# SIR 102 Golf Policy Letter ... January 2020

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Note: Our golf club is operated using current technology which gives us new and improved abilities to manage our golf program. Members who have limited access to the use of the internet should enlist a "Buddy System" or request support from any member of the golf board to keep informed.



# Golf Policy & Procedures

## 1) Monthly Luncheons

#### a) Attendance Required

- i) The Golf Club operates under the auspices of SIR Branch 102 and is subject to its rules. A basic requirement the Branch places on all members is attendance at its monthly luncheon meetings ("Monthly Luncheon") held on the second Tuesday of each month.
- ii) While excused absences are understood, the Golf Club expects each member to meet this obligation on a consistent basis.
- iii) Frequent, unexcused, absences can be grounds for disciplinary action as provided by Section IX of the Golf Club Bylaws.

#### b) Golf Club Business Meetings

i) Additionally, the Golf Club strongly encourages members to attend and participate in the Club business meeting held on same date and location of the Monthly Luncheon.

## 2) Monthly Sign-up

## a) 9:30 AM - 11 AM

- i) Club event sign-ups will start at 9:30 AM and will run until 11:00 AM on the day of the Monthly Luncheon for the next month's events.
- ii) Any changes to this schedule will be announced in the Club newsletter and our golf website.
- iii) Sign-up sheets received after the close will be put on the Standby List if no openings are available. Entry Fees must be included with these late sign-up sheets. they will be refunded if no openings occur for that date..
- iv) Sheets with full Entry Fee payment may be mailed to or dropped off with the Tournament Director ("TD") or Asst. Tournament Director ("ATD"). Such sheets must be received by the day before the Monthly Luncheon.

## b) Entry Fee

i) The Entry Fee for each event will generally be the sum of the negotiated event green fee, cart and the SIR Tournament Fee.

- ii) The SIR Tournament Fee will be \$5 for each event. The fee is used to pay for Tournament Prizes, Member Appreciation Day, Awards Banquet and other expenses incurred in operating the Club.
- iv) The Club Championship, Match Play Championship, BOTS and other special events require an additional registration fee.
- v) Recognizing the extensive time commitment required of the SIR 102 Golf Club Tournament Director and Treasurer to execute their respective office duties on behalf of the club, they are eligible to be refunded the golf course fee if they are signed up and pay the total fee for that event. The entry fee (\$5.00), match play, hole in one insurance and other fees are not included.

## c) Sign-up with your Buddies to play with your Buddies

- i) At least twice each month, pairings will be completed in the order sign-up sheets are received.
  - (1) Foursomes will play together.
  - (2) The first threesome will be paired with the first single. When all threesomes have been paired, the first available twosome will be paired with the next twosome, etc. Finally all remaining singles will be paired: the first four, then the next four, etc.
  - (3) Notes on the sign-up sheets or other verbal requests regarding pairings will NOT be accepted nor followed. Sign-up with your buddies if you want to be paired with them.
- ii) Exceptions to Sign-up Sheet Order:
  - (1) Four man team events
    - (a) Low index A player will be put with the highest index B player, the lowest index C player and the highest index D player. The second team will be composed of the next lowest A and C players and the next highest B and D players. This procedure will continue until all players have been paired.
    - (b) Subsequent cancellations and standby signups will impact these pairings.
    - (c) If the event is not a shotgun start, these subsequent adjustments will be made on a best efforts basis to keep team balanced.
    - (d) For Shotgun start events, the field may be adjusted the night before the event.
  - (2) Match Play Championship rounds.
    - (a) Pairings will be adjusted to accommodate the matches scheduled for an event.

- (3) If there are neither team events nor Match Play Championship rounds in a month, "special" pairing methods may still be used at least once each month to encourage fellowship through playing with members other than your regular buddies.
- iii) in the event that a shotgun start is cancelled, tee times will be assigned on a random draw basis.
  - (1) The TD/ATD will make every effort to adjust tee times so that members who normally travel to the course together will have tee times near each other.
  - (2) It's each member's responsibility to inform the TD/ATD of such normal travel arrangements.

