



LAKE PADDEN MEN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Lake Padden Men's Club!

Our goal as the LPMC Board is to work with Premier Golf and the City of Bellingham to provide a first-class golf experience that is fun, welcoming, affordable, and challenging for players of all skill levels. As we enter a new decade, many things are going to remain the same at Lake Padden, like improved course conditions everywhere you look, the best greens fees value in the County, and spectacular food choices at the Coyote Grill. Changes that are coming this year include the World Handicap System, a LPMC website, and our new course superintendent, Mike Votipka.

The Board of Directors is looking to be more involved at the City level moving forward, including participation on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. We hope that our advocacy with the City can result in increased capital expenditures that are critical for course maintenance.

We have added another tournament to this year's schedule, so there will be a total of 15 Saturday tournaments with a variety of creative formats. We are working hard to grow participation in our Wednesday and Thursday night twilight leagues, with an emphasis on friendly competition and a modicum of beverage consumption. We made the tough decision this year to raise the annual Full Membership fee from \$65 to \$70. Remember that the WSGA takes \$36 to manage your GHIN handicap, so the remaining \$34/member allows us to continue offering great complimentary breakfasts at our Opening Tournament in April and Memorial Tournament in October, sponsor burger nights for our twilight league teams in August, increase the payouts for our 5 major tournaments, establish the LPMC website, and cover some increases in administrative costs.

We would love to hear your suggestions and feedback on ways to continue improving and growing membership in our Men's Club. I'm fond of the Golf Digest motto "Think Young, Play Hard". So get out there and have your best season ever!

Tom Bennett, President

TWILIGHT LEAGUE INFO:

Twilight League is forming for the 2020 season. We'll play on Wednesday and Thursday nights starting at the end of April, with 8 teams playing on each night. If you have a team, we will have a Captains' meeting at Lake Padden's Coyote Grill, on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 PM. We'll discuss the scoring format and other issues. Please bring the \$100 team entry fee to the meeting, with your completed team roster including names, handicaps, and contact info. If you are an individual and want to join a team or form a new one, or have any other questions, please contact: Craig Johnson (360-305-2235, email: cj.johnson@comcast.net) or Bob Norton (360-319-9653, email: dawg_fan@msn.com). We're looking forward to seeing everyone out there.

Craig Johnson & Bob Norton, Twilight League Co-Chairs

HANDICAPS:

After numerous discussions and negotiations, the USGA and other organizations have created a new World Handicap System. The following represent some of the changes you should be aware of:

- Handicaps will be based on 8 best scores of the last 20
- Maximum handicap allowed is now 54.0
- Handicaps will be revised on daily basis at Midnight
- Max score per hole for posting purposes for all players is a net double bogey (Par + 2 + any strokes per your handicap allowed on the hole).

If you want to learn more about the new World Handicap System, go to wagolf.org website.

The handicap policy for our Lake Padden Men's Club Tournaments has not changed. Players will receive a "boxed score" for any net score of 68 or lower in tournament play. Two boxed scores in a rolling 12 month period will result in a handicap modification in accordance with the policy. The boxed score figures for players are posted next to the computer. The handicap committee reserves the right to adjust handicaps in Men's Club events in order to protect the integrity of the game.

If you have any questions about the World Handicap system or the Men's Club tournament handicap policy, let me know.

Start posting all of your scores starting March 1, 2020. Make sure to post all of your scores as soon as possible after you play, preferably no later than the same day you played. Play well and I look forward to seeing you on the course!

Mike Hatfield, Handicap Chair

PRO-SHOP NEWS:

We are excited for the 2020 season to begin and I look forward to seeing familiar faces and new players as well. This year brings a few changes to our facility with the hiring of Mike Votipka as our new Golf Course Superintendent being at the top of the list. Mike is a welcome addition to our team and with his vision and experience we are excited to see what magic will come to fruition on our gem here at Padden .

If you have not registered for the Premier Rewards Card that offers up to a 20% discount on greens fee's, power cart rentals and range balls this is the year to do so. The program is FREE of charge, inquire in the pro shop for more details and get signed up today.

The Men's Club tournament schedule looks to be as competitive as ever and the pro shop will be stocked with some great merchandise. We are happy to price match on any items we don't have in stock so please don't hesitate to inquire.

A few additional dates to keep on your radar:

- Drive, Chip and Putt local qualifier will be held on Tuesday, July 7th so save the date. We will be looking for 30 volunteers to assist in carrying out the days activities
- Wednesday and Thursday Twilight League play begins in April, put together a team and get in the game.
- We will be offering a multi vendor "demo day" on Friday, May 8th from 2pm-6pm. Callaway, Taylor and PING will be on site as well as other vendors
- We will be hosting a Western Washington PGA Chapter event on Monday, August 31st. Good chance your local PGA Pro's will need some great amateur partners so keep your game top notch.

Phil Gaggero, PGA General Manager

SATURDAY TOURNAMENTS:

Welcome to this year's slate of events! There are 15 tournaments this year that offer up a variety of formats that appeal to all of our members. We have a mix of fun team and individual events. Score cards for each tourney are created the Friday morning prior to each event so it's very important that your entry be in and paid for by the Thursday, 5pm deadline. We also have a tournament handicap system which takes in to account tourney scores and GHIN. Read Mike Hatfield's info for more clarification.

We will be playing USGA rules which means **no point of entry rule** any more. If you think you may have lost your ball in an unmarked penalty area (woods, brush, long grass, etc.) please play a provisional. Remember, you now only have 3 minutes to look for a lost ball!

Steve Swank & Paul Berube, Tourney Co-Chairs

USGA RULES NEWS:

Last season at Lake Padden was pretty exciting with our return to playing golf as it is meant to be played. We faced some challenges getting used to all the changes in the 2019 rule book, as well as returning to "stroke and distance" and the use of playing a provisional ball when it appears the original ball could be lost outside a penalty area. You can find more information in rule 18.

Another change last year is the ability to do almost everything in a "penalty area" that can be done in the "General Area". You can ground your club, move loose impediments, and take practice swings. You will notice there are no more yellow stakes at Lake Padden so brush up on rule 17 and relief options for a "penalty area".

Those of you that watch golf on television have surely noticed players leaving the flagstick in the hole while putting from the green, as well as players and caddies touching the green to point out the line before the stroke is taken. And accidental movement of the ball on the green is okay (just remember to replace your ball).

I would suggest that if haven't done so already, get your free rules book download from the USGA at USGA.org. There is a lot yet to learn this year and their website is where all the answers lie.

Mark Rachor, USGA Rules Consultant

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