



April 2017

The NNWGA Board of Directors would like to inform our membership of impending USGA initiatives which will impact our association and its outreach with all of you; our membership. Although some preliminary information was shared with your club presidents and delegates at our fall general meeting, we think it is important to additionally update each of you as the year progresses.

In late 2015, the USGA announced the development of a World Handicap System that is scheduled to take effect in 2020. The current multiple handicap providers will combine into one simple and reliable system. Concurrent with the handicap changes, the USGA announced their "Membership Engagement Initiative." <http://www.usga.org/engagement.html> Basically, all USGA services will be subjected to changes with "the global golf game" in mind.

A key component of this initiative is the consolidation of existing state and regional golf associations (SRGAs) into new regionally based Allied Golf Associations (AGAs). **So, what does this mean for you?**

This USGA initiative requires that future AGAs inclusively serve men, women, and junior golfers as well as public, private and associate golf clubs. In addition, the USGA will partner exclusively with one AGA in each dedicated area. This will result in only one local AGA overseeing the distribution of handicaps and other USGA contractual deliverables in each USGA region. Currently northern Nevada is served by the NNGA and the NNWGA. Based on the USGA's criteria, the NNWGA would not qualify as an AGA. The implications of the USGA's decision make it clear; the NNWGA faces certain change.

The NNWGA Executive Director and Board are working to preserve our mission, and to retain our programs and tournaments for women's golf in our region. After much research and discussion with potential regional partners it has become apparent that forming an AGA in Northern Nevada is best for golf in our Region. Central in our assessment of potential partners was the ability to specifically serve our member's needs, continue to grow the game and membership through events and clinics, while controlling cost as much as possible. So, in January, NNGA and NNWGA began talking about how a partnership would be mutually beneficial to preserving representation specific to Northern Nevada and each association's goals while meeting the criteria necessary to qualify as an AGA in the USGA's new world. In February we (NNGA and NNWGA) provided information requested from the USGA, and we were ecstatic to receive the approval we were seeking. It was not just a formality, as several associations in similar positions have not received approval. Now the real work begins behind the scenes as these two organizations will become one. It is our intention to make this change as seamless as possible for you, our members, so that you can simply enjoying golf with your fellow ladies in Northern Nevada!

We have a compiled a few answers to common questions (FAQs). Please click on the tab to review. Should you have additional questions, please send an email to: exdir@nnwga.org. We will continue with updates throughout the season.

Sincerely, NNWGA Board of Directors

Celebrating Ladies Golf in Northern Nevada for over 50 Years!

FAQs #1

1. **Why does the USGA want to consolidate SRGAs?**

The USGA's Membership Engagement Initiative requires that future Allied Golf Associations (AGAs) broadly serve and encompass amateur golf, which includes men, women and juniors; both public and private clubs. By eliminating overlapping services, the USGA seeks to better serve golfers, golf facilities and the game, as well as better use the industry's resources.

2. **What are the options being weighed by the NNWGA?**

The Directors are planning to continue our mission while unifying with a regional AGA, chosen by the USGA.

3. **The letter says "certain change". What does that mean?**

Change is destined to occur. The NNWGA Board is looking at all options, all will determine which avenue best protects our core programs and services.

4. **Why does the USGA have control over this issue?**

We are a not-for-profit organization but we are licensed by the USGA to facilitate handicapping, issue course ratings and conduct USGA Championship qualifying. Without an official affiliation with the USGA, we could not engage in USGA related activities nor continue to facilitate to the issuance of Handicap Indexes through our member clubs. In addition, without an authorized USGA Handicap Index, NNWGA members may not be eligible for local competitive events, invitationals and other customary tournaments.

5. **How is the USGA selecting the regional Allied Golf Associations?**

In addition to enforcing the definition that all AGAs will have an inclusive membership (men, women, juniors, public, private, etc.) all State and Regional Golf Associations (SRGAs) throughout the country were asked to complete an in-depth survey of association membership and related data.

6. **When will the USGA select its partners?**

The USGA will notify selected AGAs in the first quarter of 2017. The collaboration agreements will become effective January 1, 2018.

7. **When will we know the outcome of the USGA & NNWGA decision?**

Once the regional AGAs have been determined, the NNWGA will be able to secure its relationship. Membership notification will follow closely thereafter.

8. **What NNWGA programs and services are the Directors committed to preserving?**

The Board intends to protect our core mission and services, including tournaments, Course Rating, Handicap, Team Play and education. In addition, we will continue to promote the Junior Connection scholarship program.

9. **How often will we receive updates?**

We will submit updates as we are aware of USGA decisions.