

Message from Jean Cheszek:

Hi everyone—

We've had a busy month with two "Home and Home" events, one at the Ranch and one at HOA1. The final Home and Home is June 19 at Mountain View and the sign-up deadline is June 8.

Congratulations to Nancy Galant who won the del Sud tournament in a scorecard playoff over Pam Horwitt and Mary Hoover. In this eclectic tournament, they each shot -11 playing the front 9 three times.

We just finished playing the first Mixed Sticks tournament, a joint Ryder Cup event with the Men's league. We had 15 foursomes battling it out and the final result couldn't have been closer--the Blue team won 136-134 over the Red team. The winners each got \$10 gift cards and bragging rights, while the losers each got 2 range tokens to work on their games. I hope this fun event becomes an annual tradition.

Since the Mixed Sticks was a match play tournament, I want to go over how to post your score when you don't finish a hole (as happens in match play when a stroke is conceded). Any time you don't complete a hole, you should record your "most likely" score for handicap purposes. This "most likely" score cannot exceed your maximum or "Equitable Stroke Control" score for the hole--see the table below for ESC scores. If you don't play the hole at all, your most likely score is par plus your handicap "pops" for that hole. If you've played some strokes on the hole but "picked up" your score is your strokes taken plus the most likely number of additional strokes for you to finish the hole. For example, if you pick up when your ball is 2 feet from the cup, you most likely would have taken one putt to complete the hole. But, if you're 20 feet away when you pick up, maybe 2 putts is the more likely score.

The golf course is doing a lot of summer maintenance work over the next couple months, including aerating the fairways the next two weeks. If you're playing the next couple weeks, you might want to wear shoes that you don't mind getting full of mud. We have a local rule that covers aeration holes: "a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole or "slice" may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole".

There's a new local rule related to bare dirt on the course:

TURF AREAS IN THE ROUGH WORN BY CART TRAFFIC OR ERODED BY IRRIGATION/SOIL ISSUES TO BARE GROUND*: A golf ball that lies** on bare ground within the turf area of the rough (between the cart path and irrigation heads*** bordering the desert) will be entitled to relief without penalty. The ball may be lifted, cleaned, and dropped within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.

I'll try to explain this rule in plain English. The intent of the local rule is to let you get your ball on grass if it comes to rest on bare dirt where there should be grass in the rough. The main areas this is intended to address are bare patches next to cart paths where cart traffic has worn away the rough. However, there are also some bare patches near desert areas where the desert is encroaching on the rough (or "turf area"). The "turf area" of the golf course is the area there's supposed to be grass. The edge of the turf area on one side of the hole is usually the cart path. On the opposite side of the hole, the turf area is defined by the line of sprinkler heads that mark the boundary between rough and desert. So, if your ball is on bare dirt on the side opposite the cart path, try to find the sprinkler heads to see if you're actually in the desert or in what should be rough. If you're inside the sprinkler line, you're entitled to a free drop onto grass. By the way, the maintenance crew will be seeding or sodding a lot of these areas this summer to try to get rid of the bare spots.

You can find all the local rules on our web site.

Happy golfing and drink lots of water.

Jean