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PGA Committee Report Lists Many 1960 Accomplishments

The annual report of the USGA Executive committee, presented at the association's 67th annual meeting, contained these highlights:

The eight USGA National championships, with 9,118 entrants showed an increase of 6.5 per cent over the previous year's record;

Limit of merchandise prize value for amateur competition was increased from $150 to $200 retail;

A new course rating system was adopted;

USGA membership increased for 15th successive year. Last year 87 new clubs joined the association, bringing total to 2,450;

Green section visiting service has 810 subscribing courses. USGA green section's eight agronomists and one part-time assistant made 1,245 visits to courses in 1960;

A new system of pairings in the National Open whereby contestants' scores at the end of 36 holes determined their pairings for the last two rounds. Open prize money of $60,020 was a record. There was a record entry of 2,453 and a amateur record entry of 1,737.

Ball lost penalty was increased to stroke and distance;

Out of bounds was increased to stroke and distance. If a club thinks the penalty is unduly severe it may adopt local rule allowing dropping of ball with one stroke penalty;

Executive committee approved 42 routine applications for restoration of amateur status and 21 under exceptions;

Implements and Ball committee reviewed 45 clubs with new features. Twenty-two were approved and 17 disapproved. Continued ball tests to "protect member clubs by keeping the ball length within reasonable bounds." Reported that tests have indicated that "club-face roughness in the form of grooves and/or surface treatment has little or no effect on backswing."

1962 Western Amateur

Orchard Lake CC, near Detroit, will be the site of the 1962 Western Amateur golf championship. Dates for the event, which will be WGA's 60th annual Amateur, will be announced later. The 1961 Western Amateur is booked for Mar. 22-26 at the New Orleans CC.