

Ratings & Rulings

Ratings & Rulings • January 2004

A Publication for FSGA Volunteers

Florida Junior Tour

The FSGA is proud to announce the Florida Junior Tour (FJT), a junior golf tour offering highly competitive and affordable competitions for juniors in Florida. The website, www.floridajuniortour.org is up and running so log on to see the new Tour. There, you can sign up for membership and events, view player profiles, view results and much, much more.

The Florida Junior Tour (FJT) inaugural schedule will consist of nine events for juniors, male and female, ages 13-18. There will be two age divisions, boys 13-15, girls 13-15 and boys 16-18 and girls 16-18. FJT events will be played at some of the state's top courses including the Ritz Carlton Golf Club in Orlando and The Club at TwinEagles in Naples. The FJT's focus will be on quality, affordability and integrity. Tournaments will consist of 36 holes conducted over 2 days with an entry fee of \$95. Scholarship entry will be available to junior golfers unable to afford the entry fee.

Working closely with the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA), FJT top competitors will receive exemptions and performance points towards AJGA events. The FJT is the only Florida tour to participate in the AJGA's Performance Based Process. In addition, all FJT events will be ranked by the Junior Golf Scoreboard, which helps junior golfers market themselves without having to travel the country. The FJT will maintain a points list to assist in determining Junior Player-of-the-Year and invitations to other tournaments.

Please tell your golf professional about this great junior tour. Also, if you know of a competitive junior golfer, please pass along this information. We need your help spreading the word!



2003 Volunteers-of-the-Year

Congratulations to Karen Korf and Pep and Pat McPhillips for being named 2003 Volunteers-of-the-Year. Thank you to all of you for your hard work and support and let's make it another great year!



Karen Korf



Pep & Pat McPhillips

GIMMIES

Membership Renewal

You can now renew your membership online at www.fsga.org. The year has just begun and we already have more than 1500 members!

FootJoy Rain Gear

The FootJoy Rain Gear that you see many volunteers wearing will be available for order again on March 15, 2004, just in time for those spring showers! Please call Alyson in the office to order yours!

Congratulations Bob Forward

Bob Forward was appointed to the PGA of America Rules Committee. Bob can be seen at many FSGA events as a Rules Official. Congratulations!

Course Rating Section 7

Gregg Gagliardi from the Diamond Players Club wrote to us saying what a great job Jim Sweet and his team from Section 7 did in getting their rating finished so promptly.

Section 2

Bill Missildine, Co-Captain for Section 2, wrote a nice thank you note to the staff at a course his team recently rated to show their appreciation for the courteous treatment they received. Though, the note was not necessary, it only helps build a better relationship with the club. Way to go above and beyond!

Advertising with the FSGA

If your business is interested in advertising with the FSGA or you know of a business that would be a good match, please contact Alyson Bartell at 813.632.3742.

CR Captains & Co-Captains Meet

Last month, the FSGA and FWPGA hosted a Course Rating Captain/Co-Captain meeting at Tampa Palms Country Club in Tampa for all Captains and Co-Captains in the state.

The meeting allowed all Captains and Co-Captains to review 2003 and set goals for 2004. In 2004, the course rating department hopes to attain higher standards of consistency and accuracy in every course rating and increase the training of FSGA teams through regional seminars.

The meeting included some general discussion about different issues that affect a course rating such as trees, green surface and visibility. The meeting also moved outside to evaluate green surface techniques and double obstacle issues. This allowed teams to openly discuss different opinions and issues that may arise during a rating.

In conclusion, the event was a great success and allowed all Captains and Co-Captains to gather and share ideas and learn new things for the upcoming year.

Ed Boyer evaluates the green surface as Course Raters look on.



USGA/FSGA Handicap Seminars

In conjunction with the USGA, the FSGA is administering 12 Handicap Seminars across the state to better educate more golfers to the USGA Handicap System and to certify a Handicap Chairman at every club.

From 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, FSGA staff members will conduct an overview of the USGA Handicap System including Handicap Committee responsibilities, the Handicap System formula, handicap allowances, handicap stroke allocations and an insight into golf measuring and the Course Rating System. There is a charge of \$30 to attend which includes lunch.

Please contact your golf professional and/or handicap chairman to make sure your club is represented. You can register at www.fsga.org or call the FSGA at (813) 632-3742. The following is a list of the Handicap Certification Seminars across the state.

- January 15 - University Park CC, Sarasota
- February 3 - Celebration GC, Celebration
- February 4 - Countryside CC, Clearwater
- February 19 - Delray Dunes G & CC, Boynton Beach
- February 24 - Bent Pine GC, Vero Beach
- March 16 - The Club at TwinEagles, Naples
- March 23 - Halifax Plantation GC, Ormond Beach
- March 24 - Baytree National Golf Links, Melbourne
- April 19 - Don Shula's Golf & Hotel Resort, Miami Lakes
- April 21 - Fort Walton Beach GC, Fort Walton Beach
- May 4 - Golden Ocala CC, Ocala
- May 5 - Timuquana CC, Jacksonville

Volunteer 101

The FSGA Tournament Staff conducted six Tournament Volunteer Workshops across the state during the month of January. These complimentary workshops were half day, from 8:30 am - 11:30 am, and included an interactive Powerpoint presentation and covered the basic fundamentals a tournament volunteer should know while working an event. The workshops have been well attended by tournament volunteers and they left the workshops feeling like they learned a lot about being an FSGA tournament volunteer.



