

The Competition Committee of the MGA recently has decided to make some changes to our rules, policies and procedures. Working with the pro staff, committee members kept in mind the goals of:

1. Making competition more fair and equitable for golfers of all levels within the bounds of USGA rules, and
2. Creating an environment where golfers of all levels can maximize their enjoyment of the game.

Starting October 1, 2009 MGA members will no longer have age or handicap restrictions for members who wish to play the forward (black) tees. Therefore anyone can elect to play from the forward (black) tees during MGA competitions. However, to assure that the player has a valid handicap for the black tees, the player must have played at least five recent rounds from the black tees. In addition, the player must have entered those scores into the handicap computer prior to entering a MGA competition from the black tees.

The reasons for delaying the change until October 1 are many:

1. The course is being re-rated by the USGA and results for new slopes and ratings (which affect handicaps) are not expected until the end of August.
2. After the new slopes and ratings are computed for the various tees by the USGA, the club rules and handicap committee must then determine the ranking of difficulty for the various holes in relation to each other. This is determined by analyzing data of recent play once the course has been re-rated.
3. We anticipate that as many as 5-10 members will want to switch to the black tees. (The MGA already has 37 members who play from the black tees.) The October 1 date gives former white tee players time to complete five rounds on the black tees before competitions begin with the new rules.

We understand there are many variables to consider when a member decides to change his tee choice. What will my golfing buddies say? Do I care? What happens when my handicap drops five strokes? Etc. We encourage those of you who are thinking about playing from the black tees to play a few rounds to determine whether playing from the black tees is the right choice for you. Once a decision is made, we request that you are consistent for your choice of tees. If you decide to change, we ask that a tee change is not made more often than every six months. This would be most helpful in administering competitions.

I hope these rule changes will be a positive step for MGA members. If you have questions or comments, please be sure to contact me or a member of the Rules and Handicap committee. Contact information is found at our web site, www.rosedalemga.org. Enjoy golf at Rosedale!

Ron Boehm
MGA President