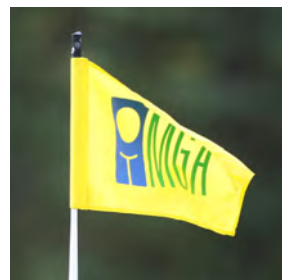


MGA STORY



The Minnesota Golf Association, founded in 1901, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to upholding and promoting the game of golf and its values for all golfers in Minnesota. The MGA currently serves more than 400 member courses and 70,000 amateur golfers throughout the state which makes the MGA one of the largest golf associations in the country. The MGA, through its programs and services, strives to preserve the integrity of the game to make golf more enjoyable for all.

Effective December 31, 2016, the MGA merged with the Minnesota Women's Golf Association (MWGA) and the Minnesota Women's Public Golf Association (MWPGA). The merger has created more playing opportunities for all female MGA members, or some 17,000 throughout the state.

Seven golf clubs founded the Minnesota Golf Association in 1901, creating an organization designed to foster, promote and conserve golf within the state. In the more than 117 years since its inception, the MGA has produced a long list of services oriented towards the golfer, the golf course and the game itself.

The first of those services was the competitive golfing event, the Amateur Championship. First played at the conclusion of the MGA's inaugural meeting, the Amateur is one of the oldest and longest running sporting events in the state. It has become a popular tradition with over 800 golfers competing annually. The growth of

golf has prompted the addition of events to the MGA's championship schedule. There are now 21 MGA amateur championships for golfers of all ages and abilities.

For the younger golfers, the MGA has the State Junior Boys' and Girls' Championships along with the Junior Team Championship. The Junior Team Championship has competitive young golfers put their own team of four together to play in either the Open division or Girls' division. Along with junior championships, there is also a Family Day golf event, a Junior Girls' Clinic and the MGA provides opportunities for junior golfers to play golf for \$5 or less through the Youth on Course program.

Golfers interested in supporting the MGA can join the MGA's Membership Program through member clubs by contacting a club directly or through the MGA Join Online Program. Members receive a regularly updated Handicap Index® and MGA publications including the Minnesota Golfer magazine and the MGA Member Links eNewsletter, and have the opportunity to compete in MGA championships and events. Associate Member dues are the primary source of funding for the MGA's services.

For the golf courses in the state, the MGA offers club memberships. With a tradition founded on service, the MGA offers golf courses a unique network of information and assistance. An extensive course rating program keeps MGA member clubs' ratings up to USGA standards. This ensures that

The MGA mission is to uphold and promote the game of golf and its values for all golfers in Minnesota.

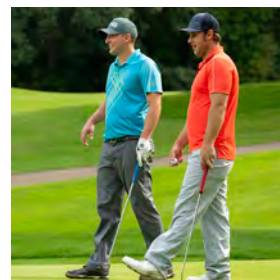
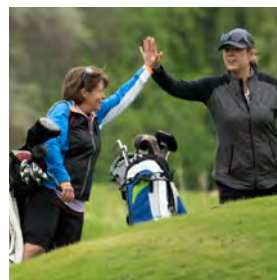
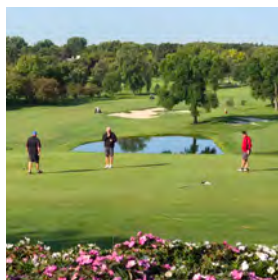
every member handicap accurately reflects a golfer's potential ability. MGA member clubs also receive club rosters, tournament schedules, course rating posters and dozens of other important pieces of literature each year. An MGA golf calendar informs golfers about various club events and tournaments that occur around the state. The MGA compiles these dates every spring and sends the calendar to all Associate Members on its mailing list – more than 50,000 households.

In addition, the MGA actively monitors state legislation to ensure the best interests of the game of golf are pursued. Any changes that will affect MGA member clubs are quickly passed along.

