



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER®

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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Dear Subscriber:

ONCE THE FIGHTING ENDED in the Pacific theater of World War II and our soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen returned home through California ports, many of those going ashore chose to stay in the Golden State. The weather, the vast natural beauty, and the advantages of working in a vibrant, relaxed, and receptive economy allured thousands. California's population expanded, and the result nurtured astonishing wealth and creativity.

The aftershock of assimilation included popular trends that began in post-war California and traveled east engulfing us all: Muscle cars, surfing, skate boards, jet propulsion and space exploration, avocados, sanctioned homelessness, illegal immigration, golf carts and desert golf. The Beach Boys, Ronald Reagan, Carroll Shelby, Walt Disney, Neil Diamond, Indiana Jones, Charles Manson, the Hillside Strangler, Tiger Woods, the Saulk Institute, Pixar, Apple, Google, "Vertigo", "Star Wars", and "Bullitt". Jack Kerouac, Buck Owens, and Robert Frost.

California's FAIR PAY FOR PLAY ACT Force-Altering Amateur Sport Worldwide

Now there comes a new California trend in the form of the FAIR PAY FOR PLAY ACT [Senate Bill 206] that was passed by the California Legislature and signed into law last September by Gov. Gavin Newsom, sometimes known as Moonbeam the Second, having followed Jerry Brown in the California governor's office. This is how the argument for the act is described on Gov. Newsom's website:

Currently, student athletes are barred by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (N.C.A.A.) from earning compensation from their association with

college sports even though their respective college or university can make millions from their athletic performance. That participation often comes at great risk to students' health, academic success, and professional prospects. Nationwide, colleges and universities make \$14 billion each year from student athletics and the N.C.A.A. takes in \$1 billion annually.

The bill, which passed the California Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support, becomes the first law of its kind in the nation to allow college student athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness.

Gov. Newsom makes reasons that every college student can monetize their name, image or likeness *except* athletes. A digital entrepreneur, who is also a student, can create and monetize a YOUTUBE presence; a musician can video tape and sell their performances; a painter their interpretations of art; a writer can sell magazine stories ... so why can't an athlete make money on his or her performance?

The California act becomes law in January 2023. It is anticipated that the greatest impacts of this new view of amateur sport will have been felt in football and basketball. On these pages, however, we are concerned with how the eccentricities of the California law will affect the future of amateur golf as it is played around in the U.S. and around the world.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FAIR PAY FOR PLAY Act
Ouimet & Ward
World Handicap System

As we begin our 31st year, we thank you for your loyalty and welcome those who have just joined us.

DAVIS LOVE III,
"THE GOLF LETTER ... the only golf publication I really look forward to reading."

The first major decision in this process falls to the N.C.A.A. who must decide if they will permit the California model to be applied to collegiate sports nationally.

Two weeks before the California act was passed, the N.C.A.A. threatened severe penalties against complying colleges and universities that would include being unable to compete in N.C.A.A. competitions. However, the popularity of California university teams [think California, Stanford and Southern California] in major media markets quickly evaporated that threat. "Show me the money," as Rod Tidwell (Cuba Gooding Jr.) put it in the 1996 film JERRY MAGUIRE.

Shortly after the California law was signed by the governor, the N.C.A.A. reversed itself and voted unanimously to allow student athletes to be compensated just as the California act allows. The N.C.A.A. has since stated they will modernize their amateur rules in 2020. N.C.A.A. President Mark Emmert issued the following statement:

IMPORTANT 2020 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Latin America Am	Mayakoba, Mex.	Jan 16-19
THE 84TH MASTERS	AUGUSTA NATIONAL	APR 9-12
102ND PGA CHMPNSHP	HARDING PARK	MAY 14-17
U.S. Women's Open	Champions	Jun 4-7
Curtis Cup	Conwy, Wales	Jun 12-14
[British] Amateur	Royal Birkdale	Jun 15-20
120TH U.S. OPEN	WINGED FOOT	JUNE 18-21
U.S. Senior Open	Newport	Jun 25-28
THE 149TH OPEN	ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S	JULY 16-19
U.S. Girl's Junior	Air Force Academy	July 13-18
[British] Senior Open	Sunningdale	July 23-26
U.S. Jr. Amateur	Hazeltine	July 20-25
[British] Seniors Am	Royal Cinque Ports	Jul 29-31
Olympic Men's Golf	Kasumigaseki	Jul 30-Aug 2
Olympic Women's Golf	Kasumigaseki	Aug 5-8
U.S. Women's Am	Woodmont	Aug 3-9
U.S. Amateur	Bandon Dunes	Aug 10-16
U.S. Senior Am	C.C. of Detroit	Aug 29-Sep 3
U.S. Women's Mid-Am	Berkeley Hall	Aug 29-Sep 3
U.S. Mid-Am	Kinloch	Sep 12-17
43 rd Ryder Cup	Whistling Straits	Sep 25-27
World Amateur Team	Hong Kong	
	Women's	Oct 14-17
	Men's	Oct 21-24
Asia-Pacific Amateur	Royal Melbourne	Oct 29-Nov 1

