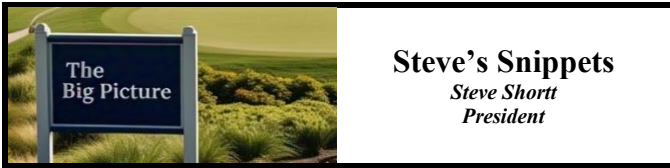


The Red-tail Rattler

CHMGA Bi-Monthly Newsletter

September/October 2025



As we wrap up the 2025 season, it's great to look back on what's been one of our most active and innovative years yet. This year, we introduced several exciting initiatives designed to improve communication, engagement, and competition across our membership.

2025 Season Highlights

- **New Match Play Formats:** Expanded the Club Championship for more members to participate in and introduced the NET Championship, bringing renewed excitement and rewards to our Match Play competitions.
- **Return of Golf Genius:** After trialing Blue Golf in 2025, we moved back to Golf Genius, simplifying tournament management and improving member experience.
- **Bi-Monthly Newsletter:** Introduced the Red-Tail Rattler to keep membership informed about Board decisions, CHMGA finances, upcoming tournaments, tournament handicapping, and tournament rules.
- **Bylaws Update:** Updated the association bylaws to reflect changes in how the association operates and ensure our governance stays relevant and effective.
- **Membership Engagement:** Improved how we listen to members through expanded surveys and our first in-person annual membership meeting (since COVID)—a great success.

Looking Ahead to 2026

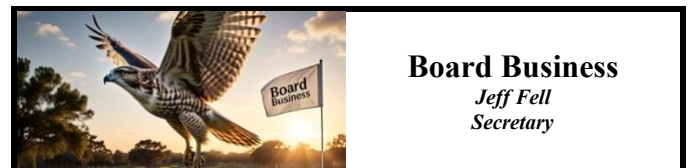
The momentum continues! For 2026, we're expanding our tournament calendar and introducing even more new experiences for members:

- We're expanding the 2026 tournament season to 24 events, not including our Match Play and the Cinnabar Cup tournaments.

- Included in the 24 tournaments are four Away Tournaments, starting with our first one at Bayonet Golf Course on December 13.
- We're implementing a new point allocation system for the Cinnabar Cup race. One where all members truly compete against each other for points, making the race for the **\$1,000 first prize** even more exciting.

Finally, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the outstanding board that made 2025 such a success: Jeff Fell, Nick Egan, Justin Smith, Paul Vieth, Richard Lebakos, and Erik Feldman. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to sustain and improve CHMGA is remarkable, and this team delivered at every step.

It's been an honor serving as your 2025 President. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together and excited for what's to come in 2026! I hope to see **100% participation** in the upcoming Board of Director's election and future membership surveys—your input truly shapes the future of CHMGA



2026 Board Elections

It's that time of year and your opportunity to help improve the association by stepping up and running for a position on the CHMGA Board of Directors. Officer positions (President, Tournament Director, Secretary, and Treasurer) are up for election annually and the following Chairmen positions (chairmen serve two-year terms) are up for election this year (Operations Chairman, Membership Chairman). A description of each position can be found in the CHMGA bylaws (Articles 4 & 5) located on our website at: [CHMGA Bylaws](#).

Elections will occur the week of December 1st with the new Board seated January 1st. If you are interested in running for a position or have questions about a position, contact me at

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jeffreys.fell@gmail.com. I will be chairing a nominating committee in November to identify a slate of candidates for the election.

We encourage all members to serve on the board at least once while they are a member of CHMGA. New blood brings new ideas to the association and ensures the Board stays relevant to the type of association membership wants. **NOTE:** Officers have their CHMGA tournament rounds comp'd at Cinnabar Hills by the golf course, and chairmen receive a reduced CHMGA membership fee of \$70.