#### d) Full Payment

- i) Each Signup sheet <u>MUST</u> be presented with full Entry Fee payment for all the players on the sheet.
- ii) Sheets presented with less than Full Entry Fee payment will be rejected.
- iii) They may be corrected by either
  - (1) increasing payment to the full Entry Fee amount or
  - (2) eliminating one or more players to change the amount required to match the amount presented.

## e) Players Sign up on-line after schedule is posted

- i) Members who do not sign-up at the Monthly Luncheon and later wish to play may sign-up on the Standby List or vacant slot as posted on our golf web site after March 31st, 2020.
- ii) Standby sign-up sheets will be available at each event for the remaining events of the month.
- iii) Members may also telephone or email the TD or ATD and request to be put on the Standby List for one or more events.
- iv) Upon being added to the pairings, player is confirmed via email and is obligated to pay the Entry Fee on the day of the event at the SIR Check-in.
- v) Players who signup to play after initial posting and fail to show up to play must pay any fee charged to the club plus \$5 fee tournament in order to play in future events.
- vi) As event openings become available, players will be selected from the Standby List on a first-in-first-out basis.

# 3) Event Flights

#### a) Individual Medal Play

i) Four flights will be created based on the current index of each player. While the goal is to have the same number of players in each flight, adjustments will be made to incorporate natural breaks between indices.

#### b) Two-Man Teams

i) Two flights of equal size will be created based on the team handicaps.

# c) Four-Man Teams

i) Each team will be competing against all the other teams in the field or in their flight when more than one flight exist.

## 4) Tee Assignments

- i) Tee assignments are determined by the TD and shown on the scorecard. They are based on course ratings and players index.
- ii) Players who elect to use a different tee must show the change on the score card they turn in at the end of the round.

## b) Score Cards

- i) Score cards will be provided for each event with the player's current handicap information listed on the card. The course handicap will be based on the tees assigned to player's flight for the event.
- ii) Whenever alternate tee information is listed on the card, a player may compete from a tee other than the one assigned by merely circling the tee color actually played. See c) below.
- iii) Each player is to exchange cards with another player in his group and mark that player's gross score on each hole.
- iv) As Marker it is your responsibility to:
  - (1) Verify the accuracy of the score reported on each hole.
  - (2) Sign the player's score card attesting to the accuracy of the reported scores.
  - (3) Should you disagree with a reported score, do not sign the card and bring the issue to the TD/ATD.
- v) Each Player is to sign his own score attesting to the accuracy of the scores.
- vi) Neither the Marker nor the player is required to add up the gross scores or compute a net score. Only the hole-by-hole gross scores are posted. However, it is helpful in posting scores if the player has done so.

## c) Competing from Different Tees

- i) Simply circle on the scorecard the tee played. Changing to an alternate tee will trigger a handicap adjustment at the time the scores are posted.
- ii) The handicap adjustment is a two step calculation: (See USGA Handicap System Section 3-5)
  - (1) Re-compute the handicap based on the player's index and the slope of the tee played.
  - (2) The rounded difference in Course Rating can be either added to the higher-rated tee players or subtracted from the lower rated tee players, as the practical effect will be exactly the same. Difference of .5 or greater rounded upward.

#### 5) Rainouts

Unlike many other SIR branches, our Club contracts events all 12 months of the year, knowing the weather is likely to be less than ideal during the winter months. Typically, these contracts require a firm player count at least 8 days in advance of the event ("Course Firm Commitment Date"). Thereafter, the Club is liable for green fees, and inclement weather is not a contractual exception. However, courses tend to be flexible regarding the contract in recognition of the frequency and the number of players we turn out for events at their course. In order to continue to receive such consideration and flexibility, it is incumbent on the Club to use its best efforts to play every event.

#### a) How/When Notified

- i) Unless due to conditions it is known in advance a course is unplayable, a Rainout will not be called until the morning of the event.
- ii) The TD, ATD and Treasurer will discuss the weather situation and make a decision. A Rainout will be called if:
  - (1) a course is closed or unplayable,
  - (2) current weather conditions make play unsafe, or
  - (3) there is currently moderate to heavy rain which is predicted to last much of the day.
- iii) Cold or wet conditions and/or light rains will not be cause to cancel an event.
- iv) The decision regarding a rainout will be made at least **ninety minutes before the first tee time.** The TD/ATD will inform the golf course of the decision.

