

# The VGA Eagle

**Second Quarter 2023**

## **News from the VGA Board**

There is none at this time.

## **Highlights from the Fourth Quarter**

**Gordon Lukert, the Dean of the VGA**, has done it once again. **He shot his age of 90 at Bear Creek on April 12. Congratulations Gordon!**

## **Eagles**

**Dan Campos eagled the 516 yard par-five fourth hole at Viewpoint on April 1.** He made a **ten-foot putt** after hitting his **three-wood** to the green. **Nice eagle Dan!**

**Steve Yamasaki eagled the 540 yard par-five first hole at Tres Rios on April 5 and carded a 70(69). Great way to start a round Steve!**

**Joey Hochevar eagled the 487 yard par-five 18th hole at Legacy on June 7.** He hit his **six-iron** from **190 yards** to just off the back of the green and holed out a **30 footer! Great hole Joey!**

**Be sure to send word of your eagle information to Fred Baldwin.**

## **Low net scores for the quarter**

There were no net scores of 65 or below in the second quarter.

## **Best individual low gross scores for the quarter**

**Tom Anderson 75(67) at Viewpoint on 4/1**

**Ben Hughes 75(72) at Viewpoint on 4/1**

**Ben Hughes 74(70) at Encanto on 4/8**

**Dan Campos 70(71) at Encanto on 4/8**

**Mike Roether – 74(66) at Cave Creek on 4/29**

**Dan Campos – 69(70) at Cave Creek on 4/29**

**Gary Moffitt – 75(70) at Encanto on 5/13**

**Michael Lopez** – 73(69) at Encanto on 5/13

**Joey Hochevar** – 74(70) at Ken McDonald on 5/20

**Joey Hochevar** – 75(71) at Aguila on 5/24

**Larry Burton** – 75(65) at Crooked Tree on 5/27

**Dan Campos** – 67(71) at San Ignacio on 5/29

**Steve Yamasaki** – 75(74) at Legacy on 6/7

**Joey Hochevar** – 70(67) at TPC Champions 6/17

**Robert Rochefort** – 74(74) at TPC Champions 6/17

**Michael Lopez** – 72(68) at Aguila on 6/21

**Steve Yamasaki** 75(74) at Eagle Mountain on 6/28

### **Big Dog Bites**

**Through June 30**

**Rusty Silverman** has increased his total in the **Wednesday race** to **28 points**. **Jim Cox** is in **second place with 22 points** followed closely by **Gary Vance**, **Doug Walsh**, and **Fred Baldwin** with **17, 16, and 15 points** respectively.

**Larry Burton** has pawed his way to the top of the **Saturday race** with **20 points**. **Neal Fisel** and **William Nelson** have slipped to **second place with 16 points** each. **Dan Christiansen** has surged to **third place with 15 points** followed by **Brian Dempster** with **14 points**.

### **Letters to Arnie**

**Dear Arnie,**

Recently, on a par-three hole, one of the players in my foursome hit a shot that went past the green and ended up out-of-bounds. He first asked if he could play the ball where it lay. We agreed that he could not, but decided he could drop the ball in the area of play behind the green and incur a two-stroke penalty. Did we make the right call? **Tutu Farr**

**Dear Tutu,**

There are several factors to consider in your letter. First what were the player's options? You were correct in that the rules do not allow a player to take a stroke to hit his ball when out-of-bounds. He had two options. First, he could have returned to the the tee area, hitting three,

after taking the stroke and distance penalty. Second, he could have used the local E-5 rule. In doing so, he should have marked the place that ball went out-of-bounds (not where the ball comes to rest) and sight a line to the nearest edge of the fairway and sight a line that that point on the fairway to the pin. He then would have to have dropped his ball within two club lengths of the edge of the fairway (actually in front of the green) and no closer to the pin from the point where the ball went out of bounds. He would have the option of dropping the ball in the rough if he felt it was to his advantage. The penalty for using the E-5 rule is two strokes.

In general, the E-5 rule can be used for a lost ball or a ball that comes to rest out-of-bounds. For a lost ball, the player needs to estimate where the ball is lost and go at a right angle to the edge of the fairway. Once a player puts the ball in play using E-5, he cannot play the original ball if it is found after that time. In general, if a player is unsure if the ball is lost or out-of-bounds, he is to assume the ball is out-of-bounds.

Also in general, whenever a player takes relief of any kind, the ball must be dropped farther from the hole.

**Dear Arnie,**

What penalty should be assessed to a player after he hit a wrong ball twice? **Ewlar Toning**

**Dear Ewlar,**

In stroke play, the player is penalized two strokes (General Penalty) and 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 additional strokes made with that wrong ball before the mistake is corrected do not count. If the player does not correct the mistake before making a stroke to begin another hole, or for the final hole of the round before returning their score card, the player is disqualified.

**Dear Golfers,**

Some players have asked me questions about things they have seen VGA golfers do on the course that seemed to be outside of the rules. They are as follows:

#### **Improperly dropping a ball after a free drop or after a penalty**

These comments refer to golfers dropping a ball from various heights or simply tossing the ball to the ground. When a golfer is eligible to get a free drop or drops a ball as a result of a penalty, he must **drop the ball from the knee**. The ball after the drop **must not be closer to the hole**. If it is, then he must drop it again. If **after the second drop** and the ball is **closer to the hole**, the player is to place the ball at the point of the second drop. If the drop results in a poor lie, the golfer must play it as it lies.

Recently on the ninth hole of the TPC Champions course, I saw a player drop a ball from the **back of the green onto the rough in front of the cart path**. If that player's ball **had come to rest on the cart path**, he should have dropped it on **the other side of the cart path** in the dirt area to be sure that **the drop area was farther from the hole**. Failure to do so results in a **two-stroke penalty** and the ball would have to be dropped again properly.

#### **Improperly using the E-5 rule**

This is in response to players witnessing golfers, while applying the E-5 rule, dropping the ball across from where the ball is found out-of-bounds. When a **ball passes out-of-bounds** it is **no longer a live ball** (unless it returns to the field of play). So **that is the point of reference**

for the application of the E-5 rule. The player, if he chooses to apply the E-5 rule, must **drop the ball from the knee directly opposite from where it passed out-of-bounds no further than two club lengths into the fairway**. However, if a player's ball goes out-of-bounds at a right angle to the boundary, then he may drop the ball directly from that point.

#### **Refusing to rake the sand after hitting from a sand trap**

That this happens is confusing to me. While there are no rules about raking the sand traps, golfers must remember that **golf is a game of etiquette**. **Failure to rake a trap shows a lack of respect for your fellow golfers and for the VGA in general.**

**Lastly, it is up to all golfers to ensure that the rules of golf are being followed. If you feel that a rule has been misapplied by a golfer, then you need to put forth your opinion. And, if a foursome cannot agree on a ruling, then they need to get a ruling from the tournament coordinator.**