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Winter 2007 Edition



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## MAGA Honors Year's Top Players, Association's Great Contributors



### Meritorious Service Award To Stan Grossman

*In recognition and appreciation of your long-standing contribution and meritorious service to the Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association, the United States Golf Association and amateur golf regionally and nationally. It is your undying passion and dedication that has been an inspiration to all those who have administered the game in our region.*

The names and faces were certainly familiar as a crowd of nearly 100 guests paid tribute to the area's top golfers of 2007 on Nov. 1 at Old Warson Country Club.

As has been the case many times, the MAGA honored Skip Berkmeier (Player of the Year), Don Bliss (Senior Player of the Year), Ellen Port (Women's Player of the Year), and Barbara Berkmeier (Senior Women's Player of the Year). Each has earned the same distinctions numerous times in the association's 15-year history. The 2007 Metropolitan Junior Cup team was also honored for their retaining the Mid-America Junior Cup.

What made the 2007 function unique were honors bestowed on several longtime contributors. Jim Holtgrieve received the USGA's Ike Grainger Award for Volunteerism of 25 years or more on behalf of the national association. MAGA President Stan Grossman received the Association's Meritorious Service Award for his more than 30 years of contributions to golf associations on a local, regional and national scale. Holtgrieve and Grossman took the occasion to congratulate their long-time friend, MAGA Executive Director Tom O'Toole, Jr., for his appointment to the USGA Executive Committee.

### There is time to make

### A tax-deductible gift to Junior Foundation

Please help area youngsters find "the correct line" in life

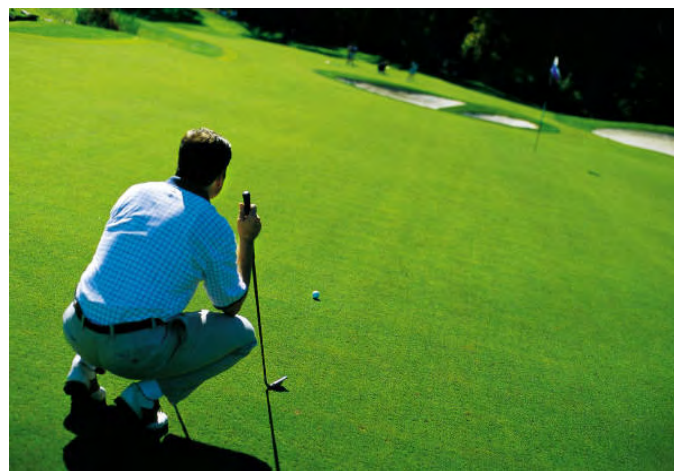
Many of us have been blessed in life and, in fact, blessed to have gained much from playing the great game of golf.

The very fabric of golf is laced with life lessons, and builds skills and attitudes that benefit golfers of all ages and skill levels.

"Running through the Rules of Golf are underlying principals that, like the steel rods which lie below the surface of reinforced concrete, serve to bind together the brittle material and give it strength."

Former USGA President Richard S. Tufts eloquently captured the essence of golf – a game of rules, self-discipline and integrity. The MAGA has created a Junior Foundation designed to encourage youngsters to take up the game of golf, adhere to its system of rules and hard work, and benefit for a lifetime from the experience.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, visit our website (METGA.ORG), or contact Bill Burton at the MAGA, at 636-532-3200.



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Tom O'Toole, Jr. nominated to USGA Executive Committee

Excerpted from USGA.org

Far Hills, N.J. – James F. Vernon of Pasadena, Calif., has been nominated to serve a one-year term as president of the USGA by the Nominating Committee of the United States Golf Association. The election of officers and the full 15-member USGA Executive Committee will take place Feb. 9, 2008, at the USGA's Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas.



As president, Vernon, 57, will lead the Association's professional staff and nearly 1,400 volunteers who serve on more than 30 committees.

Three new nominations to the Executive Committee for 2008. They are Patricia Kaufman of Fort Washington, Md.; Thomas J. O'Toole, Jr., of St. Louis, Mo.; and Bridgid Shanley Lamb of Mendham, N.J.

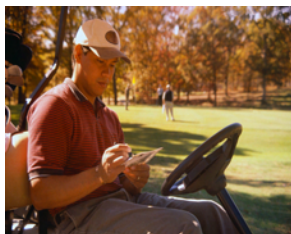
O'Toole, 50, is a partner in the law firm of Doster Mickes LLC in Chesterfield. He specializes in real estate transactions, construction litigation and zoning issues. He received both his undergraduate degree (1979) and law degree (1985) from St. Louis University. A native of St. Louis, O'Toole has been involved with the USGA since 1988. He has served as a Rules official at more than 100 USGA championships, including every U.S. Open since 1990. He also has been the lead official in conducting more than 120 qualifying rounds for USGA championships. O'Toole has been "certified" as a Rules of Golf expert each year since 1990, and he has been a consulting member of the Rules of Golf Committee since 2004.