## b) Member Notification Process

i) In the event of a Rainout, the TD will insure that information is immediately posted on the website.

- ii) members who do not use the computer often, should ask another member to keep him in the loop via a phone message. If unable to find a Buddy, they can ask any golf officer who will assist them.
- ii) Refunds will be given for cancellation approved by the club.

#### c) Cart Paths Only

- i) If, due to weather conditions, a course requires all carts (even Blue Flags) to remain on the cart path the event will not be cancelled, but refunds [ See 2)b)i)(3) above ] will be granted to players who call and inform the TD/ATD of their decision not to play: within 30 minutes before the clubs start time
  - ii) If you choose to call the course pro-shop rather than the TD/ATD, there is an excellent chance that word of your decision will not be given to the TD/ATD within **30** minutes of your tee time.
  - (1) Refunds will not be given in such cases if we are charged by the course.

## 6) Event Check-In

#### a) Evening Before

- i) Each player is responsible to know his own starting time for the next day's event.
- ii) Final pairings and start times are set at 7:00 p.m. on the evening before the event and posted to the Club website no later than 7:30 p.m.
  - (1) It is the Club's goal to minimize impact of any last minute pairing and start time adjustments.
  - (2) The TD/ATD will attempt to contact players impacted by any such changes if deemed necessary on the evening before the event.
  - (3) It remains each player's responsibility to learn/verify his start time. Members who do not use the computer often, should ask another member to keep him in the loop via a phone message. If unable to find a support, they can ask any golf officer who will assist them.

# b) Day Of

- i) 45 minutes
  - (1) Generally, players are required to check-in with the TD/ATD <u>AT LEAST</u> 45 minutes before their schedule tee time. The TD/ATD will be open for check-in at least 1 hour before the first tee time.
  - (2) Cart Path Only Exception

On days of wet conditions (course requires cart paths only), many players will cancel or be No-Shows, therefore players <u>MUST</u> check-in with the TD/ATD within 45 minutes before our scheduled tee time. Groups will be put-out on a first-come, first-out basis.

#### ii) 30 minutes

Any player who has not checked-in 30 minutes prior to his tee time may be Disqualified from the event's competition.

#### iii) Closing the Books

- (1) For all events in which green fees were included in the Entry Fee, Check-in will close promptly 30 minutes prior to the last tee time (which is usually shotgun start time).
- (2) Late arrivals need to locate TD who will give the player his score card if it's not a team event. They then pay their fees at the pro shop and show receipt to TD. A refund of his green fee will be given at the next months Monthly Luncheon.

# 7) Refunds and Payouts

#### a) Cancellation Refunds

- (1) Cancellation notice received less than two days before the schedule start time **may** not receive any refund.
- ii) Standbys that are selected and added to the SIR's Web Site Pairing Sheet will be responsible for their SIR and Golf Course Green Fees even if they are No-Shows. Standbys, not yet on the pairing sheet, who cannot play, must request to be removed from the Standby List under the same cancellation rules as Pre-Paid golfers, by **7 PM Two Days** before the Tournament. Failure to cancel, a Standby faces being selected and owing SIR and Golf Course Green Fees. Selected Standby No-Shows failure to pay these fees will result in ineligibility to play in future tournaments
- iii) It is the canceling player's responsibility to ensure prompt notice is given to the TD, or in his absence, the ATD.

# b) Event Payout Amount

- i) The weekly event payout target will be 60% of the SIR Tournament Fees collected for the event paid to 1/3 of the field.
- ii) The same number of positions will be paid to each flight of an event.
- iii) Standings in each flight will be determined by TTP using USGA formula, net last 9, last 6, last 3, 18<sup>th</sup> hole (10-18,13-18,16-18) USGA Appendix I, Part C, 11.
- iv) Ties will share place winnings equally PGA style. The payout will be in whole dollars, rounding up any fractional amounts.

