

Directors Report – April 2020

I hope everyone is doing their best to stay safe in these strange times. There were many things that happened at BC Golf this year but the two that were front and center were the new World Handicap System and now the COVID 19 virus.

I know we sent out information on how to attend a handicap webinar in the fall – and those of you who travelled South probably learned much about it while you were away. April has addressed this new handicap system in her report and Paula sent out info in her email as well. It is something we all need to use now so learning more about it for yourself will help you and will help others who need assistance. Please see the link below if you want more information from the BC Golf website on the World Handicap System.

<http://britishcolumbiagolf.org/rules>

The COVID 19 virus has affected us all. It arrived before golf season but continues as courses are determining on whether to open or not – many courses in BC are opening now with the guidelines given from the Provincial Health Organization and others. It was interesting to see how the other Provinces dealt with this early on and some are still not allowing golf courses to open until maybe mid-May. I think it is possible to golf safely – I haven't actually tried it yet – but I think about the workers at the courses. Do we put them in harm's way? Golf Canada and BC Golf are hoping that we as golfers will make the right decisions around our favorite sport and keep everyone safe. The Province and Dr. Bonnie Henry did not make it clear that courses were to stay closed so that's where we are now. Below is a link to the BC Golf website on the most current COVID 19 information and updates – pertinent to golf and golf courses.

<http://britishcolumbiagolf.org/read/2-uncategorised/4157-british-columbia-golf-covid-19-current-information-updates>

In light of COVID 19, the next challenge is – can tournaments go ahead in the future? Many, through Golf Canada and BC Golf, have already been cancelled including the Canadian RBC tournament in June, the BC Mid Amateur end of May, and they anticipate cancelling the BC Senior Women's tourney too. It is a day to day decision on whether things will go forward and there are updates to provincial and national tourneys as well as other events on the website. I noticed today that the Junior Girls Spring Tour has been cancelled in BC. I think for us – my thinking would be – what does a tournament look like and how would we do it? Thinking about social distancing/thinking about golf carts and riding individually/how do you have a wind up dinner/are we being responsible keeping others safe and how do we monitor that, and finally – what does scoring look like? Here is another link to the BC Golf website to help with some of those questions at this point.

<http://britishcolumbiagolf.org/images/documents/course-ratings-handicaps/Rules-of-Golf-Rules-of-Handicapping-COVID-19-Guidelines-FAQ4.pdf>

I am sorry to leave you with links but there is so much information that it would take pages..... and much of the information you may already have. If the links don't work you can copy/right click and open the hyperlink. Otherwise – all are on the BC Golf website. There is similar information on the Golf Canada website. I have found in both my own work and as a Director – that if you have questions – refer to the websites.

In closing – I hope that we rise out of this current situation sooner rather than later but time will tell. Until then, stay safe and hope to see you on the golf course soon.

I also want to congratulate Linda Tamblyn on her Volunteer Recognition Award and Loretta Bulfone for her Sport BC's President Choice Award. Both very deserving!!

Respectfully submitted – Mary-Ann Gaschnitz