As a national governing body, the N.C.A.A. is uniquely positioned to modify its rules to ensure fairness and a level playing field for student athletes. The board's action today creates a path to enhance opportunities for student athletes while ensuring they compete against students and not professionals.

If the N.C.A.A. adapts their rules to sync with the California law, college golfers will be allowed to sign endorsement contracts, retain agents, and receive payment for private golf instruction.

Following the N.C.A.A.'s adaptation, the change in amateur status rules will then ripple internationally to how The R&A and U.S.G.A. respond. Current rules of amateur status state that "an amateur golfer of golf skill or reputation must not use that skill or reputation to obtain payment, compensation, personal benefit or financial gain, directly or indirectly, for (i) promoting, advertising or selling anything, or (ii) allowing his name or likeness to be used by a third party for the promotion, advertisement or sale of anything."

U.S.G.A. Senior Managing Director-Governance, Thomas Pagel, commented, "[This situation] will continue to be a primary area of discussion as we review the Rules to reflect the modern game, while still staying true to the spirit behind what it means to be an amateur golfer."

As someone well-acquainted with the history of amateur golf exquisitely remarked, the Rules of Amateur Status evolved from a 19th century British upper class caste system that was more concerned with keeping the wrong sort of people out of the game rather than money out of the game. Afterall, the right sort of people already had the money.

The Impact to Golf's RULES OF AMATEUR STATUS

Amateur Status Rule 1-3. The purpose of the Rules [of Amateur Status] is to maintain the distinction between amateur and professional golf and to ensure that amateur golf, which is largely self-regulating with regard to the Rules of Golf and handicapping, is free from the pressures that may follow from uncontrolled sponsorship and financial incentive.

Through appropriate limits and restrictions, the Rules are also intended to encourage amateur golfers to focus on the game's challenges and inherent rewards, rather than any financial gain.

As California and the N.C.A.A. take their bone saws to the code that currently governs amateur golf - inside and outside of collegiate competitions - there are complicated questions and answers to ponder:

• If The R&A and the U.S.G.A. do not accept the new criteria of N.C.A.A. amateur doctrine that are anticipated, will those players who do accept the changes be excluded from the Amateur Championship, the U.S. Amateur Championship, and all the various amateur championships that conduct their competitions under the Rules established by golf's governing bodies?

• If The R&A and U.S.G.A. do not agree that they will both apply the same changes, how will this affect British amateurs attending U.S. colleges and universities? How will the competitive fields of amateur championships around the world be affected?

• If they disagree with the governing bodies' decision or the N.C.A.A. decisions, will Augusta National apply their own Rules of Amateur Status for amateurs invited to play in the Masters Tournament?

Last month, The R&A and U.S.G.A. responded to this conundrum via a joint press release stating that the two ruling bodies are "conducting a review of the Rules of Amateur Status to make them easier to understand and apply". The governing bodies will seek the "perspectives of golf's stakeholders, national golf associations, professional golf associations and other industry partners". A new, modernized set of amateur status rules, "more into line with the way the modern sport is played", is expected by late 2021; to be effective January 2022.

An Uncomplicated Solution

While it is easy to get lost in the minutiae and emotion that surround golfers' amateur status, a simple solution, with only one benchmark, has been proposed by an anonymous source to THE GOLF LETTER: Because the likelihood of golf equipment and clothing companies spending money to use the image of a college golfer is

remote, the only test need be that if a golfer plays *in an organized event for prize money* (a minimal amount to be determined) *that player is a professional.*

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM Launched and Operating?????

By the time you read this you will have come under

the auspices of the World Handicap System (W.H.S.), which was created by The R&A and the U.S.G.A. in order to standardize handicap calculations worldwide.

What difference will that make to you? Life will go on, but handicapping your golf so that you may play equitably with most anyone else in the world will be improved. There will be little change to the calculation for U.S. handicaps because it is the rest of the world that will come into greater compliance with the system that has been largely perfected by the U.S.G.A. over the past four decades. When re-calculated for the world system, it is estimated that U.S.G.A. handicaps will be within one- or two-tenths of a point of where they were before this new world system was implemented. The following are a few details of the new system that are worth understanding.

