



# LINKSLETTER

Volume 10 No. 2

Lincoln Hills Men's Golf Club

February 2013

Check us out on the Web at [www.lhmgc.com](http://www.lhmgc.com)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*By President Dave Jansen*

Boy the temperatures have been brutal for those of us that don't like playing when it is cold. Hopefully, as



March approaches we will be seeing better weather conditions and maybe even begin to wear our shorts again.

Besides the weather, another thing that makes for a more enjoyable round of golf is a decent pace-of-play. Last year a majority of our tournaments were played in 4.5 hours or less with the exception of the Monster tournament which we are looking to improve this year. Remember that we all need to be aware of where the group is in front of us and if they are on the green when you get ready to hit (with the exception of the Par 3s) you are beginning to fall behind. Being behind by one hole or more is not good and your foursome should be doing everything possible to speed your play along. Doing this will make for a more pleasant round of golf for most everyone. So, go out this year, play golf, keep up with the group in front of you and have fun!!

**Dave Jansen**

The 2013 Lincoln Hills Scramble was February 26. The results will be available next Links letter.

In March, The NCGA 4-Ball Net Qualifier has been moved to the Orchard Course because the Hills will be going through the Spring Aerification process. We moved the tournament in order to avoid playing on poor greens. The Tournament is being played March 19, Tuesday.

After attending the Course Cares Committee this week plans are in the works to have the various golfing organizations and their members increase the effort to repair ball marks and fix divots. We will let you know when these plans firm up. The condition of the courses can only improve when each of us takes a little extra time.

*John Vass*

## MEMBERSHIP

*By Rodger Oswald*

As of February 20, the Men's Club membership stands at 261. Please note: as adopted by the Board last year, our club now operates under a pro-rated schedule for our dues. Starting March 1, the dues (which include NCGA membership) will be \$81 instead of \$91. WHAT A BARGAIN!

## TOURNEY REPORT

*By John Vass*



Should members want to be a part of the Central Valley Seniors (CVS) as well as our Men's Club, please be sure to make out separate checks for each.

Membership applications for both are in the pro shop.

Rodger Oswald

Membership Chairman

## CENTRAL VALLEY SENIORS

By John Engelmann

CVS has been in the Sacramento area for more than 20 years. We play 12 different golf courses in the area, mostly private clubs that would be difficult to play if you're not a member. CVS not only plays these private courses, but for our members, the cost is just \$40 and that includes cart and lunch. If you want to walk, it costs even less. Play consists of shotgun starts in the a.m. and p.m. A great opportunity for new members to get acquainted.

We are limited to 75 members from our Sun City Club and we are fast approaching that number with over 80% of last year's members already signed-up. If you have questions about CVS, please give me a call @ 916-209-3736

Sign up in the Pro Shop, time is running out.

**John Engelmann**

## Rules Corner

*By Jim Pinnell, Contributing Member*

Playing Moving Ball

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After a regular Tuesday sweeps event, John asked me if there would be any rule(s) violation incurred under the following circumstances involving the striking of a moving ball: A player's ball lies in the fairway; the player approaches the ball and addresses the ball (grounds his club) in preparation to strike the ball; the player commences his backswing during which time the ball commences to move; the player completes his backswing and, without hesitation, follows through and strikes the still moving ball. There was uncertainty as to why the ball moved.

The answer is "Yes", for a one stroke penalty based upon the Rules and Decision set forth below (with emphasis in bold added).

Rule 14-5, Striking the Ball, Playing Moving Ball reads:

**A player must not make a stroke at his ball while it is moving.**

Exceptions:

- Ball falling off tee—Rule 11-3.
- Striking the ball more than once—Rule 14-4.
- Ball moving in water—Rule 14-6.

**When the ball begins to move only after the player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of his club for the stroke, he incurs no penalty under this Rule for playing a moving ball, but he is not exempt from any penalty under the following Rules:**

- Ball at rest moved by player—Rule 18-2a.

- **Ball at rest moving after address—Rule 18-2b**

(Ball purposely deflected or stopped by player, partner or caddie—see Rule 1-2)

Rule 18-2b, Ball at Rest Moved, By Player, Ball Moving After Address reads:

**If a player's ball in play moves after he has addressed it (other than as a result of a stroke), the player is deemed to have moved the ball and incurs a penalty of one stroke.** The ball must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of the club for the stroke and the stroke is made.

