

# 2020 - the Year so far



## From the Office...

There has been no competitive golf for nearly 100 days!

2020 got into full swing with tournaments; the Women's Silver Bronze & Copper Cups, and Town vs Country; the Seniors competed for the WP Senior Amateur Championships ... then the worldwide Corona Virus-Covid 19 pandemic hit South African shores. Golf came to a standstill - golf courses were closed. National and provincial tournaments were cancelled; the competitive golf calendar has yet to re-open.

Our work at WP Golf has continued on a different level.

With no golf for almost three months all clubs have had to endure a huge financial burden.

WP Golf created relief funds to alleviate some of the financial losses incurred by the clubs, and to assist with the clubs being compliant with protocols in order to re-open their courses. With limited funds available, clubs who did not require financial assistance were happy that funds be made available to clubs who were in dire need of this financial assistance - a HUGE thank you from WP Golf to those clubs.

WP Golf has also assisted by returning the Rand-a-Round funding to all clubs from 2019, but urged the funds be used for the development of the game as initially intended.

We would like to thank all involved who assisted in the return of golf as soon as it did, it could well have been a different situation had those golf bodies not been so proactive with their discussions with the respective government departments.

GolfRSA has announced the cancellation of all remaining Inter Provincial Tournaments. They are: Premier Inter Provincial 14-18 September; SA Women's Inter Provincial 22-25 September; Mid-Amateur Inter Provincial 5-9 October & SA Junior Inter Provincial 7-11 December 2020.

Finally, we have yet to receive confirmation of when tournament golf will return, but we are prepared; details will be announced - until then, stay safe and stay healthy.

**#WePartnerGOLF**



## From the Referees...

One has to stay sharp with the Rules and as such the lockdown period gave us a chance to keep reading and studying the Rules and the Interpretations. One obviously learns the best through practical experience, but in the absence of tournaments, reading about situations that occurred on golf courses all over the world, helps to broaden one's knowledge.

There are 2 very specific Facebook groups dedicated to the Rules of golf: **Golf Rules Officials** and **USGA Rules of Golf Discussion**. They both post very interesting scenario's, discussions, quizzes etc. and anyone, especially players as well, who likes to learn more about the practical side of Rules in action, will find it very interesting.

GolfRSA, in negotiating the opening of golf courses and allowing us amateurs to play again, has committed us to very specific guidelines when playing golf. Whether one personally agrees with one or any of the measurements (12 min tee-off times, 1 person per cart, no gathering before or after rounds, etc.) it is imperative the we as players and all golf clubs adhere to the negotiated guidelines so that we ensure that we can keep on playing our lovely game. There are also some additional challenges, practical and from a Rules perspective – what to do with bunkers and raking, should hole be lifted or is pool noodle or other gadget good enough, etc.? The R&A and GolfRSA have given some guidelines and options that clubs may implement re handling of those situations.

Please contact our Helene Marais at [helenewpgra@gmail.com](mailto:helenewpgra@gmail.com) if you want guidance on the options and also how the Local Rules should be adjusted to allow for any special circumstances. (For e.g.: If a player should inadvertently take a flagstick out, and it may not be done, how is he sanctioned? Penalty? Warning under Code of Conduct?, etc.)

At least we can now again watch the pros in action – see the short video about a very interesting interaction between Bubba Watson and Rory after a crab managed to wiggle his way to Bubba's ball in a bunker - <https://twitter.com/PGATOUR/status/1274420251652845568>.

Stay Safe and Play Safe!



## Some National Highlights...

Nomads Coastal NooM (Mount Edgecombe) - Winner: Ayden Senger

Kaylah Williams - WGSA Open Player of the Year

Sam Simpson - Winner SA Amateur Qualification



## Closer to home ...

Ems Hepburn, Cheryl Murphy & Minette Benecke share the Bronze Cup



Claire Dinnie, Jane Wollaston & Gail Thane share the Silver Cup



Stanley de Beer beats the field at the WP Senior Amateur Championships



Town C: Marianne, Ursula, Lynn, Prem, Irene, Liz, Susan & Trudy - winners at Town v Country

