

Jack,

Thanks for the email. It is evident that you feel strongly about this particular issue, and since there may be others in the group that share your view (and some who don't), I thought that I should copy all of the league members on my reply. I knew that when I took on the responsibility as League Secretary, that I would not be able to please everyone, and I'm sure that this will be the case here. I have copied portions of your email (in blue) and responded to them (in red). For anyone interested, Jack Nowicki's full, unedited email can be found at the bottom of the email string below.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone in the league that has an opinion on this matter. If you would send me an email, I can compile the replies that I receive and then publish them on the website for all to see.

I was surprised by your comment last night about eliminating the option of playing nine holes of golf a few days before, or after, the Tuesday Night League (TNL) event and having the score count for the league standings. Actually, your question caught me totally off-guard. I have played in the Tuesday Night League for 4 years (this is my 5th) and I was never aware of any option for a "make-up round". Was this policy covered in an email or other communication that I may have missed somewhere along the line and then never incorporated into the league rules? The league rules clearly prohibit any make-up rounds: "No points will be awarded for other missed rounds, rounds played on a different day of the week, nor can missed rounds be made up or a substitute golfer used". Over the past several seasons, I have taken 5 points and several "zeros" on nights when I was unable to attend. I am certain that I have lost out on an opportunity to win some money because I was unaware of this option that you refer to. Similarly, this provided an unfair advantage for you over all those in the league that were not aware of this "option" and who settled for 5 points or "zeros" as the league rules clearly stipulate. That being said, I am not in agreement with allowing make-up rounds.

It is an option that Tom Janego sanctioned, and I (and others) have used occasionally over the last few years without problems, or incidents. The option has been in existence for at least two seasons. Jack – Where is this option documented? I would think that such an option would be included in the rules so that everyone in the league would be aware that it exists and thereby benefit from it. I would be interested to know how many league members knew that this was an option. Or am I the only one that didn't know about it??

Further, allowing the option provides members some additional flexibility, and does not penalize other members of the group. On this point, I couldn't disagree with you more. By allowing members to play the course at some other time than the designated tee times (Tuesdays at 5:30 or 5:45), there is no guarantee that the course will be played under the same conditions as those that may be experienced by the rest of the league members. These conditions include pin placements, tee locations, conditions of the greens, fairways and rough, pace of play and weather-related conditions such as wind, rain, etc.

So to change the guideline without some discussion by the group seems unfounded. I ask you to reconsider that decision. To my knowledge, the "guideline" that you refer to does not exist, so I am changing nothing. The league rules are published on the website for all to see and they should be regarded as all-inclusive. I made only minor changes to the rules from last year (related to handicap calculations) and I made no changes to the language on make-up rounds. It was my understanding that the Tuesday Night League rounds were to be played on Tuesday night.

I recognize the TNL allows two misses each half and allocates five points toward league standing, for each miss. Good enough for some situations, but if player has history of higher point counts each week, allocating only five points is a real penalty to his efforts, and not fair. This policy is clearly spelled out in the league rules and, as far as I know, has been in place for many years. As to your statement about 5 points being unfair, the argument could certainly be made that being awarded 5 points for not playing at all (twice per half) is extremely generous.

Given the above, I understand there needs to be some guidelines established so the situation does not get out of control. Essentially, the guidelines Tom and I agreed to were...1) make-up round had to be played with at least one other member of TNL who attested to score; 2) make-up round had to be played within seven days before or after scheduled TNL that will be missed; *A two week window for making up a round? Multiple 9-hole rounds could be played in a two-week period. Could the golfer turn in any of the 9-hole scores that he chooses? I have experienced difficulties in obtaining scorecards for the players that play on the league nights, and I can only imagine the problems that I would have if I had to collect them every day of the week! It is also apparent that you are giving no consideration for the difficulties that would be caused with regards to data entry, results, standings and handicap calculations by allowing make-up rounds up to 7 days following the league night that was missed.* 3) member could not play in TNL event immediately prior to or after missed date and count that score twice; *I don't know if I follow this one. I'm amazed that someone would even think of counting the same round twice. (?)* 4) cannot miss a "final night" round, and use the option, if in contention for money; 5) frequency of option use should be kept to a minimum...once or twice per "half" seems reasonable.

I strongly oppose make-up rounds for the reasons I have stipulated above. If make-up rounds were to be allowed, then the league rules should be modified appropriately.

Regards,

Keith Schrock

Jack Nowicki's unedited email follows:

Keith:

I was surprised by your comment last night about eliminating the option of playing nine holes of golf a few days before, or after, the Tuesday Night League (TNL) event and having the score count for the league standings. It is an option that Tom Janego sanctioned, and I (and others) have used occasionally over the last few years without problems, or incidents. The option has been in existence for at least two seasons. Further, allowing the option provides members some additional flexibility, and does not penalize other members of the group. So to change the guideline without some discussion by the group seems unfounded. I ask you to reconsider that decision.

