



Cheater's Proof

The Olympic Torch has just been extinguished and archers, kayakers and water poloists (poloers?) have been relegated to obscurity for another four years.

Anybody who has tackled the multitude of challenges associated with providing a quality golf experience for our demanding clientele has something valuable to offer the MAGCS. Don't cheat us out of your talent.

I enjoy the Olympic Games, not so much for the national medal counts anymore (it was more important when we were fighting it out with the U.S.S.R. and the "Iron Curtain"), but rather, seeing young people aspiring to achieve personal-best performances on a world stage is exciting.

I don't mind so much that commercialism and professionalism are so prevalent in today's Olympics. Hey, I'm all for somebody making a buck to run faster, jump higher or throw further. It in no way diminishes the achievements of these amazing athletes, and heck, if you're going to have a competition, get the best to compete.

What does bother me is that keeping the games "clean" no longer means keeping the pros out, it's policing the performance-enhancing designer drugs that are entering the competitive environment in waves.

Cheaters are not a new thing, but the opportunities and motives to cheat are many.

High-profile cheaters like the Enron boys and Martha Stewart may twist and spin the facts, and they may even get off, but they're still cheaters. People like us see that and wonder . . .

Is cheating to win okay if you don't get caught?

When you compete, is the pressure to win so intense that you would cheat to do it?

Are there degrees of cheating?

Are there some things where cheating is acceptable and even expected? (Income taxes come to mind.)

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By national standards, the MAGCS is a huge chapter. At the annual election in San Diego, our chapter cast the second-largest block of votes in the GCSAA. There are a remarkable number of outstanding and prestigious golf courses in Chicagoland, and many, if not all, of our members enjoy the fruits of the hard work and dedication of the men and women who built this Association. Our move into the Midwest Golf House and the acquisition of a full-time executive director have positioned the MAGCS well for the future, but we are not on autopilot. Now, more than ever, we will need people of vision and dedication to carry on from this position of strength. It will soon be time to put a slate of candidates together for our annual election at the Midwest Turf Clinic.

If you're earning six figures, it's not just because you are charming and talented. If you have a quality staff and a well-equipped operation, it's not just because you are a master manager and motivator. If you jump out of bed and can't wait to get to work everyday, it's not just because fortune smiled on you. We all stand on the shoulders of those who went before us.

You may be asked to stand for election to the Board of Directors of the MAGCS; if you are, you have been identified by your peers as someone with

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leadership potential. You have been asked to give a little of your time to represent the almost-300 golf courses in our fold. If your first response isn't positive, allow me to anticipate some responses;

"I just don't have the time." Let me be blunt—that's a lame reaction. Board service requires less than a half-day a month, including travel time. I want you to consider how much time you'd have if there wasn't this Association in your life. My guess is that you'd be working two jobs to make ends meet.

"My employer won't let me." What? It may take a little gumption on your part to sell the concept, but hiding behind your boss' skirt is less-than-courageous—at least ask. I'll bet they jump at the chance to allow you to gain the experience of being on a Board.

"I haven't been asked before, why should I do it now?" There are any number of reasons, from waiting for you to step up on your own to just plain oversight—we have been known


to make mistakes. The current Board is made up of men and women who were both asked to run and volunteered on their own.

"I'm afraid to make a mistake."

I respect that, but don't sell yourself short. You won't be alone, and I absolutely guarantee you that you will be a stronger superintendent if you agree to participate in managing this Association.

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Don't cheat us out of your talent.

Don't cheat yourself out of an opportunity to grow. 

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