



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Brandon Kahl is the 2015 RMSPGA Golf Professional of the Year - Pg 1

Jim Empey Selected as RMSPGA Teacher of the Year - Pg 2

Tim Reinke Wins RMSPGA Bill Strausbaugh Award - Pg 2

Dustin Ames Wins RMSPGA Horton Smith Award - Pg 2

Ben Bryson & Jonathan Gibbs Earn 2015 RMSPGA Youth Player Development Award - Pg 3

Tim Reinke Selected as RMSPGA Player Development Award Recipient - Pg 3

McElroy, Ames & Petersen Recognized as Merchandisers of the Year- Pg 4

Wesley Roberts is the 2015 RMSPGA Assistant Golf Professional of the Year - Pg 4

Kevin Burton earns Player of the Year in the RMSPGA - Pg 5

Buran Wins 2015 Pepsi Gallatin Valley Open - Pg 5

Amateur Ty Travis Takes 2015 Idaho Open Title - Pg 5

Brian Eekhoff is the 2015 Yellowstone Chapter Champion - Pg 6

Nichenko/McGeachin & Allbright/Luthy Win Fall Pro-Pro - Pg 7

Thomsen Claims the 2015 SRCPGA Match Play Championship & Sanderson Takes the Senior Title - Pg 8

PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship - Pg 8

Short Shots - Pg 9

PGA Golf Pass - Pg 9

2016 Boise Golf & Travel Show - Pg 9

Section Office Holiday Hours - Pg 10

Thank You Sponsors - Pg 10

2016 RMSPGA Major Tournament and Meeting Schedule - Pg 10

PGA of America Highlights - Pg 11

Rules of Golf - Pg 15

JC Golf Accessories Ad - Pg 25

SkyCaddie Ad - Pg 26

Sponsor Listing - Pg 27

BRANDON KAHL IS THE 2015 RMSPGA GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Brandon Kahl

The Rocky Mountain Section PGA has named Brandon Kahl, the Head Golf Professional at Riverside Country Club in Bozeman, Montana, its PGA Golf Professional of the Year. Kahl is a thirteen year member of the PGA of America and has been at Riverside the last 8 years.

The PGA Golf Professional of the Year Award is the highest honor paid to a PGA professional. The honoree is chosen based on his or her outstanding leadership abilities, exceptional performance as a PGA Professional, and distinguished service to the Association and the game of golf.

Since his election to PGA membership in 2002, Kahl has distinguished himself as a leader rising to the office of President of the Yellowstone Chapter. He has previously served the Section as a board and committee member and is the current Tournament Committee Chairman.

This marks the second time Brandon has been honored by the RMSPGA as he was voted Merchandiser of the Year for private facilities in 2008. Brandon is the epitome of a team player. He is a "lead by example" type of head professional and his philosophy guides him to never ask any staff member to do anything he would not do, or has done, himself. He takes great pride in his mentoring skills as well. To date, Kahl has had four assistants become PGA Members under his guidance including two that have become head professionals. Brandon credits his mentors for his continued success as he knows he would not be where he is today without them.

Outside of his daily responsibilities to the club, Brandon volunteers his time in the summer months to nurture the junior golf program he created at Riverside Country Club. In addition, he provides instruction to Montana State University's ladies golf team. Brandon is also a continuing supporter of Patriot Golf Day and was a primary contributor to the Rocky Mountain Section Foundation and its programs. Away from the golf course, Brandon speaks to local kids in their classrooms about character, donates his time to the local Parent Advisory Council, and coaches girls' basketball for the Lions Club.

Kahl will be formally recognized as the 2015 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Golf Professional of the Year in May as part of the 2016 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Annual Meeting.

JIM EMPEY SELECTED AS RMSPGA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Jim Empey, the PGA Director of Instruction at Quail Hollow Golf Club in Boise, Idaho, has been named the 2015 Teacher of the Year by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA.

The Teacher of the Year award bestows special recognition on a Rocky Mountain Section PGA golf professional that has performed outstanding service as a golf instructor. The honoree is chosen based on his or her performance, leadership, image, promotion of the game of golf, impact on teaching and golf instruction as well as their involvement in junior activities at their facility in addition to innovative contributions to golf instruction and published articles.

This is the fifth time, the other years being 2002, 2004, 2008, and 2010 that Empey has won this award. He also earned the RMSPGA Player of the Year honor in 2009, 2011, and 2013 to go along with his Senior Player of the Year awards in 2012 and 2013. Jim was elected to PGA Membership in 1987 and teaches from the "Golf House", a building he and his wife Debbie constructed at Quail Hollow in 2000.

He has devoted his career to teaching golf and teaches not only in Boise, but across the country due to this involvement with TMN Events. That organization focuses on corporate golf outings in conjunction with host site professionals providing clinics and lessons to their clients. Most recently the schedule included locations such as: Pebble Beach (Calif.) Resort, The Grand Del Mar in San Diego, Calif., The American Club and Whistling Straits Golf Course in Kohler, Wisc., Erin Hills Golf Club (site of the '17 US Open) in Hartford, Wisc., Teton Springs Resort and Club in Victor, Idaho, and Torrey Pines Lodge in San Diego, Calif.

Jim has had articles published on several occasions in *PGA Magazine* and he also created a ten-minute instructional video for the Golf Channel. He has also been recognized again by *Golf Digest* as the "Best Teacher in Idaho" and *Golf Magazine* recognized him as one of the "Top 10 Golf Instructors in the Northwest U.S." and as one of the "Top 400 Teachers in America". Most recently Empey has recorded instructional video tips for ehow.com and livestrong.com.

TIM REINKE WINS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD

Tim Reinke, the Head Professional of Pinecrest Golf Course in Idaho Falls, Idaho, has been selected by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA as the 2015 recipient of the Bill Strausbaugh Award. Reinke, a 31 year member of The PGA of America, was honored with this award for the third time as a member of the Rocky Mountain Section.

Established in 1979, the Bill Strausbaugh Award is presented to a PGA Professional who, by their day-to-day efforts, has distinguished themselves by mentoring their fellow PGA Professionals in improving their employment situations and through service to their community.

As a PGA member, Tim has worked tirelessly to promote the PGA of America and its members. As a result, he has been actively involved with assisting many of his former assistant professionals in establishing their careers as PGA professionals. Tim has prepared and hosted countless seminars over the years for the Section membership. In addition, his insights during past apprentice orientation seminars provide a blueprint for young aspiring professionals. He has mentored many PGA members and given of his time to many organizations within the Idaho Falls area.

The 2015 Bill Strausbaugh Award adds to an already distinguished resume for Reinke. In addition to his three Strausbaugh awards, he also previously garnered three RMSPGA Golf Professional of the Year awards, six RMSPGA Public Merchandiser of the Year awards, the 1988 Jr. Golf Leader award, and the 1991 RMSPGA Horton Smith award. In addition, he also won two Golf Professional of the Year awards on the Chapter level.

DUSTIN AMES WINS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA HORTON SMITH AWARD

Dustin Ames, PGA Head Professional at Jug Mountain Ranch in McCall, Idaho, has been selected by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA as the recipient of the 2015 Horton Smith Award.

The Horton Smith Award is presented to a PGA member for his outstanding contributions to professional education. Ames, elected to PGA

membership in 2011, reflects this commitment through his day-to-day activities in the Rocky Mountain Section PGA. Dustin is currently the Vice-President of the Snake River Chapter PGA and serves as the co-chair of the Education Committee and is also a member of the Section Tournament Committee. He has spearheaded the organization of various education experiences and other educational opportunities for the members and apprentices of the Section.

This honor marks the second occasion Ames has earned the Horton Smith Award as he was the recipient in 2013. He will formally receive recognition at the 2016 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation in May.

