

Golf Newfoundland Labrador Rules Director's Report-2017

Rules officials and volunteers were kept busy this past summer attending national, provincial, Tely Junior Golf Tour and High School events across the province. My thanks go out to Kay Thompson, Leonard Woodford, Gerard Martin and Bruce Watson for their assistance during our two provincial championships and the following dedicated individuals across the province who assisted with the administration of the Tely Tour and other junior events:

Wilf Pardy, Alex Powell, Wayne Allen, Steve Wegewood, Dave Moakler and Gerard and Andrew Walsh. We couldn't have done it without you.

Finally, a special thanks to Bill Lee and the staff at Grande Meadows Golf Club and Darrell Denief and the crew at The Wilds for preparing both courses for tournament play after an extremely tough winter.

Golf NL completed another session of on-line rules education over the past winter with Steve Wegewood achieving Level 3 provincial certification and Len Woodford moving up to Level 4 national certification. Bruce Watson and Kay Thompson both re-certified to Level 4 as well. Congratulations to you all !

As many of you are undoubtedly aware, the Rules of Golf are slated for a major overhaul and revision which is scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 2019. As a result of a Rules Modernization initiative which commenced five years ago, the intent of golf's governing bodies is to bring the Rules up to date to fit the needs of the game globally. The overall goals aim to make the Rules easier to understand and apply by golfers at all levels, to make them more consistent and fair while reinforcing the game's longstanding principles and character. These objectives will be achieved with modern, plain style written rules using common words, shorter sentences and explanatory headings while also removing the use of male-only references. Greater use of visual aids such as graphics, photos and videos will be introduced taking advantage of current technology to improve the player experience. Lastly, a version of the Rules that is written from the player's perspective focusing on what the typical golfer needs to know will be, for the first time, available as a reference handbook.

As a Rules official who has struggled with the current code and the literature we have to deal with, I can truly say that I, and certainly other officials and players, am excited to see what this modernization of the Rules will mean to the game and how it will dramatically improve the experience for all golfers at all ages and skill levels.. Accordingly, your Rules Committee has decided to defer any further education programs or seminars until 2019 when the revised Rules code comes into effect. Golf Canada will be offering training seminars in early 2019 allowing us to certify officials on the new code prior to the start of the 2019 golfing season. I, for one, am looking forward to this exciting initiative and can assure you that it will make our jobs easier and will contribute to a much more enjoyable experience on the course. Please stay tuned for additional news on this topic as we head to January 2019.

In closing, I would like to remind you that it takes a tremendous amount of planning and coordination to make a golf tournament a success. The vast majority of this effort occurs behind

the scenes and is , for the most part, transparent to the players participating. Please join me in recognizing the efforts of those involved whether it be the club`s staff, starters and forecaddies, timing and scoring officials and other volunteers who give so freely of their time on your behalf. Next time you pass one on the course, please take a moment to say Thanks... it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time today.

Jim Sloan
Director – Rules of Golf
Golf Newfoundland Labrador
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