

Zone 2 - Eastern Washington

Every club MUST have a representative from both the men's and the women's clubs complete the handicap seminar and quiz for this licensing period, which expires Dec. 31. If they have not completed the seminar by then, the club's ability to issue USGA Handicap Indexes to their members will be turned off on Jan. 1, 2016. Jan. 1 starts the new licensing period for which the seminar and quiz will have to be retaken. The seminar may be completed online, but either this year or next must be physically attended, it may not be completed online 2 years in a row. Of the 660 clubs in Washington, only 50% have completed their seminar and quiz. The cost of the seminar is \$20. There is no charge for a handicap chair or the club rep. If you receive an email from John Saegner about this, he is adamant that you do not throw it away, but act on it immediately. If you have any questions, please contact John at 877-300-1344.

John has also indicated that there has been a shortage of Eastern Washington volunteers to rate courses in Eastern Washington. Anyone interested needs to go to the WSGA website volunteering and contact John Saegner.

At the annual meeting last year, we discussed the low participation in the championships by women from Eastern Washington possible reasons for difficulty in filling the field at some events. After talking with Scotty and 3 of the ladies from this committee, we concluded that there is a misunderstanding among a lot of golfers that the Championships are for lower handicappers only. I've even had some women believe that there is a third category, semi-pro, and that the championships are for these people only.

Consequently, Scotty has had people working on a flyer, which will go out to all the clubs. This flyer will make women aware that, because they are a member of their state or provincial association, they are a member of the PPGA and one of the benefits is competing in a PPGA Championship. It will list the upcoming events that they may be eligible to participate in and max. handicaps for those events. It will make them aware that many of the championships offer flights by handicap index and players compete for net and gross prizes. It will mention the opportunity to meet other women from around the Pacific Northwest and play some of the most beautiful courses we have to offer.

We ladies on the committee, that have seen the rough draft, think it's beautiful and are excited to get it out to all the clubs. We would like to see this flyer go out to both the club president and the club rep. for each club, giving us a better chance of getting it in front of more women.

When I talked about this to the women at our club meeting, one of them commented that none of them would have low enough handicaps to participate. I asked her what her's is, when she told me, I told them what the max. is for the PPGA Senior Women's Amateur. They were all amazed. They discovered that most of them would be eligible to participate. Wow, did that spark a conversation. They also didn't know about the Super Senior Women's Amateur Championship.

I will be very interested to hear if the flyer makes an impact on the turnouts for events.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Stone