BEN BRYSON & JONATHAN GIBBS EARN 2015 RMSPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

With their combined efforts at BanBury Golf Course in Eagle, Idaho, Ben Bryson, PGA Head Professional, and Jonathan Gibbs, PGA Director of Instruction, have been named the recipients of the 2015 Youth Player Development Award. Bryson has been a member of the PGA of America since 2008 and Gibbs has been a PGA Member since 2004.

The Youth Player Development Award bestows special recognition upon PGA Professionals who have displayed extraordinary and exemplary contribution and achievement in this field. Both Ben and Jonathan are dedicated to providing meaningful instruction and playing opportunities for juniors of all ages. Their success clearly comes from a philosophical dedication to promoting the game and encouraging the next generation of golfers. Ben and Jonathan have embraced and grown PGA Junior League Golf since its inception in 2014 and as it continues to spread, they are the go-to gentlemen for best practices and recipes for success with this national junior growth of the game initiative.

Bryson, Gibbs and their staff hosted 2 high school golf teams, 2 Boise State University teams, 2 RMJGT championships, a 24 team high school championship, The Dropping, the Boise US Kids Tour Championship, an IGA Parent/Junior scramble night, 2 free kids' clinics, their own junior championship, and 4 PGA Junior League

Matches in 2015 alone. The 2016 calendar is already filling up with their continued commitment to the growth and success of junior golf.

The 2015 Youth Player Development Award marks the first time either professional has earned this honor. Gibbs previously won the RMSPGA Teacher of the Year award in 2006 and Bryson won the Section Assistant Professional of the Year Award in 2008 to go along with Player of the Year honors in 2012 and 2014.

TIM REINKE SELECTED AS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

PGA Professional Tim Reinke of Idaho Falls, Idaho, has been selected by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA as the 2015 recipient of the Player Development Award. Reinke, a 31 year member of The PGA of America has been honored as such to recognize his extraordinary contributions and achievements in the area of Player Development. This award considers the Professional's "growth of the game" leadership commitment at Section and National levels and the impact made at his/her own facility.

As the PGA Head Professional at Pinecrest Golf Course in Idaho Falls, Idaho, Tim continues to work tirelessly to promote the game of golf. Off season planning sessions as the Director of Golf Operations for the City of Idaho Falls start each season to ensure the implementation of quality growth of the game programs which Tim knows is the future of the game. The 2015 season saw implementation of "Family Golf Day", "Free Golf Day", "Men's Golf League", and participation at a local "Kids' Fair", which boosted enthusiasm and participation. Reinke and his staff continue to lead the way in their community welcoming women, children, and men of all ages to learn the game.

This marks the 15th time Reinke will be recognized as an award winner within the Section. Tim will be formally recognized as the 2015 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Player Development Award winner in May of 2016, during the Rocky Mountain Section PGA Annual Meeting.

**McELROY, AMES, & PETERSEN
RECOGNIZED AS
MERCHANDISERS OF THE YEAR**

Shaun McElroy, PGA Director of Golf at Shooting Star in Teton Village, Wyo., has been named the 2015 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Merchandiser of the Year for private golf course facilities. This award marks the first time he has been so honored by the RMSPGA.

Shaun has been a member of the PGA of America for 8 years, and has been on staff at Shooting Star going on 3 years. The "personal shopping" experience has been a great key to their success in the Shooting Star golf shop. The professional staff has been trained to be in front of the counter and offer a warm and helpful greeting to any guest. The staff is at the customer's beck and call offering sizes, styles, and even gift wrapping. The exclusivity of the club allows for a high-end merchandise selection and a nice variety of seasonal merchandise. Shaun also encourages his less experienced staff to participate in buying and displaying the club's wares. His hands-on educational approach ensures smooth operations regardless of who is on the clock.

Dustin Ames, PGA Head Professional at Jug Mountain Ranch in McCall, Idaho, has been named the 2015 Merchandiser of the Year for public golf course facilities. This marks the first time he has won the Merchandiser of the Year award. Dustin has been a member of the PGA of America since 2011 and has loyally served Jug Mountain Ranch for the last 5 years.

Dustin's merchandising philosophy is to provide products in a range of brands and prices to best meet the needs of Jug Mountain's diverse customer base. He also collaborates with as many vendors as possible and to provide staff training so that any guest's questions can be competently answered to insure sales at the time of customer first contact. He uses different types of merchandising techniques and stays on top of current trends to keep the club's inventory moving in a positive direction.

Jeffrey Petersen, PGA Director of Golf at Sun Valley (Idaho) Golf Resort has been recognized as the 2015 Merchandiser of the Year for resort facilities. Petersen has spent the past ten seasons at Sun Valley and has been a member of the PGA

of America since 2005. This is the third time Jeffrey has garnered this award having previously been honored in 2009 and 2013.

For Jeffrey, it is all about the customer. Customer needs, customer service, and customers having fun. He instills this simple philosophy into his staff and works hard to create this atmosphere at the resort. He is a master at changing displays, staying on top of industry trends, and staying ahead of the curve in preparation for holidays, events, and tournaments. The sale of accessories is a big part of the resort buying experience for guests and Jeffrey uses this knowledge to link sales together to create more profit.

The Merchandiser of the Year Awards are presented to the individuals who excel in their abilities to purchase, present and sell golf-related products in the most effective and attractive way possible while providing a high level of service to the customer at their respective golf facilities. McElroy, Ames, and Petersen will receive their awards at the 2016 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation next May.

**WESLEY ROBERTS IS THE
2015 RMSPGA ASSISTANT GOLF
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

Wesley Roberts of Shooting Star in Teton Village, Wyo., has been named the 2015 Assistant Professional of the Year for the Rocky Mountain Section PGA. Wesley has been employed at Shooting Star the past two years.

Wesley is very involved in all day-to-day golf operations at Shooting Star. He is a crucial part of the operation and a professional who takes on his responsibilities of teaching, tournament operations, and member care with an easy going demeanor and positive approach. He possesses the dedication to detail necessary to see any job through to a successful conclusion. Wesley is very focused on each individual experience and never shies away from any task no matter the department. Wesley's "lead by example" attitude comes from his mentors and he keeps that in his mind to find daily inspiration to excel. He is constantly looking for ways to accommodate the needs of others while serving the best interests of

the membership, his employer, and the game he loves.

One of Wesley's specialties is his ladies' golf program. This multi-faceted program he developed resulted in a 50% increase in participation of the ladies golf clinics at the club. Wesley also has a passion for junior golf. He was a crucial part of a revamped junior program that offered themed days during the club's junior golf camp. "Welcome to the Circus", "Amazing Race", and "Water Day" activities added a much needed element of fun to the junior camp and has resulted in greatly increased participation.

Wesley is proud to wear many hats as an assistant professional at Shooting Star and willingly takes on any and all tasks assigned to him. He provides service and approaches each day with a servant's heart. The more smiles he creates, the better day he has. This is Roberts' first award within the Section and it will be formally presented to him at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section PGA next May.

KEVIN BURTON EARNS PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONORS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA

Kevin Burton, PGA Director of Instruction at Pierce Park Greens in Boise, Idaho, is the 2015 Player of the Year and Senior Player of the Year in the Rocky Mountain Section of the Professional Golfers' Association of America. Burton earned both honors due to his performance throughout the 2015 season in Section and National events.

Kevin's award winning season was a model of consistency as his only victory was the Section Championship. He finished no worse than 7th in any event he played and also qualified for the United States Senior Open. Player of the Year honors continue to pile up for Burton as this marks the 7th time he has won the Player of the Year having previously done so in '02, '03, '04, '06, '07, and '08. Now Burton can add his first Senior Player of the Year honor as well having completed the double in 2015.

The Rocky Mountain PGA Section is one of forty-one sections that comprise the Professional Golfers' Association of America and includes eastern Montana, western Wyoming, southern

Idaho, northern Nevada, and Ontario, Oregon. Along with playing, the Rocky Mountain PGA Section and its member professionals are dedicated to promoting the involvement and enjoyment in the game of golf within the Section, and to contribute to its growth.

