



"ON PAR" E-Newsletter

For February 2010

Volume 7, Number 02

The mission of the SGA is to develop, promote, and govern amateur golf in Saskatchewan while preserving the traditions and integrity of the game.

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SGA now on Facebook



The SGA has added a page on Facebook. If you are already a Facebook user, please add our group to your page. We are located at [Saskatchewan Golf Association](https://www.facebook.com/SaskatchewanGolfAssociation).

As of February 1st, 2010 we have 69 members. We will let you know how many members we have in March 2010.

We will be updating members about training opportunities, newsworthy items as well as adding pictures from past SGA Tournaments, Champions, and Camps in the next few weeks.

Introduction to the Rules of Golf

The SGA will be holding Seminars two Rules of Golf Seminars in Regina and Saskatoon on February 21st and 28th. If you are interested in attending an Introduction to the Rules of Golf please contact Brian Lee at 975-0841 or email blee@saskgolf.ca.

- Regina – February 21st and 28th
- Saskatoon – February 21st and 28th
- Location of the seminars will be confirmed by email
- Time of the seminars are 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM
- Open to SGA members
- Each seminar will offer different material after an initial discussion about the basic definitions, etc. and will include a question and answer period and real demonstrations
- Email your name, mailing address, email address, telephone number, member club information in advance

Easter Golf Camp

Junior Golfers wanting to get the rust off their clubs, have fun, play phenomenal golf courses and receive top notch instruction from CPGA professionals should sign up for the 2010 Easter Golf Camp. This years' Easter Golf Camp will take place in Osoyoos, British Columbia April 2nd – 9th. All junior golfers interested in participating in this years' camp should contact Phil Grosse by telephone at 975-0873 or email pgrosse@saskgolf.ca. Applications must be returned to the Saskatchewan Golf Association Office.

It's a Groovy Issue ... Or is it?

What's a golf tournament these days without a little controversy? From this past weekend at the PGA TOUR stop at the Farmers' Insurance Open at Torrey Pines GC located in La Jolla, CA the event was almost overshadowed by comments from Scott McCarron stating "Phil Mickelson is cheating by using Ping Eye 2 wedges manufactured prior to April 1, 1990." As a huge Phil Mickelson fan I was almost blown away by the reference to cheating by a PGA Tour member against another. So as a golf fanatic I had to find out what is going on here?

You may ask yourself what the big deal is and why all the controversy about a player using a 20 year old wedge. As of January 1st, 2010 the so called "square groove" golf club is illegal for any club with 25 degrees of loft and greater.



From www.rcga.org under the Rules Section - The Royal Canadian Golf Association in affiliation with the R&A and the United States Golf Association are revising the Rules of Golf, placing new restrictions on the cross sectional area and edge sharpness of golf club grooves. The revisions are designed to restore the challenge of playing shots to the green from the rough by reducing backspin on those shots. The initial focus of the new Rules will be competitions involving highly skilled professional golfers and will have little impact on the play of most golfers.

Thank you to our partners and sponsors. To become a sponsor and partner of amateur golf, please contact the SGA Office.



Summer Intern Positions

The SGA is currently accepting applications for two summer intern positions:

1. SGA/RCGA Summer Intern Administration Position
2. SGA Summer Intern Tournament Position

Deadline is Friday February 26th at 5:00 PM.

For more details on how to apply please find the full details under the **Careers in Golf (Job Posting)** Section on the SGA Website.

2010 CN Future Links Dome Sessions

The CN Future Links Dome Sessions are listed on the SGA Website under the **Player Development – Player Clinics** section.

The dates are as follows:

1. Feb 7th 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
2. Feb 13th 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
3. Feb 20th 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
4. Feb 28th 11:00 am – 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
5. March 7th 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
6. March 14th 11:00 am – 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
7. March 21st 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
8. March 28th 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Contact Phil Grosse at 975-0873 or pgrosse@saskgolf.ca for more details.

