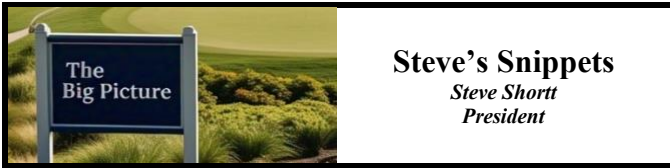


# The Red-tail Rattler

CHMGA Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January/February 2026



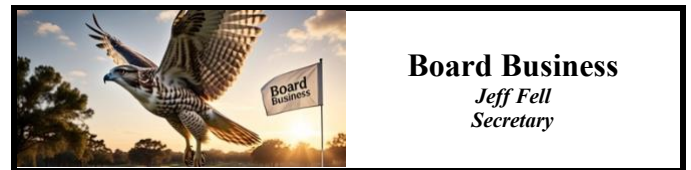
In January, we welcomed several new members to the CHMGA Board of Directors with Drew Himes (Tournament Director), Todd Manley (Membership Chairman), and Gordon Madej (Operations Chairman) stepping into their roles. Unfortunately, we also said good-bye to Richard Lebakos who stepped down from the board after several years. Richard brought a very positive attitude to our meetings and deliberations, and he'll be sorely missed whenever we meet. Next time you see him on the course (he's still a member of the club), be sure to thank him and buy him a beverage of his choice.

## 2026 Priorities

I'd also like to share the key priorities the is planning to focus in 2026. Feel free to share your thoughts about these (or other areas) with any of the board members when you see them.

1. **Growing the club.** A continuing focus for us in 2026 will be in growing the club. We currently have 78 members, and our goal is to grow this to 90-100 members. Increasing our membership allows us to fund the purses for our end of the year tournaments and open the door to more shotgun style tournaments. Our new Membership Chairman, Todd Manley, will be heading up our efforts. Be sure to read his thoughts further in the newsletter and share any ideas you might have with him.
2. **Social Interaction.** A common item of feedback we hear from members is their desire for more social interaction among club members, especially after our tournaments. While this is difficult to achieve without more shotgun tournaments, we're going to experiment with some creative ways to do so in the coming year, such as grouping members who desire such interaction in consecutive tee times, so they finish around the same time to meet in the restaurant afterwards.

3. **Away Events.** A big focus for us in 2026 is making the four away tournaments on the schedule successful and learning how to improve them in the future.
4. **Membership Education.** Helping members better understand the Rules of Golf will continue to be priority for us in 2026, along with sharing with members the analysis the board does regarding the club's competitiveness, pace of play, and handicapping.



## Club Competitiveness

In 2025, the board began tracking and compiling data from our tournaments to ensure all members have a equal chance of competing for tournament purses, and Cinnabar Cup points, regardless of their handicap.

On March 22nd (at 5 pm) we'll be hosting a remote Zoom session for members interested in understanding the analysis we've done, along with what the NCGA's frequency/probability tables tell us to expect. Spoiler: our results are very consistent with what the NCGA tables suggest our results should be.

More information to follow, however mark the above date in your calendar if you're interested in attending. We will also be posting a summary of the above information on the CHMGA website as well.

## Pace of Play Analysis

Like club competitiveness, we're now tracking several metrics regarding each members' Pace of Play, using information provided to us by the pro-shop after each tournament.

In March we'll begin publishing this information on the CHMGA web site so members can see how they are doing. Given how important it is for members to

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“keep up” with the group in front of them (in order to meet the 4 hour, 30 minute pace of play requirement the golf course has for us), the analysis will focus on that metric.

When a group falls behind, it has a ripple effect across the field and can make it impossible for the groups teeing off later to meet the 4 hour, 30 minute requirement; so we’ll be reaching out to members who consistently “fall behind” to discuss ways to improve their pace of play to avoid this from happening




**Finance**  
*Nicholas Egan*  
*Treasurer*

We started 2026 with a healthy balance sheet for the association’s finances, with a little over \$7,000 total across all our accounts. That balance has increased to over \$18,000 at the end of January based on membership renewals and new membership payments.

