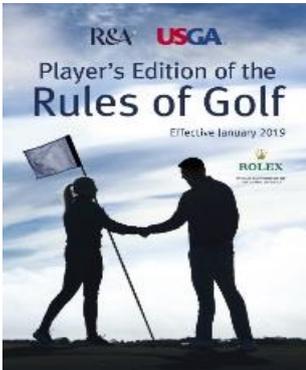
To achieve this, we are involved in the following:

1. There are 7 information sessions planned at clubs during January. These sessions will focus on the major changes and will be very practical in nature to help players apply the rules. Please spread the message to everyone to get as many players to attend. WP Golf has made a decision that all 2019 league players should attend. Please note that the venues are centralised – the session is not only for members of that club – members of surrounding clubs may also please attend! Choose the time and venue that suits you best.

NEW 2019 Rules of Golf Sessions

Slideshow & Practical. Questions & Answer session
Attend for Free, at any venue of your choice
Highly recommended for all League Players
Time: 18h30 for 19h00 – 21h30

DATE	VENUE
15 th Jan	Royal Cape GC
16 th Jan	Milnerton GC
17 th Jan	Durbanville GC
21 th Jan	Strand GC
22 th Jan	KDM GC
23 th Jan	Westlake GC
24 th Jan	Atlantic Beach GC



2. We have an additional 9 sessions focused on junior golf players. This was organised in conjunction with Peter Little and will allow us to reach as many youngsters as possible to get them on their way. We are extremely grateful for a sponsorship by the Nomads which enables us to hold these sessions, print materials and also give each player a specially made quick guide pamphlet. **Juniors and their parents need to register with Helène** at heleneWPgra@gmail.com
 We are putting in a huge effort to reach all juniors. We expect all of them to use this opportunity to learn more about the rules. Please spread the word and encourage the juniors at your club to attend one of these sessions.

NEW 2019 Rules of Golf Sessions
JUNIORS & PARENTS




Slideshow & Practical. Questions & Answer session

Attend for free, at any venue of your choice

Entries: helenewpgra@gmail.com

DATE	TIME	VENUE
7 th Jan	14-17h	Parow GC
8 th Jan	9-12h	Atlantic Beach GC
8 th Jan	14-17h	Bellville GC
12 th Jan	9-12h	Rondebosch GC
12 th Jan	14-17h	Royal Cape GC
13 th Jan	9-12h	Somerset West GC
13 th Jan	14-17h	Strand GC
19 th Jan	9-12h	Clovelly CG
19 th Jan	14-17h	Westlake GC

3. We will also have a group of about 12 referees that volunteered to attend the U13& U15 squad at Bellville on Sunday 20 January. We will have a referee walking with each fourball to show them how the new rules must be applied in various situations. We had a similar exercise early this year and this concentrated effort goes a long way to get the juniors to apply the rules correctly.
4. We have designed a very visual quick guide pamphlet for all golfers to keep available and refer to when confronted with a specific situation on the course. It deals with dropping, free drop situations and penalty drop issues. This will probably take care of 80% of situations that golfers will encounter when playing social golf. These guides will be distributed at the rules sessions.
5. We are encouraging referees to get involved at their home clubs to help inform members about the rules. A good example would be to stand at say the first hole and chat to each fourball before they tee off about some aspects. We do believe that by telling and showing (as opposed to a classroom situation) we will reach more golfers.
6. We are very involved at the moment to help clubs to re-write their Local Rules to adhere to the new rules. There are significant differences that can now apply and clubs also need to decide on No Play Zones, Penalty areas, a Code of Conduct – to name a few. Clubs are welcome to contact Helène Marais for help.

The R&A has subsequently also confirmed the following:

- + The official Guide to the new Rules of Golf, which incorporates the rules, all interpretations and model local rules, will be available shortly. It has arrived at GolfRSA and will be distributed as soon as practicable.
- + They have issued a notice to interpret certain issues that arose at the global rules sessions. See the notice attached.
- + There is a document doing the rounds on facebook and social media named 20 changes for 2019. All capital letters. It has a R&A logo.....there are many mistakes in that document, please ignore that. See attached for an official R&A document.

Other News

1. We had our Annual General Meeting on 20 August 2018. It was very well attended and matters were all swiftly dealt with. The committee was re-elected and the following roles were allocated:
 - + Inus Marais: Chairman responsible for strategy, relationships, sponsors and club matters, re markings of course and application of rules.
 - + Dave Gardiner: Vice-Chairman responsible for junior golf and finances.
 - + Helène Marais: Secretary and also responsible for communication and all Education matters re referees and the Rules of Golf.
2. For the first time since its inception, the annual Interclub Rules Quiz was held without the clubs competing for the Goldsbury trophy. Due to the new golf rules, the format changed where we held an information session on the basic rules changes and then had an informal interclub quiz session on the new rules. Everyone learned a great deal in this fun session – the formal quiz will be back again in 2019!
3. We have liaised with WP Golf not to increase the budget for referees in 2019. We will allocate our referees accordingly and trust that we will also help to save WP Golf some money.

Please accept our thanks again for your involvement with and support re the Rules of Golf. We trust that you will enjoy spending time with your loved ones over the festive period.
See you on the course again in 2019!

PS

If you do not wish to receive these newsletters, please let Helène know heleneWPgra@gmail.com
See updated email for Inus inusmarais53@gmail.com

Regards.

Inus Marais

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