Graham DeLaet's Results so far on the 2010 PGA Tour:

1. Farmers' Insurance Open at Torrey Pines GC in La Jolla, CA on Jan. 28-31 (70-74 = E, Missed Cut)
2. Bob Hope Classic in La Quinta, CA on Jan. 20-25 (71-68-67-68-66 = -20, Tied for 18th)
3. Sony Open in Hawaii on Jan. 14-17 (69-67-68-71 = -5, Tied for 25th)
Graham's 1st Event as PGA Tour member

Order of Merit Tours

If your club has not submitted its events for the 2010 Order of Merit Tours please download a copy of the form from the SGA website under the **Order of Merit Section**.



Buy your ticket today.

The Rules control the cross sectional area of grooves on all clubs, with the exception of drivers and putters, and limit groove edge sharpness on clubs with lofts equal to or greater than 25 degrees (generally a standard 5-iron and above).

It is intended that the new Rules will be introduced as a Condition of Competition at top professional-level events from January 1, 2010 and at top amateur level and in other professional events from January 1, 2014. In accordance with this schedule, beginning on January 1, 2010, the RCGA, in conjunction with the PGA Tour and the LPGA Tour, will enforce the new regulations through a Condition of Competition for the RBC Canadian Open, CN Canadian Women's Open and each of their respective qualifying events.

So why is it OK to use the old Ping Eye 2 wedges at the moment? The answer goes back to a legal settlement between the Karsten Manufacturing Corporation (PING golf clubs), the PGA TOUR and United States Golf Association. The agreement grandfathers the clubs as conforming for play in USGA and PGA Tour Events so long as they were manufactured on or before April 1, 1990.

From <http://golf.about.com/od/progolf/a/ping-eye-2-grooves.htm> - ... Then the PGA Tour got involved. The PGA Tour ruled that starting with the 1990 season, square grooves would be illegal for play in PGA Tour events. Remember, the USGA at this point says square grooves are legal. So the PGA Tour is in effect trumping the USGA's ruling with one of its own.

So Ping is faced with the technical dispute over groove measurement with the USGA, and then the PGA Tour just bans square grooves outright. Ping went to court, suing both the USGA and the PGA Tour.

Ping and the USGA reached a settlement fairly quickly. The USGA developed a new point-by-point procedure for measuring groove width and spacing; the USGA agreed to grandfather in the Ping Eye 2 irons and wedges made from 1985-89, allowing them to continue being used; and Ping agreed to make all its irons and wedges conform to the new measuring procedure going forward.

The PGA Tour, however, fought on until 1993, when it finally agreed to an out-of-court settlement with Ping. In that settlement, the PGA Tour essentially just agreed to agree with Ping's 1990 settlement with the USGA. The Tour would allow square grooves going forward, and, like the USGA, grandfathered in those 1985-89 Ping Eye 2 clubs, allowing them to continue being used in Tour events.

According to an article on www.golf.about.com and www.golf.com other players including John Daly and Dean Wilson used the clubs at The Sony Open in Hawaii earlier this year but were not publically singled out like Phil Mickelson. On Feb 2nd, Scott McCarron stated he was standing by his comments according to www.golf.com but on Feb 3rd, following a meeting with fellow Tour players and PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem, apologized for his comments.

www.cbssports.com/golf/story/12875351/mccarron-apologizes-to-mickelson-pga-tour-ping-in-negotiations PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif. -- Four days after Scott McCarron prompted a series of sensational headlines by using the most shameful word in golf, he apologized to PGA Tour counterpart Phil Mickelson.

After a meeting of tour players at Riviera Country Club on Tuesday night, McCarron said in a Golf Channel interview and then reiterated to reporters that he regretted what he had said about the world's No. 2 player.

"I'm certainly sorry for it and I'd like to apologize to Phil Mickelson for what I said," McCarron said.