FSGA Executive Director Jim Demick and Tournament Director Peter Dachisen discuss Pace of Play with the group at The Forest Country Club.

Giese Supports Local Golf Team

Kitty Neal, golf coach at Freeport High School, wrote this nice note about FSGA tournament volunteer Bill Giese.

“I am sending you this to inform you of a very special person you have on your staff that has for the past 3 years supported my golf team. His name is Mr. Bill Giese. I should have kept up with the number of balls that he has donated to the golf team but that would be hard because it has been so many. To date, I have collected four 50 gallon garbage cans full.

In addition to the balls, Mr. Giese has given me several sets of golf clubs, woods, irons, putters, tees, towels. I can not even begin to tell you what this has done for my team. We are a very small school and have an even smaller golf budget. With Mr. Giese’s help I have been able to provide my golf team with clubs and bags as well as other school’s golf teams. Mr. Giese has made it easier for me to give clubs, balls, shoes, towels, tees to kids that could not afford them.

I have written to your organization before stating what a help Mr. Giese has been. In fact, he just called me again to come and pick some more stuff up. So again, with his efforts, he has given me the opportunity to give golf equipment to kids that would never have the means to take up this wonderful game.”

GIMMIES

Rules Seminars

The FSGA staff will conduct 14 Rules of Golf Seminars across the state this year. They are filling up quickly so register early! Dates include:

January 22 - **PGA National GC**
January 23 - **The Forest CC**
Jan. 30 - **On Top Of The World**
February 3 - **Timuquana CC**
February 5 - **CC of Heathrow**
February 6 - **Hunters Green CC**
February 13 - **Imperial GC**
Feb. 24 - **Don Shula's**
February 25 - **PGA Golf Club**
March 2 - **Ft. Walton Beach GC**
March 4 - **Capital City CC**
March 11 - **Celebration GC**
March 16 - **Grand Haven GC**
March 17 - **Laurel Oak CC**

USGA Course Rating Seminar

The USGA Course Rating Seminar on January 23 is open to all FWPGA & FSGA Course Raters and will be conducted by USGA Course Rating Managers. The day will include indoor and outdoor sessions. Contact Kelly Tarala at ktarala@fwpga.org by January 16 to sign up.

Winter Series

The 2003-2004 Winter Series events have gotten off to a great start. The first few events have received record entries! If you plan on playing in a Winter Series event, sign up early! Entries are also now being accepted for the 2004 State Championships. Remember, if you sign up online, you save \$10!

2004 Club Memberships

Club are quickly joining the FSGA as 2004 Member Clubs. For the New Year, more than 250 golf clubs have already joined as FSGA Member Clubs. If your club is not a member, encourage them to join.

A Head for Ratings by Peter Dennis

courtesy of the USGA

Everybody has a nemesis hole. It's the one that tends to ruin a good round, with an obstacle that you just can't figure out how to avoid.

It's psychological. And, believe it or not, it's addressed in the USGA Course Rating System.

While the system is a complex set of rules and computations, it boils down to three numbers given for each set of tees: the course, bogey and slope ratings. Most people know that the course rating is a gauge of difficulty for a scratch player. After the Handicapping 101 from last September, more people should understand the role of a bogey rating (for a refresher, go to www.golfjournal.org and click on the 1999 archives under Handicapping 101).

Slope ratings are mathematical derivations of the course and bogey ratings and indicate the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for those who are not scratch players. But how does a rating team determine course and bogey ratings?

First, yardage is an essential component. For all golfers, regardless of ability, yardage is the most significant factor to overcome. Rating teams begin by measuring the precise length of each hole. They then take into account several effective playing length factors: How far does the ball roll? Are there any changes in elevation? Are there any forced lay-ups or doglegs? Is there any prevailing wind or is the course 2,000 feet above sea level or higher? Each of these would affect a course's playing length and require an adjustment to the measured length.

But rating teams also pay close attention to a course's characteristics, called obstacle factors, that can make each hole more difficult or easier. These represent the most important assessments made by a rating team. Beginning in 1982, the USGA introduced 10 factors that were considered crucial to course evaluation. Each of these obstacle factors is rated on a scale of 0 to 10, depending on their relation to how a scratch and bogey golfer would play the hole.

When the evaluation is complete, the numbers for each factor are totaled and multiplied by a relative weight factor. The weighted obstacle values are applied to scratch and bogey formulas, then converted to strokes. Those strokes are added or subtracted from the yardage rating to produce course and bogey ratings.

There are several detailed factors to consider before a state, regional or local golf association provides certified ratings to a club. There is little guesswork involved; the process is objective and complete, with rating calibration seminars held around the country on a regular basis.

The personal computer has made calculations within the system a much simpler process, using software developed by the USGA. That's much easier than in the earliest days of the system. Back then the raters found that crunching the numbers, like the inability of some players to conquer a nemesis hole, was all in their heads.

Junior Golf Conference Scheduled

The 7th annual Florida Junior Golf Conference is set for ChampionsGate Golf Club in Orlando on March 24, 2004.

The conference is for junior coordinators representing junior programs across the state. Last year, also at ChampionsGate, 45 different programs were represented and exchanged information and shared ideas on junior golf in Florida.

The day includes discussion about the Florida License Plate, Rules of Golf, the new Florida Junior Tour and much more. In addition, key note speakers will talk about important issues pertaining to junior programs and the group will divide into break out sessions to discuss relevant issues.

If you know of a junior golf program in your area, contact them to make sure they are present at this worthwhile seminar. Please contact juniorgolf@fsga.org for more information.

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