In 1992, he founded the Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association, a regional association that serves eastern Missouri and central Illinois. He serves on the executive board of the Association.

<b>Congratulations To All Of Our 2007 MAGA Champions and USGA Qualifying Round Medalists</b>		
Event	Champion	Site
U.S. Open Local Q	Jason Schultz	Lake Forest
Normandie Amateur	Buddy Allen	Normandie
MAGA Match Play	Skip Berkmeier	Old Warson
Amateur Public Links Q	Carlos E. Goya	Clinton Hill
U.S. Senior Open Q	A. Phillips, D. Ryan	Bellerive
U.S. Junior Amateur Q	Luke Guthrie	St. Louis CC
U.S. Junior Girls Amateur Q	Jaclyn Jansen	Persimmon Woods
East Side Amateur	Skip Berkmeier	Belk Park
MAGA Junior Amateur	D. Schaller, C. Dolan	Fox Run
Metropolitan Open	Darren Fletcher	CC of St. Albans
MAGA Women's Amateur	Whitney Brummett	Westborough
U.S. Women's Amateur Q	Nicole Schachner	Missouri Bluffs
U.S. Amateur Q	Ben Godwin	Persimmon Woods
USGA Senior Amateur Q	Don Bliss	Franklin County CC
Metropolitan Amateur	Ryan Franks	WingHaven
U.S. Mid-Amateur Q	Todd Mitchell	Norwood Hills West
MAGA Senior Amateur	Jim Holtgrieve	Meadowbrook
Mid-America Junior Cup	4-4 tie (MAGA retains)	Loch Lloyd
Metropolitan Cup	Bellerive	CC of St. Albans

**Do You Have What It Takes To Become An MAGA Volunteer**

The Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association relies on our volunteers to provide two essential services to golf in St. Louis – conducting Metropolitan Championship and USGA Qualifying Rounds **and** performing USGA Course Ratings in our region.



We are looking to bolster our volunteer forces and allowing others in St. Louis the opportunity to give something back to golf.

Historically, we have used much of our volunteer force in the capacity of Rules Officials at our events. We thank our accomplished officials who have made our events run with great precision. In 2008 we are looking to expand our volunteer staff to ensure that Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association events are, bar none, the finest competitive experience for all of our golfers.

If you have an interest in golf administration, and would like to learn more about volunteering with the Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association in 2008, visit our website - METGA.ORG to print and complete a Volunteer Information Form.

Curt Rohe, the MAGA's Director of Competitions and Course Rating, will contact you with further information.

**USGA RULES Quiz**

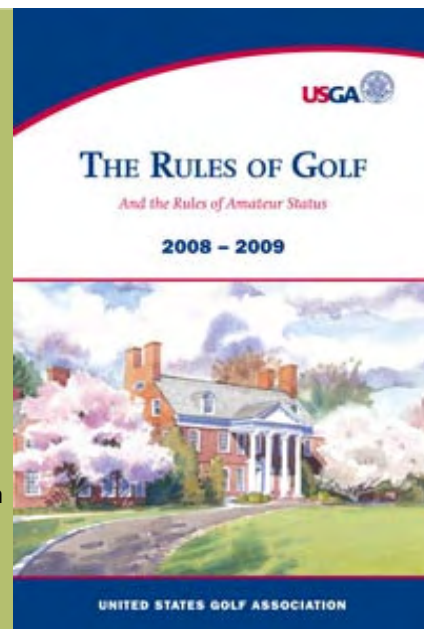
In stroke play, a player's ball lies through the green on a steep slope. He does not address the ball. As he is about to play, the ball moves and comes to rest against his club. He removes his club and the ball rolls further away. How many penalty strokes does the player incur?

- A. One stroke
- B. Two strokes
- C. Three strokes

The correct answer is: B. Two strokes

See Decision 19-2/1.5 for a complete explanation

Click on **METGA.ORG, Rules** to learn more about the USGA Rules of Golf, Decisions, Rules Vignettes. Try taking one of the rules quizzes to see how your knowledge of the rules scores.



**USGA/PGA Rules of Golf Workshop March 2-5 at Sheraton Westport**

The United States Golf Association and the PGA of America will once again call on St. Louis this spring to conduct a Rules of Golf Workshop. The workshop is designed to assist Rules Officials and those interested in gaining a proficiency in rules.

Cost for the 3 1/2-day session is \$250.

The program will include a comprehensive review of all 34 rules, revisions made starting in 2008, and will conclude with an optional Rules Test.

To register online, visit: <http://www.usga.org/playing/rules/workshops/index.html>.

If you are unable to register online, you may register by phone by contacting the USGA at Phone-in registration (USGA): (908) 234-2300, ext. 5100.