

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



GOLF
NOVA SCOTIA

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CATHERINE
BEATON, PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

2023 was the inaugural year of Golf Nova Scotia. It proved to be another busy year with many challenges on and off the course. Despite lots of inclement weather and natural disasters faced by our members, you played lots and posted 363,530 scores. We hosted a national championship, jumped into adaptive golf initiatives, and supported First Tee Atlantic. We were thrilled to kick off our inaugural Junior Invitational Tour this year with 12 events played around the province, with 558 participants taking part.



On the course, we celebrated many Nova Scotian successes. Particularly noteworthy achievements included Team Nova Scotia securing 2nd place in the Inter-Provincial Championship of the Canadian Men's Mid-Amateur Championship, Team Nova Scotia securing 3rd place in the Inter-Provincial Championship of the Canadian Junior Girls Championship, and Coach Jeff Macdonald leading Team Canada to its first-ever team title at the World Junior Girls Golf Championship.

Our enthusiastic Executive Director, Jason Lohnes, continues as the face of Golf NS having completed his 3rd year in the role. He has been instrumental in guiding and organizing GNS to its current success. Joining Jason is our amazing Technical Director, Sara Wilson, whose knowledge, skills, and years of teaching and coaching are a continuing asset to the team. 2024 welcomes back Kaydem Al-Samawi to round out the team in his new role as Tournament & Marketing Director. Our small but dedicated staff successfully executed the 2023 tournament season despite the rains, fires, and floods that plagued our province.

None of this was possible without you, our members, our member clubs, our sponsors, our volunteers, and our Board of Directors. Heartfelt thank-yous and fond farewells go out to Bruce Smith and Alix Digout who are leaving the Board after dedicating three terms to the Association. Their wisdom and guidance are appreciated and I wish them the best in the future.

To all who support in any way the game we so enjoy, who believe as I do in "Golf for All", I thank-you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President this last year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JASON LOHNES,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We tend to talk a lot about the weather in Nova Scotia and 2023 sure gave us a lot to talk about. Our deepest sympathies are extended to our golf community members affected by devastating wildfires and floods. Mother Nature was not kind to our season and our fingers are crossed for a safe and successful 2024.

Despite the weather, we enjoyed many successes in 2023 and remarkably, we delivered all provincial championship competition days as scheduled. We confronted many rain delays and only postponed one event to a later date in the season. Congratulations to all provincial champions and to all golfers who enjoyed a successful competitive season. A special congratulations to Codey Harvey, Brett McKinnon and Derek Boudreau for their Team NS 2nd place finish at the Canadian Men's Mid-Amateur Championship. A second exceptional performance and a special shoutout to Abbey Baker, Annika Parkash, Olivia Seaman and Coach Sara Wilson for their Team NS 3rd place finish at the Canadian Junior Girls Championship.

Thank you to our partner clubs who helped us launch the Junior Invitational Tour. One-day junior invitationals were once a staple of junior golf in Nova Scotia and many of these events disappeared over time. We recognized an opportunity to restore this low cost and welcoming level of competition, thus the launch of the Junior Invitational in 2023 with 12 events. For 2024, there are 18 tour stops on the schedule!

We continue to work diligently toward our mission of Golf for All. Our very dedicated Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee continues to survey the barriers to our sport and assesses how to make golf an option for all. Another large piece of our work for 2024 will be our dedication to Safe Sport. Golf Nova Scotia has a fundamental obligation and responsibility to protect the health, safety, and physical and mental well-being of athletes, staff, volunteers, and other participants in its activities. Our Safe Sport policies will set standard expectations of behavior and provide consistent and appropriate action should any issue arise.

We are a small but mighty operational team and my sincerest thank you to Sara Wilson and Kaydem Al-Samawi for their dedication, commitment, and hard work. We are one of the smallest provincial golf association teams in the country and we are very proud of our work. Of course, we cannot do what we do without the efforts of dedicated volunteers and we appreciate their commitment.

Our sport continues to thrive in most areas of our province and industry in general is doing very well. If we have learned anything over the past four years, we have learned that things can change quickly, and industry leaders need to continue to be creative and carefully plan for future success. We are here for the same reason, we love golf! Let's continue to work together and support each other.



2023 OPERATIONS TEAM



Executive Director
Jason Lohnes



Technical Director
Sara Wilson



Marketing & Communications
Coordinator
Kaydem Al-Samawi

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

BRUCE SMITH, CHAIR



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bruce Smith (Chair), Kathy Powers (2nd Chair), Alix Digout, Shari Gagnon, Jason Lohnes (Ex Officio), Catherine Beaton (Ex Officio)

Thanks to the members of the HR Committee for their hard work and dedication over this past year. Our committee has been asked to oversee the implementation of some very important initiatives.