BURAN WINS 2015 PEPSI GALLATIN VALLEY OPEN

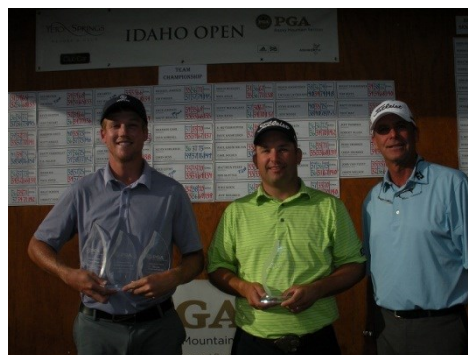
Thomas Buran of Milford, Ohio, shot rounds of 66 and 70 to capture the 2015 edition of the PEPSI Gallatin Valley Open by a single shot.

Unseasonably warm and calm weather on the first day had several players in the professional field of 32 in the mix going to the final round. A warm afternoon wind in the second round however, separated the players and Buran came out on top for the third consecutive year with his two-day, 8-under-par total of 136. Mike Rider from Manhattan, Mont. finished alone in second place after firing rounds of 67 and 70. Mike Grob hailing from Billings, Mont. finished 4 shots off the pace to finish third.

Congratulations to Rocky Mountain Section PGA Professionals Tom Anderson, Tyson McFarland, Michael Johnson and Lance Rieber for their fine play as they all finished in the money.

Sincere thanks goes out to PGA host professional Bill Larsen and his staff at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course for all their hard work in putting on this long standing championship. In addition, the RMSPGA would like to thank title sponsor Pepsi, presenting sponsors Sun Mountain Sports and Culligan, and supporting sponsor Country Inns & Suites for their generous support of the 2015 PEPSI Gallatin Valley Open.

AMATEUR TY TRAVIS TAKES 2015 IDAHO OPEN TITLE



Ty Travis,
Jonathan
Gibbs
and Matt
Stireman

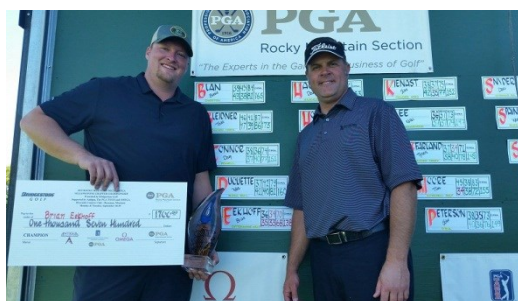
Ty Travis from Eagle, Idaho, followed his opening round of 68 with a final round of 5-under-par, 67, for a two round total of 9-under-par, 135, to capture the 2015 Idaho Open. Travis is the first Amateur to capture the Idaho Open title since 1982 when then amateur, now PGA Professional, Mike Hamblin took the crown. Ben Bryson, PGA Head Professional at BanBury Golf Course in Eagle, Idaho, and Nathan Ferrell, PGA, from Brush Prairie, Wash., tied for second place both finishing at 4-under-par, 140 for the tournament. The only other player under par for the event was junior amateur Andy Hess who finished alone in 4th place at 1-under-par, 143. The 2015 Idaho Open was presented by Teton Springs Resort & Club, Victor, ID, and supported by Club Car and Adidas and Ashworth Golf.

In the senior division, Tommy Sanderson, PGA Teaching Professional at The Valley Club in Sun Valley, Idaho, shot a closing round of 1-under-par 71, including an eagle 2 on the par-4 13th hole to win the senior division by a single shot over Fred Luthy, PGA Assistant Professional at Teton Lakes Golf Course, and first round leader, PGA Professional Jeff Thomsen of Boise, Idaho. Sanderson's winning 36-hole total was 2-over-par 146.

On the team side, overall champion Ty Travis with his partner Jonathan Gibbs, PGA Director of Instruction at BanBury Golf Course in Eagle, Idaho, took the team title by a single shot over three other teams with a winning two-round better-ball of partners total of 12-under-par, 132. The low Amateurs were also recognized this year and congratulations goes out to Doug Kimball of Bozeman, Mont. who was the low senior amateur in the field and the aforementioned Ty Travis completed the clean sweep of this year's event with low overall amateur honors.

A field of 82 professionals and amateurs began play Wednesday battling to earn a portion of the \$24,000 purse. The Rocky Mountain Section wishes to thank PGA Professionals Tony Snoey and Matt Stireman for their fantastic hospitality and supreme conditions at Teton Springs Resort & Club. Thanks also to the supporting sponsors; Mike Daly of Stan's Golf Cars, Ray & Randy Homer of Intermountain Golf Cars, Erwin Huffer of Club Car, and Jeff Smith of Adidas and Ashworth Golf.

BRIAN ECKHOFF IS THE 2015 YELLOWSTONE CHAPTER CHAMPION



Brian Eekhoff with Brandon Kahl

Brian Eekhoff, assistant professional at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course, in Bozeman, Mont., won the 2015 RMSPGA Yellowstone Chapter Championship, presented by Bridgestone Golf, supported by Antigua, The PGA TOUR and OMEGA, with a 36-hole total of 4-under-par, 138. Eddie Kavran, PGA Head Professional at Hilands Golf Club in Billings, Mont., finished second with a 2-under-par total of 140 and host PGA Professional Brandon Kahl finished third while carding a final round of 70 for a 1-under-par total of 141.

The Championship was contested at the 6,537 yard, par 71, layout at Riverside Country Club in Bozeman, Mont. Twenty-five RMSPGA Yellowstone Chapter professionals competed in the Championship.

The Rocky Mountain Section would like to thank Riverside Country Club and Head Professional Brandon Kahl and his staff, for hosting the event and for their hospitality. Sincere appreciation goes to Matt Seare and Gary Spinelli, Territory Managers with presenting sponsors Bridgestone Golf, and Robert Su, West Regional Sales Manager with Bridgestone Golf for supporting the members and apprentices of the Rocky Mountain Section PGA and the Yellowstone Chapter. Thanks also to Antigua and Bushnell representative Charley Carlson, The PGA TOUR and OMEGA.

NICHENKO/MCGEACHIN & ALLBRIGHT/ LUTHY WIN FALL PRO-PRO



Peter Nichenko, Scott McGeachin and Cody Faught, Mizuno Rep



Greg Allbright with Fred Luthy

Peter Nichenko, PGA Head Professional at Warm Springs Golf Course in Boise Idaho and his partner Scott McGeachin, PGA General Manager at Warm Springs, needed an eagle putt to drop on the 18th green to get in to a playoff with Brett Nagel, PGA Director of Instruction at The Club at SpurWing in Meridian, Idaho, and his partner Tyson Bowen, assistant professional at Sage Lakes Golf Course in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Par was good enough on the first playoff hole and Nichenko and McGeachin captured the 2015 RMSPGA Fall Pro-Pro title. The two teams matched 14-under-par, two day totals of 130 to get in to extra holes. Alone in third place, 3 shots back, was the team of Brett Cordingley, PGA Head Professional at Teton Lakes Golf Course in Rexburg, Idaho, and his partner John Van Vleet, PGA General Manager at Preston (Idaho) Golf and Country Club. This year's championship was supported by JC Golf Accessories, Ouray Sportswear, Sun Mountain

Sports, Page & Tuttle, Adidas and Ashworth Golf, Mizuno, OMEGA and The PGA TOUR.

On the team side, overall champion Ty Travis with his partner Jonathan Gibbs, PGA Director of Instruction at BanBury Golf Course in Eagle, Idaho, took the team title by a single shot over three other teams with a winning two-round better-ball of partners total of 12-under-par, 132. The low Amateurs were also recognized this year and congratulations goes out to Doug Kimball of Bozeman, Mont. who was the low senior amateur in the field and the aforementioned Ty Travis completed the clean sweep of this year's event with low overall amateur honors.