With the Rules of Golf being an integral part of the game, rules education and dissemination are an important service offered by the MGA. Not only does the MGA have input on the USGA's Rules of Golf Committee, it actively advocates those rules around the state. This involvement includes the sale of Rules of Golf and Decisions books, managing the Rules Hotline and the presentation of Rules Seminars.

With the recent merger of the women's golf associations and the MGA, there are more events for female golfers of all abilities, from state amateur championships, to USGA qualifiers, MGA Member Days, the MGA Women's Senior Tour, and more.

MEMBERSHIP



NEW MEMBERSHIP

Join the MGA through an MGA member club and receive the following MGA Membership benefits (including a Handicap Index)

MGA Membership Benefits

- Handicap Index
- Subscription to the *Minnesota Golfer* magazine
- Handicap revision updates emailed directly to the golfer
- Online Score Posting for golfers to track their Handicap Index and statistics
- Up-to-date course rating information in national database ensures handicap accuracy
- Eligibility to play in MGA tournaments, championships, tours, and events
- Hole-in-one recognition on mngolf.org with certificate
- Members who win their club league or championship are recognized annually at mngolf.org, in the *Minnesota Golfer*, the *MGA Yearbook and Media Guide*, and at the Minnesota Golf Show.

Select a golf club in your area that offers a Handicap Index through the GHIN service.

The Handicap System requires golfers to obtain a Handicap Index through a licensed golf club where they have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf.

Here are 3 ways you can become a member of the MGA and establish a Handicap Index:

CONTACT A CLUB OR LEAGUE

Find a club in our annual *Minnesota Golfer* Golf Course Directory or online using our course search engine at mngolf.org (click on Courses).

FORM YOUR OWN CLUB

Form your own club with 10 or more golfers. Contact the MGA Member Services Department for more information.



JOIN ONLINE

Join a club online through the MGA Join Online program at mngolf.org. There are over 75 participating clubs around the state to choose from. Simply click on the Join Online button on our homepage.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

To renew your annual MGA Membership, simply contact your existing golf club for the new season or if changing clubs, contact the new course or join a club through our Join Online program. Be sure to have your existing GHIN number handy to provide to your new course/club so your score history stays with you.

MGA MEMBERSHIP/HANDICAP CONTACTS:

- **Stacy Sazama,**
Membership Services Director
952-345-3964 or 800-642-4405 x964
stacy@mngolf.org
- **Rachel Hernandez,**
Membership Services Manager
952-345-3977 or 800-642-4405 x977
rachel@mngolf.org

HOW DO I JOIN THE MGA?

Minnesota Golf Association

COURSES CALENDAR TOURNAMENTS JUNIORS MEDIA HANDICAP

Charlie Patnode's Perfect Shot

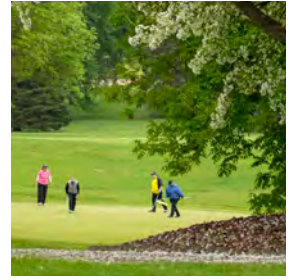
Date: September 23, 2013
Course: White Bear Yacht Club
Hole: 6th
Par: 3
Distance: 130 yards
Club Used: 13 Wood

Here's the story:
"There was a mound in front of the green and I couldn't see the ball roll into the hole. My friend, Tom Kerner and I drove up to the green and didn't see the ball. Then my heart started pounding out of my chest. I got a little shaky and there it was in the hole. My first one!"



CLUB CHAMPS				Year: 2013
Atkins Golf Club at Arrowwood Resort	Chris Noll Jeanne Danielson	Tom Schoenrock		
Augusta National North Golf Club	Ray Butler			
Austin Country Club	Ben Meyer Becca Eggers	Clark Oprea Cindy Fuhrman	Eric Kraeger Lucy Anzini	
Baker National Golf Club	Keith Larson Mary Ann Perry	Mike Menze Sally Twilvers	William Onodt Hayley & Madeline	
Balmoral Golf Course	Scott Luttio Lori Wittich			
Bearpath Golf & Country Club	Adam Rosenthal Kristin Sankovitz	Greg Olson Kris Machul	Jack Nixby	
Bemidji Town & Country Club	Toby Palmisano Pam Johnson	Scott McLean Pam Johnson		
Bent Creek Golf Club	Paul Schubring Katie Taylor	David Kolesch Sandy McMillan	Connor Schubert Haley Wegscheid	

ESTABLISHING A HANDICAP



MGA MEMBERSHIP, HANDICAPPING & GHIN®

As an MGA Member, an official Handicap Index is provided.