Golf Nova Scotia is fully committed to fostering a safe sport environment for golf in our province. One year ago, we reported that Staff and volunteers (Board, Committee Members, Referees, etc.) will undergo training within the Safe Sport Plan, including having Background Checks and Child Abuse Registry Checks which will be initiated throughout our organization. As a Provincial Sport Organization, this program is guided by Sport Nova Scotia and the Government of Nova Scotia. The HR Committee reviewed and approved the DRAFT Rollout of the Golf Nova Scotia Safe Sport Plan and the Provincial Sport Organization Screening / Education Matrix. The Board subsequently approved it and we will see this program operational in 2024.

Another initiative in 2023 was the development and approval of a new staff position, Tournament and Marketing Director, which the HR Committee assisted with the candidate selection process. We are delighted that Kaydem Al-Samawi was selected for this great opportunity and look forward to this realignment of duties.

We are constantly looking for Referees, Course Raters, Committee Members and Tournament Team members. Thank you to those Golf Nova Scotia members who have offered their assistance as it takes a true team effort to continue to grow our game.



SPORT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

KATHY POWERS, CHAIR

Committee Members:

Kathy Powers (Chair), Geoff Baker (2nd Chair), Jeff MacDonald, Jenn Lloyd, Derek MacKinnon, Dr. Lori Dithurbide, Sara Wilson (Ex Officio)



Exciting things have happened, and will continue to do so, with regards to Sport Development in the game of golf in Nova Scotia. 2023 was a busy season for sport development with several new programs being implemented to provide opportunities for new players and developing athletes. Many thanks to our Technical Director, Sara Wilson, for all her efforts in the success of these programs. Also, thanks to the member facilities and their staff for making these programs possible.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

- In 2023 Golf NS changed the POY for adult, senior and junior (Player of Year) program to the Junior Invitational Tour Order of Merit with no negative feedback.
- The first winter junior development Program wrapped up in April with 24 juniors taking part in the monthly sessions. The spring and summer tournaments saw wins and top finishes from attendees of this program. Sara Wilson was joined by PGA coaches David Perry and Bradford Curren along with nutritionist, Angela Dufour, mental performance coach, Dr. Simon Taylor and strength and conditioning coaches Dr. Emily Wiggin and Dr. Chad Anderson.
- Our 2023-2024 Winter Development program is underway. A newly revamped Order of Merit served as the process for sending out invitations to the athletes. The session began this October with two outdoor sessions to gather data and make use of the great weather. These sessions will be led by Sara Wilson along with professionals to provide monthly instruction to 24 juniors from across the Province. Par 94 simulators and the East Hants Dome will be the site of the training sessions.
- Golf NS hosted a Golf Canada Talent ID Camp on April 22 at KenWo Golf Club. Tristan Mullaly, Golf Canada's Director of Talent ID led the session and provided information to our 24 athletes and coaches. Tristan hosted 2 sessions for coach development that day and provided resources for our athletes. Information was gathered and this is the first time we have had comparable data to national level athletes that will assist in program development in the future.
- Golf NS created a Junior Webinar Series – 5 zoom sessions on a variety of topics related to junior development. These sessions and video resources are available on our website to support athletes and parents. In 2024, we are looking to develop a few more videos to build the library.



- The Golf NS Junior Invitational Tour presented by Halifax Jaguar Land Rover was a huge success with events being held at 12 member facilities. This Tour is designed to introduce juniors to competition. The Girls Only event was cancelled due to low registration. Oakfield, Le Portage, The Lakes, Seaview, Antigonish, Chester, KenWo, Truro, Clare, River Hills, Avon Valley and Brightwood hosted events in 2023. Participation increased at all invitationals with 528 total participants across events with 170 athletes participating in the U11-U19 categories. Host club surveys were very positive with clubs being very pleased with the increased numbers at their events, association with the tour and support from Golf NS.
- On October 14th the Junior Invitational Tour Awards Night was held at Golf Central, Halifax. Awards and medals were presented to the top 3 finishers in all categories. Over 50 players and their families attended the event. The Order of Merit awarded those who placed highest in 4 tour events through the Order of Merit Program. Thanks to Halifax Jaguar Land Rover and Golf Central for their support.
- Planning is already underway for the 2024 Junior Invitational Tour with a number of new clubs wishing to host a junior event. We anticipate having 16 host sites along with more juniors playing. A tour schedule should be ready for release in late January.