In the senior division, the team of Greg Allbright, PGA General Manager at Riverside Golf Course in Pocatello, Idaho, and Fred Luthy, PGA Assistant Professional at Teton Lakes Golf Course in Rexburg, Idaho, shot a fine final round of 4-under-par, 68, for a two-day total of 9-under-par, 135, and a 2-shot victory over John Wallace, PGA Head Professional at Terrace Lakes Resort in Garden Valley, Idaho, and Kevin Burton, PGA Director of Instruction at Pierce Park Greens in Boise, Idaho.

The two-round team tournament was contested at the par 72, 6720 yard, Idaho Falls Country Club in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Round one is played as a better-ball of partners and round two is a modified alternate shot format. The Rocky Mountain PGA would like to thank Jon Potter, PGA Director of Golf, Jason Jacobsen, PGA Head Professional and their staff at Idaho Falls Country Club for hosting the event and for the hospitality shown to the competitors. The Rocky Mountain PGA also extends its sincerest appreciation to Greg Jenkins of JC Golf Accessories, Scott Larsen, PGA, of Ouray Sportswear, Mike Worden of Sun Mountain Sports, Jeff Smith of Adidas & Ashworth Golf, Andy Hollister, PGA, of Page & Tuttle, Cody Faught of Mizuno, OMEGA and The PGA TOUR for their kind and always generous support of the 2015 RMSPGA Fall Pro-Pro.

THOMSEN CLAIMS THE 2015 SRCPGA MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP WHILE SANDERSON TAKES THE SENIOR TITLE



Jeff Thomsen and Cliff Jones



Cliff Jones and Tommy Sanderson

PGA Professional Jeff Thomsen of Boise, Idaho, defeated Luke Sestero, assistant professional at Crane Creek Country Club in Boise, Idaho, 1 up in perfect conditions to capture the 2015 SRCPGA Match Play Championship. In the consolation bracket, Brent Fleshman, PGA Head Professional at Jackpot (Nevada) Golf Club narrowly bested PGA Assistant Professional Jake Harr from Clear Lake Country Club in Buhl, Idaho, also by the score of 1 up. Excellent course conditions allowed the players to truly focus on their opponents this final day as the players completed their 5th match over the 3-day championship. Thomsen's trademark consistency kept him on top to the final hole. The match got interesting as Sestero won the par-3, 17th hole with a par to get to only 1 down to the 18th tee. Thomsen's rock solid par on the long 18th hole closed the match as Sestero was unable to chip in from just off the green.

Tommy Sanderson, PGA Teaching Professional at The Valley Club in Sun Valley, Idaho, defeated host PGA Professional Mike Hamblin to win the Senior Division crown. Sanderson was the defending champion and number 1 seed and each match he played was closer than the last, methodically eliminating his four competitors, the last match ending 1 up. In the consolation bracket of the senior division, PGA Professional Buster Whitney ground out a victory over Gooding Country Club's Head PGA Professional Rob Ellis by a score of 1 up.

The Snake River Chapter Match Play Championship was the season's final tournament for the Snake River Chapter. It was contested at the picturesque 6,454 yard par-72 layout at Blue Lakes Country Club in Twin Falls, Idaho.

The Rocky Mountain Section and the Snake River Chapter of the RMSPGA would like to thank Blue Lakes Country Club host PGA Professional Mike Hamblin and his staff who have put forth the effort to keep this as one of the premier events in the Snake River Chapter. Appreciation is also extended to Bridgestone Golf territory manager Cliff Jones and Matt Seare for their continued and loyal sponsorship of this Championship. Thanks also to OMEGA and The PGA TOUR for their continuing support.

PGA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND SCHOLARSHIP

The 2016 PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship Program is now available. Graduating high school seniors and college students who are the children or grandchildren of PGA members in good standing can apply on PGA.org to be considered for financial support for college. The deadline date for submitting the online application is March 1, 2016. The applicant will have until March 18, 2016 to submit their transcript, scores and supporting documents. The link to apply online is <http://apps.pga.org/scholarship/>.

The PGA Financial Assistance Fund scholarship is a Member Benefit that can potentially assist Member's children or grandchildren with college costs. Our goal is to have a scholarship winner from each and every Section. In an effort to accomplish this goal, please help us by promoting the PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship and be sure that your Members are aware of this great Member Benefit.

The PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship Program is an academic based scholarship program that takes into account the following criteria depending on the class level of the student:

High School Graduating Senior:

- High School cumulative grade point average (GPA) must be at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale
- ACT and/or SAT test scores
- Extracurricular activities

Current College Student (has not reached senior year)

- College cumulative GPA must be at least a 3.4 on a 4.0 scale
- Most recently completed college semester or quarter GPA
- Extracurricular activities

In addition, financial need will be taken into consideration. If applying for financial need, the applicant must also submit the Expected Family Contribution score from your Student Aid Report, along with his/her transcript and application. The number of scholarships earned will be limited to two scholarships over four years of undergraduate college attendance.

SHORT SHOTS

Robert Kearney, PGA, has moved to the Section and is the General Manager at the PowderHorn Golf Club in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Welcome to Joan Colleran, PGA, who has moved to Boise, Idaho, from the Pacific Northwest Section.

Congratulations to Keven Oyler, PGA. Keven has been named General Manager at Clear Lake Country Club in Buhl, ID.

We welcome back Scott Cain, LM, to the Rocky Mountain Section. Scott has recently moved back to Red Lodge, MT.

Carey Reynolds, PGA, has recently been elected to membership in the PGA of America. Carey is the assistant professional at The Club at SpurWing in Meridian, ID.

Congratulations to Richard Stanwood, A-6, at Golf Galaxy in Boise, ID. Rich was recently elected to the PGA of America Quarter Century Club having served the PGA for 25 years.

Congratulations to Kevin Burton, A-14 at Pierce Park Greens, Boise, ID, for finishing 8th in the Senior PGA Player of the Year points standing.

Katie Somers, B-8, is the new assistant professional at BanBury Golf Course, Eagle, ID.

PGA GOLF PASS

The 2016 PGA Golf Pass is now available for sale. This year we have 65+ facilities on the Pass and it remains a tremendous value at only \$40. In addition to the great discounts the Pass provides, each pass holder will receive a weekly grounds ticket to the 2016 Albertsons Boise Open.

Please help us with promotion of the Pass by making your members/customers aware of the benefits of the Pass. The Golf Pass can be purchased online at <http://rockymountainpga.com/golfpass/>, by mail or by calling the Section office.

Special thank you goes to our 2016 presenting sponsor, Sun Valley Resort (Tyler Jones, PGA General Manager and Jeff Petersen, PGA Director of Golf) as well as to all participating facilities. We also appreciate TaylorMade's John Johnson for his support of the Golf Pass program.

2016 BOISE GOLF & TRAVEL SHOW

Please support the Section by volunteering your time at the Boise Golf & Travel Show on February 12 – 14 at Expo Idaho in Boise. The Section will have a booth at the Show and we will be distributing Clubs For Kids as well as giving ten minute free lessons as part of Play Golf America. We need volunteers in both of these areas. Members will receive MSR credits and apprentices will receive Apprentice Education points for volunteering. Please contact Laurie at the Section office (208) 939-6028 if you can help.

SECTION OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS



THANK YOU 2015 SPONSORS

The PGA of America and Rocky Mountain Section offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays starting on Thursday, December 24th and will re-open on Monday, January 4th, 2016. During this holiday season we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Rocky Mountain Section appreciates the sponsors who have helped to make 2015 a truly great year for the Section. Please take a moment to show your appreciation and acknowledge the companies and sales representatives who have contributed so greatly to our success. The Rocky Mountain Section is fortunate to have such support and it is hoped you consider the brands and representatives listed on our sponsor page when making your buying decisions for 2016.

