

# GCSAA Board Searches For CEO to Replace Outgoing Steve Mona

By David S. Downing II, CGCS  
GCSAA President

Recently, the board conducted a series of second-round interviews for the CEO search and the process is continuing in good order. With the Golf Industry Show behind us, we anticipate working through the rest of the process without delay.



Having reached this point, the board feels comfortable working with Steve Mona to set a date certain for his last day. After discussing this among the board and Steve, we agreed upon February 29, as his official last day at GCSAA. He started

full-time at the World Golf Foundation on March 3. We greatly appreciate Steve's dedication in continuing to serve as GCSAA CEO for more than five months after announcing his acceptance of his new position. Steve also has agreed to devote some time to assisting with transition once the new CEO is on board.

In order to maintain our normal governance structure and operations for the time span between Steve's departure and the actual hire and start date of our new CEO, the board has appointed Cam Oury, GCSAA's chief financial officer and managing director of finance, to serve as interim CEO, effective March 1. While Cam will not assume the travel and representation duties that Steve fulfilled, he will have full decision-making authority and reporting responsibility as outlined in the Board/CEO compact.

## MGCSA SPRING MIXER

Tuesday, May 12

Coffee Mill Golf Club  
Wabasha, MN

Host Superintendent:  
Jeff Normandt

## Can You Compete With Tiger?



PHOTO BY JEFF TURPINEN

**If Tiger Woods played golf with you, how many strokes would he be giving up to make a fair match?** The answer may surprise you. You may consider yourself a fine player with your 3 handicap. Or perhaps you frequently play to a 15 handicap. You may even think that Tiger Woods could spot you a stroke per hole and you would have a close match. Turns out a stroke a hole would be about right if you were about a 3 handicap. And Tiger would still probably win.

The handicaps of our favorite PGA Tour professionals remain a mystery. Sure, we know they're in the "+" realm (which, oddly enough, means better than scratch) but how far?

### Calculations

PGA Tour courses don't have established ratings. Professionals often play from tees used only in PGA Tour events, the rough is grown extra long and thick, and greens are sped and firmed up. Each of those changes has a dramatic effect on the course rating and slope, making it difficult to ascertain the true nature of a pro's handicap index.

Normally, a 0.96 multiplier is applied to a person's average differential in calculating handicaps. This is to help figure in the "potential" of a player. A golfer with an unadjusted handicap index of 5 becomes a 4.8 index after the 0.96 multiplier is applied. It would make little sense, however, to take a +5 handicap to +4.8, so we must instead divide by 0.96. That would make a +5 golfer a +5.2 golfer, again figuring in the "potential."

At the Top in 2007: Tiger Woods  
Average Differential: 10.6  
Best 10 Average Differential: 13.2  
Handicap Index: +13.75

Now, take a deep breath and read that again. +13.75. Tiger's *worst* ten differentials average out to +8.05.

Something like 10% of golfers ever reach single digit handicaps. Tiger's not only done that, but, he's blown through the single digits on the other side of scratch and is in heretofore unexplored territory at +13.75.

Tiger just may have the single best handicap index ever.