Looking at 2026, we’re in great shape, assuming we can add ~10 more members between now and the end of the year. Below is a summary of our finances as of end of January. Detailed finances are posted on the CHMGA website at: [2026 Finance Report](#).

Item Description	Jan '26
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$11,042</b>
Association Business	\$9,784
Tournament Escrow	\$223
2025 Season Points Winner Escrow	\$1,035
<b>Association Business</b>	<b>\$7,206</b>
Membership Fees	\$8,907
Social Events & Items	(\$260)
Other Expenses	(\$1,441)
<b>Monthly Tournament Financials</b>	<b>\$237</b>
Tournament Fees	\$2,300
Tournament Payouts	(\$2,063)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$18,485</b>
Association Business	\$16,990
Tournament Escrow	\$460
2025 Season Points Escrow	\$1,035



**Tournament Updates**  
*Drew Himes*  
*Tournament Director*

## Upcoming Tournaments

We have an exciting number of tournaments coming up in the next two months, which will lead us into our “Majors” season starting in May.

- March 7<sup>th</sup>, 4-Person Best 2 of 4 Ball (NCGA Zone Championship Qualifier)
- March 21<sup>st</sup>, Oak Tees (Gross Scoring)
- April 4<sup>th</sup>, 4-Person Cha-Cha-Cha at Callippe Preserve (Member/Guest)
- April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2-Person Scramble

As always, you can find the complete 2026 tournament schedule on Golf Genius at: [2026 Tournament Schedule](#) (GGID: ch2026).

## NCGA Qualifying Tournaments

Last weekend we had the first of our three NCGA qualifying tournaments with the Fourball (2-Person Best Ball) qualifier on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. VJ Kumar and Ken Heinly walked away with top honors in the qualifier, with John Kornitsky and Doug Mullins taking second (beating 3 other teams via a scorecard tiebreaker). Both teams will advance to the next round of the Fourball qualifier and represent CHMGA. If for some reason, either of the above teams is unable to make the next round, we will reach out to the next place team (or teams) for them to attend instead.

## Pace of Play

I’d like to congratulate the entire membership on the progress we’ve been making on pace of play this year. The last couple of tournaments we’ve been able to get the entire field across the finish line within (or dang near it) the 4-hour, 30-minute course requirement. While we still have some members that need to improve, overall, we’re doing great and our efforts are being well recognized by the pro-shop.

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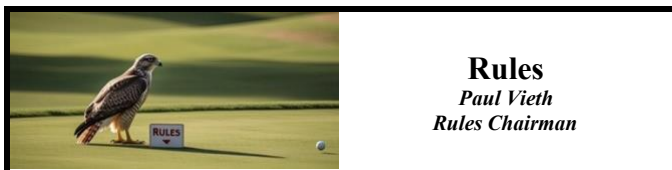
## Exceptional Score Adjustments

Starting in November, we modified the TI calculations to include Exceptional Score Adjustments for members who shoot an unusually low score. Exceptional Score Adjustments are triggered when a player's score differential in a tournament is 7.0 strokes or more better than their Tournament Index. It applies a -1 or -2 reduction to all of the player's most recent score differentials to adjust their index downwards.

## TI Adjustment Policy

In the last year we've had several members feel their Tournament Index (TI) does not reflect their current playing ability due to medical or other reasons; and they've asked for us to make an adjustment to their TI. In general, we are very hesitant to make such an adjustment, however given TI's don't change as frequently as a player's GHIN might, there can be situations where an adjustment may be appropriate.

If you feel you have an exceptional circumstance that might warrant an adjustment, please email me at [handicapchair@chmga.club](mailto:handicapchair@chmga.club) and I will review the request with you for discussion with the rest of the board.



With Patrick Reeds' return and his reputation for not always following the rules, I'd like him to take us thru some situations I have seen that maybe were not quite right. Here is his guide to playing Cinnabar Hills.

