

GSWPGA Special Executive Board Meeting
ADA Compliance
6/23/16 1pm - Carnation Library, Carnation WA

Attending: Pat Hinneburg, Carrie Bullinger, Janet Dobrowolski, Kren, Maquire, Cindy Andre

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Hinneburg. This meeting was necessitated by a request from past Tournament Chair Cathy Woodburne to address possible deficiencies in GSWPGA governing documents with respect to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). A breach of etiquette by a member of a foursome at the 2016 President's Charity Cup event at Mt. Si caused Cathy to make the request.

Pat shared with the group the information she obtained from members of the foursome in which the incident occurred. A long discussion followed about different types of disabilities and how GSWPGA will respond. The three areas discussed were 1) Physical, 2) Visual, 3) Intellectual disabilities.

Physical Disabilities:

The consensus of the group was that it is the responsibility of member golf courses to assure that their course is compliant with ADA requirements in relationship to physical disabilities. There is no possible way for GSWPGA to have an effect on how any member course complies with those ADA requirements.

Visual Impairment Disabilities:

GSWPGA will change our documentation to allow a Coach (spotter) for members with visual impairments. Players with visual impairments will notify the Tournament Chairperson that they have a visual impairment and will provide Coach (spotter) to support their play. Verification of the impairment will lie with the member's Club Captain and City Representative.

Coach:

A "coach" is one who assists a blind golfer in *addressing the ball* and with alignment prior to the *stroke*. A coach has the same status under the *Rules* as a *caddie*.

Note 1: A player may ask for and receive *advice* from his coach.

Note 2: A player may have only one coach at any one time.

Note 3: A coach may also be referred to as a "guide." For the purpose of applying these modifications, a guide has the same status under the *Rules* as a coach.

From the USGA website.

Intellectual Disabilities:

The following information was provided by Janet Dobrowolski from the USGA website for review by the committee:

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-for-golfers-with-disabilities/golfers-with-intellectual-disabilities.html>:

"The needs of the golfer with intellectual disabilities will be unique to that individual and dependent upon the severity of the disability. If it is elected to play by the *Rules*, this group of individuals should be able to do so, although some players may require on-course supervision to facilitate some or all aspects of play, including etiquette. In that regard, the on-course supervisor would, in some cases, be somewhat analogous to the coach used by a blind golfer. In other situations, where someone is present on an as needed basis this person would be classified as an "overseer." An overseer's function is more general in scope. An overseer is there to assist any player requiring assistance and is not specifically assigned to one player. The following Definition is recommended:

Overseer

An "overseer" is one employed by the *Committee* and assists with the conduct of the competition. He is not assigned to a specific player nor is he part of a *side*. An "overseer" is an *outside agency*.

The status of the "supervisor" and the duties that he may perform should be defined clearly. Without this clarification it would be difficult for a golfer with intellectual disabilities to determine how he should proceed in a variety of *Rules* situations that may arise, e.g., seeking *advice*, or if his ball were to strike his or another player's supervisor after a *stroke*. The following Definition is recommended:

Supervisor

A "supervisor" is one who assists a golfer with intellectual disabilities in his play, the application of the *Rules* and etiquette. A supervisor has the same status under the *Rules* as a *caddie*.

Note 1: A player may ask for and receive *advice* from his supervisor.

Note 2: A player may have only one supervisor at any one time.

Rule 6-4 (Caddie)

The supervisor of a golfer with intellectual disabilities would, in some ways, be analogous to the coach of a blind golfer and, as such, the role of the supervisor may conflict with Rule 6-4 (Caddie). Therefore, there should not be a prohibition against a golfer with intellectual disabilities having both a supervisor and a *caddie*. In these circumstances however, the supervisor may not carry or handle the player's clubs, except in assisting him as permitted by analogy to Decision 6-4/4.5. Otherwise, the player would be subject to penalty under Rule 6-4 for having more than one *caddie*.

Rule 8-1 (Advice)

In view of the Definition of "supervisor," it is suggested that Rule 8-1 be modified as follows:

8-1. Advice

During a *stipulated round*, a player must not:

- a. give *advice* to anyone in the competition playing on the *course* other than his *partner*, or
- b. ask for *advice* from anyone other than his *partner*, either of their *caddies* or, if applicable, their supervisors.

While the above language may provide the basis for handling the difficulties that golfers with intellectual disabilities face in dealing with the *Rules* and etiquette, there may be additional problems if the golfer has both intellectual and physical disabilities. In this case it is suggested that a combination of the Modification of the Rules of Golf for both golfers with intellectual disabilities and golfers who are physically disabled, if applicable, should be applied.

It is the consensus of the committee that GSWPGA will use the Supervisor method as outlined in the information above and our Standing Rules will be revised to reflect the change.

A process for identifying players with visual and/or intellectual disabilities/impairments will involve Club City Representatives and Captains with a secondary method whereby participants in GSWPGA events may report etiquette violations to the Tournament Chairperson and/or the Executive Board.

Intellectual Impairment:

- Individuals with intellectual impairments must be aware of those impairments and be identified to the Tournament Chairperson by the individual and their Club City Representative and Captain. The Tournament Chairperson will notify the Executive Board.
- All participants in GSWPGA events have a right to competing on a level playing field. Etiquette violations can affect that situation and should be reported to the Tournament Chairperson and the Executive Board for action.
- Participants with intellectual impairments must supply a Supervisor to support them as a condition to playing in GSWPGA events.

Tournament entry forms will be revised to allow notification to the Tournament Chairperson on each event entry form of participation of a player with an impairment/disability.

Meeting was adjourned by Pat Hinneburg.

Respectfully submitted
Cindy Andre, Secretary