



Good day to all,

It is the end of 2019 and all that is left for us to do is to enjoy the festive season with our loved ones.

We have the following roles to play in the Western Province as per our strategy document:

As per the current activities, the WPGA focus and plays a role in 3 distinctive areas:

1. Organising and supplying of referees for WP Tournaments – this includes support in marking and setting up a course, local rules and pace of play sheets.
2. Supporting WP Clubs in giving advice on Local Rules, course marking and rulings.
3. Education of players, officials and employees at Clubs on the Rules of Golf to enhance this knowledge in the Western Province.

In this newsletter we take a look at how we fulfilled our mandates as the WP Golf Referees' Association during the past year.

Education:

- + It was the year that the new Rules of Golf was implemented. We held a total of 17 Workshops and information sessions at clubs. We had separate sessions for juniors and this included mainly practical sessions. The WP Nomads sponsored these sessions for the juniors.
- + We designed and printed a laminated Relief Sheet that was sold at the rules sessions. This is the only one in SA and quite a few clubs purchased sheets to hand out to their players.
- + Our executive member, Helène Marais, was asked by GolfRSA to co-present the official R&A rules sessions throughout South Africa. There were 2 sessions held in Cape Town.
- + It is important that we train new referees as and when golfers indicate their willingness and passion to become referees. We currently have 4 golfers that are in various stages of becoming referees.

Referees at tournaments:

In addition to being involved at all WP Golf tournaments, we put in an even bigger effort this year to work at junior tournaments. We believe that you should start knowledge of the rules and especially good conduct on the course, with the juniors.

We were present at 21 tournaments for juniors.

We refereed at 40 WP Golf events and were also asked to supply referees at 9 official GolfRSA events that took place in the Cape.

Overall we had 181 referees involved at the tournaments listed.

We currently have about 15 referees that actively officiate at tournaments (excluding the 4 new ones) and many more golfers that are interested in the rules and interact with us.

Supporting WP clubs:

It was also quite a busy year in this regard. The new rules necessitated all clubs to re-do their local Rules and also to implement a Code of Conduct.

We helped many clubs to do this and in the process we have very good standardised sample documents available for Local Rules, Code of Conduct and Terms of a Competition.

We gave advice to many clubs on the markings of the course that can change (new red penalty areas, No Play Zones, etc) while 4 official surveys, with reports and photos, were done at clubs.

We will kick off the new year with a referees workshop and braai.

We will also, at this session, launch our strategy and procedures to help referees (and players!) deal with slow play. Helénè and I devised a plan that will inter alia entail some red, orange and green flags as well!

It was thus quite a busy year for our referees and we would like to thank each and every one for the effort, time spent and especially the enthusiastic willingness to support golf in the WP!

Thank you also to WP Golf President, Mike de Swardt, and his executive for their support and the way that they utilise us in golf in WP.

We are also especially grateful to Robert Larsen, Deborah and Rashaad from the WP Golf office for their friendliness, their enthusiasm, support and for indulging us in their lives!

When you have time over the holidays, check out these few interesting rulings that happened over the last few months:

Patrick Reed assessed a 2 stroke penalty for improving his lie. Hero World Challenge

<https://www.golfchannel.com/news/patrick-reed-penalized-two-shots-improving-lie-sand-hero-world-challenge>

Eddie Pepperrell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huudouBC9Bc>

Turkish Open 6 man play off

<https://www.golfchannel.com/video/2019-turkish-airlines-open-playoff-grouping-unfair>

Jesper Parnevik

<https://www.golfmagic.com/golf-news/parnevik-penalised-failing-take-mulligan-rare-rules-incident>

<https://www.randa.org/News/2019/09/Rules-in-Action-2019>

We trust that you will all enjoy a wonderful festive season with your loved ones and will be back in 2020 with renewed energy to serve WP Golf.

Drive safely!

