

NEWSLINKS



A publication of the Arizona Women's Golf Association | Dedicated to promoting golf for women in Arizona



**2014 Stroke Play Champion
Samantha Postillion with the trophy
and the ace that helped her win it.**

Thrills Abound at the AWGA Stroke Play Championship

By Robyn Noll

The 40th Anniversary AWGA Stroke Play Championship took place at Desert Mountain Club in North Scottsdale on August 13-15. It's quite possibly the most dramatic tournament the AWGA has put on in recent memory, due to both the early inclement weather that threatened to postpone the event, and because of the incredible way it ended.

A summer monsoon swept through the area beginning the night of August 11, dropping rain and hail on the course. More rains on Tuesday impacted practice rounds, with some people having to leave the course for a while, and others deciding to skip practice altogether. At 6 o'clock on the morning the tournament began, it was overcast but not raining. By 7:30 am things had changed dramatically as a storm pushed through, complete with lightning directly above the course. Tee times were cancelled and everybody waited to see if the tournament would have to be postponed. Thankfully, the lightning moved away and the rain stopped at around 8:45 am, and the course began to dry out almost immediately. The ladies managed to fit in some warm up time on the range, and the course was set up for a 10 o'clock shotgun start. According to Player Programs Manager Julie Fenn, the course drained beautifully by the time everyone started playing, with no standing water in the bunkers or anywhere else.

Once the weather excitement faded, a different sort of excitement set in. A lively duel between Samantha Postillion and Kim Cifuentes began to unfold starting on Day One. That day, Samantha shot a one-under-par 71, and Kim was trailing by just one stroke. Both women shot even par on Day Two, and the difference between them remained one stroke. However, Day Three started with a major "wind-change." On the very first hole of the day, Samantha fell behind by a stroke when she bogied and Kim birdied. By the third hole Samantha suddenly found herself trailing by four strokes. Three strokes down at the turn, Samantha staged an amazing comeback, and won with an absolutely incredible back nine. Three birdies on #12, #13 and #14 brought her back within two strokes of the lead, then a stunning hole-in-one on #15 put the pressure on her competitor, and suddenly she found herself leading by three strokes.

"On the 15th hole I knew I was still a couple shots back despite making three birds in a row so I just told myself to keep it going and stick with the same routine. I was not nervous because I was down to Kim (by two) at that point and just got a great break by a good 5-iron kicking nicely towards and then into the hole. Finally I took the lead and caught myself feeling very nervous like I was on teeing off on the first hole at the start of the day. However, I fought through my nerves very well and made a great 30-foot birdie putt on the following hole. At that point my round felt surreal!"

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On our masthead: OakCreek CC, site of the 2014 AWGA State Scotch Play Championship.
 Visit the awga website for more information.

Stroke Play

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Surreal, indeed. Samantha birdied #16 and #18 both, making a total of five birdies and a hole-in-one on the back nine to seal the victory, eventually winning by five strokes. What an exciting way to wrap up an outstanding tournament!

Fun Fact:

This is Samantha Postillion's second time winning the Stroke Play Championship. In 2012 she won the event and had a remarkable eight birdies on the first day of the tournament. Excellence in golf runs in the family: she and her mother, Kerry Postillion, now have two Arizona Women's Amateur Stroke Play titles each.



Kim Cifuentes (top) and Samantha Postillion.



Jeannie Goodwin's tee shot on #11.

The Insiders' Take on Outlaw

by Robyn Noll

Earlier in this newsletter we mentioned how thrilling the AWGA Amateur Stroke Play Championship was. Now let's tell you a little bit more about the Outlaw Course at Desert Mountain where it took place. Outlaw is a beautiful private course in North Scottsdale, and being so near to the Tonto National Forest the scenery is spectacular and wild critters abound. In fact, it wasn't just golfers facing off against each other during play. At one point a roadrunner and snake even went head-to-head, though the snake managed to slither away and avoid being lunch.

Talk circulated from players in the weeks ahead of the Championship about how challenging the course was going to be, and it didn't disappoint in that regard. The traditional Scottish links design may be unfamiliar to many people. Fairways are often parallel or connected, and tend to visually run together. Severely elevated greens surrounded by collection areas and deep bunkers also make the course visually intimidating. AWGA Player Programs Manager Julie Fenn adds though, that with three sets of tees during the Championship, the course could accommodate all skill levels of players.