# c) Timing of Refunds and Payouts

- Refunds and event payouts will be made at the Monthly Luncheon held the first month after the month of the event.
- ii) Any refund or payout not claimed by the 3rd consecutive Monthly Luncheon after it was originally available will be returned to the Club's treasury.
  - (1) Members may authorize a friend to pick up their money by notifying the Treasurer.

#### 8) Club Events

- i) All year-long contest are approved by the GC board and include CTTP, Skins, BOOTS, Club Championship, Match Play, etc)
- ii) Games used for weekly rounds individual flights, scrambles, two man blind draw, Cha, Cha, Cha, etc., are determined by the TD with input.

#### 9) Skins Contest

- i) Weekly game is broken into four flights when individual games are played. The cost to play is \$5 per round. Money is paid when checking in.
- ii) Total amount received per flight is divided into the winners of that flight and paid out for each skin event at the monthly luncheons. Any monies not paid out are carried over into that flight and added to the payout fund for the next round.

## 10) BOTS(Best Of Three Scores) Game

- i) All members may register for the BOTS Championship starting at the April monthly signup. You must play three rounds on the designated course to be eligible. Your best round will be an accumulation of the best net score per hole after the three rounds have been completed. The players scores for the designated course will be modified after each round. The lowest score per hole of the rounds played will be used to determine his BOTS total round. Example: par 5 First and Third round Net 6, Second round Net 5...your new net score on that hole is 5.
- ii) A one-time \$10 registration fee will be charged each participant. This will fund the competition's prizes given out at the Awards Banquet.
- iii) Three/Four flights of approximately the same size will be created from the registered players based on their April handicap index.
- iv) Players will remain in the same flight throughout the BOTS rounds regardless of any changes in their index.
- v) In each round participants will play to a course handicap based on his current index.
- vi) The BOTS Champion in each flight will be determined by the low net total of each player's <u>First Three Rounds</u> from the five designated rounds. In the event there is a tie, we will use the same rules as shown for scrambles.

## 11) Closest to the Pin Contest

i) CTP will be part of our weekly play. One or two holes will be selected and posted by the TD. Two places are paid for two flights: AB and CD. A third payout is authorized to resolve a tie. You must be on the green to be eligible.

## 12) Club Championship Game

#### a) Eligibility

- i) Article V Section 4.c of the Club Bylaws stipulates that a member must play in 10 club events between January 1st and May 31st to be eligible to play in the year's Club Championship.
  - (1) By May 1st or sooner, a report will be available on the Club website reporting the current status of each club member. The report will be updated after each event.
  - (2) Players will receive credit for each Club event they
    - (a) play,
    - (b) paid green fees and were a No-Show
    - (c) paid in advance (not a Standby), did not cancel, but was cancelled by the Club e.g. Rainouts.
- ii) Any member who fails to qualify may petition the Club Directors for consideration based on special circumstances, e.g. illness. The member must inform the TD/ATD prior to the first Club Championship event, preferably by email, and explain his special circumstances. The Board of Directors, after evaluating the request, will make a decision and inform the member of their decision.

# b) Registration

- i) All eligible players may register for the Club Championship starting at the June monthly sign-up. Registration will continue to be accepted up to Check-in of the third Club Championship round.
- ii) A one-time \$10 registration fee will be charged each participant. This will fund the competition's prizes given out at the Awards Banquet.

# c) Flights

- i) Four flights of approximately the same size will be created from the registered players based on their June handicap index.
- ii) Players will remain in the same flight throughout the championship rounds regardless of any changes in their index.
- iii) In each Championship round participants will play to a course handicap based on his current index.
- iv) The Club Champion in each flight will be determined by the low net total of each player's three best rounds from the five designated championship rounds. In the event there is a tie, the 4th best low net will be used. And, if necessary, the 5th round will be used to break ties.

- (1) If a player involved in the tie has not played in the additional round, he will be dropped from the group of ties.
- (2) Should a tie still exist after using all available championship rounds, the winner will be determined in an 18 hole playoff at the next scheduled individual play event. If a player is unable to participate in this play-off round, he will be dropped from the group of ties.