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Given the above, I understand there needs to be some guidelines established so the situation does not get out of control. Essentially, the guidelines Tom and I agreed to were...1) make-up round had to be played with at least one other member of TNL who attested to score; 2) make-up round had to be played within seven days before or after scheduled TNL that will be missed; 3) member could not play in TNL event immediately prior to or after missed date and count that score twice; 4) cannot miss a "final night" round, and use the option, if in contention for money; 5) frequency of option use should be kept to a minimum...once or twice per "half" seems reasonable.

Regards,

Jack Nowicki

My position is you need to play on Tuesday to count. Plain and simple. When you start to make exceptions to the basic rules - things get whacky.

Jeff Steiner

Keith,

I have played in the league for at least 10 years and never knew a alternate policy was in effect for missed nights. If it had been announced or placed in the rules I would have taken advantage of it since I too had given up many points due to missing more than two nights per half. In past year's there were a few times when I missed placing in the "real" money by few points.

With those of us who work, travel and have weekend family commitments it is difficult to find an alternate night to play. The club is closed Mondays, there is a ladies league Wednesdays and a couple's league Thursday nights. This limits the make up rounds to Friday nights, Saturday or Sundays.

I am opposed to changing the rules mainly due to the issue you raised about golfers not playing under the same conditions as those who show up on the league night. I realize we are all trying to win as much \$\$\$ as possible but we signed up with the posted rules as they were established at the start. If someone is opposed to playing under these conditions I suggest they be refunded thier entry fee with no hard feelings of course and we move forward.

Perhaps during the last night banquet we can have a discussion about proposed rule changes for next year and vote on them.

Thanks for all your effort I know it is a ton of work!

Lou LaFrate

Thanks for asking for our input.

Keith

Never herad about any rules for make up rounds. Had I known I could have avoided, as many others, 5's or 0's through the years. I do not think it should be allowed as the conditions will not be the same.

Gunnar Engen

I could not agree more with you keith... The league should be played on the night and only then. Doing something more will only create this kind of conversation. I have played in many leagues over the years... None would allow any other play except during the league for exactly the reason you describe! Well stated.

J. Greg Merritt, Ph.D.

Keith, this is my first year, but I too agree that people playing on a different night would play under different conditions and circumstances. I favor the decision to not allow "make up" rounds.

Thom Mellen

Hi Keith,

Last year, when our sons were playing soccer, Brian Sullivan, Ralph Hazen and I asked Tom if we could play our rounds earlier (on Tuesday) so we could make their 7 PM game. He said it was not a problem. We did this a couple of times. And there were a couple of times we took a 5 or 0 because we couldn't play earlier on Tuesday. We never asked or thought about playing on any other day!

This is the only "make-up" policy that I am aware of, or would be favorable of, for our league to adopt.

Jim Jensen

Keith,

I agree with your position. I have been in the league going back to before the Champ course was totally private and I have always understood make-up rounds to be prohibited. Several years ago I finished in the top 7 or 8 players and had 3 less rounds than anyone in front of me because I missed more than the 2 allowed. I hope this rule wasn't just for an inside few because most of us were not aware of it. When the prize money gets as high as it is, you must have iron-clad rules.

This is coming from a guy who will probably miss at least one or two rounds per half beyond the allotted, so I will be one of the ones penalized, as I have been in the past. I also agree that you will have a nightmare trying to record the league scores and standings. I don't see how you can possibly come up with a fair way to make up rounds for the reasons you enumerated. It is a Tuesday Night league, so rounds should be played Tuesday night. Keep up the good work.

Tom Butts

Keith - I agree with your points and rationale 100%. I was aware there were some guys playing at "off times" over the last couple years, but it didn't seem right...

Best Regards,

Larry VanderRoest

Keith, Good response. I didn't know that T.J. allowed this as I would have been against it. This has affected me but I still believe that you have to play at the time the League is scheduled.

Tony Derhake

Keith,

I agree 100% with your assessment and position. I've been in the league for at least 5 years and never heard of any options for a "make-up round" and for some of the reasons you cited, don't think there should be, either. Such rounds would be uncontrolled, played under different conditions and have all kinds of variability that shouldn't exist assuming the reason someone would even pursue a make-up would be to stay in contention for money prizes. I miss a lot of rounds due to travel/vacation schedules and just accept that I'm probably not going to be in the running for any money—that's not why I play anyway. Frankly, with some of the guys the whole thing is a bit too cutthroat and makes for a relatively unpleasant pressure-packed round depending on who you get teamed up with from week to week.

