



### President's Message

By Doug Korb



Happy New Year! Wow how time flies, unless you're having a bad day on the course and have 6 more holes to suffer through.

Lots of changes occurred in our Club, and at our course, in 2023. Our Players Meeting notes are posted on our website [here](#).

Some of the changes on the course included:

- \*Clearing many penalty areas of brush, and overgrown vegetation.
- \*Sanding and seeding many tee boxes.
- \*Trimming many trees.
- \*Railings and walkways on hole numbers 8, 17.
- \*Improved drainage where water used to settle.
- \*Overseeding the rough.
- \*Improved bunkers, loosening sand, trimming edges, etc. Look for new sand in 2024.
- \*Lake on #3 was cleared of brush.

There's been an increased budget for course maintenance in 2024, so look for continued improvements throughout the year.

Hang in there through the winter months, as our course is in good shape for a great spring.

### Membership Message

By Mike Re



As of December 13<sup>th</sup>, Redhawk Golfers Club has 166 members. We have 24 new members since the last Newsletter.

Please welcome:

- Monte Myers** from Temecula
- John Speirs** from Temecula
- Fred Dimaggio** from Temecula
- Mario Reyes** from Temecula – Former Men's Club Member
- Robert Bach** from Corona
- Larry Cook** from Murrieta
- Karen Whittier Cook** from Murrieta
- Gary Keene** from Murrieta
- Mike Hargreaves** from Temecula
- Taylor Warren** from Murrieta
- Chuepheng Lo** from Temecula
- Mike Wegman** from Temecula



**Chase McIntosh** from San Diego  
**Peter Vehlow** from Temecula  
**Victor Nguyen** from Temecula  
**Ross Geller** from Aguanga  
**John Dibble** from Hemet  
**Anthony Sokolis** from Wildomar  
**Charles Muiruri** from Sparks, NV  
**Declan Lane** from Temecula  
**Dillon Howington** from Fallbrook  
**Winnie Oppod** from Temecula  
**Cody Driscoll** from Temecula

Please extend a warm welcome to our new member at our next event.

### Handicap Message

By Alan de la Sierra



In 2024 the **Rules of Handicapping** had changes which impact posting scores going forward. The most significant change is posting a score when not all 18 holes were played. This will most often happen in a match play event. Attached is a Golf.com article which summarizes the 2024 changes.

[Handicapping2024](#)

The new posting rules are also posted on our Bulletin Board.

On our web site under the [Club Documents](#) section, [Other Helpful Documents](#), is the 2024 Rules of Handicapping slide presentation by the SCGA. Players interested in additional detail can review:

Slide: #5 - 2024 Principal Changes  
Slide: #15 - Minimum number of holes played acceptable for posting.  
Slide: #22-33 - Rule 3.2 Changes, 10-17 Holes posting  
Slide: #44-55 - Rule 5.1 Changes, 9 Hole to 18 Hole score differential calculation.

<https://redhawkgolfers.org/club-documents>

Any questions, see Alan de la Sierra, Handicap Chairman

### Rules Message

By Greg Stoffel



As we head into winter playing conditions be sure to review our local rules. Below are three of our most significant local rules.

#### **Accumulations of Loose Impediments:**

During play, any ground with temporary accumulations of leaves or aeration plugs in the general area or in a bunker is treated as ground under repair from which free relief



is allowed under Rule 16.1. Relief is not available in penalty areas.

**Coot Fences:** Seasonal coot fences around greens are considered immovable obstructions. Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1, provided the ball is located in the general area and not in a penalty area. When a player's ball is in a penalty area, the player does not get free relief from an immovable artificial object (see Rule 16.1a(2)).

**Lift, Clean, & Place (aka, Winter Rules) –** Will apply only when announced before teeing off.

Lift, Clean, & Place (LCP) definitions:

- 1) LCP, will apply to all areas of the course except bunkers, waste areas (holes 5,6,12,13), and penalty areas. When in any of these 3 areas you must play the as it lies (aka, 'down').
- 2) When applicable, and if you desire, you can mark your ball, lift it, clean it, and place it no closer to the hole, within 12" of its original marked position.
- 3) Your ball is to be placed in the same course area as it was originally located. Rough, remains in the rough. Fairway, remains in the

fairway. Fringe, remains in the fringe.

- 4) Do not move your ball from the fairway to the rough, or the rough to the fairway.
- 5) Do not move your ball from the fringe to the green.

Our full set of Local Rules can be found [here.](#)

### Tournament Message

By Roger Morey



Our 2024 Tournament Schedule has been agreed upon by the Board. The most significant change will be the dates for our Club Championship.

The new schedule will be posted to our website shortly.

### Monthly Tournament Results

#### CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (OCTOBER)

Congratulations to our new Club Champions, **Ken Koepfer, Gross Champion** & **Mas Yokota, Net Champion.**

Both of our champions represented our Men's Club in the SCGA Tournament of Club Champions in early December.