## 13) Match Play Championship Game

## a) Eligibility

i) The annual Match Play Championship is open to all Club members. No minimum number of rounds is required to enter.

## b) Registration

- i) During March sign-ups, registration for the Match Play Championship will be taken.
- ii) A onetime \$10 registration fee will be charged each participant. This will fund the competition's prizes given out at the Awards Banquet.
- iii) In the event more than 64 players register for the competition, a qualification round will be held in the month prior to the 1st Match Play round.
  - (1) The low 64 net scores will move to the first round of match play.
  - (2) Any registrants, unable to play in the qualifier, will be dropped from the competition.

# c) Flights

- i) If there are 64 players, four flights will be created with 16 players in each flight based on handicap index.
- ii) If there are less than 64 players, up to four flights will be created based on the number of participants. The goal will be to have about the same number of participants in each flight. Based on logical breaks in range of player indices, there could be some differences in the number of player in each flight.
- iii) There will be one winner from each flight. These flight winners will continue in a two round play-off to determine the Club's Grand Match Play Champion. Pairing for the first round will be by blind draw.

## d) Seeding

i) Seeding and byes in each flight will be based on the USGA Major Event Seeding Procedures.

# e) Match Play Rounds

- i) The Club will designate certain events as "Match Play" events. All Match Play remainingregistrants will be scheduled to play their match at each such event.
- ii) Matches may be played at another time and on another course upon the mutual agreement of both match participants. Any rescheduled match must be completed one week

before the next Club scheduled Match Play round. Failure to do so will result in the disqualification of both participants.

- (1) If one participant is unable to play on the Club scheduled date, it becomes his responsibility to obtain agreement for the time and place of the rescheduled match. Failure to obtain agreement with the opponent will result in the automatic loss to the opponent by the member who was unable to play on the date scheduled by the Club.
- (2) The member unable to play on the Club scheduled date is required to notify the TD/ ATD prior to that date of the postponement and of the opponent's acceptance of a new date and course. Failure to make this notification will result in the automatic loss to the opponent by the member who was unable to play on the date scheduled by the Club.

## f) Strokes Given / Received

- i) Match play competitors are to compare handicaps prior to the start of the round. If their handicaps are the same, no strokes are given or received and they play scratch.
- ii) If there is a difference, the lower handicap player gives the difference in strokes (low handicap subtracted from high handicap) to the higher handicap player beginning on the 1st handicap hole.

#### g) Ties

- i) Any match which ends in a tie after 18 holes, the winner will be determined by matching cards as follows:
  - (1) Most wins on the back nine, holes 10-18, then holes 13-18, holes 16-18, hole 18, if there is still a tie:
  - (2) Compare net scores on the 1st handicap hole (ranked number one on the card). The lower net score is the match winner.
  - (3) If there is still a tie, compare net scores on the next ranked handicap hole. The lower net score wins.
  - (4) If there still is a tie, continue with (3) above until there is a winner.

# 14) Handicaps

# a) NCGA

i) Every club member must belong to an NCGA SIR's golf club. If a SIR belongs to NCGA through another SIR golf club, he can join SIR GC Br 102 by paying the yearly GC dues.

# b) Authority

i) Except for rules adopted locally, the USGA/NCGA will be implementing a new handicap system - World Handicap System starting 1 January 2020. The Club stages events using the new handicap system. Additional information is available at <a href="https://ncga.org/world-handicap-system/">https://ncga.org/world-handicap-system/</a> or from our Handicap Chairman

# c) Posted Scores

- i) The Handicap Chairman will post the appropriate adjusted score for each player participating in a Club medal play event.
- ii) All Club members are expected to post their own adjusted score immediately after every non-Club round.