I also agree that 2 passes for 5 points each half is reasonable. Some generally score more than 5 in a typical week, but trying to do anything else than an arbitrary award for the first two absences would require yet another bit of handicapping which has to be an already overwhelming project. 5 points seems like a reasonable compromise between those who usually score more and those who usually may score less each week. If you get a lot of heat, you could probably run an analysis of the average points won each week across the league and pick a new number that was more representative of that average, but again for everyone, so the complainers would likely still be disgruntled.

Keep what we have and for those who are in it strictly for the money, let them commit to being here every week for the whole season and play their little hearts out. For the rest of us, who I truly believe are the majority, we'll show up when we can, take the grace of 2 allowable absences, and if we're looking for some cash prizes, get into the various side bets. Actually, if you substantially reduced the season prize money amounts, you'd probably go a long way towards making the league more of a fun night and opportunity to get acquainted with others. Some might drop out under those terms, but I personally don't think we'd be losing much.

Kirby Baker

Keith,

I have had this discussion (argument) with Tom for the past few years. I disagree totally with the option to play the round other than at the stipulated time. Everybody knows what the times are and that they are allowed 2 misses each half. Anything other than that flexibility is simply an abuse of the whole arrangement. Please, stick to your guns on this one. There is too much money at stake to allow otherwise.

Tom Frederickson

Keith

I knew Tom was allowing some TNL members to play make up rounds over the last couple of years, it was an unwritten rule that Tom allowed and it wasn't announced to other TNL members.

I never asked Tom for a make up round. And I think it should not be allowed, I agree with most of your points.

Jack Lewis

Keith -

I wholeheartedly concur with your opinion and your supporting rationale. Similar to you, I was not aware of such a "rule" or policy in prior leagues.

Greg Burkart

As in any disagreement, you have to go back to written policy (rules). Unless the rules say the make up policy is allowed, you can't do it. If you want to change the rules, wait until next year.

Bob Markovs

Keith, I too have been playing for the last 4-5 years and I have never known of being able to make up missed rounds. Since I miss many, I have to assume that I was the one (as were you and all others who were unaware of this rule) who was unfairly treated. I assume there will be very few people that knew of this.

I also think it would be a complete mistake to allow rounds to be completed at any other time than that scheduled on Tuesday evening. And, since I probably miss more days than anyone else on the league, I would have the most to gain if you did allow this. I simply think it is wrong.

Keith Raab

Keith...thanks for distributing my proposal to the group for their comments.

I will address a couple of essential points in your email. I can address the other comments/questions when we see each other next Tuesday.

You asked how Tom Janego documented allowing me...and others...to play a "make-up" round on a day other than League Tuesday night and have the point total count toward League standing. I cannot answer the question. I first heard about the option about four years ago. I approached Tom about using the option in 2006. I do not recall the specifics of who played with

me...or when the make-up round occurred in 2006...but I did use the option. In July, 2007 at least three other league members, and I, used the option prior to a planned trip to Arcadia Bluffs.

I will "cc" Tom on this email. He can provide the group with a more complete background on when the option first came into existence, why it was adopted, existing documentation, and who has used the option in the past.

Another point you raise addresses different playing conditions that will occur on a "make-up" day. The implication is the guys playing on Tuesday will be at some disadvantage if some members are allowed to make-up a round on a "non-league night." Granted golfing conditions can vary each day, but for our purposes the issue is not all that significant. There are plenty of examples of tournament committees allowing some competitors to play on a different day from the rest of the field and each day's results counting toward all competitors singular objective. A local case in point...Oak Pointe's Champ Match Play competitions to determine the final sixty-four competitors, will occur over two days...some of the guys play today, and others play next Tuesday. At another level, each January, the Bob Hope/Chrysler Desert Classic has a quarter of the field play one of four different golf courses each day during the four day tournament. Finally, consider that qualifying rounds for many local, national and international tournaments occur on various days, and even different golf courses.

Best wishes,
Jack Nowicki

Keith, I would agree with the league rule not allowing a make-up day. First of all I did not know that this was even an option. I feel that if we allowed this it would encourage absenteeism. It would also make your job more difficult with scores coming in at different times. The 5 points given twice is more than fair. In fact there have been times that I have only gotten 4 pt's when I played. Good luck!

Don Cowan

Keith & OPCC TNL

It is my personal opinion that during league play, golfers' are not as relaxed and there is more pressure to do well overall. Outside of league play is a totally different feel. I think the present rules should be adhered to.

Rick Falkiewicz

Keith:

I am with you. I did not know there were makeups. Over the past years, I have always looked at my average per round and it is typically higher than those who finish in the money. Unfortunately, work and family prevent me from being there all of the time. But that is my choice. It's the Tuesday night league, and if your not there, I don't think it should count.

