

HERON LAKES WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB



A Note from the President

Hello golfers,

It's finally that time of year! Saturday, March 4, marked the opening day of our 2017 season! I hope everyone is looking forward to an exciting season full of great drives and awesome putts. I know I am. We will probably have to brave some rain but we will endure.

The board and golf committee have been working hard to make sure everyone has a great year. Our Rules Chair, Marsha Cutter, will be moving this year. We are looking for someone to take over from her. Please let us know if you are interested. We also need someone to be Tournament Chair.

Mark your calendars for this year's events!

June 3,6,10,13- Spring Championship (play 2 out of 4 days)
July 29 - Saturday - Memorial - Team Event
August 8 - Club Championship - Day 1
August 15 - Club Championship - Day 2
September 9, 12,16,19 - Fall Handicap (Play 2 out 4 days)
October 7- Awards Banquet

Looking forward to seeing you on the course!

Marlene Tostenrude

2017 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President

Marlene Tostenrude
360 772 0263

President Elect

Carolyn Young
503 449 4629

Treasurer

Wendy Weddle
971 678 7765

Secretary/Membership

Grace Chien
503 789 0446

Saturday Captain/VP

Hollis Brown
360 607 9116

Tuesday Captain/VP

Stephanie More
503 504 1234

Handicap Chairs

Tues Luan Penner
Sat Valerie Spirit

Rules Chair

Tues TBD

Sat Hollis Brown

Tournament Chair

TBD

Newsletter

Editor
Val Holzer
503 997 6934
Tech/Design
Cheryl Ford
503 515 5253

POSITIONS STILL TO BE FILLED IN 2017

We are looking for new leaders and contributors to HLWGC. If you are not sure you know enough to fill these roles, there are many people in our club who have a wealth of knowledge and are ready and willing to help you succeed. These are great ways of giving back and contributing to our club to make it run smoothly. Please let Marlane know if you or someone you know would be interested in filling these positions in 2017.

TOURNAMENT CHAIR - We are still looking for 1 or 2 ladies to chair the Club Tournaments. The person/persons will organize the Spring Championship, the Club Championship and the Fall Handicap (Dates above) There are members of the club who have held the position before, so there is plenty of help available,

RULES CHAIR - We need someone to take over from Marsha as she is moving to Idaho. (We will miss her!)

A NOTE FROM THE HANDICAP CHAIR

At its Jan. 28th Board and Committee meeting, the Heron Lakes Women's Club adopted a new LOCAL Rule for its club in accordance with the recommendation of the USGA and R&A.

Please note that this is a Local Rule only, and applies only to league play, unless otherwise adopted by individual golf courses and/or other tournaments. (It is advised to check all local rules when playing any golf course.) Although it is possible that this may become a Rule of Golf in the future, the next Rules update will likely not occur prior to 2019. The USGA and R&A are in the midst of conducting an extensive "modernization" of the Rules of Golf and will be reviewing feedback on possible changes in the months ahead. Several modifications have been put forth, but please note that these are considerations only at this time. Check out the USGA website for more information on these potential changes.

New Local Rule:

"Rules [18-2](#), [18-3](#) and [20-1](#) are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."

Proposed Rule Changes for 2019

Taken from:

<http://www.randa.org/News/2017/03/Preview-of-proposed-new-Rules-of-Golf-unveiled-by-RandA-and-USGA>

R&A and the USGA have unveiled a preview of the proposed new Rules of Golf, as part of a joint initiative to modernise the Rules and make them easier to understand and apply.

The online release of this preview begins a six-month feedback and evaluation period during which all golfers worldwide can learn about the proposed changes and provide input before they are finalised in 2018 and take effect on 1 January 2019.

Rules review

The announcement follows a comprehensive review process that began in 2012 with a working group of key R&A and USGA Rules administrators, professional tour officials and other Rules experts. While the Rules are revised every four years, this is the first fundamental review since 1984, and was established to ensure the Rules fit the needs of today's game and the way it is played around the world.

David Rickman, Executive Director – Governance at The R&A, said, “Our aim is to make the Rules easier to understand and to apply for all golfers. We have looked at every Rule to try to find ways to make them more intuitive and straightforward and we believe we have identified many significant improvements. It is important that the Rules continue to evolve and remain in tune with the way the modern game is played but we have been careful not to change the game's longstanding principles and character.”

“We are excited and encouraged by the potential this work brings, both through the proposed new Rules and the opportunities to use technology to deliver them,” said Thomas Pagel, Senior Director of Rules & Amateur Status for the USGA. “We look forward to an ongoing conversation with golfers during the feedback period in the months ahead.”

Proposed new Rules of Golf

The proposed 24 new Rules, reduced from the current 34, have been written in a user-friendly style

with shorter sentences, commonly used phrases, bulleted lists and explanatory headings. The initiative also focuses on assessing the overall consistency, simplicity and fairness of the Rules for play.

The Rules are currently delivered in more than 30 languages, and the proposed wording will support easier translation worldwide. When adopted, the Rules will be supported by technology that allows the use of images, videos and graphics.

Highlights of the proposed Rule changes

Elimination or reduction of “ball moved” penalties:

There will be no penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the putting green or in searching for a ball; and a player is not responsible for causing a ball to move unless it is “virtually certain” that he or she did so.

Relaxed putting green rules: There will be no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits an unattended flagstick in the hole; players may putt without having the flagstick attended or removed. Players may repair spike marks and other damage made by shoes, animal damage and other damage on the putting green and there is no penalty for merely touching the line of putt.

Relaxed rules for “penalty areas” (currently called “water hazards”): Red and yellow-marked penalty areas may cover areas of desert, jungle, lava rock, etc., in addition to areas of water; expanded use of red penalty areas where lateral relief is allowed; and there will be no penalty for moving loose impediments or touching the ground or water in a penalty area.

Relaxed bunker rules: There will be no penalty for moving loose impediments in a bunker or for generally touching the sand with a hand or club. A limited set of restrictions (such as not grounding the club right next to the ball) is kept to preserve the challenge of playing from the sand; however, an extra relief option is added for an unplayable ball in a bunker, allowing the ball to be played from outside the bunker with a two-stroke penalty.

Relying on player integrity: A player's “reasonable judgment” when estimating or measuring a spot,

point, line, area or distance will be upheld, even if video evidence later shows it to be wrong; and elimination of announcement procedures when lifting a ball to identify it or to see if it is damaged.

Pace-of-play support: Reduced time for searching for a lost ball (from five minutes to three); affirmative encouragement of “ready golf” in stroke play; recommending that players take no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke and other changes intended to help with pace of play.

Simplified way of taking relief: A new procedure for taking relief by dropping a ball in and playing it from a specific relief area; relaxed procedures for dropping a ball, allowing the ball to be dropped from just above the ground or any growing thing or other object on the ground.

Golfers' Feedback

Golfers are encouraged to review the proposed changes and submit feedback online via worldwide survey technology that can be accessed at

usga.org/rules from now until 31 August 2017.

The feedback will be reviewed by The R&A and the USGA in establishing the approved final version of golf's new Rules. These are due to be released in mid-2018 ahead of a 1 January 2019 implementation. Social media users can also follow the discussion using #GolfRules2019.

Players are reminded that the current 2016 Edition of the Rules of Golf remain in force when playing, posting scores or competing, until the new Rules are officially adopted by The R&A and the USGA in 2019. The Rules of Amateur Status and the Rules of Equipment Standards were not part of this review process.

More details of the proposals, including how to provide feedback, can be found on <https://www.usga.org/rules-hub/rules-modernization/text/major-proposed-changes.html>