#### 15) Hole-in-One Insurance

## a) Club Member Responsibility

- i) Players will be asked to pay an annual fee not to exceed \$5 for Hole—in-One insurance as part of their annual NCGA / Golf Club fees. This fee will be reviewed by the golf board at the end of each year to determine if the \$5 fee is needed or a lesser amount, based on the number of insurance claims (Hole-in-Ones) by the members. The Hole In One is an option and if a member does not want to participate is not obligated to pay.
- ii) ii) When the hole in one fund is below \$200, the treasurer will begin to collect \$5 from each golfer to ensure sufficient funds are available for the next winner(s)
- iii) Insurance Claims
  - (1) For any insured member who shoots a Hole-in-One, the Club will reward the member with a check (or cash) for \$200. The member has no other responsibilities or obligations to SIR 102 members. In the event there are multiple members that shoot a hole in one on the same day, they will each receive \$100 with no other responsibilities or obligations to SIR 102 members.

# 16) Pace of Play

# a) Goal

- i) One of the goals of the Club is to stage golf events in which all members have a fun and an enjoyable time. One key to this is to ensure all players are able to complete a round in a reasonable amount of time ... within 4 1/2 hours.
- ii) In an effort to speed the pace of play the Club has adopted the following Rule

The Historical "Honor System" is no longer considered appropriate since it often results in waiting around for another player when you are ready. Just standing by impacts the pace of play. We endorse the recommended "Ready Golf" approach. As long it doesn't interfere with other players go ahead and take the shot. It applies to every shot…on the tee, fairway and putting..

# b) State Rules

i) Winter Rules

- (1) Unless otherwise announced in advance of an event, the Club plays under "winter rules" year around.
- (2) A player may lift, clean and place his ball from tee to green except when:
  - (a) in a hazard (red or yellow staked), or
  - (b) in a bunker. (local rule: exception: if the players all agree that the bunker is in need of repair...no sand, rocks and dirt, extreme wet conditions, than the ball may be removed one club length from point of entry, no closer to hole with no stoke penalty)
- (3) The placing of the ball must be within 6" of the original position in medal or match play and within 1 club length, when off the green, in scramble play. The placement may not be:
  - (a) any closer to the hole,
  - (b) from out-of-bounds to in-bounds, nor
  - (c) from off-the-green to on-the-green.

#### ii) Putt Out

- (1) A ball in play should always be holed out. No putts may be conceded or taken in stroke play except as provided below.
- (2) In competitions in which both stroke and match play are occurring simultaneously, one's match play opponent may concede a putt or hole at any time for purposes of the match. However, for stroke play purposes, the player must still finish the hole by actually holing-out.

# C) Feather in your Cap

The state organization has created an award to recognize a special achievement by a member during a round of golf. It's called a Feather in your Cap.

Any SIR member who during a SIR sponsored golf event scores a Hole In One is eligible for a Feather in their Cap. There are no limits to the amount of Feathers you can receive. At least two other players have to testify to that achievement.

Any SIR member who during a SIR sponsored golf event shoots their age is also eligible for a Feather in their Cap. The slope of the course based on tee assignment must be 66.0 or greater. You may only receive this award once a year. At least two other players have to testify to that achievement.

The Goal Chairman is responsible to submit the form on the members behalf within two weeks of the event.

#### D) Additional Branch Rules

- i) Play Provisional Ball Immediately
  - (1) If there is any question that a shot may have gone out-of-bounds or otherwise be lost outside a water hazard, Play a Provisional Ball immediately.
  - (2) However, upon reaching the spot where you believe your shot has landed and you can not immediately find your ball (limit search to 2 minutes or less) or you find it to be out-of-bounds (and no Provisional Ball has been played),
    - (a) go back to the approximate spot the ball crossed out of the fairway,
    - (b) drop a ball at that spot in the fairway, and
    - (c) take a two stroke penalty.
- ii) Distance Measuring Devices
  - (1) As permitted under USGA Decision 14-3/0.05, the Club permits optical, laser and GPS distance measuring devices to be used in any event. A player may share distance information with any player in his group without penalty.
- iii) Fall Behind Group Ahead
  - It is each player's responsibility to:
    - (a) Complete your round of golf within 4 hours and 30 minutes AND no more than 10 minutes after the group ahead of you (the "Stipulated Time"),
    - (b) play "ready golf,"
    - (c) encourage his playing companions to do the same,
    - (d) pay close attention to your playing companion's shots to note where his ball has likely come to rest.
  - (2) If a group of golfers are asked by a Marshall to pick up their pace of play (on the clock) because they are too far behind the group in front of them, and after falling further behind, are asked to advance to the position they should be on the course, penalty strokes will be assessed for each hole not finished. The penalty strokes will consist of two (2) strokes added to each hole not completed, i.e. Par 4 hole, plus handicap 1 stroke. plus two (2) penalty strokes equal a total score of seven for the hole. (If the missed hole is a par 5, the score for that hole would be an eight). The penalty score will be assessed to everyone in the affected group.
- iv) Local Leaf Rule
  - (1) The Local Leaf Rule is intended to speed play on courses in which there is an unusual condition; e.g. heavy accumulation of leaves or the rough is *unusually high* do to prior wet conditions.