**Exception:**

**If it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to move, Rule 18-2b does not apply.**

To further clarify Rule 14-5, Decision 14-5/1 Ball Moving During Backswing Struck While Still Moving reads:

Question: A player's ball starts moving **during** his backswing and he strikes the ball while it is still moving. What is the ruling?

Answer: There is no penalty under Rule 14-5 because the ball began to move **after** the player had begun his backswing. **However, if the player had caused the ball to move or addressed it, he incurred a penalty stroke—Rule 18-2a or 2b.**

Under John's fact situation set forth above, the player had addressed the ball and Rule 18-2b applies. The player incurs

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a one-stroke penalty unless it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to move (the exception to Rule 18-2b). Such knowledge or virtual certainty is lacking under John's facts, thus, a one-stroke penalty is appropriate.

Hopefully John's question and above response will be helpful to members of the LHMGC. Thank you, Jim Pinnell

### There Have Been Questions about our Local Rules.

They are on the website at [www.lhmgc.com](http://www.lhmgc.com).

**I am including the following copy of the local rules for you. You can download them also from the website.**

#### LOCAL RULES FOR SPONSORED EVENTS

Effective July 1, 2010

(\*\*\* Indicates announcement required prior to commencement of competition)

#### RULES OF PLAY

The current edition of the United States Golf Association's ("USGA") Rules of Golf ("Rules") are in effect and are supplemented by the Local Rules set forth below. The Lincoln Hills Golf Club scorecard is unofficial and has no status in events sponsored by the Lincoln Hills Men's Golf Club (Men's Golf Club"). It is the individual player's responsibility to know the rules and conditions of the competition. (Rule 6-1, Rules)

#### ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE AREAS ("ESAs")

The course's Native Wetlands, identified by split-rail fences and red or yellow lines and/or stakes, have been declared by the Army Corp of Engineers to be Environmentally Sensitive Areas ("ESAs") **from which entry into and/or play from is prohibited** for environmental reasons. If it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in an ESA, **the player must,**

**under penalty of one stroke, proceed in accordance with Rule 26-1 (Relief for Ball in Water Hazard). If a ball rests outside the ESA but the ESA margin, i.e., split rail fence, interferes with the player's stance or swing, the player must lift the ball and proceed in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstruction—Relief). In the absence of yellow or red lines and/or stakes, the ESA is defined as a lateral water hazard.**

#### **GOLF CART BRIDGES AND FORWARD TEEING GROUND, HOLE #3, ORCHARD COURSE**

Golf cart bridges over ESA's or other water hazards and the forward teeing area platform on Hole #3, Orchard Course, are Immovable Obstructions. If the ball comes to rest on one of these Immovable Obstructions, a player is not granted relief under Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstruction—Relief), because the ball is in the ESA or water hazard. However, in addition to proceeding under Rule 26 (Water Hazards, Including Lateral Water Hazards), the player has the option to play the next stroke from either of the two (2) immovable obstructions referenced above and the player is allowed to ground his club on the immovable obstructions prior to making a stroke (Rules Decision 13-4/30).

#### **OTHER IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS**

All concrete paths designed for golf cart transportation are Immovable Obstructions. (See Golf Cart Bridges and Forward Teeing Ground, Hole #3, Orchard Course above for wooden bridges over ESA's and Water Hazards). Split-rail fences defining ESAs are Immovable obstructions and the player is granted relief for stance and swing interference **when the ball is not in the hazard**. The bathrooms located on Hole #18, Hills Course, and Holes #6 and #13, Orchard Course, are immovable obstructions and the player may take relief under Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstructions—Relief), however, line of play is not, of itself, interference under this Rule. Relief from sprinkler heads and yardage markers is granted for lie of ball, stance and swing interference. There is no Local Rule in effect granting relief for line of play for sprinkler heads through the green.

#### **OUT OF BOUNDS**

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Out of bounds is defined by the inside (course side) edges of rock or brick course perimeter knee-walls adjoining residences and/or white stakes. Where both are present, the white stakes indicate the presence of the out of bounds and the inside (course side) edges of the nearest rock or course perimeter knee-wall define the out of bounds. A ball that crosses a public road, defined by the course side edge of the curb, or, if applicable, the course side edge of the abutting sidewalk, is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the course (Rules Decision 27/20).