2026 Tournament and Policy Changes

In October the Board approved/distributed several changes/updates to the 2026 tournaments and policies, effective with the first tournament of the season. These changes are based on membership feedback received throughout the year, the annual survey, and problems/issues we've encountered as the season progressed. They are summarized on our website at: [2026 Tournament and Policy Changes](#).

Club NET Championship Changes for 2026

Following the conclusion of the Club and NET Championships tournaments in September, the Board surveyed the participants for ways to improving these events. Based on the feedback, the Board approved the following changes for 2026:

- The 2026 Club Championship will continue to be a Match Play tournament and be open to all members who want to participate, as long as they play scratch golf from the Hawk tees **AND** have a TI less than equal to 10.
- The 2026 NET Championship will remain the same as 2025, a 16 player Match Play tournament with a qualifying tournament in August. While some participants expressed concern about the tournament being Match Play (given the range of handicaps participating), the majority wanted to keep the tournament the same. In addition, after reviewing the results of the 2025 tournament, USGA guidelines, and external studies, the Board saw no significant difference in the win

percentage between lower and higher handicap players (regardless of handicap spread). You can find our analysis on the CHMGA website at: [2025 Regular Season & Match Play Analysis](#).

- For those members **NOT** competing in the Club or NET Championships, we will continue to organize separate Match Play flights for their participation.



2026 Membership renewals

It's that time of year when you need to renew your CHMGA membership for 2026. To renew, simply click on this link: [CHMGA Renewal](#). Renew no later than January 15th to keep your membership active. The rate for 2026 will remain the same as last year at \$200.

Association Finances

Summarized below are the association finances through October.

Item Description	Oct '25
Beginning Balance	\$8,267
Association Business	\$4,811
Tournament Escrow	\$2,421
2025 Season Points Winner Escrow	\$1,035
Sub-Totals	
Association Business	\$1,500
Membership Fees	\$1,532
Other Expenses	(\$32)
Monthly Tournament Financials	(\$2,469)
Tournament Fees	\$0
Tournament Payouts	(\$2,469)
Ending Balance	\$7,298
Association Business	\$6,311
Tournament Escrow	(\$48)
2025 Season Points Escrow	\$1,035

You can find the detailed financial results for every month of 2025 on the CHMGA website at [2025 Finance Report](#).

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Tournament Updates

Jeff Fell

Upcoming Tournaments

The 2026 Season is here, and we hope you are as excited by the 2026 tournament schedule as we are. You can find the complete schedule on Golf Genius at: [2026 Tournament Schedule](#) (GGID: ch2026). Our first tournament is this weekend (Nov 1st), where we'll be trying a new format, the 4-Person Cha Cha Cha. In addition, we have the following upcoming tournaments slated for November and December. All still have openings so if you haven't signed up yet, get on over to Golf Genius.

- November 22nd, 2-Person Stableford
- December 6th, Individual Stroke Play (Gross scoring)
- December 13th, 2-Person Best Ball (Member/Guest) at Bayonet in Seaside.
Note: Based on member feedback we've changed the format from a 2-Person Scramble to 2-Person Best Ball.

Club and NET Championship Winners

Please join me in congratulating Gordon Madej on winning the 2025 CHMGA Club Championship. Gordon beat out a field of 18 participants over four plus rounds of Match Play to win. Runner-up Jackson Thoreson (and everyone who participated) fought valiantly, but this was Gordon's year!

We'd also like to congratulate Geoff Peroutka for winning our first ever NET Championship. Geoff hit a hot streak in August, placing second in the NET Championship Qualifier before going on a tear to win the Match Play tournament. In an incredible final duel with runner-up Richard Lebakos, Geoff chipped in for birdie on the first hole of sudden death to take the crown. See video of Geoff's birdie winning chip at: [The Grim Chipper](#).

Finally, let's congratulate Jamie Pio, one of our newest members, for making his debut with CHMGA memorable. While not eligible for the Club or NET Championships, Jamie swept through the "Playing for Pride" Match Play flight, besting Nick Egan in the final while giving up 16 strokes.

