

The VGA Eagle

Fourth Quarter 2019

The Board officers for the 2020 are as follows: **Dan Campos** – president, **Ron Amstutz** , – vice-president, **Rusty Silverman** – secretary, and **Warren Meehan** – treasurer. Be sure to thank these gentlemen for all that they do for the VGA.

The Board voted to bring back **the desert rule** to be used **in addition to Rule E-5**.

The VGA desert rule is applied as follows;

1. In order for the Desert Rule to apply, the ball must pass over grass and remain in-bounds. The player then may drop the ball in the grass, **within two club lengths of the point where it entered the desert, no closer to the hole**. The player is then **assessed a one-stroke penalty**. **The ball does not have to be found** in order to use the rule. However, the foursome must rule that the ball is not out-of-bounds.
2. If a **player decides to play the ball out of the desert**, and after completing the stroke the **ball remains in the desert without crossing grass**, he **forfeits his use of the desert rule** and must continue to play the ball in the desert. He may do so by playing the shot where the ball lies or by taking an unplayable lie for a one-stroke penalty. In taking an unplayable lie, the ball is placed within two club lengths of where the ball came to rest, but no closer to the hole.
3. If the ball enters the desert at one point and is found closer to the hole, **the ball is not to be dropped from a point opposite where it is found, but at the point of entry**.

Rule E-5 is applied as follows:

1. Determine the ball **reference point at which the ball went out-of-bounds or was lost, but not in a penalty area**.
2. Sight a **line from the pin through the ball reference point**.
3. Determine the **fairway reference point that is directly across from the ball reference point**, but no closer to the hole.
4. Sight a line from the pin through the fairway reference point.
5. The **relief area is the area between the two lines within a two-club lengths, but no closer to the hole and in the field of play**.
6. **Assess a two-stroke penalty**.

If the ball is found, the rule cannot be used. Also, **once a player decides to use the Rule E-5 and drops the ball** according to the rule, **that ball is in play and the lost ball, if found afterwards, is abandoned**.

If you play a provisional ball, you cannot use the rule. However, you may use the rule on the provisional ball.

Also,. **you may not use the rule if you are reasonably sure the ball is in a penalty area.**

The Board **rescinded The Putter Ball Rule** in favor of using the same ball for putting that is hit to the green except if the ball is deemed damaged according to the rules of golf.

The Board is considering changing the minimum requirement for selecting the tees to be played from the 6,000 yard rule for men and the 5,000 yard rule for women to a system that uses the slope rating of the tees for individual courses.

The **Champion of Champions** tournaments are set for **Wednesday February 5 at Orange Tree** and **Saturday February 8 at San Marcos**. Any member that has won a tournament (only the lowest net score) between **November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2019** is eligible for the respective day. There is a **\$10 entry fee** for each tournament which will be paid out to the players with the best net scores.. Golfers who have won an event on both Wednesday and Saturday may enter both tournaments.

Highlights from Fourth Quarter

Eagles

Dan Campos eagled the par-five 568 yard 6th hole at the Wigwam Red Course on September 21. He also had three birdies to shoot 68 with net score of 62.

John Adair scored an eagle at Aguila on September 28. He eagled the par-five 477 yard 5th hole. He birdied numbers 17 and 18 for 74 with a net score of 68.

Low net scores for the quarter

The highlight of the third quarter was **Dwain Moore's net 59** at Union Hills on December 14th. He carded nine pars and only double bogeys to shoot a gross score of 83. **Great shooting Dwain!**

As in the third quarter, there was a spate of low net scores this quarter including 13 scores of 64 who be remembered, but unnamed at this time.

Tom Giljum – 63 at Trilogy Power Ranch on October 2

Al Dan – 62 at Whirlwind Cattail on October 9

Vance Roether – 61 at Union Hills on October 12

Lyn Warder – 62 at Union Hills on October 12

Dan Christiansen – 63 at Union Hills on October 12

Dave Dean – 63 at Ken McDonald on October 16

Ron Gunderson – 62 at Aguila on October 30

Jim Cox – 60 at Orange Tree on November 9

Tom Hebert – 63 at Orange Tree on November 9

Eddie Little – 62 at Falcon Golf Course on November 16

Rusty Silverman – 63 at Falcon Golf Course on November 16

Low gross scores for the quarter

Dan Campos – 73 (73) at San Marcos on October 26

Ben Hughes – 69 (64) at Cave Creek on April 20

Dan Campos – 73(73) at Cave Creek on November 2

Ben Hughes – 71(64) at Falcon GolfCourse on November 16

Ken Slagle – 72(66) at Union Hills on November 27

Dan Campos – 68(68) at Aguila on November 30

Dan Campos – 70(72) at Viewpoint on December 7

Ben Hughes – 72 (64) at Palmbrook on December 11

Dan Campos – 71(72) at Encanto on December 28

Big Dog Bites

Standings through January 18.

Dave Dean has 19 points an early big lead in the Wednesday race. **Warren Meehan** and **Jim Niblack** are tied for second place with eight points each. **John Euler** and **Ken Slagle** are tied for fourth with six points each.

The Saturday race is much closer. **Ken Baca** and **Warren Meehan** are tied for first with 10 points each. **Jim Cox** is in third place with eight points followed by **Bill Heller** and **Rusty Silverman** with six points each.

Letters to Arnie

Dear Arnie,

I hit a ball that landed in an area with tall grass and bushes. I saw what I thought was my ball and hit it out into the open when I realized that it was not my ball. Another player in my foursome told me that I incurred a two-stroke penalty for hitting a wrong ball. I claimed that I did not purposely hit a wrong ball and therefore should not receive the penalty. Who was correct? Wackin' Warren

Dear Warren,

USGA Rule 6.3c states “You must not make a stroke at a wrong ball” (this includes if you miss it). It is a general penalty and, the other player was correct, it is a two-stroke penalty. The rule goes on to say that “In stroke play, you must correct the mistake by continuing play with the original ball by playing it as it lies or taking relief under the Rules:”. “The stroke made with the wrong ball and any strokes before the mistake is corrected do not count.” The rule further states that you must correct your mistake before making a stroke on the next hole (meaning the hole you are currently playing) or before returning your scorecard after the eighteenth hole. The penalty for failing to do so, is disqualification.

Now, what happens if you intentionally hit a wrong ball while you have a ball in play? I would consider this practicing. USGA 5.5 states “While playing a hole and between two holes, you must not make a practice stroke (swing at a wrong ball).” It is a general penalty, two-strokes, and the penalty is to be assessed on the next hole. You may take practice swings, but not practice strokes.

VGA Hats for Sale!

The VGA has a selection of good quality hats with our logo. There are two styles including: white with a blue or tan trim for \$35, sand with a tan trim for \$35 (not shown in the picture), and white with a blue trim and chin tie for \$30. There are also white golf hats for \$15 and visors for \$10. See Fred Baldwin for details.

