

The VGA Eagle

Fourth Quarter 2022

News from the VGA Board

The Board met on January 18

The Board voted to hold the **Club Championship at Prescott Golf Club** in early September. The exact dates will be determined at a future meeting.

The Board approved a measure that **allows a player to move a ball that has come to rest in a sand bunker if the bunker has not been properly maintained or has not been properly raked by a previous player.** The player may remove the ball and rake the area, and then clean and replace the ball where it came to rest. However, all players in the foursome must approve the request.

The Board has approved two, two-man best ball tournaments for **Wednesday March 15 at Sun City Country Club** and for **Saturday March 25 at Dobson Ranch.**

Highlights from the Fourth Quarter

Aces

Unbeleiveable! A VGA player has scored another hole-in-one.

Jim Drago started the holiday season early by **acing the 143 yard par-three eighth hole at San Marcos on December 21.** He hit an easy **seven-iron** that bounced on the green and rolled into the hole. **Congratulations Jim!**

That is an amaziing fourteen holes-in-one in VGA play since the inception of the the Hole-In-One pot on November 1, 2017.

Eagles

The eagles were flying in early October.

Steve Laveirge started the quarter by scoring an **eagle on the 518 yard par-five 11th hole at Cave Creek Gold Course on Octopber 1.** He hit his **three-wood about 225 yards** and hit another **three-wood to about 98 yards from the hole.** On his third shot, he **holed out from the rough using his 56-degree wedge.** (felt bad...sounded bad...went in the hole for an eagle! First one ever! The crowd went wild.) **Congratulations Steve!**

Four days later **Darell Ruehle** scored an **eagle on the 487 yard par-five on hole number 14 at the Legacy Golf Course.** He hit his **drive down the left side** and his **second shot came to rest short of the bunker about 30 yards from the hole.** From there he hit a **beauty over the bunker and it rolled into the hole! Great shot Darell!**

And, three days later **Dan Campos** eagled the 517 yard par-five hole at Coldwater. He hit **driver off the tee** and his **six-iron to the green** and made the putt. **Congratulations Dan!**

Tom Anderson scored an **eagle on November 23 at Bear Creek**. "Playing from the white tees, I **hit my driver** with my custom power fade on the **par-four sixteenth hole** playing at **276 yards**,. The ball landed just short of the green and **settled about eight feet from the hole**. As expected I **nailed the putt** for my second eagle in 2022." **Terrific drive and eagle Tom!**

Be sure to send word of your eagles to Fred Baldwin.

Low net scores for the quarter

Harley Ewing – 64 at Ken McDonald on 10/12

Eric Neilan – 65 at Grand Canyon Golf Course on 11/12

Best individual low gross scores for the quarter

Dan Campos – 70(72) at Pueblo El Mirage on 10/29

Big Dog Bites

Through February 1

Rusty Silverman has an early jump on the pack with **19 points in Wednesday's race**. **Jim Cox** is flying low in **second place with 12 points** followed closely by **Doug Walsh** and **William Nelson** with **ten and nine points** respectively.

Neal Fisel and **William Nelson** are **leading the pack in Saturday's race with eleven points** each. **Ben Hughes with nine points** is nipping at their heels. **Fred Baldwin, Jim Foster, William Nelson, and Mike Roether** are tied for third with **six points each**.

Letters to Arnie

This is a repeat from an earlier issue of The Eagle. It reviews the VGA desert rule and the VGA adopted E-5 rule.

Dear Arnie,

A player in my foursome hit a ball that came to rest under a bush which he deemed **unplayable**. As the foursome discussed his options, we were unable to agree on what they were. What choices does a player have for an unplayable lie under the USGA rules and also, under the VGA rules? **Quandried Quartet**

Dear Quartet,

The player has three **USGA** options, **stroke-and-distance**, **back-on-the-line**, and **lateral relief**. In each case the **ball must be found and identified** and the player will be **assessed a one-stroke penalty**.

With **stroke-and distance** the player returns to place where the previous stroke was made.

If he chooses **back-on-the-line** relief, he has the option of going as far back as he wants as long as he is **farther from the hole and in line with the unplayable lie and the flag** on the green. The **relief area must be the same as the area of the unplayable lie** and must be **no closer to the hole**.

With **lateral relief**, the player may drop the ball within two club-lengths (using the driver) of the point of relief no closer to the hole.

The player has two **VGA** options.

The Desert Rule adopted by the VGA - This rule comes into play when a ball comes to rest in the desert after **crossing grass** in the fairway or rough. The player may elect to drop the ball within **two driver club-lengths at the point where it crossed grass** (not at the point where it was found). The player is assessed a **one-stroke penalty**. The ball **does not need to be found**, but the player must be relatively sure that the ball is in the desert and **not out-of-bounds**. Of course the player may elect to play his shot from the desert, may elect to take an unplayable lie (see above), or may elect to return to the previous spot. In these cases, the player **would still be assessed a one-stroke penalty**. Also, if a player elects to hit his **shot from the desert and it remains in the desert**, he **cannot use the desert rule** now because the ball did not cross grass on that shot.

Rule E-5 adopted by the VGA - This rule comes into play **when a ball is lost anywhere on the course (but not in a penalty area) or is hit out-of-bounds**. The player must guess, to the best of his ability, **where the ball was lost or where it crossed the out-of-bounds line**. He then has the **option to drop his ball in the fairway, no closer to the hole, within two club-lengths of the rough**. He may play the ball anywhere between where the ball was lost or went out-of-bounds and where the ball could be dropped in the fairway, but **no closer to the hole**. The player is assessed a **two-stroke penalty**. A player **cannot use E-5 if he hits a provisional ball**. He **may not play the original ball if it is found after he has dropped a second ball** using the E-5 rule.

In each of the above, the player must drop the ball from the knee.