2025 Regular Season & Match Play Analysis

One question we get asked constantly is about the fairness of our tournaments, the Cinnabar Cup points race, the Match Play tournaments, etc. The USGA and R&A have done extensive studies into handicapping tournaments and established handicapping allowances and polices to use in member sponsored events. These are designed to give all players a similar chance of finishing in the top 10% when playing well.

Our association follows all the USGA guidelines and policies for handicapping our tournaments, in both stroke play and match play. We also recently conducted reviews of the results across the 2025 regular season and Match Play tournaments. While our personal experiences don't always line up with the results we'd like to have, we're very confident in the fairness of all our events and find they are well within the expected results (based on USGA published data).

You can read a summary of the reviews we've done on the CHMGA website at: [2025 Regular Season & Match Play Analysis](#).



Rules

Paul Vieth
Rules Chairman

As summer turns to fall, and fall turns to winter, a couple of questions always come up. Are we "playing it down" or "playing preferred lies". Can I clean mud off my ball? A basic principle of golf is to play it as it lies, but I wanted to take minute to explain the different options we look at for each tournament and how we typically apply them by

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adding them to the notice players receive the day of the event.

- **Playing it Down.** Playing it Down means a player must hit the ball from where it lies without improving the lie; and they can only clean or move the ball when they are taking relief based on another rule or on the putting green. We typically “play it down” during summer when the weather and course conditions are very good.
- **Cleaning Ball.** MLR E-2 or "Lift, clean, and *replace*" is the local rule we use when ground conditions are likely to cause mud to stick to a golf ball on a regular basis during the round, but there is no need for preferred lies (typically early spring/late fall). It allows players to lift, clean and *replace* the ball (when in the fairway or closely mown areas) on the original spot without penalty
- **Preferred Lies.** Preferred lies, or "lift, clean, and place," is the local rule (MLR E-3) that allows players to improve the lie of their ball on the fairway after marking, lifting, and cleaning it. We often use this rule in winter when course positions are poor due to heavy rain, mud, or soggy turf, to help maintain fair play. Normally we allow the player to place the ball within 6" (occasionally one club length) from its original spot, **BUT NOT** closer to the hole. There is always relief for a ball embedded in its own pitch mark, and we have relief on our local rules sheet all year for a ball that touches an aeration hole.



2026 TI calculation changes

In 2026 we are modifying the calculation of TIs to be based only on scores from the current season, plus the past **TWO** seasons. This will ensure “very old” scores that may no longer reflect a member’s playing ability are used in their TI calculation.

TI Adjustment Policy

While we rarely approve handicap adjustments to a member’s TI, we recognize there may be extraordinary circumstances where they are warranted. We are finalizing a policy around such adjustments and will publishing it soon. In the meantime, if you believe you have a situation that warrants an adjustment, you should contact me at handicapchair@chmga.club with your request and I will get back to you as soon as possible to discuss and review it.



Welcome New Members

Entering the 2026 season, we’ve had several new members join, no doubt hoping to clean our clocks and empty our wallets. Please join me in welcoming David Lee, Rob Hunt, Brian Turecek, and Thomas Rarick to the association. All four will be playing in this weekend’s Cha Cha Cha tournament so be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club.

Eric Zibell – NCGA NET Amateur Results

Shout out Eric Zibell who placed 7th on Sept 17th in the Coyote Creek NCGA NET Amateur Qualifier. Eric shot a NET 70 to advance to the Oct 6th NCGA NET Championship at Poppy Hills. While the golf gods weren’t kind to Eric at the Championship, making the field is a great accomplishment and shows CHMGA can compete with the best.

Deer Warning

Steve Shortt recently had an unfortunate run in with a deer while driving away from Cinnabar Hills this past week. Please be especially careful when leaving the course this time of year (October to December). It’s mating season for deer, and they are very active around dusk.