2016 RMSPGA MAJOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND MEETING SCHEDULE (Tentative Dates and Locations)

February 16	SRC Spring Membership Meeting – SpurWing CC – Meridian, ID
March 15	YC Spring Membership Meeting – Hilands GC – Billings, MT
April 11	SRC Facility Championship – Location TBD
April 11-12	YC Pro-Pro – Hilands GC – Billings, MT
April 18	Larry Malone Scholarship Pro-Am – Hillcrest CC – Boise, ID
May 2	YC Scholarship Pro-Am – Laurel GC – Laurel, MT
May 9	YC Scholarship Pro-Am – Yellowstone CC – Billings, MT
May 22	RMSPGA Annual Membership Meeting – Residence Inn Marriott – Idaho Falls, ID
May 23-24	RMSPGA Pro-Pro Shootout – Pinecrest GC – Idaho Falls, ID
June 8	Drive, Chip, Putt – Ridgecrest GC – Nampa, ID
June 15-16	RMSPGA Junior Championship – Huntsman Springs, Driggs, ID
June 19	Drive, Chip, Putt – Powder Horn GC – Sheridan, WY
July 13-14	RMSPGA Yellowstone Junior Championship – Location TBD
July 19-20	RMSPGA Senior Section Championship – Snake River Sporting Club – Jackson, WY
July 27-28	RMSPGA Gallatin Valley Junior Championship – Bridger Creek GC – Bozeman, MT
August 1	Windfall Classic – Crane Creek Country Club – Boise, ID
August 2-3	Montana Cup – Location TBD
August 3-4	Carter Cup – Jug Mountain Ranch, McCall, Idaho
August 17	RMSPGA Assistant Championship – Location TBD
August 30-31	RMSPGA Section Championship – Teton Pines Country Club – Wilson, WY
September 10-11	Gallatin Valley Open–Cottonwood Hills Golf Course–Bozeman, MT
September 21-22	Idaho Open –Teton Springs Resort and Club–Victor, ID
September 26-27	Yellowstone Chapter Championship – Location TBD
October 3	RMSPGA Fall Membership Meeting – Idaho Falls, ID
October 3-4	RMSPGA Fall Pro-Pro – Idaho Falls CC – Idaho Falls, ID
October 17-19	SRC Match Play Championship – Blue Lakes CC – Twin Falls, ID
November 4	SRC Fall Membership Meeting – Location TBD
November 14	YC Fall Membership Meeting – Black Bull – Bozeman, MT 20



PGA of America Highlight Summary – November

December 4, 2015

The Headlines:

- 99th PGA Annual Meeting brought together Members from all 41 Sections
- California wins PGA Junior League Championship led by John Mason, PGA
- U.S. Captain Davis Love III Names Three More Vice Captains for 2016 Ryder Cup
- PGA LEAD, an emerging leaders program for PGA Members, was launched
- Mickelson wins the National Car Rental PGA Assistant Championship
- New Mexico State captures the 14th Jones Cup
- Former Deutsche Bank CEO Seth Waugh Elected to PGA of America Board of Directors

99th PGA Annual Meeting Delivers Look into Future of Golf

The 99th PGA Annual Meeting was hosted at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. As the PGA readies for its Centennial next year, Delegates, comprised of PGA Board members, Past Presidents and representatives of all 41 PGA Sections, discussed the progress the PGA has made with its long-term strategic plan to serve the member and grow the game.

PGA President Derek Sprague and CEO Pete Bevacqua kicked off the informal session on Nov. 9, laying out the framework for the PGA's focus on advancing the ability of PGA members to utilize state-of-the-art tools and education to foster career growth and player development, including:

- The launch of the **Golf USA Tee Times Coalition** – in collaboration with the NGCOA the PGA will continue to monitor and enforce tee times guidelines for third party tee time operators in order to ensure positive and sustainable growth.
- The announcement of **PGA Verified** – a platform by which the PGA will certify the validity and quality of technology for instruction through trusted third-party testing, similar to a Consumer Reports or Good Housekeeping vetting process. This will ultimately empower PGA Professionals to make better buying decisions.
- **Education Simulation Program** in partnership with TATA Interactive - an exciting interactive simulation to enhance the leadership and management training of our Members in a fun and competitive environment. The goal is to enhance their capability in growing topline business and managing efficient operations for greater profitability.
- A member-focused **Centennial Celebration** – launching at the PGA Merchandise Show, the Centennial Celebration will focus against elevating the perception of the PGA Professional amongst employers and golfers. Programming will include an integrated marketing campaign called #ThxPGAPro which will showcase celebrities, TOUR players and employers thanking their PGA Professionals.
- A continued commitment to enhance **PGA Junior League Golf** – along with existing efforts and promotions, improvements are being made focused around refining the technology platform and enhancing both quality and fulfillment of team kits



During the formal session there were six Resolutions that were voted on by the delegation. Resolutions 1-4 proposed by the PGA Board of Directors passed and had limited impact on PGA Members.

1. PGA Representation on the Champions TOUR Board: PGA President will now sit on both the PGA TOUR and Champions TOUR Boards (instead of PGA Honorary President)
2. Removal of the Player Directors as Delegates: 30 years since one attended the PGA Annual Meeting
3. Removal of the obsolete language: "the rules and policies set forth in" and "orders" from the Bylaws
4. Honorary Members and Honorary Directors: Honorary Members are permanent, while Honorary Directors are annual Allied Association honorees. The two Honorary Director limit is eliminated

Resolutions 5 and 6 did not pass.

5. Requirements of the Professional Development Program – Limit of 18 hours for online MSR credits
6. Creation of the Life Member Emeritus Status for PGA Members: Members with 20 years of active classification, 65 and older, and 25 consecutive years of employment at the same facility.

Also, during the formal session six new members of the Board of Directors were inducted:

- District 3: James (Jim) Dorman, PGA Head Professional, Laurel Country Club, Laurel, Mississippi (Dixie, Gulf States and Tennessee PGA Sections)
- District 6: Todd M. Smith, PGA Head Professional, Rock Hollow Golf Club, Peru, Indiana (Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin PGA Sections)
- District 7: Randy Hunt, PGA Golf Professional, Lenexa, Kansas (Gateway, Midwest and South Central PGA Sections)
- District 11: Scott Ashworth, PGA Director of Golf, Four Seasons Resort Lanai, Hawaii (Aloha, Northern California and Southern California PGA Sections)
- District 12: Glenn B. Lee, PGA General Manager, Escondido Golf and Lake Club, Horseshoe Bay, Texas (Northern Texas, Southern Texas and Sun Country PGA Sections)
- Independent Director: Former Deutsche Bank CEO Seth Waugh, North Palm Beach, Florida

Additionally, the week included a number of other highlights for the delegation, including:

- The induction of six new members of the PGA Board of Directors
- 2015 PGA of America National Awards led by PGA Golf Professional of the Year Tom Henderson and PGA Teacher of the Year Cameron McCormick, who is Jordan Spieth's instructor
- PGA of America Hall of Fame induction ceremony which included PGA Professionals Tommy Bolt, Ray Cutrught, Michael Doctor and George Hannon
- PGA Distinguished Service Award presentation to former PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman
- Keynote Speaker Dave Ridley, former Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Southwest Airlines
- PGA Past President Jack Connelly being honored with the Legends of the PGA award
- Trip to PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie to experience the new clubhouse and renovated courses



California Wins PGA Junior League Championship

Krando Nishiba had seen this putt before. In fact, it was 10 minutes earlier when he barely missed a nearly identical putt on the 9th Hole at Disney's Palm Course that would have clinched the title for Team California over Team Georgia in regulation.

With a second chance at a Championship, Nishiba made an adjustment and hit an incredible 35-foot birdie putt on the playoff hole that was true from the start. The celebration on the 9th green that followed was a memory for a lifetime.

The PGA Junior League Golf Championship features nine-hole matches played in a popular two-person scramble format, with points awarded based on number of holes won. Final scoring is based on the record of matches won, tied and lost. Each team played three matches between Friday and Saturday to determine a winner in the East and West Division, who competed for the Championship title.