How Many Strokes Will You Get Now?

• The W.H.S. calculates how many strokes you get in relation to *par*. The old system used *course rating*. Because of a change in the calculation formula, stroke adjustments will

not have to be made when competitors are playing from different tees. That difference is now built into the new system. The old system only used the Slope Rating of the tees, while the new system uses both the Slope Rating and the difference between the Course Rating and Par. Those playing forward tees will get fewer strokes than before, and those using back tees will get more.

Francis Ouimet & Harvie Ward The U.S.G.A. Strips and Reverses

FRANCIS OUIMET was the first amateur to win the U.S. Open, which he did at Brookline in 1913 at the age of 20. The following year he won the U.S. Amateur at Ekwanok.

Two years later, in one of their most mortifying decisions, the U.S.G.A. stripped Mr. Ouimet of his amateur status. He was accused of using his celebrity as an amateur champion to aid his sale of sporting goods and, therefore, deriving an income from golf. In 1918, Mr. Ouimet joined the U.S. Army to serve in World War I. The U.S.G.A. used the cover of the war to quietly reinstate his amateur status during that time.

Subsequently, Mr. Ouimet won the 1931 U.S. Amateur at Beverly, played on the first eight Walker Cup teams, and captained the next four. In 1951, he played-in as the first non-British Captain of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

♦ ♦ ♦

HARVIE WARD won the Amateur Championship at Prestwick in 1952, and two U.S. Amateurs consecutively at the CC of Virginia in 1955 and Knollwood the following year. As a student at the University of North Carolina, Mr. Ward had already won the N.C.A.A. Division I title in 1949. He played on three Walker Cup teams [1953, '55, '59] winning all six of his matches. Bill Campbell often reflected, "When Harvie was on, no one could beat him."

The U.S.G.A. in another spectacularly-flawed decision, stripped Mr. Ward of his amateur status in 1957, then reinstated him as an amateur the following year. The controversy surrounding Mr. Ward arose while he was employed by Eddie Lowery, a San Francisco car dealer, member of the U.S.G.A. Executive Committee, and Mr. Ouimet's caddie in the 1913 U.S. Open. Mr. Lowery claimed income tax deductions for money he spent to sponsor some of Mr. Ward's golf. Because this was discovered to be unknown to Mr. Ward, the U.S.G.A. reversed its decision in 1957, which allowed him to compete in the 1959 Walker Cup.

Net Double Bogey

What a dazzlingly peculiar combination of words.

The old handicap system used *Equitable Stroke Control* (not nearly as idiosyncratic a combination of words) to keep charlatans from unfairly influencing their handicaps, that is sandbagging. It was based on a sliding scale that restricted the high score you could record on a hole based on your course handicap e.g. a 10 handicap could take no more than a 7 on any hole ... a 40 handicap could record no more than a 10.

The new system replaces the sliding scale of *Equitable Stroke Control* with *Net Double Bogey*. Regardless of handicap, any player can take as many net double bogeys as they make during a round.

To calculate your net double bogey on a hole where things went awry, this is what you do: Take par for the hole in question, add two strokes to get to double bogey, and then adjust that by *adding* any handicap strokes you are entitled to on that hole. [If you are a plus handicapper who must give the course strokes, you would decrease double bogey on any hole where those strokes fall.] This was changed because net double bogey is the system primarily used in most of the world.



For L.V.G.:

"... his initial taciturnity was something he wore like a professional suit, reluctantly, in a world which he frequently found unsympathetic to his affectionate character ..."

John Le Carré
SMILEY'S PEOPLE

Fewer Scores for Calculating Your Handicap

The new world system uses just 8 of your last 20 rounds to calculate your handicap, as opposed to the old system that used 10 of 20. According to the ruling bodies, this will reward consistency and more quickly respond mathematically to better scores.



Also, the W.H.S. now requires just 54 holes to generate a handicap for those who do not already have one. The highest handicap index has been raised to 54 for both men and women. Under the old system, the limit was 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women.

Faster Updates

Taking advantage of the speed and accessibility of the Internet, your handicap index will be updated every day.

Weather as a Factor

A Playing Conditions Calculator has been added to take abnormal playing conditions such as excessive wind, rain, cold, or unusual course setup into consideration. On any day when you play and post your score those abnormalities will be taken into consideration by the calculator. Your score will be compared to the average of all scores posted at that same course on that same day. If all scores were higher on the day of your posting, the math will take this into consideration so that your handicap index is not negatively impacted due to abnormal conditions.

Yours vy truly,

Gary A. Galyean
Editor & Publisher

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