- Post your scores after each round at mngolf.org or using the GHIN Mobile App on your mobile device.
- Your handicap index will be updated the day after you post a new score. See to the right about how to view your handicap index.

See the previous page for details on how to join a club and become an MGA member.



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

In 2020, the World Handicap System (WHS) launched to serve golfers across the world. The United States Golf Association (USGA) along with the six other handicap governing organizations across the world have collaborated to make golf an equitable game for golfers of all skill levels around the globe. This revamped World Handicap System aims to bring the game of golf under a single set of handicapping rules and provide a more consistent measure of players' ability between different regions of the world.

The MGA is the authorized golf association and the central handicap authority for Minnesota, to administer and implement the Handicap System License Program in Minnesota, designed to better maintain the integrity and reliability of the Handicap System.

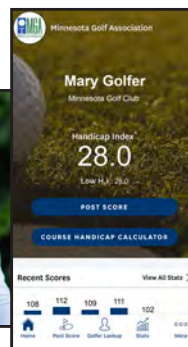
MGA Members can track their Handicap Index by receiving the MGA eRevision via email, sent out at each revision throughout the golf season.

The MGA issues approximately 70,000 handicaps annually, including reduced-rate handicaps for juniors. It only takes 54 holes to establish a Handicap Index®. Minnesota's active season is April 1 to October 31. Once a handicap is established, it can be verified on the Internet via the MGA's website, mngolf.org, or at ghin.com. The MGA has a full-time staff that provides superior customer service to all MGA member clubs and Associate Members who have questions relating to GHIN or the Handicap System.

HOW TO VIEW YOUR HANDICAP CARD

USE THE GHIN MOBILE APP

GHIN Mobile is available to all MGA Members. It offers a personalized mobile experience that allows you to manage and follow your game.



Key mobile app features include:

- Score Posting—Total Score, Hole-by-Hole Score and Hole-by-Hole Score with Stats.
- Stat Tracking—Number of Putts, Greens in Regulation and Driving Accuracy
- Score History
- Golfer Lookup
- Course Handicap Calculator
- My Card

Download the free app by searching for "GHIN Mobile App."

GO TO MNGOLF.ORG

- Go to: mngolf.org/Handicapping/GetMemberCard
- Enter your last name and ghin number to bring up your card.

BI-WEEKLY EREVISIONS

- In your emailed **MGA Member Links: Handicap eRevision** on the 1st and 15th of each month.
- Look for your green personal box to the left, and click on the provided link for your card and score history.

MGA MEMBERSHIP/HANDICAP CONTACTS:

• **Stacy Sazama,**
Membership Services Director
952-345-3964 or 800-642-4405 x964
stacy@mngolf.org

• **Rachel Hernandez,**
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rachel@mngolf.org

COMMUNICATION



MINNESOTA GOLFER®

Communication efforts of the MGA include the **Minnesota Golfer**, the official publication of the MGA, distributed five times per year with a primary audience of 70,000. Readers include MGA Members and golf industry professionals including golf professionals, club managers, golf course superintendents, course owners, club officials, sales representatives and the news media.

MGA member clubs enjoy a free comprehensive course listing in the annual directory issue. The MGA also provides information promoting MGA member clubs and "open tournaments" in the spring issue of the **Minnesota Golfer**.

The MGA publishes an annual yearbook and media guide, as well as news releases on MGA amateur championships and associations' programs, plus numerous schedules, entry forms and other bulletins.