Team Captain: PGA Professional John Mason

Assistant Coach: Jackie DeWald-Mason

Team Members: Nicholas Chang, Shane Ffrench, Jay Leng Jr., Jackson Moss, Krando Nishiba, Dylan Oyama, Ryan Smith, Jared Tran, Jaycie Stewart, Daina Tsuru, Ryan Mellick

Jim Furyk, Steve Stricker and Tiger Woods join Tom Lehman as U.S. Ryder Cup Vice Captains in 2016

United States Ryder Cup Captain Davis Love III announced that Jim Furyk, Steve Stricker and Tiger Woods would serve as three of his five Vice Captains for the 2016 Ryder Cup, which will take place September 27-October 2 at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota.

Furyk has played in nine consecutive Ryder Cups which is the second-most in U.S. Ryder Cup history (Phil Mickelson, 10). This is Stricker's second stint as a Ryder Cup Vice Captain. He was a U.S. Vice Captain at Gleneagles in 2014, and served in the same capacity last month at the Presidents Cup in South Korea. Stricker played for the U.S. in three Ryder Cups and was on the winning side in 2008 at Valhalla. Woods' appointment is his first as a Vice Captain., Woods will draw upon a wide array of playing experiences gained in seven Ryder Cups and eight Presidents Cups.

In the event that any Vice Captains qualify for, or are named to, the U. S. Ryder Cup Team, Love will have the option to name replacements.

PGA LEAD, an emerging leaders program for PGA Members, was launched

PGA LEAD was developed in an effort to identify, mentor and progress a dedicated group of PGA members from diverse backgrounds, who aspire to leadership roles within the Association, along a guided path. Integrating diversity and its vast array of personal dimensions into our leadership ranks will help position the PGA for success, as we embark on our next 100 years.

The ultimate goal of PGA LEAD is to establish a deep bench of diverse PGA members who are prepared to ascend to and through the volunteer leadership ranks of the Association. In addition, PGA LEAD will assist in developing PGA members who desire to serve and make an impact on nonprofit boards within the communities where they work and live.



To apply for one of the available slots in the 2016-2018 class a PGA Member should visit the Governance area within the Membership section of PGA.org. The deadline for applications is December 5th.

Mickelson Wins the 39th National Car Rental PGA Assistant Championship

Andy Mickelson won the 39th National Car Rental PGA Assistant Championship at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Florida by two shots over Adam Rainaud (14-under-par, 274) of South Hadley, Massachusetts. "Shot to shot," Mickelson's steady mantra all week, rendered a 16-under, 272 total and his first National Championship victory, which came in his debut in this Championship.

Richard Terga (13-under-par, 275) of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida finished third, while Shane Pearce of Anna, Texas finished 12-under, 276 in fourth. An apprentice at Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville, Illinois, Mickelson had spent much of the last decade toiling on the Hooters Tour, toggling between Professional and amateur status, questioning his commitment to the game and unsure of his place in it.

New Mexico State Captures the 14th Jones Cup

The drought is over for New Mexico State University. The Aggies won the 14th Jones Cup on Wednesday at PGA Golf Club, despite playing with a greater purpose in mind.

The Aggies captured their PGA Golf Management Program's second Jones Cup, first since 2006, by nine strokes over defending champion Campbell University (584) of Buies Creek, North Carolina. 2013 Champion Ferris State University (590) of Big Rapids, Michigan and Clemson (594), finished third and fourth, respectively. The New Mexico State PGA Golf Management University program is led by Director, Pat Gavin.

The 36-hole event concluded today, with each of the 19 universities that sponsor the PGA Golf Management program showcasing the talents of five players in the annual team event.

The PGA Jones Cup is named for the first PGA Golf Management University Program Director at Mississippi State, Dr. S. Roland Jones, who held the position from 1985 until his passing in 1997. The event provides a platform where participants can display professionalism, integrity, character and camaraderie; all characteristics Dr. Jones instilled in PGA Golf Management students.

All participating universities in the PGA Jones Cup are schools accredited by the PGA of America to offer the PGA Golf Management University Program for aspiring PGA Professionals. There are currently 2,284 students enrolled in the program nationwide.

Former Deutsche Bank CEO Seth Waugh Elected to PGA of America Board of Directors

Seth Waugh, Vice Chairman of Business Development for Florida East Coast Industries (FECI), has joined the PGA Board of Directors as an Independent Director. He was elected to the Board at the 99th PGA Annual Meeting and will serve a three-year term. Previously, he spent 13 years at Deutsche Bank (2000-13), during which time he operated the sales and trading businesses in the U.S., before being named CEO of the Americas Region and leading the Bank for a decade in that position.

In 2002, Waugh created the Deutsche Bank Championship, an event on the PGA TOUR. Since 2007, the championship has been one of the four FedEx Cup playoff events.

USGA and R&A Rules of Golf References and Rule 14-1b Decisions

Rules of Golf References

Co-Branded Rules books

For the first time ever, the USGA and R&A have published “co-branded” Rules books, effective January 1, 2016 (i.e., Rules of golf booklets, Decisions books, Amateur Status Decisions book). This was done to promote that there is a single set of Rules that apply to golfers worldwide and to eliminate any perception that there are different sets of Rules (i.e., “USGA Rules” or “R&A Rules”).

Future References

Whenever possible, references should be to the “Rules of Golf.” Avoiding references to “USGA Rules” or “R&A Rules” should be avoided, which is often done on scorecards, within Notice to Competitors, and elsewhere.

When a more complete reference is desired, it should be “The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and R&A Rules Limited” or the “USGA/R&A Rules of Golf.”

ANCHORING THE CLUB

14-1b/1

Intentionally Holding Forearm Against Body When Making Stroke

Q. Rule 14-1b prohibits a player from anchoring the club by use of an “anchor point”, which Note 2 to the Rule defines as a player intentionally holding “a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club”. Does this always preclude the player from intentionally holding his forearm against his body when making a stroke?

A. No. A player is permitted to intentionally hold one or both forearms against his body in making a stroke, provided doing so does not create an anchor point – see Decision 14-1b/2. (New)

14-1b/2

Meaning of “Anchor Point” in Note 2 to Rule 14-1b

Q. Rule 14-1b provides that a player must not anchor the club during a stroke by using an “anchor point”. In Note 2 to the Rule, which defines “anchor point”, what does it mean “to hold a forearm in contact with any part of the body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club”?

A. The “anchor point” provision prohibits only a very specific type of stroke in which a forearm is intentionally held against the body as an indirect means of anchoring the club. For an anchor point to exist, the following two criteria must be met: (1) the player must intentionally hold a forearm against the body; and (2) he must grip the club so that the hands are separated and work independently from one another (i.e. the top hand effectively secures the club in place as if attached to the body to establish a stable point, while the bottom hand is held down the shaft to swing the lower portion of the club around that point). (New)

14-1b/3

Explanation of “Forearm” in Relation to Rule 14-1b

Note 1 to Rule 14-1b provides that a player may hold his club against his hand or forearm in making a stroke. For the purpose of Rule 14-1b, “forearm” is the part of the arm below the elbow joint and includes the wrist. (New)

14-1b/4

Player Anchors Club Prior to Stroke

Q. A player anchors the club at address or during the backward movement of the club for the stroke, but stops anchoring before he makes the stroke. Is the player in breach of Rule 14-1b?

A. No. The prohibition against anchoring in Rule 14-1b only applies while the player is making the stroke (i.e. the forward movement of the club made with the intention of striking at and moving the ball). (New)

14-1b/5

Portion of Stroke Anchored

Q. A player directly anchors the club or a gripping hand, or anchors a forearm to establish an anchor point, during some portion of the stroke but not all of it. Is the player in breach of Rule 14-1b?

A. Yes. If the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand against his body, or establishes an anchor point during any part of the stroke (i.e. the forward movement of the club made with the intention of striking at and moving the ball), he is in breach of the Rule. (New)

14-1b/6

Club or Gripping Hand Inadvertently Touches Body During Stroke

Q. When making a stroke, a player's club or gripping hand inadvertently comes in contact with or brushes against his body. Is he in breach of Rule 14-1b?