Regardless of the decision, Tuesday night is typically the highlight of my week (regardless of how badly I play). Thanks for your efforts.

Mike Bourke

Keith,

I hope all is well. I am in favor of all your comments below. Like you, I have been playing in the TNL for approx 5-6 years and I have never been aware of a make-up round. I am sure that MANY of the members in the TNL have never heard of such a rule as well. There have been many years in the past that if I new of such a rule that I as well as others would have fared better in the money list.

Good Luck,

Jim Macielak

Keith, I have been in this league almost since it started and have never heard of the options that Jack is speaking of, the only option I know of is that some of the guys had kids playing in soccer games in the evenings of the league night and were allowed to go out a little earlier that same afternoon. I totally agree with your response's to Jack's email. I also spoke to Tom Janego about this and his reply was these were not options that he sanctioned except for going out early the same afternoon of league night. Your doing an excellent job, keep it up.
Have a Great Day

Bob Allen

Keith: I have been playing in the league for 9 years and knew of no written communications about this rule.

I recall hearing something about a few of these "makeup" sessions last year and much to the chagrin of league players telling me about them. Again, I believe these were few and far between and definitely not sanctioned by the league rules.

I have tried to be objective as possible in seeing Jack's point of view and yours. Last week I made the statement that I could support either viewpoint. Having examined both positions, I would now NOT be in favor of changing the rules to accomodate make up nights. I believe the 2 five point nights address the situation. Many guys are in and don't even make half of the nights because of work obligations. Yet they enjoy meeting and making friends with the members and I believe that takes priority over everything else.

Paul Williams

Keith - My thoughts:

Stick to the rules of the league... playing at a different time/date isn't fair for many reasons. I'm a bit ticked that there was an unwritten rule for play last year... it cost me pts/money... but as I'm not in it for the money, oh well...

Thanks for your hard work on this!

Eric Holm

Keith,

I have played for 4 years without a single make-up round. I usually miss more than the allotted amount, but that is due to work issues. I am still strongly opposed to Make-Up rounds. Show up on Tuesday night for the shotgun and play. If you don't too bad, play when ever you want but don't expect it to count for TNL money.

Patrick King

KEITH

ADD MY NAME TO THE LIST OF "UNINFORMED" IN MY FOUR OR FIVE YEARS IN THE LEAGUE I HAVE TAKEN NUMEROUS ZERO POINTS DUE TO AN ABSENCE I TOTALLY AGREE WITH YOU IT IS A TUESDAY NIGHT LEAGUE-NOT A GO OUT AND PLAY WHENEVER LEAGUE

Phil Schmidt

For the record, all rounds should be played on Tuesday nights or take 5 points. You can miss 4 of 20 rounds, 20%. This is a lot and more than fair. The rules are clear. I have never known of the option so make up rounds and I think this is my 5th year. Also, allowing makeup rounds is a disadvantage to some, including myself. I am not retired. I don't play many rounds other than

Tuesday nights. I am unlikely to have time to make up rounds. Allowing them will give an advantage to those who's schedules allow them to play more frequently.

Don't allow make up rounds. Keep it perfectly clean. Those who do not like it, can quit. I dropped out last year because I could not reliably make it on Tuesday nights so I speak from experience. I was certain to miss more than twice per half so I chose not to play. Also, the inconvenience on you is a valid consideration. You are a volunteer not an employee. Don't be shy about using that as a significant reason.

Vince Price

Keith,

I have been a League member for quite some time and have never heard of this option. I could have used it at least once a month due to other commitments.

That being said, I do not believe this should be an option. If one can't play Tuesday night, so be it.

Thanks,

Michael Stanton

Keith, I am also favor of making up a few rounds providing they are completed before Tuesday and its not done during last two or three week before end of each half.

Also a league member must attest to the scores.

Do you want to consider having a short meeting after Tuesday's play to discuss and vote on?

Thanks.

Ray Ferrick

Hi Keith,

I'am in total agreement with you in your interpretation of the league rules. I have been the league since its' inception and have not been aware of "makeup" rounds. I do not return from the South until late May. I'am fully aware of the fact that I will miss a few weeks in the first half and my chances of being in the money for that half are obsolete. I, number one, play for the camaradarie, number two, for the reward.

Dave Sackett

Keith,

Well done and I agree. Thanks for making this very clear.

Dean Parmenter

Keith - I support your stance 100%. I've only played on the league for a couple of years but these "unwritten rules" are new to me. My goal is to just have a good time - we needn't make this too complicated or unmanageable.

Thanks for taking the question to the league members.

Jon Evenson