In addition to Mickelson, three-time major winner Pdraig Harrington indicated Tuesday he might put a Ping wedge into play this week at the Northern Trust Open. Harrington said the wedge put an additional 2,000 rpms of spin on his ball out of the rough than a new, conforming wedge built according to Jan. 1 specifications. "There's a significant difference," Harrington said.

McCarron predicted that since there are multiple organizations involved, plus the manufacturer, that it would take at least 90 days before the issue is resolved. Most of the players were hopeful the tour and Ping could somehow resolve to lift the grandfather clause that made the clubs legal, effectively banning the clubs.


The interesting item lost in the Groovy Issue is how the players in the articles so far finished in the first two events:

- John Daly – Sony Open – Missed Cut with scores of 73, 71 = 144 (Cut)
- Dean Wilson – Sony Open – T43 with scores of 71, 67, 69, 70 = 277 (-3)
- Phil Mickelson – Farmers' Insurance Open – 19th with scores of 70, 67, 70, 73 = 280 (-8)
- Scott McCarron – Farmers' Insurance Open – Missed Cut with scores of 71, 73 = 144 (Cut)

So as a hot debate, the "Groovy Issue" has not been resolved and it will not be out of the news for the next few months if not years. In a development on Feb 3rd, as posted on www.yahoo.sports.ca and www.sports.espn.go.com/golf/news/story?id=4884065 Phil Mickelson will not be using the Ping Eye 2 wedges at the Northern Trust Open at the Riviera CC as he attempts to defend his title.

LOS ANGELES -- Phil Mickelson won't be using the Ping Eye2 wedge that led a fellow player to accuse him of "cheating," even though he hopes others will use the controversial club to keep attention on what he

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"You can make a lot of money in this game. Just ask my ex-wives. Both of them are so rich that neither of their husbands work." ~ Lee Trevino ~

"These greens are so fast I have to hold my putter over the ball and hit it with the shadow."
~ Sam Snead ~



The 2010 Athlete Assistance Funding forms are available for download from the SGA Website located in the **Player Development** section **Athlete Assistance**. Please note the **deadline** for Athlete Assistance is **April 1st**.



The 2010 SAGE Scholarship forms are available for download from the SGA Website located in the **Player Development** section **Scholarships**. Please note the **deadline** for SAGE scholarship is **April 1st**.

calls a ridiculous rule.

"Out of respect for [the players], I do not want to have an advantage over anybody, whether it's perceived or actual," Mickelson said on Wednesday. "So this week, I won't be playing that wedge. My point has been made."

"But if these governing bodies cannot get together to fix this loophole, if players stop using this wedge -- which would stop the pressure of the issue -- then I will relook at it and put the wedge back in play."

Other questions to consider about the "Groovy Issue":

1. Is it cheating if there is a loop hole within the Rules of Golf?
2. Has a Rule of Golf actually been broken?
3. Are Phil Mickelson, John Daly and Dean Wilson and other players justified in playing the wedge?
4. Did Phil Mickelson create another problem for himself by using a competitor's brand? He did sign a multi-year agreement with Callaway Golf but used Ping Eye 2 wedges during a competition. Was he proving a point or is he thinking about switching suppliers?

<http://www.waggleroom.com/2010/1/30/1284567/callaway-mickelson-using-wedge>

Mickelson knew that John Daly and Dean Wilson had already taken advantage of the Ping Eye 2 loophole created from a 1993 lawsuit settlement between the USGA and Karsten Manufacturing. He would not be setting a precedent by using the sticks, but simply raising the awareness of the loophole by being the de facto number one player in the world. Results or not - and Mickelson is tied for eighth through two rounds - he would be constantly asked about and criticized for his decision. Effectively, he would be given the soap box to rail against the USGA.

"I don't appreciate the governing bodies putting me or any other player in this position, calling into question our integrity over a rule that they made, a club that they approved," he said. "Don't put the blame on a player. Put the blame on the governing body."

Since he could not use the wedges that Callaway submitted for him that would skirt around 2010 rules, Mickelson chose to make an example by playing wedges from 1990 that skirt around 2010 rules. Point proven.

