



# PGA

Michigan Section

/// CENTENNIAL 1922-2022 ///

## **Tournament Committee Report Michigan PGA Board Meeting Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### **Tournament Committee Members**

I would like to thank the following Tournament Committee Members for volunteering their time and effort. Dean Kolstad, Stephanie Jennings, Dan Urban, Mark Wilson, Brian Cairns, George Bowman, Matt Swan, Brandon Dean, Paul Lehnert, Jim Deiters, Chris Moore, and Chris Zito.

### **2022 Section Events Update**

It has been quite a challenge trying to secure facilities to host Section events. I asked the Tournament Committee Members that, if possible, when talking with fellow Golf Professionals to inquire about using their facilities to host in the coming years. Also, Justin and I will look at trying to get facilities to commit to hosting an event over a year out and will be reaching out to some this spring for 2023. At this point we still have the Spring Scramble, Fuller Cup and Michigan Open PGA Member Only Qualifier to book.

As far as sponsors go Kevin and Justin informed the committee that they have had success with some new smaller companies committing to events this year and had a good chance to connect with them at the smaller PGA Show this year. Between the number of new sponsors and most of our established sponsors returning we expect to hit or exceed budget this year. The committee was updated that we are in the final stages of hopefully securing Hall Financial as the title sponsor of the Michigan Open for this year. We are also waiting to hear back from a proposal to Caesars Sportsbook for a presenting sponsor role in both the Michigan Open and 4 Section events.

The Michigan Open will return to Grand Traverse Resort and the Michigan PGA Professional Championship will return to Prestwick Village Golf Club this year. These are currently year to year commitments.

### **Changes for the upcoming 2022 Season**

The committee was updated on the following changes for the 2022 Season:

- No residency restrictions for the Spring Scramble, Midwest Golf & Turf Pro Am and the Fall Pro Scratch.
- Registration for the Section Championship, Senior PGA and Section Assistants Championship will run through the Section and Blue Golf
- Only A8's / B8's will be allowed to participate in the Section Assistant Championship as this aligns with the new policy from PGA of America only allowing A8's and B8's to participate in the National Assistants Championship.
- LMA classifications are no longer eligible classifications for the PGA Professional Championship. This makes the Championship solely for PGA Professionals in an actively working classification (LMA will still be eligible classifications for the Senior PGA Professional Championship). Life members will still be allowed to participate in our Section Championship, just not advance.
- Will adopt PGA of America's Gender Policy at our Michigan Open & Women's Open

The committee discussed the change to the Assistants Championship and agreed that only A8's and B8's should be allowed to participate. Some sections are still allowing all classes of Associates to participate and just not advance to the National Assistants Championship.

The committee also discussed the change no longer allowing Life Members to advance from the Michigan PGA Professional Championship and participate in the PNC. There were some members of the committee that would like to see this looked at adopted for the Senior PNC as well.

### **Doral Pro Am – Team Handicap Issue**



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The committee was informed about an issue regarding the legitimacy of the handicaps for the amateurs on the team of professional Brian Stange from Ann Arbor Golf & Outing. Brian's team won the Michigan PGA Trump Doral Pro Am in 2021 and then again recently in January of 2022. The major red flags that were presented to the committee were:

- They won the event by 7 shots in 2021 and by 5 shots in 2022. Of the total 6 rounds the last two years they won 4 of the rounds and finished in second place the other two.
- In 2021 Nate Hawker played at an 18 handicap and had scores of 81, 84 and 88 including two 9-hole rounds of 41 and one at 40
- Jim Hawker played at a 12 handicap and had two rounds below his handicap at 82 and 83 including nine-hole scores of 39 and 40
- For the event this year when looking at handicaps Brian had Nate Hawker in again at an 18 handicap. When I looked at GHIN he had no scores posted including those from the event last year. I challenged Brian on this, and we lowered his index it to a 12.0 index - 14 handicap.
- So, this year in the second round Nate Hawker shot a 40 on the back nine with two triples, Jim Hawker, playing at a 13 handicap had 38 on this back nine - they were low team this day by 9
- The last day the 3rd amateur, John Szczyпка, that is a 16-handicap shot 38 on the back nine of the Blue Monster When looking at John's last 10 scores posted he has 3 97's a 99 and a 101

The committee discussed this at length and unanimously agreed that the amateur handicaps were not accurate and there was an intentional way the team went about it, therefore winning the event the last two years by the large margins. The committee discussed how important this Pro Am is to the Section and how these situations affect the future of the event and how it is important to reestablish credibility in this travel pro-am.

*Motion was made and seconded to suspend PGA Professional Brian Stange from participating in this Michigan PGA Travel Pro Am for one year and to ban Nate Hawker, Jim Hawker and John Szczyпка from participating in any Michigan PGA Section Travel Pro Am indefinitely. Motion passed.*

**Note:** Since the Tournament Committee Meeting, President Dean Kolstad and I had a conference call to notify Brian Stange of the Tournament Committee's decision, and that a letter from the Michigan PGA will be sent to him. Upon receipt of this letter Brian has (30) days to file an appeal.

### **Fuller Cup**

With the Fuller Cup now taking place in the Fall as opposed to the Spring the idea was proposed to allow for two captains picks to potentially add players that are playing well in the current year that did not qualify for the team based off their previous year's performance. Currently the Fuller Cup is made up from the previous years, Senior PGA Champion, Assistants Champion, Michigan Open Champion, Michigan PGA Professional Champion, Match Play Champion, Player of the Year, current year host professional and then the remainder off the previous year points list.

The committee was in favor and agreed to add two Captains picks to the list of eligibility for the Fuller Cup.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Rachar, PGA