Alison Hurley, a Desert Mountain member who earned Second Net in the Championship Flight, said off the tee is usually straightforward, it's the approach shots where the thinking really comes in. You have to know where the holes are located and take into account the shapes of the greens, since most greens are not a traditional oval, and in fact some are L-shaped. With elevated greens and a whopping 126 bunkers, having a great short game in peak condition is critical. Champion Samantha Postillion says this was her first week playing Outlaw and she thought it was a challenging yet fair course. She advises to really choose and focus in on a spot on the green, or just short of it, for a landing point and hit to that. You shouldn't be hitting directly at most flagsticks on Outlaw unless you are really confident in your irons. She also recommends lag putting a lot, since many greens are bigger than normal.

Anita Wallace, another Desert Mountain member who won Low Gross in the 1st Flight, adds that you need to have great course management skills at Outlaw, and warns that often the areas several feet around a bunker will kick your golf ball into the bunker. This course, more so than many others, is more penalizing for a shot that's "just OK". She says players that want a challenge and hit good shots will be rewarded....that doesn't mean it's easy, but championship golf shouldn't be easy.

Many people say that Outlaw is in the best condition of all the courses in the Valley at this time of year. If you're not lucky enough to be a member at Desert Mountain, hopefully you have a friend there who will invite you to their monthly "guest day" so you, too, can experience this beautiful, challenging course!





Rules School

with Sally Larson
AWGA Rules Committee Chair

Q. While playing in a tournament recently, my ball entered a lateral water hazard. There were no stakes and when we reached the area we thought the ball went in, we could not see a ball. All four of us estimated where we thought my ball crossed into the water hazard. I measured two club-lengths from the red line and dropped a ball. After I played my stroke, one of my fellow com-

petitors found my ball in shallow water about 10 yards behind where I had played my substituted ball. We decided I had already played the ball and incurred a penalty stroke under the water hazard rule, so I should just play on. Did I proceed in accordance with the rules? What if I had not yet hit the substituted ball?

A. By estimating where the ball last crossed the hazard margin and properly dropping and playing the ball, you proceeded correctly. There was no penalty for playing from a wrong place after finding the original ball. If that was the case under the rules, a player would risk incurring a penalty every time she makes an honest judgment as to the point where her ball last crosses a hazard margin and that judgment subsequently proves incorrect.

If you had not made a stroke at your dropped ball and your original ball

was found within the five-minute search period, the answer is quite different. In this case, you must correct the error. You would have been required to drop the ball using the correct reference point. Failure to do so would result in a penalty for playing from a wrong place. You would incur the general penalty (two strokes) under Rule 26-1 instead of a one-stroke penalty. If it was a serious breach; you gained a significant advantage over your fellow competitors; you would have been subject to disqualification.

This is another situation where you can protect your rights when not sure how to proceed by playing a second ball under Rule 3-3.

"In golf, the player, coach and official are rolled into one, and they overlap completely. Golf really is the best microcosm of life - or at least the way life should be."

Lou Holtz

Mixed Stix

by Robyn Noll



It doesn't seem to matter who Lauren Todd partners with at Mixed Stix, her phenomenal play these days virtually guarantees their success. She won Mixed Stix in 2012 and 2013 with her then-boyfriend (now husband) Ryan Mariano. This year she won for the third time in a row, partnering with her uncle, Steve Bramwell.

According to Lauren, Steve was a "5 to 7 foot putting machine" and contributed a lot of birdies to the victory. She thought her own game was a bit of a roller coaster, with lots of birdies

and a few bogeys, but her uncle has a slightly different perspective. "I have played a lot of golf with Lauren over the years but watching her play that weekend was amazing. She made four birdies on Saturday and seven on Sunday. Her game on Sunday was as good as I have ever seen it." And that's saying something, because Lauren is not just a 3-Time Mixed Stix Champion, at Stanford University, she was also a 2007 Golfweek All-American and Northern California Golf Association All-American, was on the Pac-10 team twice, and captained them to the most



Overall Champions

Lauren Todd and Steve Bramwell

victories in program history. In addition, she made it to match play at last year's US Women's Mid-Amateur Championship.

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THREE

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Mixed Stix

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Overall Net Winners Mary and Steve Brownlee

Lauren's greatest challenge in the coming year may be who she picks to play with her at Mixed Stix, her husband Ryan, or her uncle Steve, who has not only been influential on her golf game, but who was also the one that performed their marriage. Whoever she plays with, you can be sure they'll have fun.

