



Welcome to the first Las Positas Senior Golf Club Newsletter. Your Board of Directors decided to trial a quarterly newsletter for the membership to help keep the members informed on newsworthy issues, changes, course maintenance, and member benefits. In this first issue we will discuss some items many of you may already know, but hopefully some information will be informative.

### **Memberships**

Our membership has declined from 2023 to 2024 due to a variety of reasons: the effects from weather conditions on the course, members moving away, and various health issues. In 2023, we ended the year with 102 members. This year we added 4 new members but lost 24 existing members, leaving us with 82 members. We will be placing flyers around the course and restaurant to attract new members. We encourage you to bring in new members to join our club. *(Topics below will address planned course maintenance and member benefits.)* Click [here](#) for a link to our member application on our website.

### **Did You Know?**

As part of the club duties, the Board of Directors meets several times a year to review policies, rules, and the budget. The latest minutes of these meetings are kept on our website under the Club Info tab for those who are interested. Budget items discussed are expenses for utilizing Golf Genius software, NCGA charges per member, annual membership luncheon, Trophies for club champions, and printing fees for scorecards, etc. The remaining budget dollars are allocated to the prize fund for our tournaments.

For each tournament, the club pays out 100% of the tournament fees collected from the entrants plus the club contribution as mentioned above. The prize fund for each tournament is distributed approximately to 40% of the participants playing.

In the past you were reimbursed your tournament fee if you shot your age. Also you received a monetary prize if you got a hole in one, but due to reduced membership and a tight budget, these benefits are suspended until our membership and budget increases.



Las Positas Pro Shop offers a Players Card to Seniors for \$99.00. With this one-time fee you get one free round on the day of purchase and \$6.00 off every green fee for the remainder of the year. There are 19 tournaments left and any additional rounds you play qualify for this discount.

Your prize fund can be used several ways: pay your cart fee each round; driving range balls, and purchase any item in the pro shop at a 10% discount. The pro shop will also order any equipment you may want and will include your discount. The prize fund can also be used for any lessons or if you have a small group interested in a group lesson, we can try and coordinate a fee at a lower price.

At Beeb's restaurant, you can order your favorite lunch item and/or non-alcoholic beverage and you can get a 10% senior discount. They also offer a Beeb's Loyalty Card where you will earn a point for every dollar you spend at Beebs. After you earn 100 points, you will receive a \$5.00 credit on your next purchase. Come on in and save while you brag about the long putt or birdie you made with your fellow players.

Save the date of May 22 as this will be our Annual Luncheon at Beeb's following a shotgun start for the second May tournament. An email will be sent as the date approaches for those interested in attending. Please confirm your attendance when the sign-ups becomes available and advise us if you will be attending the luncheon. We are held to pay for the headcount we estimate to be there. Election of officers will be held during the luncheon.

#### Course Maintenance

There is no question that Las Positas doesn't fair as well as other courses with the wet weather. Last year we received record amounts of rainfall and winds. This year looks like we will be receiving similar amounts as well. In April, they will be aerifying the greens, tee boxes, and fairways. They plan on sanding the fairway to help the soil become more absorbent during wet weather. Mowing has been difficult to keep up with in our current wet weather. As the weather dries out, they plan on mowing the entire course area to normal



heights. Additional seeding and improvements will continue to be made as time permits. We look forward to all improvements to help with our games.

### NCGA Senior Tournaments

The NCGA has an extensive calendar of tournament programs for players of all ages and abilities. Scratch, net, four-ball, and more – there are events for everyone! Members can join the dozens of championships and tournaments with rich histories, as well as the more casual one-day tournaments on weekdays and weekends. For the Senior tournaments schedule and registration click [here](#).

### Rule in Review

We thought we might review a golf rule in each newsletter to refresh our knowledge. Most probably know there is an app for your smart phone that is a book of the USGA rules. The latest version shows some videos to help explain the rules. In your app store on your phone, search “USGA rules of Golf”. Additionally through NCGA, there are on-site classes available through NCGA for those who are interested. Click [here](#) for a link to their scheduled classes.

This newsletter we will discuss Abnormal Course Conditions.

### Abnormal Course Conditions

The term “abnormal course condition” is an umbrella term that includes four different conditions that occur on the course:

1. An **Animal Hole**, which includes the loose material dug out of the hole, a track or trail into the hole or any other ground altered by the animal in digging the hole underground.
2. **Ground Under Repair**, which includes any area marked as ground under repair by the Committee plus three types of things by default: 1) holes made by the maintenance staff in setting up or maintaining the course (not including aeration holes), 2) material piled for later removal, and 3) an animal habitat that might be damaged by the player in playing the stroke.
3. **Immovable Obstructions**, which includes artificially-surfaced paths and other artificial objects that cannot be moved without unreasonable effort or causing damage to the course.
4. **Temporary Water**, which is what it sounds like - a temporary accumulation of water that can be seen on the ground before or after taking a stance.



Collectively, you take relief from all of these conditions in the same way - by using the nearest point of complete relief.

### Nearest Point of Complete Relief

The Nearest Point of Complete Relief is the point on the course, nearest to where the ball lies that:

1. Is not nearer the hole,
2. Is in the required area of the course, and
3. Avoids interference by the condition from which you are taking relief for the stroke you would have made if the condition did not exist.



It is the nearest point of relief, not the nicest. Sometimes the nearest point of complete relief is in a position from which the player would rather not play. It is always a good idea to determine where the nearest point of complete relief is prior to lifting the ball. That way, playing the ball as it lies remains an option without penalty (except for wrong greens or no play zones).

The specific Rules put limitations on where the nearest point of complete relief may be:

- If the ball originally lay in the general area, the nearest point of complete relief is not in a bunker, is not in a penalty area, is not out of bounds and is not on a putting green.
- If the ball originally lay in a bunker, the nearest point of complete relief is in the bunker.

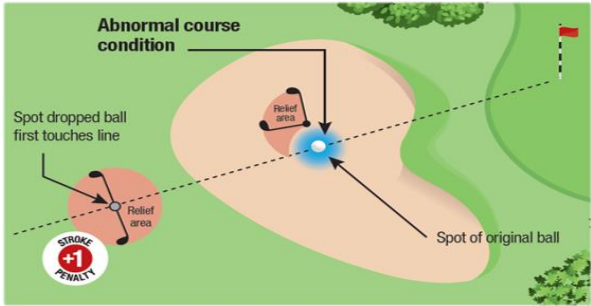


- If the ball originally lay on the putting green, the nearest point of complete relief is on the putting green but could be off the putting green in the general area

**Special Situations**

In addition to the basic relief procedure above, there are some special situations that can occur where additional procedures or options are available:

**Penalty Option to Get Out of a Bunker**



When you have interference by an abnormal course condition in a bunker, for one penalty stroke, you can drop the ball outside the bunker. To do so you must drop the ball behind the bunker on a line created by the original position of the ball and the hole.

**Maximum Available Relief When Complete Relief is Not Available**

When you have interference by an abnormal course condition in a bunker or on the putting green (in this case typically temporary water), and complete relief is not available (meaning a nearest point of complete relief cannot be determined in the bunker), the player still has an option available for free relief.

You must find the nearest point that provides the most relief possible under the circumstances, whether that means your stance is still wet but the ball is dry, or you have to putt through less water than anywhere else. This point is called the point of maximum available relief. In a bunker, that point must still be in the bunker but you can drop within one club-length of it and no nearer the hole. If the ball was originally on the putting green you would place the ball at that point, which may still be on the putting green or might be off the putting green in the general area.



The ball is always dropped when taking relief and not placed unless after two unsuccessful tries, it may be placed.