A. No. The prohibition in Rule 14-1b applies only to a player who intentionally anchors a club, either directly or through use of an anchor point, in making a stroke. (New)

14-1b/7

Club in Contact with Clothing During Stroke

Q. If a player makes a stroke with the club or a gripping hand in contact with an article of clothing that he is wearing, in what circumstances does that constitute direct anchoring of the club in breach of Rule 14-1b?

A. Clothing held against the body by a club or gripping hand is treated as if it is part of the player's body for the purpose of applying Rule 14-1b. Therefore, if the player were to intentionally use the club or a gripping hand to press an article of clothing against any part of his body, other than the forearm or a gripping hand, he would be in breach of this Rule. However, merely touching an article of clothing with the club or gripping hand in making a stroke is not a breach. This might occur in various situations, such as where the player is wearing loose fitting clothes or raingear, where the player's physical size or build causes his arms naturally to rest close to the body, where the player holds the club extremely close to the body, or where the player for some other reason touches his clothing in making a stroke.

Intentionally using a gripping hand to hold an article of clothing worn on any part of the body while making a stroke is a breach of Rule 14-3 – see Decision 14-3/7. (New)

The background of the top section features a large, semi-transparent red seal of the United States Golf Association. The seal is circular, with the words "UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION" around the perimeter. In the center, there is a shield with a star, flanked by two eagles. Below the shield, a banner reads "E PLURIBUS UNUM".

*Information for Players, Club Officials and
Tournament Administrators on the*

IMPLEMENTATION OF RULE 14-1b

Rule 14-1b, which prohibits anchoring a club when making a stroke, takes effect on January 1, 2016, as part of the 2016 edition of the Rules of Golf. This document explains how the Rule applies to various methods of stroke (Part I below), and also addresses more general questions received by the USGA and The R&A about whether it would be permissible under the Rules for players or competition committees to elect to waive the Rule (Part II below).

Additional resources, such as an infographic and an explanatory video, are available at www.usga.org/anchoring. Questions about Rule 14-1b can be forwarded to Rules@usga.org or to your local state or regional golf association. Players with questions on how best to adopt a method of stroke that complies with the Rule are also encouraged to consult their local PGA Professional. >>

I. GUIDANCE ON PLAYING IN CONFORMANCE WITH RULE 14-1b

A. Text of Rule 14-1b

Rule 14-1b focuses only on the method of stroke; it does not limit the conforming equipment that may be used. While making a stroke, a player may not anchor the club (i) “directly” or (ii) indirectly through use of an “anchor point.” These concepts are explained in the Rule:

14-1b Anchoring the Club

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point.”

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

Penalty: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes

B. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

The following FAQs respond to various questions received by the USGA and The R&A about the application of Rule 14-1b:

Does this Rule apply only to strokes made from the putting green?

No. Rule 14-1b applies to all types of stroke (i.e., putts, chip shots, pitch shots, full-length shots, etc.), regardless of where those strokes are made (i.e., putting green, fringe, fairway, rough, tee, and everywhere else on the course).

Is this a ban on belly putters and long putters?

No. A player may still use any conforming belly

(mid-length) or long putter. Rule 14-1b addresses only the method of stroke, prohibiting a player from anchoring the club directly or by use of an anchor point while making a stroke.

The following images show players using belly and long putters in a permissible manner under Rule 14-1b.



What methods of stroke are prohibited?

Rule 14-1b prohibits only a few types of strokes in which the club is intentionally anchored, either directly or through use of a forearm to establish an anchor point against the body. All other currently permissible types of strokes and styles of grip will remain permissible.

The following images show the two most common types of stroke that are prohibited under the Rule.



Rule 14-1b permits a player to hold his club against his hand or forearm in making a stroke. How is the “forearm” defined?

For purposes of Rule 14-1b, the “forearm” is the part of the arm below the elbow joint and includes the wrist.

The following images illustrate permissible strokes where the club is intentionally held against the forearm.



However, a player is in breach of the Rule if he or she makes a stroke while intentionally holding the club against any part of the arm at or above the elbow.

This is illustrated in the following image.



What does the term “anchor point” mean under this Rule?

The “anchor point” provision prohibits only a very specific type of stroke in which a forearm is intentionally held against the body to indirectly anchor the club.

An anchor point exists if both of the following are true:

- (1) the player intentionally holds a forearm (i.e., the part of the arm below the elbow, including the wrist) against the body; and
- (2) the player grips the club so that the hands are separated and work independently of one another (i.e., the top hand effectively secures the club in place as if attached to the body to establish a stable point, while the bottom hand is held down the shaft to swing the lower portion of the club around that point).

The following images are two examples of the hands being separated and the forearm being used to create an “anchor point” in breach of the Rule.



Does Rule 14-1b mean that a player is always prohibited from intentionally resting one or both forearms against his or her body while making a stroke?

No. Intentionally holding a forearm against the body is prohibited only when done to create an anchor point. Otherwise, intentionally holding the forearms against the body while making a stroke is not a breach of Rule 14-1b.

For example, the following image shows a player holding his forearms against his side in a permissible manner under Rule 14-1b; because his hands are not separated and working independently of one another, he has not created an “anchor point” (see previous question).



However, if a player intentionally holds a forearm against his body, and the hand attached to that forearm is the top gripping hand and holds the club with an inverted grip (i.e., any grip other than the traditional style in which the gripping hand hangs below the player’s wrist), an anchor point is deemed to exist.

The following image shows a player intentionally holding his forearm against his body and using an inverted grip to create an anchor point.



To avoid all doubt, a player who chooses to rest one or both forearms against the body during the stroke should also grip the club with the hands generally together, and the player who chooses to hold the club with his hands separated should generally avoid holding a forearm against his body and stabilizing the top gripping hand.

Is use of a “side-saddle” stroke permitted?

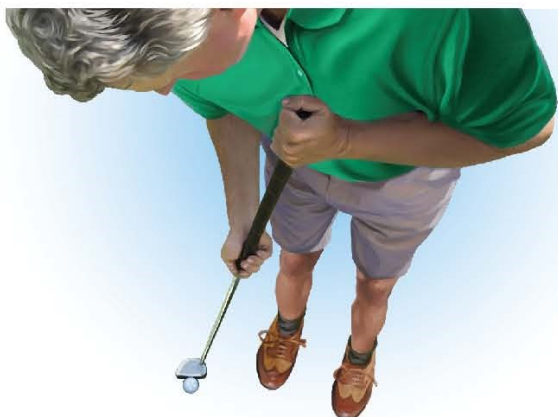
Yes, so long as the player does not anchor the club directly or intentionally hold a forearm against the body to create an anchor point.



The above image shows a player permissibly using a “side-saddle” method of stroke.

However, the player would be in breach of Rule 14-1b if he or she were to create an anchor point by intentionally holding a forearm against the body in a manner that allows the hands to operate independently of each other.

The following image shows a player using a forearm to create an anchor point while putting side-saddle, in breach of Rule 14-1b.



Is it a breach of the Rule if the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand against the body only prior to the stroke, such as at address?

No. The prohibition against anchoring in Rule 14-1b only applies while the player is making the stroke (i.e., the forward movement of the club made with the intention of striking at and moving the ball). Intentional contact prior to the stroke is permitted.

Is it a breach of the Rule if the club, a gripping hand or a forearm inadvertently touches the body during the stroke?

No. The prohibition in Rule 14-1b applies only when, in making a stroke, the player intentionally anchors a club, either directly or through use of an anchor point. There is no penalty if the player inadvertently brushes his or her body with a club, gripping hand or forearm during a stroke.

What if the player touches clothing (and not the body) with a club, a gripping hand or a forearm during the stroke?

