

Good day to all

The year has started with a bang, mainly because the New Rules were implemented at all clubs and this challenged the WPGRA to become involved in training sessions and other queries. Most of the first quarter was thus devoted to rules sessions and other interactions with clubs.

New Rules:

The WPGRA, under the auspices of WP Golf, held various sessions in the Province to help all golfers understand the new rules and how to proceed especially with the new relief/dropping procedures. The highlights were:

1. There were 7 sessions held for club members at various clubs where in a 2 hour session myself and Helénè demonstrated in a practical way the application of the new rules. These sessions were well attended and hopefully helped to get many golfers at each club to understand the rules – and they can then also help other players in their respective clubs.
2. There were also 7 sessions with Junior golfers. Dave organised it and us three facilitated the sessions. Here the emphasis was more on the practical application of the rules. We are very grateful to the **Nomads** for sponsored these junior sessions and we were able to give each junior a free Relief Sheet and something to eat and drink.
3. Helénè also conducted 2 sessions with disabled golfers.
4. We again had 12 referees attend a Junior golf practice round where a referee accompanied a fourball each to help demonstrate the new rules in action.
3. The WPGRA designed a Relief Sheet. This is a pocket-sized plastic card that each golfer can carry in his/her bag. It summarises the relief/dropping procedures and show all the Free relief options and the Penalty relief options. This was sold at the club rules sessions and was very popular. Many clubs also ordered copies to hand out to their club players. (We thank Helénè for compiling the sheet.)
4. Many of our referees had certain initiatives at their respective clubs to inform their members about changes.

There was an official level 2 course presented by Golf RSA and they follow the content as prescribed by the R&A. A certificate is then issued to all delegates that passed the exam. I am happy to confirm that all the active referees of the WPGRA attended the course and passed the exam.

We are also proud that our member, Helénè, was asked by Golf RSA to be a presenter of the course and she was thus involved with all the courses (with the exception of the Durban course) throughout South Arica.

Another Level 2 course is being planned later in the year for Cape Town. We will inform you once dates/ venue is finalised.

We also helped local golf clubs on re-writing their local rules to adhere to the new rules and also helped to formulate a proper Code of Conduct that should be in place at every club. There were also many queries on e.g. No Play Zones and new red penalty areas and we helped to advise clubs in this respect.

The new rules has only been in place since 1 January, but already we see that certain problem areas have come up and the R&A had to bring out additional Clarifications and/or proposed new local rules to deal with changes.

In case you missed it, see attached document for the updated Clarifications issued by the R&A

We accept that more changes may follow in future – the new rules are dynamic and changes are inevitable.

It has, however, been a great experience to see how quickly players adapted to new penalty areas, dropping procedures, putting with flag in, etc – all of it making the rules simpler and definitely speeding up play!

Please contact Helène should you have any rules queries or would like to order more Relief Sheets.

General:

1. The Open championships at the various clubs have started and our referees will be out in force to support WP Golf and the clubs to run smooth tournaments.
2. Our WPGA **AGM** is scheduled for Tuesday 25 June at 19:00 and will be at Rondebosch. Please diarise – an Agenda and docs will follow per separate email.
3. The **Interclub Rules Quiz** will be held on Tuesday 6 August at Rondebosch. This will obviously be based on the new rules and more detail will follow.

Thank you to every referee for giving up family time to officiate at the WP events. We are proud of our green-jacketed referees and all the work they are doing to support golf in the WP!

