



Members - This email will "briefly" reveal information that will affect all members any time they play at Admiral Baker:

1. **Course Marking.** Today, 14 Jan 2020, Rules Chairman Dr. Don Longacre and I had the privilege and pleasure of playing golf with Admiral Baker's Head Professional, Jerry Dremel, and the Regional (5 states) Superintendent of Golf Courses, Mike Magnani. During our round we discussed a lot about Admiral Baker North including how and why the course's penalty areas are marked where they are, how they may be marked differently, how Pace of Play may be helped, what can each golfer do to help preserve the fairways and greens, and what is planned for the near future. It was a very informative discussion and being able to debate, discuss and reach decisions with those three professional men will benefit the Men's Club for years to come. Here are the details:

a. **Hole #1.** The area to the right and just short of the green has been, is now, and will continue to be bare due to cart traffic unless something is changed. Balls frequently land there. According to the Rule 9 (Don Longacre's knowledge of the Rules was VERY valuable today, as usual), a ball must be played from there without relief as it is not marked GUR. Mike Magnani stated his plan is to rope off the area, moving the "Cart signs" back a few yards, and then "re-turfing" the area. This will only work if and only if everyone obeys the cart routing signs, including those carts with Handicap Flags.

b. **Hole #7.** The area to the left and short of the green has been bare for quite a while. Although balls rarely stay there as they roll through that area to the cart path and often across it, it is unsightly and is IS possible for a ball to hit a rock just right and stay there. So, what is the "Rules status" of that area? Right now it is ambiguous as there are patches where pebbles have been purposely laid down to help prevent further erosion, which would make those areas "Immovable Obstructions" allowing free relief under Rule 16. However, some patches have no pebbles and are therefore in the "General Area" therefore, no free relief. Mike's plan is to rope off that area and lay turf. Of course, all golfers must honor that area and not drive through it for the plan to work.

c. **Hole #8.** The area to the right and short of the green, just past the cart signs, is where carts exit to the right side cart path. It is very bare now and, like other bare areas, there is no free relief. Mike's plan is to move the cart signs back to the last palm tree on the right and place turf in the bare area. All carts that have not exited to the left cart path must exit to the fairway right, and not go nearer to the green than the cart signs.

d. **Hole #13.** Right now there is red paint on the "waterside" edge of the cart path. Often, balls roll across the cart path but remain in the grassy area, short of the split rail fence. A ball is very hittable from there but, because it is currently officially "In the Red Penalty Area" there is NO relief from the cart path because a Penalty Area, either "Red or Yellow" "Trumps" Free relief under Rule 16. The Board of Governors voted unanimously to request to move the Red Penalty Area to "Just inside of the split rail fence." That would give free relief (due to the cart path) to balls that were to the right of the cart path but not past the fence. The best way to do that was revealed by Head Pro Jerry Dremel ...to mark the Red Penalty Area with red paint about 6-8" to the right of the cart path. Jerry stated that is how it would be

done if any PGA or USGA tournament would be held here. So - The good news is that very soon, you will see red paint delineating the Red Penalty Area on #13. As soon as that happens, we can just let the red paint on the cart path abrade off, ignoring the bits left behind till they all erode off. Right now, we saw that about 90% of the red paint was already worn off. This is a good change !

2. **Pace of Play.** With 30 years of golf experience as a Professional at both Private and Public golf courses; Jerry Dremel has more "Pace of Play" experience than dozens of golfers combined. The Board of Governors will discuss his ideas and report back to you. Although you all know that if "Gimmee's" are allowed the round cannot be posted (except in some special situations that need to be very carefully explained and understood), we do have some options. One option we have recently instituted is that all golfers who have White Tee course handicaps of 19 or above must play from the Gold Tees. That policy is not carved in stone, as we are in the "Trial Period" to see if that help with pace of play. Whatever we implement, we can change. We will keep you all informed as pace of play data comes in.

3. **Head Pro playing with Blitz Teams.** From time to time, Jerry Dremel will play with different Blitz Teams. Jerry is a full Regular Member of the Men's Club so he will be a full member of your team. This will be a privilege that you should take advantage of. Jerry can explain just about everything about the game of golf that you can imagine. Please understand, these are not "Playing lessons" as that would be inappropriate (and by the way, it's also very illegal under the Rules to be coached during a competition) but I found his overall knowledge of the game I love and have been playing for over 60 years, which is a lifelong profession for him, to be thoroughly enjoyable. I guarantee you will enjoy playing with him. Ask him about when he was a Snipe on surface ships..!!!

Finally - We are making a MAJOR change in how we enter our tournaments. Starting immediately, applications for our tournaments must be accompanied by a check. Cash payments will be a thing of the past. All too often, and I mean too often, members have said they put cash in the drawer, only to have their application with no cash attached. Many times, after many "passionate" email exchanges, it was discovered that they "found the cash between the seats of their car...sorry." Well, this is 2020. We will allow in very few "special cases" someone to pay by cash, but those procedures will be restrictive and must be followed exactly as the Board requires.

So that concludes my very brief summary of some issues and policies about your golf at Admiral Baker.

As always, contact me directly at johnbepko@cox.net if you have any questions, comments, or criticisms.

See you on the course

John Bepko
President