- **Patrick:** I'm sure glad we are playing lift, clean and place from the rough, I had mud on the ball.
  - No Patrick, it's only in closely mown areas.
  - Patrick: No? That's a dumb rule, it helped me move the ball a foot out of the bush I hit it into on Lake #1.
- **Patrick:** I blew it way right on Lake #4 and never saw where it ended up, or if it went OB right of the penalty area. Sure glad I can use the drop zone.
  - No Patrick, you have to be Known or virtually certain (KVC, 95%+ sure) it's in the penalty area (PA) to take PA relief. But you could use MLR E5 to drop it 2 clubs into the fairway with a 2-stroke penalty, not 1 in the drop zone.
- **Patrick:** Lots of sand in this bunker I just hit into on Lake #5. I'll just go into this other bunker and take some practice swings to feel it out.
  - No problem. Partick. If your ball is not in that bunker, that's fine. Just don't slow down play too much, Adam is watching.
- **Patrick:** I blew it right again on Mountain #3. I took back of the line relief where it went in, straight back into the fairway. Same thing I did back on Lake #7 by the ravine.
  - No Patrick. Back of the line means a line straight back from where it went in the penalty area and the flag, which doesn't exist over there. Lateral relief would be 2 clubs onto the cart path, then 1 club free relief from the cart path on the side of the hill. Suggest you use the drop zone.
- **Patrick:** I didn't quite clear the fence on Mountain #4, I'll just use MLR E5 as an alternate stroke and distance and drop it in the fairway.
  - No Patrick. Using E5 is from where it might be lost in bounds on the course or where the ball last crossed OB, way back by the tee, if you cleared the fence by the bunker and it crossed back OB, you could drop up there in the fairway for 2 strokes.
- **Patrick:** I wasn't thinking and picked up my ball on the green without marking it, because I thought my partner won the hole. Turns out he 5 putted for an 8, so I just put it the ball back down

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and putted because there is no penalty for moving a ball on the green, and I made the putt for a 6.

- o No Patrick: There is no penalty for accidentally kicking and moving your ball on the green, but brain farts are not accidental. Since you deliberately moved your ball and you know the rules so well but didn't add a penalty stroke and turned in a wrong scorecard, we are going to Dairy Queen ! (DQ)

Download the USGA Rules of Golf app to your phone, hit the explore button in the lower left, and check out the new video shorts. They are really good and <30 seconds.



I'm excited to be joining the board this year and look forward to meeting more of you in person at our events. Just look for the 6'9" guy around the clubhouse, putting green and range and that will be me. A quick comment as I start my tenure: your feedback matters - our Board is dedicated to making your CHMGA membership rewarding. So, don't hesitate to reach out to me (or any other board member) to discuss concerns or suggestions about the club.

## Membership Update

We started the year strong with 66 members in the club, and we've gained 12 new members since the beginning of January (78 members in total). Please welcome Bob Inada, Ryan Westphal, Matthew Woodworth, Dan Meinert, Matthew Mccarty, Vatsal Bakshi, Bryan McSweeney, Mason Lopez, Fred Landis, Andrew Bowdish, Nic Panatopoulos and Meeran Kim. Several have already participated in our events with one coming away as a winner in the Shamble.

Growing our membership and having a healthy group of golfers looking to participate and play gives CHMGA options in what we can do as a club. With

membership growth as one of my key goals, I'm always here to answer your questions and those of your golfing friends who might be interested in joining. Word of mouth helps tremendously, but we're also taking some other steps to think differently. We're working on a current promotion with members of La Rinconada to offer options for their members to play in some of our tournaments, given their course is about to undergo a major renovation and will be closed for a number of months. If you know any members I encourage you to reach out and let them know,

Lastly, I'd like to thank Jeff Fell for helping to bring me up speed on the role and responsibilities of the Membership Director, enabling me to hit the ground running.



We're looking to make a series of updates to the CHMGA website this year and ahead of that, I'd like to solicit any thoughts and feedback members have on how we can improve and make the website more useful to everyone. If you have some pet peeves or thoughts on what we should change, please reach out to me with your ideas. Once I pull the ideas together, we'll prioritize the ones that make the most sense and put together a plan for implementing them.