- (2) Through the Green, if you are reasonably sure you golf ball went into the leaves or unusually high rough, but you can't find it, it is permissible to drop another ball, with no penalty, in the area where the ball is thought to likely to have come to rest. The next shot is to be played from in the leaves / heavy rough.
- (3) In the event there is either out-of-bounds or water hazard in close proximity to the leaf area or unusually high rough, to receive relief under this rule a consensus among the players in the group must be reached the ball did not go out-of-bounds or in the water hazard. Otherwise, play must continue under the applicable USGA Rule(s).
- (4) The club local leaf rule may NOT be applied during the course of play unless specific notification has been given by the TD prior to the start of play. Prior to the start of play for any event, the Tournament Directory will make a determination as to whether the Local Leaf Rule may be used. Typically, it will only be invoked in the fall on courses which are heavily tree lined or in the winter on courses that have not been able to mow the rough..

## 17) Member Appreciation Day

## a) Purpose

i) In the fall of the year, one event will be designated "Member Appreciation Day" to thank and reward those Club members who have actively supported the club throughout the year. A luncheon will be provided immediately after completion of the shotgun-start event.

## b) Eligibility

- i) The event will be open to all Club members regardless of the number of rounds he has played throughout the year.
- ii) Every participant will be required to pay the standard SIR Tournament Fee.

## c) Club Pays for Golf and Lunch

- i) The Club will pay for green fees, golf carts and lunch for each member participant who has played the Minimum Required Rounds.
- ii) Minimum Required Rounds will be  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the scheduled events from January 1st through the end of August. (see Examples)
  - (1) If there are 38 scheduled events through the end of August.
  - (2) The Minimum Required Rounds will be 19.
- iii) Member participants who have not met the Minimum Required Rounds and have played in
- (1) at least 13 events, will be required to pay the one half of the green fee, golf cart and lunch expenses;
- (2) fewer than 13 events, will be required to pay the full amount of the green fee, golf cart and lunch expenses.

iv) The cost for the event will be published with the August sign-up sheet and be collected at the event.

#### 18) Annual Awards Celebration

#### a) Purpose

- i) The Club Annual Awards Banquet is held on the second Tuesday of November each year to celebrate our golfing year and elect a Board of Directors for the coming year. It will be held immediately following our general meeting and lunch in leu of our regular guest speaker.
- ii) Additionally, it is held to recognize and honor those players who have competed and won in the Club Championship, Boots, and Match Play competitions plus the Frank Tischer and Most Improved Player award.

## b) Open to All

- i) The luncheon is open to all Golf Club members;
  - (1) There is no required minimum length of membership time,
  - (2) There is no minimum number of events that must have been played,
  - (3) All Club members are strongly encouraged to attend the annual Awards celebration.
  - (4) A complimentary lunch will be provided for all club members who attend the Awards Celebration

# c) Special Player Awards

i) Each year the Golf Club recognizes exceptional season long performance through the Frank Tischer Award and Most Improve Player award.

