

## **LPMC NEWSLETTER 2026**



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Happy New Year, Members of the Lake Padden Men's Club.

Days are getting longer, so it's time to get ready for another fantastic year of golf.

Mike Votipka and his crew have the course in great shape.

You will find attached the list of tournaments and dates. Thank you, Steve Swank and Paul Berube, for another stellar tourney season.

Full membership is only available online at Washington Golf (WA GOLF). If you have a full membership elsewhere and want to be an associate member at Padden, please fill out a sign-up card (Completely) and put it in the Men's Club Box.

The LPMC is always happy to have new members. If you are interested, don't hesitate to ask. As this year's President, I look forward to seeing you on the course.

Cheers to the fantastic 2026 season.

**Brad Peterson, President**

### **TWILIGHT LEAGUE REPORT:**

Twilight leagues are forming for the 2026 season. We will play on Wednesday and Thursday nights with the regular season starting on Wednesday, April 15 and Thursday, April 16, and running through mid-August. We plan to have 10 teams playing each night. The Captain's Meetings will be held at 6:00 pm at the Lake Padden Coyote Grill on March 11 for the Wednesday night league, and March 12 for the Thursday night league. During the meetings, we'll discuss the scoring format, league rules,

schedule for the summer, etc. Please bring the \$125 team entry fee to the meeting, along with your completed roster, including the name, handicap, and contact info for each player. If you are an individual and want to join a team or form a new one, or have any other questions, please contact: Joel Wark, Thursday Night Chairman (360-306-0526, email: [jcwark@comcast.net](mailto:jcwark@comcast.net)) or Tom Bennett, Wednesday Night Chairman (360-739-9844, email: [tomb@bennettengr.com](mailto:tomb@bennettengr.com)). We look forward to another great league season.

**Tom Bennett and Joel Wark, Twi-Lite League Co-chairs**

### **PRO-SHOP AND GOLF COURSE REPORT:**

We are excited for the 2026 season to begin and look forward to seeing familiar and new players as well. In 2025 Lake Padden set another historical revenue record for the facility thanks to all your support. Our goal is to keep the momentum going in 2026. Mike Votipka and our top-notch maintenance team have the course conditions as good as we have seen at Padden, and he has a few more tricks up his sleeve for this year. Our Head Professional, Kyle Haas, won "Employee of the Year" for the Premier Golf Management Group among 600+ candidates. Kyle will continue to lead many of the tournaments this year and is a great instructor as well if you are looking to improve your game.

If you have not registered for the Premier Rewards Card that offers up to a 20% discount on greens fees, 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.

A few additional dates to keep on your radar:

- Drive, Chip and Putt local qualifier will be held on Tuesday, July 14th so save the date. We will be looking for 30 volunteers to assist in carrying out the day's activities.
- We will be working with our retail accounts for club fitting days with Taylor Made (Sat, May 2<sup>nd</sup>), Callaway (Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>) and PING (Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>) golf. Members are encouraged to sign up for 30-minute blocks of time to have your club needs custom fit just like the PGA Tour Players.

**Phil Gaggero, PGA General Manager**

## **HANDICAP CHAIR REPORT:**

Score Posting will start on March 1, 2026

Scores must be posted on your personal devices either thru, [wagolf.org](http://wagolf.org), [www.GHIN.com](http://www.GHIN.com) or the USGA /GHIN app on your phone.

Once again, a Point of emphasis is posting scores as soon as possible. Handicaps will update at midnight daily for posted scores.

As a reminder, the handicap committee reserves the right to adjust handicaps in Men's Club events to protect the integrity of the game. The past few seasons the Board has received complaints of players not posting or posting incorrect scores to manipulate handicaps. \*The handicap system is in place to create fair play amongst different levels of golfers in our tournament and leagues. Please Post all scores high or low to keep your handicap correct.

-Post all 9-hole scores. 9-hole scores posted adjust your handicap the next day. No more waiting for a second 9 Hole score to combine them for an 18-hole adjustment.

-For the warmer weather down South guys. Shorter Par 3 / Par 4 Executive Courses are now eligible for Course/Slope ratings, so be aware that scores should be posted when played.

Just a few reminders for the World Handicap System-

-Handicaps are based on your best 8 scores of the last 20, your handicap now changes the next day after posting a score.

- Max score per hole for posting purposes - is a Net Double Bogey, which is par +2 strokes, plus any Handicap strokes allowed for that hole.

Tournaments - 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. If you are boxed, it only applies to Men's Club Events. You will be notified by email with a letter suitable for framing.

To learn more about the World Handicap system you can go to [wagolf.org](http://wagolf.org) website.

See you on the course,

**Greg Schenck, Handicap Chair**

### **TOURNAMENT CHAIR REPORT:**

Welcome to the 2026 Lake Padden Men's Club tournament golfing season. Paul Berube and I are your tournament co-chairs and look forward to another great Tournament year. Briefly, we are the behind-the-scenes guys that try to make our tournaments run as smooth and as fun as we can while staying within rules of competition. I will send out the upcoming tourney rule sheets and reminders two weeks before each event as well as send out the results and Money Winners standings to keep you all informed. If you're not getting emails, please make sure I get your address.

Please get your entries in at the Pro Shop by the Thursday prior to the Saturday event. Paul and I do the score cards early Friday morning with the help of Phil and Kyle. It becomes more time consuming when players enter late and at the last moment. We try to accommodate those who are chronically late, but frankly, it's a pain in the ass so please mark on your calendar, program your smart devices or hire a reminder service to get your entries in on time!

We realize that playing music during the round has become popular. However, the Board has made it a rule that music cannot be played during tournament rounds. Please be respectful of your fellow, old-fashioned competitors and keep your music for recreational rounds.

Our first event is "Opening Day" on Saturday, March 28. Check out all this year's events on the attached Tourney Schedule. Thank you in advance for your participation. The course is in great shape and we're ready for play.

**Steve Swank and Paul Berube, Tourney Co-Chairs**

**USGA RULES REPORT:**

Welcome to the 2026 season of play at Lake Padden. We will play our tournaments, as we always do, under the rules of the USGA. This year we are adding "Model local rule I-1.2" to the "Notice to Players" for Twilight League. This allows practice on the competition course before the competition round. Now players can play the day of Twilight League without fear of disqualification.

I would like to remind everyone, especially our new members, that the local rules on the back of the scorecards are not meant for us. You will receive an email that will outline the "Notice to Players" for each tournament. Please pay attention to these as they change from time to time depending on course conditions.

**Mark Rachor, Rules Chair**

**2026 LAKE PADDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: **Brad Peterson**

Treasurer: **Rick Jansen**

Secretary: **Chris Johnson**

Tourney Chairs: **Paul Berube and Steve Swank**

Handicap Chair: **Greg Schenck**

Twilight League: **Tom Bennett (Weds) and Joel Wark (Thurs)**

USGA Rules Chair: **Mark Rachor**

Parks/Rec Representative: **Chris Johnson**

At Large Members: **Sam Reier, Kevin Kurtz, Randy Buchanan, Paul Randall-Grutter**