Merely touching an article of clothing with the club, a gripping hand or a forearm while making a stroke is

not a breach. This might occur in various situations, such as when the player is wearing loose fitting clothes or raingear, when the player's physical size or build causes his or her arms naturally to rest close to the body, when the player holds the club close to the body or when the player for some other reason touches his clothing in making a stroke.

What if a player intentionally uses a club, a gripping hand or a forearm to press an article of clothing against the body?

An article of clothing (e.g., jacket, shirt, glove, etc.) that is held against the body by a club, a gripping hand or a forearm is treated as if it is part of the player's body for the purpose of Rule 14-1b.

Can a player use a piece of clothing to secure the club or a gripping hand?

No. Intentionally using a gripping hand to hold an article of clothing worn on any part of the body while making a stroke is a breach of Rule 14-3 (use of equipment in an abnormal manner). The same would be true if a player used a piece of clothing to secure the club, such as by wrapping part of a shirt or jacket around the grip end of the club to create a connection between the body and the club.

What happens if two players disagree about whether one has anchored or there is uncertainty about whether the Rule has been breached?

As with many other Rules, the determination of whether Rule 14-1b has been breached must be made in light of all of the available facts. As the Rule only prohibits intentional anchoring, the critical question is whether, in making a stroke, the player purposely anchored the club, either directly or by use of an anchor point, or whether any contact with the body was unintentional.

II. GENERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHETHER, UNDER THE RULES, INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS, CLUBS OR COMPETITIONS MAY ELECT TO WAIVE RULE 14-1b

Because some golfers have expressed concern about no longer being able to anchor, certain questions have been asked about whether it would be permissible under the Rules of Golf for individual players, clubs or competition committees to disregard Rule 14-1b. The following section provides the answers to those questions under the Rules, and also sets forth some additional considerations.

Can my club or the committee in charge of a competition make a Local Rule or adopt a Condition of Competition declining to enforce Rule 14-1b?

No. A Local Rule to permit anchoring is not authorized under the Rules of Golf. Under Rule 33-8, “A Rule of Golf must not be waived by a Local Rule.” Local Rules are intended to address local abnormal conditions at a specific course and must be consistent with the policy expressed in the Rules. A “Local Rule” purporting to eliminate Rule 14-1b would be an impermissible waiver of a Rule defining a fundamental characteristic of the game, i.e., how a stroke is to be made.

Likewise, a Condition of Competition to permit anchoring is not authorized under the Rules. In establishing the conditions of play, the committee in charge of a competition or a course “has no power to waive a Rule of Golf” (Rule 33-1).

Accordingly, an individual club or competition committee would be acting contrary to the Rules of Golf if it declared that Rule 14-1b could be ignored, whether this was characterized as a Local Rule, Condition of Competition or in any other way.

It should be noted that any such waiver of the Rule would create an uneven and unfair playing environment and likely would lead to significant confusion and controversy at the club level, such as:

► WITHIN A CLUB:

- Disagreement and dissension among members who previously anchored but now follow Rule 14-1b and feel at a disadvantage as compared with those who choose to not follow the Rule; or among members generally regarding a decision to waive a Rule of Golf in club events; etc.
- Pressure on club officials to adopt other unauthorized Local Rules or Conditions of Competition, such as seeking permission to use non-conforming equipment; it would be awkward and difficult for a club committee to explain why certain Rules can be waived and others cannot.

► BETWEEN CLUBS:

- Unfairness to players who altered their putting styles to conform to Rule 14-1b and then play in a member-guest or other event at another club where members have been permitted to anchor without regard to the Rule.
- Inconsistency for golfers who continue to anchor because their own club has chosen to waive Rule 14-1b but then find that they are unable to anchor when playing in member-guests at other clubs that follow the Rules.
- General confusion and uncertainty about when and where players would be permitted to choose to follow the Rules of Golf.

Similar issues would exist in competitions at all levels of play, from ordinary league play to elite competitions.

Can my club “grandfather” individual golfers who used an anchored stroke before January 1, 2016?

No. This would be a waiver of a Rule of Golf for particular players, and as such it would be impermissible under Rule 33-1.

Not only would such “grandfathering” be contrary to the Rules of Golf, it also would be unmanageable and create serious unfairness among players in a competition, leading again to confusion and controversy among members of a club, members of different clubs participating in a competition with one another, and golfers in general.

Can scores be posted under the USGA Handicap System if the player anchored throughout the round?

No. The USGA Handicap System permits scores to be posted only when they are played under the Rules of Golf. (There are limited exceptions, but none of them apply to waiving a Rule such as Rule 14-1b). If a player anchored while making a stroke during a round and did not record a penalty for doing so, the score would not be reflected as playing under the Rules and therefore would be unacceptable for handicap posting. The purpose of the Handicap System is to reflect each player’s potential ability relative to that of other golfers, and that purpose would be eliminated if some golfers who maintain a Handicap Index followed Rule 14-1b and others did not.

Can a player request and receive permission from the committee in charge of a club or competition to anchor without penalty under Rule 14-1b based on a medical condition?

No. There is no provision in the Rules of Golf to permit a player to avoid a playing Rule on the basis of a medical condition. The Rules define the integral characteristics of a golf competition, and Rule 14-1b represents an essential definition of how a stroke is to be made.

Can a player rely on Rule 14-3 to anchor?

Rule 14-3, which addresses devices and equipment that can be used in the play of the game, is not applicable; although that Rule permits a player to request permission to use a device or equipment that would not otherwise be permitted based on his or her medical condition, it does not authorize any player to waive a playing Rule. Any attempt to permit committees to decide on a player-by-player basis whether they have an individual condition that should permit them to waive Rule 14-1b would lead to the same types of confusion, controversy and unfairness as discussed above.

winn
GRIPS



2015

JC Golf Accessories

Same day Shipping!
Since 1962

Golf Pride
GRIPS



LAMKIN
GOLF GRIPS

Softspikes



Navika
USA Inc



**Chris Jenkins, Greg Jenkins
& Charley Carlson**

3602 S. Jason St
Englewood, Co 80110
800-321-7881* 303-781-7881
www.jcgolfaccessories.com



The advertisement features a golfer in a blue shirt and black pants standing on a green golf course with a blue pond in the background. In the foreground, a large SkyCaddie TOUCH device displays a golf course map with various yardage numbers (10, 356, 136, 275, 250, 225, 235). Below the TOUCH device are two LINX watches: a black one showing 'LAYUP 256' and '100Y OUT', and a white one showing '159' and '148 - 170'. The background is a lush green golf course with trees and a blue pond.

SkyCaddie®

A SkyCaddie For Every Golfer

- Unmatched Accuracy
- Preloaded Courses
- Intelligent Automation
- Ready-to-Play
- FREE Companion App

skycaddie.com

©2015 SkyHawke Technologies LLC. All Rights Reserved.

SPONSORS

 Charley Carlson	 Scott Larsen, PGA	 Scott Larsen, PGA	 Gary Spinelli Cliff Jones Matt Seare	 Scott Larsen, PGA
 Eddie Seefeldt Ethan Schofield	 Randy Homer Mike Daly Erwin Huffer	 Scott Larsen, PGA	 better water. pure and simple.	 Scott Larsen, PGA
 Scott Larsen, PGA	 Greg Jenkins Charley Carlson	 Scott Larsen, PGA	 Scott Larsen, PGA	 Mercedes-Benz
 Scott Stephens	 Scott Stephens	 Lori Putnam, PGA	 Scott Larsen, PGA	 Andy Hollister, PGA
  Mark Beuerman Brian Bolton	 PGA of America	 PGA National	 Supporting Sponsor of PGA of America Professional Tournaments	 RBS WorldPay
 Paul Calabrese Andy Hollister, PGA	 Mike Worden Bryce Lawrence Kevin Neff	 Jeff Petersen, PGA	   Adams Jeff Parsons John Johnson Phil Deimling Jeff Smith	 Brad Racine Terry Outzen, PGA Lloyd Putnam
 Cody Fought	 Omega			