Having fun with the people you're playing with is one of the big perks of the tournament, which this year was hosted by the fabulous Sedona Golf Resort. Threatening thunderstorms never struck, but did manage to cool the weather down, making for a very pleasant event. While Sedona is always beautiful, players were especially wowed at the 10th tee, with its breathtaking views of Sedona and the surrounding scenery. Steve adds that it's a good golf hole as well. Lauren's favorite is #16 because it forces you to hit two solid shots. She says the course is a "thinking course", meaning it's not always a driver off the tee, and her uncle kept laughing and asking her "what would smart Lauren do?" Both advise others playing the course to think backward from the green. First answer the question, "what club do you want for your approach shot?" and from there pick the club that will get you to that yardage.

Net Champion Mary Brownlee, whose Handicap Index at the start of the tournament was 13.4, likes the challenging #5 hole – a long, uphill par 5 (486 yards). On the first day she got on in three and made her birdie putt, which she said was very exciting. While she bogied it the next time, her advice is to "just plug away and don't worry about the length. Par or birdie are great, but don't let it bother you if you don't make those." Mary finds it a tough but playable course, but it's hard to tell if she likes the course more, or the pro shop more! She says the pro shop has a great mix of golf and regular clothes, and in fact she didn't want special items to be taken before she could get them, so she shopped there before the tournament even began. After she and her husband won net and received a gift card to go shopping, she gave it to her husband, which had him flabbergasted and maybe just a little suspicious!

The staff, the food, and the hotel all come highly recommended by the players. Don't forget that Sedona is at a slight altitude compared to some other parts of Arizona, so give yourself time to adjust if you need to, and also make appropriate club selections for the altitude. Steve's last piece of advice is also a good one: "Bring your camera!"



FOUR

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April 2014

15 | Teresa Dolan | Golf Club @ Johnson Ranch

24 | Teresa Dolan | Golf Club @ Johnson Ranch

May 2014

28 | Sue Little | Fountain of the Sun GC

30 | Angie Denahan | SaddleBrooke CC

June 2014

26 | Gayle Kiss | Desert Mountain Club

July 2014

13 | Susan Becker | Pinetop CC

14 | Cindy Bosch | Cottonwood CC

17 | Barbara Laskowski | Tonto Verde GC

19 | Charley Johnson | SaddleBrooke CC

23 | Barbara Vreeland | The CC @ DC Ranch

24 | Mary Lewis | La Paloma CC

August 2014

1 | Lisa Soroka | La Paloma CC

8 | LeAnn Haigler | Elephant Rocks

14 | Cheryl Fernandez | Prescott Lakes

14 | Sheri Sundheim | Corte Bella GC

14 | Karen Conner | TPC Scottsdale

15 | Samantha Postillion | Desert Mountain

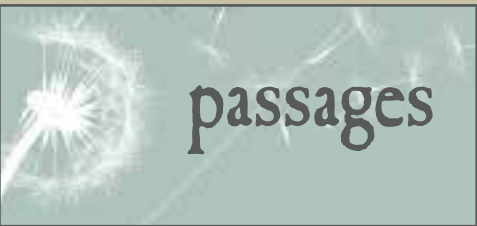
26 | Betsy Mosher | Lone Tree Golf Club

28 | Alice Dyke | Quail Creek CC

28 | Kathy Holwick | Robson Ranch GC

Gladys Robinson Member of Snowflake GC

Gladys was one of those wonderful people who would always step up and do anything she could to help the club. She loved the Snowflake Golf Course and all of the women. She always had a smile and could make us all laugh. She left Snowflake last year, and we have missed her so very much. She will remain in our hearts forever.



AWGA NewsLinks is published 7 times per year and is an official publication of the Arizona Women's Golf Association.
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We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the new "NewsLinks" newsletter. Please submit your ideas to Kelly Hollister at kelly@awga.org.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions...