#### **DRIVING RANGE OUT OF BOUNDS**

When [t]he Driving Range located parallel to Holes #1 and #18 on the Hills Course is marked with white stakes it shall be played as Out of Bounds in accordance with Rule 27 (Ball Lost or Out of Bounds; Provisional Ball).

#### **DROP ZONES**

There are two (2) optional Drop Zones. One (1) optional drop zone is located on Hole #2, Hills Course, and one (1) optional Drop Zone is located on Hole #3, Orchard Course. If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the ESA or the water hazard on either of these two (2) holes, the player may either 1) proceed under Rule 26-1 (Relief for Ball in Water Hazard) or 2) as an additional option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the Drop Zone. For NCGA Qualifiers and NCGA Team Match Play, these Drop Zones shall not be used as a relief option under Rule 26-1 (this provision shall not apply to "Just-For-Fun" events conducted concurrently with either of these two (2) events).

#### **STONE AND BRICK WALLS**

All stone and brick knee-walls, whether defining Out of Bounds as a perimeter wall or decorative in nature, are integral parts of the golf course from which relief is not granted.

#### **STAKED TREES**

Stakes identify young trees to be protected. If such a tree, including any guy wire that may be attached to such stake, interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, **relief must be taken** in accordance with the procedure set forth in Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstruction--Relief). Relief is not granted from the protective wire fencing around the trunk of a non-staked tree

nor for a ball coming to rest in a tree well of a non-staked tree.

### **STONES IN BUNKERS**

Stones in bunkers are Movable Obstructions. Rule 24-1 (Movable Obstructions) applies.

### **FLOWER BEDS, SHRUBS AND BUSHES**

A ball lying in defined cutout areas on the course where flowers, shrubs and/or bushes are growing with or without wood chips used as mulch, is not subject to relief. However, If present, the wood chips are defined as loose impediments and Rule 23 (Loose Impediments) applies.

### **WHITE STAKES WITH GREEN TIPS**

The white stakes with green tips located on the course are Movable Obstructions. Relief may be taken in accordance with Rule 24-1 (Movable Obstruction).

### **AERATION HOLES and SODDED AREAS** \*\*\*

When the Committee believes either of these conditions exist that effect the course of play, **it will be announced prior to the competition** and players have the option to proceed as follows:

***Through the green*** is defined as the whole area of the course except 1) the teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played and 2) all hazards on the course. When a ball which comes to rest ***through the green*** in or on an aeration hole or lies in or touches a sod seam, the ball may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. A ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

***On the putting green***, a ball that comes to rest in or on aeration hole or lies in or touches a sod seam may be placed at the nearest spot no nearer the hole that avoids the interference.

### **EMBEDDED BALL**

***Through the green***, a ball that is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. Exceptions: 1) a player may not take relief under this Local Rule if the ball is embedded in sand in an area that is not closely mown, or 2) a player may not take relief under this Local Rule if it is clearly unreasonable for him to make a stroke because of interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule

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### **MEN'S GOLF CLUB MEMBERS WHO ARE AGE 80 OR OLDER**

For all Men's Golf Club events excluding NCGA Qualifiers, NCGA Team Match Play, Men's Golf Club Championship, Tournament of Champions and President's Cup, a player who is age 80 or older on the day of the competition may, at his discretion, tee off from the forward platform tee on hole #3, Orchard Course, or from the forward tee on hole #2, Hills Course, without any penalty or adjustment to his course handicap.

### **PREFERRED LIES \*\*\***

When the Committee believes "preferred lies" would promote fair play or help protect the course, it ***will be announced prior to the competition***. In such instances, a ball lying through the green may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard, not on a putting green and in the same cut of grass, i.e., fairway to fairway or rough to rough.

A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed (Rule 20-4, When Ball Is In Play). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, Rule 20-3d (Ball Fails to Come to Rest on Spot) applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other Rule apply.

Thank You for Reading the Links letter each month. If you have comments please email me at [eandgolf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eandgolf@sbcglobal.net)

Gene Andrews

Editor

Here are some pictures from the ABCD



**Cold morning**



**Crowded Proshop**



**Hawk on Three**

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