

2008 Preview



We are busy preparing for 2008. We have reformatted the calendar contained both in this issue and on the NCGA website and have grouped events into different categories and eligibility requirements including ages, index and fee requirements. With a quick glance you can start to schedule different events for you and your club.

Junior Program

The NCGA has started a junior tour program. In addition to the NCGA Junior Championship and Northern California Junior Players' Championship, eight new tournaments will be introduced. The series will be conducted in the spring and fall on weekends. This offers juniors an opportunity to compete during the school year as the majority of other events are scheduled during the summer. More information is available on the NCGA website at www.ncga.org/juniors.

It is the goal of the NCGA to build a complete junior program by working with existing junior programs. We want the tour to be recognized by *Golfweek* to provide national rankings and to receive exemptions into AJGA events.

We will also have a Junior Points Program similar to the existing points program. A special high school program for players and coaches was announced recently and has been coordinated with the CIF to afford free NCGA memberships to all high school golfers and coaches. The board of directors, tournament committee and staff are very excited about this new venture. The future of golf is through our juniors. More information can be found at www.ncga.org/juniors/highschool/membership.

CHANGES

Women's Championship

Interest in the three-year-old women's championship has grown to the point of creating two championships—scratch and net. The scratch players will move to Spyglass play in the afternoon of the Master Division Championship while the

net championship will remain at Poppy Hills. Both events do not require qualifying and will still be on a first-come, first-serve entry.

Mixed Team Championship

Because of the success of the Mixed Team Championship over the last couple of years, qualifying is now required. The event was on a first-come, first-serve entry and filled during the first week of registration. The number of entries on the alternate list warranted the need for qualifying. All entries will be accepted up to the closing date and then teams will enter qualifying with 56 teams advancing to the championship. It is exciting to see a program grow so fast.

California Golf Association

The California State Championship was played at Monterey Peninsula Country Club in 2007 and was a great success. This year it will travel south for the first time and will be played at Lakeside Country Club. Oakmont Country Club will be used for the first two days of stroke-play qualifying. The field will play each course once with the low 32 advancing to match play held at Lakeside.

California State Senior Championship

The State Senior will have a change as well in 2008, moving to September and switching places with the NCGA Senior Four-Ball which will now be played in June. With the State Championship rotating north and south the CGA board would not have been available to administer the senior at the same time, necessitating the move. Please mark your calendar so the entry deadlines are not missed.

California Net Amateur Championship

After much discussion over the past several years, the CGA Board has voted to end the CGA Net Amateur Championship, which traditionally had been held concurrent with the California Amateur in June.

Over the past 10 years, entries

have dropped from more than 700 to less than 200 and a large number of withdrawals resulted in byes causing players not to have matches in the first round and even in some cases in the second round.

I want to remind all tournament officials and players to review the tournament policies located in this issue and pay attention to the entry closing dates. It is also important to ensure at the club level that all your qualifiers know what they are qualifying for as well as the date and place for the next qualifying events and/or championship proper.

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