COMPETITION STREAM

- In 2023 Golf NS designed a program to support our female golfers attending National Championships. 16 women attended the combination of online and on course sessions. The focus was on mental performance, nutrition and course management and connected participants to experts in their field.
- Preparation is underway for the 2025 Canada Games U19 event in Newfoundland. Sara is reviewing the selection criteria to include competitions from 2024 and ensure that the team is selected at Provincials 2025. This will ensure adequate Team practice time and preparation.
- Sara Wilson attended the Canadian Junior Girl's Championship in Hampton NB as Team Coach. She assisted with practice round, organizing and conducting practices. The parents felt that this was an asset to performance. The Team finished 3rd in the Team Competition, a first for NS. Planning is underway to have a Head Coach at both the girls and boys Nationals in 2024.
- The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG 2023) were held at the Links of Brunello July 19- 20. Jason was responsible for the execution along with volunteer referees. There were 3 athletes (2 girls and 1 boy) that represented Nova Scotia in the competition.

PARTICIPATION

- The Black Lives Matter Women's Program obtained a grant from Sport NS to assist in purchasing equipment, green fees and providing instruction. 24 ladies were enrolled in the program and had an opportunity to learn and play golf regularly this summer at Grandview GC. Instruction was led by Cristal Romero, PGA Coach. As part of this program, Lillian Ash and Tina Skier, program coordinators became trained Community PGA Coaches. Planning is underway for the program's growth in 2024.
- Beginner Women's Clinics were held May 26-27 at River Hills GC. 50 women attended two days of learning and playing. Volunteer coaches assisted Sara with the sessions. Spring women's clinics will be held again in 2024 with the goal of offering more mentorship to volunteer coaches.
- As part of the 2024 National Women's Amateur at Ashburn Golf NS along with Golf Canada organized a Girls Only Clinic. This session brought together 28 girls from around the Province along with PGA coaches, Laura Reid, Anne Balser and Cristal Romero to teach the sessions. Many of the girls stayed to watch the golf.

- Come Try Golf Events for Juniors will be planned this winter with plans to launch in spring of 2024. These will give juniors the chance to play the game with other kids in their community.
- First Tee Atlantic – Golf NS continues to receive monthly updates on the progress of the programs in Nova Scotia. Winter meetings are planned to stay up to date with the program’s growth.
- The Provincial School Sport NS (SSNS) Golf Championships were held Oct 3 at The Links at Penn Hills. Sara provided organizational and coach support to the organizers. Sara and Kaydem also served as volunteer starters at the event. Over the winter, Sara and Jason will provide updated Rules of Golf to the organization and serve as a resource as needed in the future.

COACH DEVELOPMENT

- A provincial coach mentorship program will be piloted in 2024 with plans to expand the program in the future. Sport NS provided NCCP Mentorship Training to our Technical Director in late summer. The program is meant to create more collaboration among coaches around the province. Respectfully submitted Kathy Powers Chair



HERITAGE COMMITTEE REPORT

GEOFF BAKER,
CHAIR

Committee Members:

Geoff Baker (Chair), Kathy Powers, David Bolton, Shiley D'Entremont
Catherine Beaton (Ex-Officio), Jason Lohnes (Ex-Officio)



Thanks to tremendous efforts of past volunteers including Bill McCall and Allan 'Bunny' Dunlop, Golf Nova Scotia has amassed a large historical collection. The Committee has identified that approximately 50 storage bins full of Golf Nova Scotia history have been in a storage facility for many years. These bins contain photographs, files, meeting notes, media reports, ephemera, etc.

The Committee has agreed upon a years long strategy to curate the collection:

- Kathy Powers has volunteered to perform initial sort of storage bins. Kathy will classify documents as, 'keep,' 'questionable,' and 'immaterial.'
- Geoff Baker to perform secondary sort of storage bins and verify Kathy's sorting.
- Geoff will digitally scan and organize contents by year.
- Golf NS staff and Heritage Committee members have and will continue to reach out to the membership to obtain more Nova Scotia golf history to be included in the collection to ensure completeness.
- Once the collection is fully curated, it will be shared with the world via our website.
- Long range goal, post website completion will be the establishment of a Nova Scotia Golf Hall of Fame to properly honour those Nova Scotians that have had a meaningful impact on the province, through golf. This will be fully virtual.
- With support from the Board of Directors, the Heritage Committee is making plans to assess our championship trophies and explore honouring our Golf Nova Scotia legends.