MGA WEBSITE

As the clearinghouse for news and information on the local golf scene, the MGA's website **mngolf.org** is an important first stop for those interested in learning more about the golf facilities, players and personalities that make up the fabric of the game in Minnesota.

MGA member clubs are listed in the MGA's comprehensive golf course database which is one of the most visited and popular features at **mngolf.org**. The course database includes a search engine displaying key member club information such as telephone numbers, green fees, directions, course amenities, yardage and par, as well as course and slope ratings.

MGA member clubs also publish open golf tournaments that are listed in the spring issue of the **Minnesota Golfer** and on the Calendar of Events page of **mngolf.org**. Listings include charity events, short stops, junior programs and many more.

MGA Website



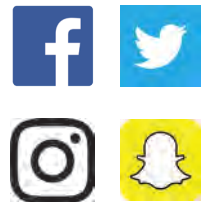
Tournament players may sign up for events via the website and players, visitors and the media are able to view live leaderboards for MGA championships.

MGA Mobile Display

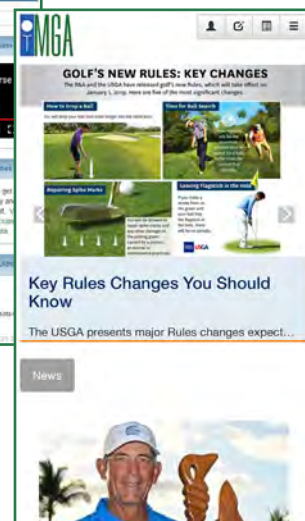
The MGA features a mobile friendly web design for the convenience of MGA members and visitors using smartphone technology.

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube to keep up with everything that is happening in golf in Minnesota and current golf news. We also have a Twitter feed on our homepage at **mngolf.org**.



MGA Mobile



CHAMPIONSHIPS, TOURNAMENT PLAY MEMBER EVENTS & PROGRAMS



CHAMPIONSHIPS & LOCAL QUALIFIERS

MGA Championships

Membership in the MGA has a long and storied history in Minnesota. Since 1901, the MGA has strived to provide the finest championship experience. MGA championships are open to amateur golfers who are current members of the Minnesota Golf Association and whose club is a member club of the MGA. There are handicap and age requirements for some events.

Each year, nearly 2,600 players from every corner of the state participate in MGA events. As a result of this demand, the MGA conducts 23 state level championships, a Senior Tour, Member Days, and Junior program. MGA events account for more than 11,000 rounds being played at more than 100 MGA Member Clubs annually.

In addition, the MGA is responsible for coordinating USGA qualifying events for men and women within the state. Local and sectional qualifying grounds for national events such as the U.S. Open, the U.S. Amateur, and the U.S. Junior occur under the watchful eye of the MGA.

For more information on MGA championships or USGA qualifying events, visit the Tournament area at mngolf.org.

SENIOR TOUR

The MGA Senior Tour provides fun competitive opportunities for male golfers 55+ years and female golfers 50+ years. Four regional sections are available as well as a Super Senior section for players 70+ years, a Women's section and a Gross Only section with longer yardage. Each section offers a series of 18-hole events and is open to

current MGA members. Players may qualify for the championship at the end of the season:

For more details visit the Senior Tour homepage at mngolf.org/SeniorTour.

MEMBER DAYS

These popular casual play days allow MGA members to play great golf courses around the state. Considered primarily as a member benefit, these events of fun golf and camaraderie are also an opportunity for MGA member clubs to host a full field of avid golfers eager to experience a championship-quality event.

For more details contact the Member Days homepage at mngolf.org/MemberDays.

GROWING THE GAME



GROWING THE GAME

YOUTH ON COURSE

Youth on Course is a national program that Minnesota is pleased to be a part of that offers golfers ages 6-18 the opportunity to play golf for \$5 or less at participating courses in our state and all over the nation. Interested young players pay \$15 for an annual membership which includes:



- an MGA Junior Membership
- a Handicap Index
- the opportunity to play great golf courses for less than \$5

Check out mngolf.org/youthoncourse to join and see a complete listing of participating Minnesota courses.