The funny thing is that had Mickelson's wedges been approved by the USGA, he would likely have received the same criticism. Taking the USGA at their word (and I do) that the Lefty-inspired wedges violated the spirit of the groove regulation - they probably had some kind of W-groove - Mickelson would have been run over the coals for using those, too. Of course, Mickelson is short-sighted but also understands that the average golf fan simply does not get the regulation. He can use the fans' ignorance to his advantage in combination with his celebrity to crush the USGA's reputation.

Mickelson is not only pursuing this vendetta on his behalf, though. It is clear that he is also doing this on behalf of Callaway Golf, his equipment sponsor.

As the old adage goes "Only time will tell." As a golf fan and a follower of the Rules of Golf, the next few months and even years will be very entertaining on this issue. If you have a set of Ping Eye 2 wedges in your garage or basement a PGA Tour Professional may be looking for them in the near future. It is nice to know the weekend duffers and amateur ranks do not have to worry about this until 2024.

Article by Brian Lee, SGA Manager of Tournaments & Player Services

Picture of Ping Eye 2 wedge (Sam Greenwood/Getty Images)

National Golf in Schools Program

The National Golf In Schools Program developed by the Physical Health and Education Association of Canada in partnership with the Royal Canadian Golf Association and the Canadian Professional Golfer's Association, the National Golf in Schools Program has been designed to allow elementary school teachers, regardless of their golf background, the ability to deliver required physical education learning outcomes through the sport of golf. The program curriculum is designed to meet the learning outcomes required through physical education curriculum for elementary school grades 1-6. The SGA subsidizes a number of kits to schools and hub sites so kids can be introduced to the game of golf and the life lessons that are associated with the game. To get a kit in your community or school, please contact Phil Grosse by email: pgrosse@saskgolf.ca or phone 306-975-0873.



Member Club Rules Clinics

The Member Club Rules Clinics are two to three hour rules session conducted at golf courses for the benefit of members, and are intended to familiarize golfers with the most frequently encountered rules situations and proper procedures. These seminars take the golfer from tee to green, covering the Rules an average golfer will encounter. *If you have a "What If Question" or "What Happens When ...", then the Member Club Rules Clinics is for you.* A minimum of 15 participants is required. Member Club Rules Clinics are open to any SGA member (male, female and junior). There is no charge for the clinic and no costs to the host club. The Member Club Rules Clinic is a FREE SGA member benefit. To book a Member Club Rules Clinic, please contact Brian Lee at (306) 975-0841 or email blee@saskgolf.ca.



2010 Masters Golf Pool

Once again the SGA will partner with the Rotary Club of Saskatoon to offer the 2010 Masters Golf Pool.

20% of the net proceeds will benefit Junior Golf Development in Saskatchewan.

The entry form will be posted on the SGA Website by the end of February. The Masters runs April 8th -11th.

SGA Annual Meeting

The SGA Spring Semi Annual Meeting will be held in Saskatoon on April 24th. Please watch the website for more details and the meeting package. If you are going to attend on behalf of your golf club, please register with the SGA Office.

Keep the SGA Up-2-Date

The SGA strives for improvement year after year but we need your help. If you have a new club General Manager, Head Professional, Superintendent, etc. please let us know. Furthermore, if your golf club has recently changed its email addresses or website address, please forward the information onto Candace Dunham at cdunham@saskgolf.ca or by telephone at (306) 975-0850.

Education for the Rules of Golf – Level 3

The Level 3 Rules of Golf Seminar is scheduled April 30th – May 2nd, 2010 in Regina. To register or for more information, please contact Brian Lee at blee@saskgolf.ca or (306) 975-0841.

