

## Ends Partnership Pacts

# USGA Says Pros Can't Split Prize Money in Opens

There'll be no more splitting of prize-money by men or women pros in the National Open and the Women's Open.

The USGA at its annual meeting, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Jan. 24, announced that pros must sign agreements ruling out the partnership arrangements which have been fairly common in pro golf as insurance against financial risks of tournament competition.

The USGA action was not high-level second-guessing about the propriety of pre-arranged splits of prize money in tournaments ostensibly conducted as thoroughly competitive affairs. In its blunt announcement the association protected pros against unwarranted rumors about backstage deals, according to professionals of extensive experience.

The USGA's new condition of National Open and Women's Open eligibility doesn't apply to any other open tournament, yet. "Yet" is the big word, there. But an independent in any competitive business has to take a chance with the ever-present danger of operating at a loss so the USGA hasn't presented tournament pros with a threat of unique hardship.

### Back Stairs Policy

"Safety First" private agreements about prize money of golf tournaments, although questionable on some counts, have a big advantage over an old pro golf prize money policy, winner take all. The old system had the loser taking the back stairs out of the hotel.

This year National Open prize money will be at a new high of \$35,000, which is \$5000 more than last year. First prize will be \$8000 and first 50 and ties will get prize money.

Last year the Open with \$90,070 admissions, entry fees of \$19,070 and program advertising and sales of \$12,482, netted \$85,776. The figure looks better on the USGA statement than it actually registers in the over-all picture as about a third of the association's expenses, are due to the Open.

The USGA Women's Open this year will have prize money of \$7200, same as in 1957 when a 20 per cent bonus was added to the announced \$6000 prize money.

### Women Adopt Handicap Formula

USGA Women's committee adopted the new USGA handicap formula based on 10 of the last 25 scores, subject to minor alterations for women's golf. Handicaps of amateur entrants for USGA women's competitions must be computed under the new system.

The Chicago District, Northern California and Southern California golf associations have announced that they intend to retain their own methods of computing handicaps.

USGA Green Section in 1957 again did a big job. The income from Regional Turf Service was \$63,225. Expenses of \$111,899 did not include the USGA Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. Tax-exempt grants totalling \$9,100 to golf turf research projects at seven experimental stations. An additional \$7,000 for golf turf research and education received from National Golf Day, sponsored by the PGA, is allotted on recommendations of the Green Section.

The Green Section will have its next mid-winter Educational program at New York City, Friday, Jan. 30, 1959, preceding the USGA's 65th annual meeting.

### New Committee Heads

USA Committee chairmen appointed by Pres. Ames, for 1958:

Rules of Golf — John M. Winters, jr., Tulsa.

Championship — Charles L. Pierson, Boston.

Amateur Status — John G. Clock, Long Beach, Calif.

Membership — Gordon E. Kummer, Milwaukee

Handicap—Richmond Gray, Richmond, Va.

Green Section — Wm. C. Chapin, Rochester, N. Y.

Women's — Mrs. Charles Dennehey, Lake Forest, Ill.

Public Links — Emerson Carey, jr., Denver.

Junior Championship — J. Frederick Byers, jr., Pittsburgh.

Girls' Junior — Mrs. John Pennington, Buffalo.

Senior Championship — William McWane, Birmingham, Ala.

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Graffis, was kept busy seeking answers as to how course labor can be most effectively used. It was pretty well established that supts. aren't getting a full eight hours out of employees because of poor work scheduling and difficulties in transporting their men to various job sites. Another shortcoming that was discussed is failure to get maximum results from equipment because employees aren't trained to properly operate it.

The supts. agreed that they, individually, have to work out answers to these problems and that the solutions are, to a certain degree, dependent upon conditions at their clubs.

## **USGA Rules Against Pros**

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Museum — C. W. Benedict, White Plains, N. Y.

Bob Jones Award — Wm. Ward Foshay, New York.

Finance — Charles L. Pierson, Boston.

"On the Green," the new color sound film of the USGA Rules of Golf series and "Golf's Longest Hour," the color sound picture of the finish of the National Open at Rochester in 1956, were shown before the annual meeting began. Both pictures run about 18 minutes. They're very good. Rental fee is \$20 per film. National Educational Films, 165 W. 46th st., New York 36, handles the rentals.

### **Rules Violations Via TV**

John Winters, chairman of the Rules of Golf committee, added to his printed report comment on flagrant violations of the rules of golf that are seen during telecasts of golf matches. Winters referred particularly to a couple of violations during the Crosby tournament, both of which were so raw they were funny.

The violations showed rules ignorance that shouldn't have occurred in the consolation flight of Class D of the women's championship at the Whistle Post (Wyo.) CC.

One guy did everything but dig a ditch in a green between his ball and the cup. Another, while a putt was on the lip, waited for a considerable period, expecting an earthquake, gale, circus seal or a buffalo stampede to jiggle the ball in. The announcer, also showing that he was no bookworm as far as golf's rule manual is concerned, said the player was allowed a wait of five minutes while the ball was resting on the lip.

## **Sarazen's Final Round 70 Gives Him Seniors Title**

Five strokes off the pace as he went into the last round, Gene Sarazen shot a 2-under par 70 on the final 18 to win the annual PGA Seniors at Dunedin, Fla., in January. Sarazen finished with a 288 total, three strokes ahead of Charley Sheppard, the runnerup.

Ed Burke and Bill Black, with 293s, finished in a tie for third. Jules Blanton had a 294 while Mort Dutra, Al Watrous, the 1957 champion, Tony Manero, Bert Montresser and Jack Patroni produced 295s to share sixth place. Dutra, who led at the halfway point with a 140, won the Bourne trophy. Mort also was ahead at the end of the third round, checking in with a 213.

Sarazen's victory, which netted him \$1200 and a trip to England this summer to meet the English Seniors champ, both compliments of Teachers, Ltd., was his second in the over-50 competition. Charley Sheppard took home \$800 for his second place effort.

Tom Mahan stole part of Sarazen's thunder on the final day by batting in a 159-yard ace on the sixth hole. Miserable weather conditions in the early part of the tournament made it necessary for the Seniors to spend four days getting in the first two rounds.

### **Watson, McDonald Preside at PGA Seniors Banquet**

Guests at the annual banquet and dance of the PGA Seniors held at the Ft. Harrison hotel, Clearwater, Jan. 23, heard Pres. John Watson in an eloquent mood and listened to the cheerful message brought from Roland Teacher, ill in Glasgow, by the company's export mgr., Adam Burgess. Al McDonald did a masterful job in planning the party and staging it so it ran smoothly. Former presidents of the PGA Seniors and officers of the Ladies' Auxiliary were honored by Watson. Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM editor, in reviewing achievements of the senior pros declared they'd had more influence on the pursuit of happiness in the U. S. than professional athletes in any other sport.

### **Boswell Honored**

Charley Boswell, blind golfing star who lost his sight in World War II, has been named the most courageous athlete of 1957 by the Philadelphia Sports Writers assn.