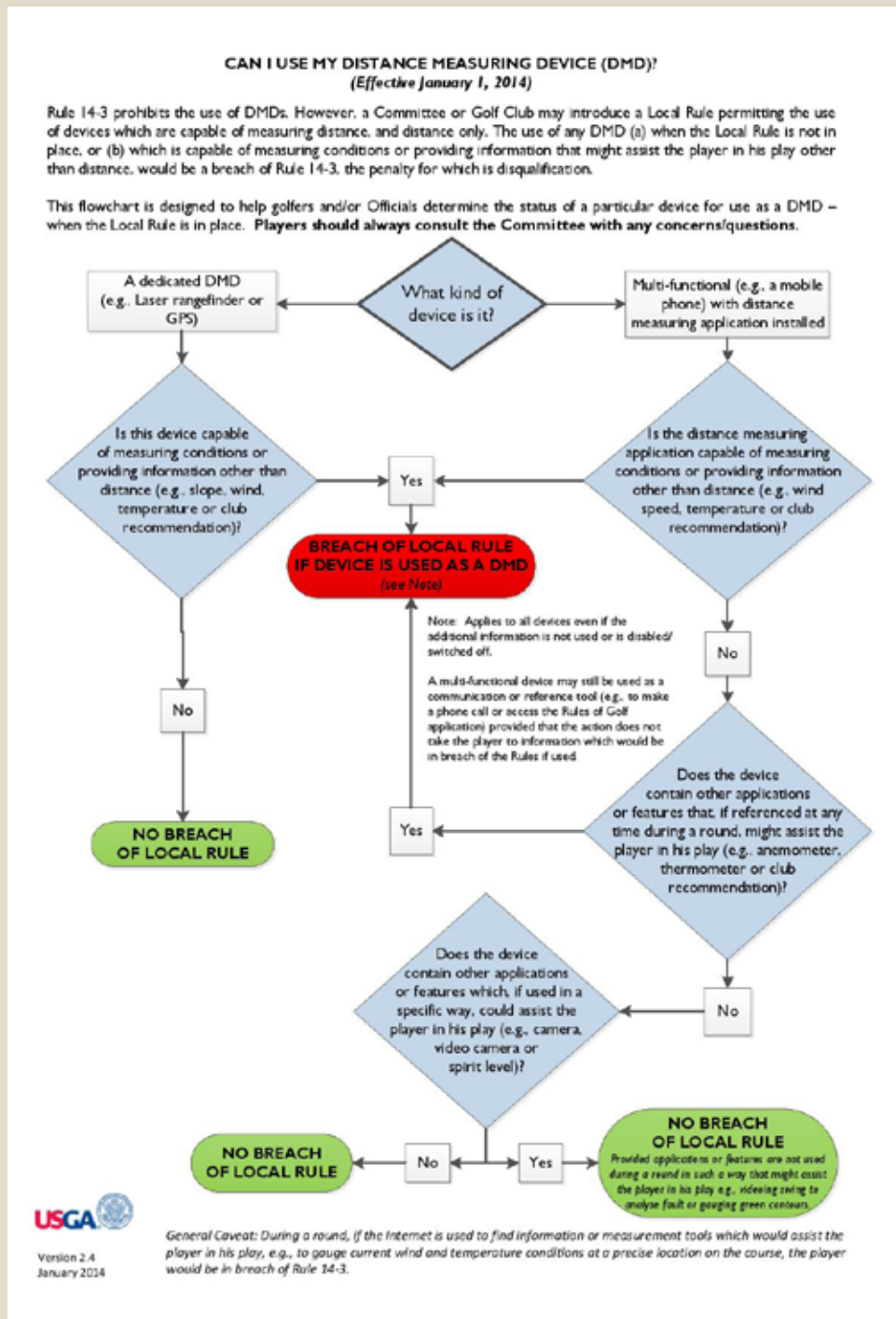
New 2014 Interpretations

by Erin Groeneveld

The dreaded multifunctional devices! How many times in a round did you hear, “you can’t use your iPhone as a distance measuring device”? Well thanks to decision 14-3/18, “Weather Information Accessed on Multi-Functional Device” that has changed. This new decision says that a player is only in breach of Rule 14-3, “Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment, and Unusual use of Equipment”, if they are “gauging or measuring conditions that might affect a player’s play (e.g., through use of anemometer or a thermometer).” This means that if you are accessing weather reports from your weather application on your phone or through the internet browser on your phone then you are okay because you are not “actively measuring or gauging the conditions”, you’re simply receiving a report. This new decision is further supported by a revision to Decision 14-3/4 “Use of Compass During Round”, which states that the use of a compass during a round is not a breach of Rule 14-3 because, “a compass only provides directional information and does not gauge or measure variable conditions or assist the player in their play.” On the right is the new flow chart published by the USGA to help folks know if the device they are using is conforming to the USGA Rules of Golf.