## d) Frank Tischer Award

- i) The Vardon Trophy is awarded annually by the PGA of America to the PGA Tour's leader in scoring average and is named after golfing great Harry Vardon. The PGA Tour presents its own Byron Nelson Award annually to the player with the lowest adjusted scoring average for the year. Our Frank Tischer Award is an annual SIR 102 Golf Club award given to the club member who has the season's lowest average net-score and who has actively participated in the Club's weekly golf events. In addition, starting in 2019, a "Blue Jacket" will be awarded each year to the player tor this achievement similar to the "Green Jacket" awarded at the Master tournament.
- ii) Eligibility Every member who has participated in at least 20 of the Club's current year weekly golf events (individual or team) from January 1st through October 31st is automatically in the running for this award.
  - iii) Lowest Average Net-Score For each eligible member, their average net score is computed by summing their net scores from the weekly events in which individual scores

were calculated and dividing this net-total by the number of scores accumulated. The average will be calculated to three decimal places. The winner is the member with the lowest average net score.

## e) Most Improved Player

i) This award is given to the active club member who has the highest improvement factor in his handicap.

#### ii) Eligibility

Every member who has participated in at least 20 of the Club's current year weekly golf events (individual or team) from January 1st through October 31st is automatically in the running for this award.

#### iii) Highest Improvement Factor

- (1) The USGA Handicap System Appendix H Method for Determining Most Improved Player
  - (a) Add 12 to the player's Handicap Index at the start of the season. This is valueA. Add 12 to the player's Handicap Index at the end of the season. This is valueB.
  - (b) Divide value A by value B, calculating to three decimal places. This is the improvement factor. The player with the highest improvement factor should receive the most improved player award.
  - (c) January 1st indexes will be the Starting Handicap Index
  - (d) November 1st indexes will be the Ending Handicap Index

#### (2) Example

- (a) Starting Handicap Index: 22.6
- (b) Ending Handicap Index: 17.4
- (c) Value A: 22.6 + 12 = 34.6
- (d) Value B: 17.4 + 12 = 29.4
- (e) A/B: 34.6/29.4 = 1.177
- (f) Improvement Factor: 1.177
- (3) Note The number 12 has been determined by the USGA as equitable in gauging the improvement of players encompassing the entire spectrum of handicaps. For example, it is relatively the same improvement factor to go from a 20.0 to a 10.0 Handicap Index (improvement factor of 1.454) as it is to go from a 5.0 to a scratch, or zero Handicap Index (improvement factor of 1.416), yet the change in Handicap Index is "10" (20 10) versus "5" (5 0) strokes. The number 12 takes into consideration the level of a player's improvement rather than the net change in Handicap Index.

## 19) New Golf Club Member Registration

#### a) Guests

- i) Club Members are encouraged to invite their friends to play in any our regular weekly events. As a guest, they will not:
  - (1) pay the SIR Tournament Fee,
  - (2) be eligible to compete for the weekly prize money, nor
  - (3) have their scores retained or posted for handicap purposes.
- ii) They will have a good time playing golf with some great guys.

## b) Prospective New Members

- i) Become a Branch Member
  - (1) To become a SIR 102 Golf Club member, one must first be a SIR Branch 102 member. The first step in becoming a branch member is to be introduced to the Branch Board by your sponsor at one of the regular monthly Executive meetings.
  - (2) The sponsor should then obtain a SIR Branch 102 Application for Membership or Transfer sheet from the Branch Membership Chairman, assist the prospective new member in filling it out., and see that it is returned to the Branch Membership Data Administrator.
- ii) Become a Golf Club Member
  - (1) The form and appropriate Golf Club Membership Fee must be submitted to the Treasurer / Asst. Treasurer. Until this form and correct fee is submitted, the prospective new member will be treated as guest.
  - (2) The SIR Branch 102 Application for Membership or Transfer form will be forwarded to the Branch Membership Data Administrator for final processing. If a new GHIN is being assigned, the Club Tournament Director will notify the new member of his assigned number.
- iii) Current Golf Club Membership Fee Schedule
  - (1) Every Club member must pay their annual Golf Club Membership Fee to retain their active club member status. The Club Membership Fee is the sum of the current applicable NCGA Fee and the current SIR 102 Golf Club Fee. The latter fee entitles each member to attend the awards banquet held in the late fall of each year.
  - (2) Each year the NCGA determines the final date that they will bill the Golf Club for every member on their books. That date is shared with all members. Fees paid after that date will incur a late fee established by the NCGA.