MAP Grant Funding

Membership Assistance Program

The information regarding the 2010 Membership Assistance Program Funding (MAP GRANT Funding) has been sent to your golf club representative. **The MAP GRANT Spending Plan Deadline is May 31st.**

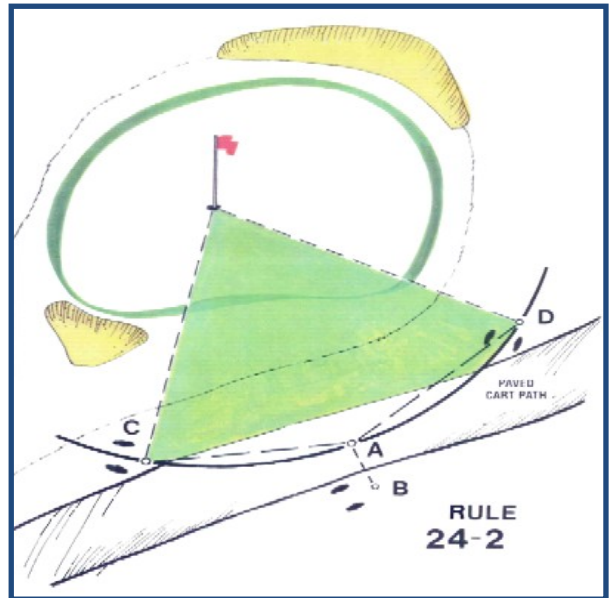
Rule Zone for February

So your ball ends up on a cart path. Your buddy in the group states just take a "Free Drop" and play it from C because it is close enough. Is he correct?

No. The player needs to find his Nearest Point of Relief. The "**Nearest Point of Relief**" is the reference point for taking relief without penalty from interference by an immovable obstruction (Rule 24-2), an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1) or a wrong putting green (Rule 25-3).

It is the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies:

- (i) that is not nearer the hole, and
- (ii) where, if the ball were so positioned, no interference by the condition from which relief is sought would exist for the stroke the player would have made from the original position if the condition were not there.



Note: In order to determine the nearest point of relief accurately, the player should use the club with which he would have made his next stroke if the condition were not there to simulate the address position, direction of play and swing for such a stroke.

From our example, Relief Point C and D are not the Nearest Point of Relief. Therefore, should the player want relief from the Immovable Obstruction (the paved cart path at point A) the only option is point B.

When taking relief for the Immovable Obstruction there is no penalty stroke to the player so the relief is the free drop. If you have any rules questions please send them to Brian Lee at blee@saskgolf.ca.

2010 SGA Championship Schedule

Participate and Go FORE it!

Please mark your calendar for the 2010 Provincial events.

1. July 6-9, SGI CANADA Junior Women's and Junior Men's Championships, Cooke Municipal GC, Prince Albert
2. July 13-16, Amateur Women's and Mid-Amateur Men's Championships, Golf Kenosee, Kenosee Lake
3. July 20-23, Amateur Men's Championship, The Willows GCC, Saskatoon
4. July 27-29, Senior Women's & Senior Men's Championships, Woodlawn GC, Estevan
5. August 4-5, Women's Rosebowl Championship, Melville GC, Melville
6. August 28-29, Mixed Team Championship, Candle Lake Resort, Candle Lake

2010 SGA Value Added Program

SGA members can present their Golf Canada Card (SGA Membership Card) to receive benefits from participating clubs in 2010 for the SGA Value Added Program. Please visit the SGA website under **Membership – Value Added Program** for more details. If your club would like to participate in the program, please contact Phil Grosse at 306-097-0873 or email pgrosse@saskgolf.ca.

Special Olympics Saskatchewan receives donation

Daniel Rauckman, SGA Executive Director (right) and Phil Grosse, Manager of Marketing and Sport Development (left) presented Howard Schweitzer, Chief Executive Officer (middle) of Special Olympics Saskatchewan a donation of golf clubs, golf bags, tees, and some clothing.

The donation will help jumpstart the Special Olympics Saskatchewan development of golf as one of its new program initiatives.

For more information about the Special Olympics Saskatchewan please visit its website at www.specialolympics.sk.ca.