To follow this chart simply answer each question in a blue diamond with a yes or no. Be careful when following the “path” of a multifunctional device as the first blue diamond is asking you about your application (Skycaddie, GPS, Garmin, Bushnell, etc.) and the second blue diamond is asking you about your device (the actual phone, iPod, iPad, etc.). The final blue diamond on the path of the multifunctional device asks you if you have other applications downloaded such as a camera, a video camera and/or a spirit level. If you answer yes to these questions you will see that even though they are loaded on your device they are not a breach of the rule unless they are used to assist the player in their play.

The exception to the exception, gravity strikes again! In 2012 there was an exception added to Rule 18-2b, “Ball at Rest Moved, by Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment; Ball Moving After Address”. Rule 18-2b tells us that if a player’s ball moves after it has been addressed the player is deemed to have moved the ball; however the exception states, “If it is known or virtually certain (see Decision 26-1/1 for the meaning of known or virtually certain) that the player did not cause the ball to move, Rule 18-2b does not apply.” Well what do you do if you don’t know what caused it to move; it’s not a windy day, you didn’t touch the ball, but it moved! It must be the ever present challenge for us all, GRAVITY! *continued on page seven*



Decisions, Decisions *continued from page six*

Decision 18-2b/1, "Ball Moves After Address; Movement May Have Been Due to the Effects of Gravity"; tells us that:

"The effects of gravity do not satisfy the Exception to Rule 18-2b. The Exception only applies when it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause the ball to move. In order to meet this standard, it must be known or virtually certain that some other observable factor (e.g., wind, water or an outside agency) caused the ball to move. Otherwise (meaning it wasn't known or virtually certain) the player is deemed to have caused the movement of the ball and Rule 18-2b applies."

The television golfer's saving grace! We have all seen it what feels like a million times in the past few years; you're watching Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Stacey Lewis, or whoever the hottest players are at that moment on their respective tours and the announcers bring to the audience's attention a rules violation that occurred 3 holes ago that none of us at home were even aware of! We've seen it wreak havoc on their games and even cost them the big trophy (or even bigger check) at the end of the day! These types of situations are not only a problem for the players, but they are an extremely stressful situation for the Rules Committee at the event; so much so that the PGA, LPGA, and USGA (for their televised events) now have Rules Trailers that contain TV's with every possible camera angle out there that are manned by a crew of rules officials in hopes of catching these situations as quickly as possible. In 2014 the USGA Rules of Golf came out with Decision 18/4, "Television Evidence Shows Ball at Rest Changed Position But by Amount Not Reasonably Discernible to the Naked Eye". This decision puts the judgment of whether or not the player's ball really moved back on the player. The decision suggests that the player make that judgment, "based on all the information readily available to them at the time, so that they can determine whether the ball must be replaced under Rule 18-2b or another applicable Rule. Before determining whether the ball has moved, it is advisable for the player to obtain information from nearby witnesses to the incident and to seek guidance from a referee if one is immediately available." If the player's ball did in fact move but it could not be seen by the naked eye, then the player's determination that the ball did not move will stand, even if later with the use of high definition television or "sophisticated technology" it is proved to have actually moved.

For a full list of the new Decisions and/or revisions to the Decisions on the Rules of Golf, visit the USGA's website www.usga.org, or call the AWGA and obtain the latest copy of the USGA's Decision on the Rules of Golf book.

DEAR CADDY

Q I'm pretty new to the game of golf. But after only 4 lessons, I am making good contact with the ball, and I'm taking what I've learned in my lessons to the range and working methodically on one thing at a time. Obviously, my swing is a work in progress, and as a woman, I seem to attract a lot of attention from people who think they are somehow obligated to help me. This creates a number of problems for me. First, it's distracting for me to stop and get involved in a conversation, and second, I can only manage to practice correctly if I take the golf swing step by step and only work on as many things as I can focus on at one time. Help!

A Congratulations on taking the most important first step in learning to play. Getting instruction from an LPGA or PGA pro will save you many hours and a lot of frustration as a result of trying to learn the wrong way. For example, taking advice from anyone who happens to have nothing better to do than approach strangers on a driving range.

Here's my best solution for you. Go to the course with your earbuds, and try to pick the side of the driving range that puts you away from the others. The earbuds (even if you're not really listening to anything) combined with a lack of eye contact with everyone on the range, should deter anyone from interrupting you. If that doesn't work, put the helpful amateur off by telling him/her that you're working with a professional coach, and your coach wants you focused on your learning plan.



Please send your unique questions or comments to dearcaddy@awga.org. Your question could be selected for publication in the AWGA Newsletter.