For more information about Youth On Course, contact Joel Comstock at 952-345-3968 or joel@mngolf.org.

MINNESOTA GOLF LICENSE PLATE

The Play Golf Minnesota specialty license plate is on sale through the Minnesota department of public safety and select DMV locations. Golfers who pay the \$30 plate fee will be happy to know that the proceeds will be directed toward for-the-good-of-the-game programs, such as junior golf and player development, designated by a joint Minnesota MGA/PGA committee.

To order your golf license plate, visit your local county DMV office.

RULES OF GOLF & VOLUNTEERING



RULES OF GOLF

When your club has a **Rules of Golf** question, the MGA is there to provide an answer with the Rules Hotline (800-642-4405, ext. 965 or 952-345-3965). The MGA created the Rules Hotline as a commitment to our Member Clubs. MGA staff and volunteer Certified Rules Officials answer questions submitted from club officials and professionals throughout the season at the time when they often need the answers the most, in the late afternoons and on weekends. Likewise, MGA staff members field rules questions submitted from the general public via calls, letters, and e-mails through the MGA website on a daily basis.

The MGA Rules and Competition Committee oversees all MGA championships and qualifiers. These events are conducted in strict adherence to the **Rules of Golf** established by the USGA and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club (R&A). Along with the MGA championships and qualifiers, the MGA administers the rules at USGA

qualifiers, the MSHSL High School State Championships, collegiate conference championships and invitational events, and other events.

Furthermore, the MGA offers informal Rules seminars and the ability to purchase USGA publications including: **Rules of Golf, Official Guide Book to the Rules of Golf**, and other Rules publications to all MGA Member Clubs. For more information, contact the MGA Tournament Department, 952-345-3963.

RULES WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

The MGA offers a variety of rules programs to meet the needs of its 400 member courses and the golf community at large. In order to ensure the MGA has the best-prepared Rules Officials, tournament volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend an MGA or USGA rules education program on a regular basis. These include:

- **One-Day Rules Workshops**
- **Two-Day Rules & Officiating Workshops**
- **Tournament Volunteer Orientations**
- **Customized Rules Programs for MGA Member & Affiliate Clubs**
- **Rules Programs for Golf Industry Professionals, including the PGA and GCSAA**
- **Rules Programs in conjunction with the Minnesota State High School League**
- **Rules Programs for school and college golf teams**
- **USGA Rules Exam**

Persons attending the Two-Day Rules & Officiating Workshop may choose to take the optional exam at the end of the class. This exam is patterned after the one given at the conclusion of the USGA/PGA Rules Workshops. Anyone scoring 90 or better on the MGA exam or 80 or better on the USGA exam, will be classified as a "Certified Rules Official" in Minnesota. The certification is good for four years.

MGA VOLUNTEERS

More than 100 volunteers donate 3,000-plus hours annually at amateur golf events across the state including MGA championships and qualifiers. These dedicated volunteers are an integral part of the success of these events, and the MGA is always looking for persons interested in getting involved.

The Tournament Volunteer Program has three different levels to meet the staffing needs of each tournament:

- **Certified Official**
- **Rules Official**
- **Tournament Volunteer**

The Rules and Certified Official levels require **Rules of Golf** knowledge, with the Certified Official having a more advanced knowledge along with officiating experience. While most of the volunteers at a tournament will serve as Rules Officials, there are other positions for which the MGA needs volunteers, such as working at the scoreboard, with the tournament computer, as spotters, starters and staffing the first aid/medical cart. Attendance at a Rules Workshop is not mandatory for the Tournament Volunteer role; however, it is necessary to attend an orientation before becoming a volunteer. See below for a schedule of Volunteer Orientations. The Rules Workshops schedule is on the next page.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, contact Doug Hoffmann at 952-345-3963 or doug@mngolf.org.