## The Hawk's Eye, January 2024

### NOVEMBER TOURNAMENT

Our November tournament was our traditional charity event with all proceeds this year going to '**Branches of Love**'. Our combined contributions totaled **\$900** this year, which provided 50 Christmas trees & stands to local families in need.

A huge thank you to all that contributed to this local charity.

### DECEMBER TOURNAMENT

**Ron Valerio & Jon Wilkerson** edged out the rest of the field by 1 shot to win our Two Man Net Tournament in December. Well played guys.

### Short Putts

#### BOARD of DIRECTORS

Over the last few months, we have been inviting players to join our Board Meeting to help them understand how our club operates. If you have an interest in joining a meeting let one of us know.

We're always looking for new Board members in order to keep things fresh and with new ideas. It's your club, don't hesitate to join the Board and participate.

### THURSDAY GOLF

If you're interested in playing on Thursday please reach out to **Jon Wilkerson** or **Tai Kreider** to make sure you're included in their weekly invitation.

### PACE of PLAY

During our recent Player Meeting it was decided that we would enforce our 'slow play' penalty, as defined on our website.

We've also started a new program to put the players that are committed to play in less than 4:30 in the early groups off of holes 1A, 1B, and 18A.

### Player Profile

As I've mentioned before, our club is always looking for members to step forward and volunteer to assist the Board, or the golf course. We're still in search of someone to carry on our 'Player Profile' section of the newsletter.

It's a role that will require less than an hour a month, and will give all of us insight to our fellow players lives beyond golf.

Please let any Board member know if you can help us here.



## Monthly Cartoon – Video



**Remember, the most important shot in golf is your next shot.**

See you in the short grass,  
**Doug Korb**, President

## The Hawk's Eye, January 2024

On Jan. 1, the [World Handicap System](#), which was established in 2020 to unify golfers around the globe through a standard measure of playing ability, will be updated. The changes, implemented by the [USGA](#) and R&A, are meant to create a system that more accurately reflects how the game is played today.

And how is the game played today? Increasingly, in 9-hole rounds, on [shorter courses](#). The updated system will accommodate that new reality.

### HERE'S A REFRESHER ON THE CHANGES:

#### Posting scores for 9-hole rounds

If you're like a lot of golfers, you play a lot of 9-hole rounds. And no wonder. They're fun. They're fast. They fit nicely with your go-go lifestyle. Problem is, in many countries, the United States included, a single 9-hole round can't be counted toward your handicap index. Under the current system, you have to wait until you play another 9, and then combine those two scores into an 18-hole total.

As of the new year, that will change. Rather than make you wait until you play another 9 on another day, and maybe even on another course (factors that can introduce all kinds of variables), the updated system will allow you to post your score immediately, which it will use to produce an 18-hole tally that combines your score for the holes you completed with your "expected score" on the rest — your expected score being what a player of your ability would be expected to shoot on a course of standard difficulty.

#### Posting scores for rounds of 10-17 holes

Yeah, we know. Playing 10 to 17 holes is a lot less common than playing 9. But it happens, usually when darkness or weather intervenes. The new system will have a better way of handling those rounds, too. For starters, you won't have to play 13 holes to make it official; under the current system, if you don't make it through 13, your scores on holes 10, 11 and 12 don't count. What's more, instead of using net par to calculate an 18-hole score, as the system currently does, the updated WHS will add the player's Score Differential from holes played to the player's expected Score Differential for holes not played. It is, in short, a more accurate way of accounting for the holes you didn't get to.

#### Posting scores for rounds on short courses

Par-3 and executive courses are all the rage these days. But because many of these courses had not previously been assigned a Course Rating and Slope Rating, the scores you posted on them could not be counted toward your handicap, either. On Jan. 1, that, too, will change. Under the new system, the length requirements for inclusion in the WHS will be significantly reduced, with courses as short as 750 yards for 9 holes and 1,500 for 18 holes brought into the fold.

As you can probably imagine, this is not a change that has happened overnight. To prepare for it, the USGA — with help from its allied golf associations around the country — has been busy dispatching raters to short courses from coast to coast. That work is still in progress. As it stands, a little more than one-third of eligible short courses have been assigned Course and

## The Hawk's Eye, January 2024

Slope Ratings. Plans call for half of them to be rated by the spring of 2024, and the rest completed by the end of the year.

### **Handicap adjustments based on abnormal conditions**

Golf is played in variable conditions. That's one of the beauties of the game. But it also makes it tricky on handicapping. The current WHS make automatic adjustments for abnormal course conditions (things like high winds and standing water and ground under repair). But it could be more precise. As of Jan. 1, the updated system will be more sensitive to abnormal conditions, and thus better able to accurately adjust for them.

### **Additional guidance for handicap committees**

Last but not least (well, actually, it is the least relevant to the non-tournament rounds of golf most of us play), the updated system will provide additional guidance to handicap committees conducting handicap reviews, with new tools to help sort through the potential headache of outlier scores and other inconsistencies.