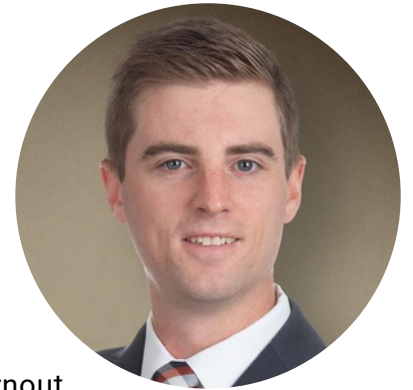


AMATEUR COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

SEAN STUART, CHAIR

Committee Members:

Sean Stuart (Chair), Geoff Baker, Kent Rodgers, Kathy Powers, Patrick Jackson, Mireille Lewis, Jason Lohnes (Ex-officio), Kaydem Al-Samawi (Ex-officio)



Action Items Completed 2023/2024

- 1) Kaydem Al-Samawi became the official Tournament Director!
- 2) Optimization of Golf NS tournament schedule for 2023.
 - a. Spreading events out as much as possible to mitigate staff and volunteer burnout
 - b. Juggling schedule to work with Golf Canada's changed schedule for Championships
 - c. Juggling schedule to avoid conflict with club events as much as possible
- 3) Created a Women's Mid-Am Team Trial in June as Nationals is too early to qualify through the regular Women's Am/Mid/Sr Championship.
- 4) Secured a 3-year contract with Berwick and Paragon to bring the Multi-course aspect back to the Men's 4-ball
- 5) Securing host courses for the 2024 tournament season and progress on the long-range schedule
- 6) Increased entry fees with increased team funding and inflation in mind. Still coming in below or on par with neighboring provinces.
- 7) Looking forward:
 - a. possibly bringing back family classic in future years
 - b. continue to do player surveys to improve championship experience
 - c. tournament manuals to be introduced

Chair Comments

2023 was another challenging tournament season for our staff and volunteers. As covid became less of a hurdle, the weather did not cooperate. With that said, we were able to complete all our tournaments despite the weather.

The momentum that started in 2020 concerning strong registration numbers continued for another year. We all look forward to Kaydem continuing to put his stamp on one of the association's core services; our championships.

Certain National Championships being moved earlier provides a challenge for us as the time window is small between Provincial Championships and Nationals. We as a committee, and our staff, will continue our open dialog with Golf Canada regarding their National Championship Schedule in an effort to facilitate a fair qualification process for our competitors who represent Nova Scotia on the National stage.

On behalf of the committee, staff, and competitors, I would be remiss not to thank our member clubs for hosting our championships. We understand that there is more traffic on our courses than in the past and competing demands for the tee sheet.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

JILL MACDONALD,
CHAIR



Committee Members

Jill MacDonald (Chair), Matthew Numer, Bruce Smith, Darren Tolliver, Alix Digout, Al Munroe, Rick Goodman, Patrick Jackson, Catherine Beaton (Ex Officio), Jason Lohnes (Ex Officio), Sara Wilson (Ex Officio)

Glen Arbour Golf Course hosted our 2nd Adaptive Golf Event in September 2023.

We had a wonderful turnout with some participants joining us again this past year for the second time and with many new participants with varying disabilities who joined us as well. We were fortunate to have Rick Goodman bring his SoloRider to the event from New Glasgow, so that participants had the opportunity to try it. It was much appreciated to have the volunteers and coaches come out for the day to help out. We are looking forward to hosting 2 more Adaptive Golf Events this season at golf courses in different locations to accommodate golfers in different geographic locations in the province. We are in the process of confirming the locations and getting started on the planning.

We have recruited 3 new members to our Committee with the hope of bringing more on board in order to represent all of the diverse needs of the golfers in our member clubs. We are striving to create a committee made up of people who can bring diverse perspectives to be a better resource for the needs of our members and member clubs.

Some things we're working on in 2024:

1. Securing an Accessibility Golf Course Designer to educate Superintendents on how to make out golf course in Nova Scotia more accessible for golfers who live with a disability
2. Creating a new Access flag policy for Golf Courses
3. Investigating the need and options for acquiring a Paragolfer/SoloRider that can be available to golfers who need one
4. Creating initiatives to meet the needs of ALL diverse golfers in Nova Scotia

FINANCE REPORT

MITCHELL COADY,
VP OF FINANCE

Committee Members:

Mitch Coady (Chair), Kent Rodgers, Shari Gagnon, Geoff Baker, Sean Stuart, Catherine Beaton (Ex Officio), Jason Lohnes (Ex Officio)



Financial Statements:

The 2022 draft financial statements are being presented at the current year AGM as they were not prepared in time to present at the 2023 AGM. The loss of the bookkeeper at the end of 2022 made preparing for the 2022 more of a challenge, which delayed the 2022 audit. The 2022 audited financial statements will be uploaded to the Golf NS website in the coming weeks after board approval. The auditor for the 2022 year-end has provided Golf NS with a clean audit report for the period.

For the 2023 period, MNP has been engaged to prepare the accounting of Golf NS which has proved to be a success. The 2023 audit is currently underway, and records are up to date with the hope of reducing the turn around time for the 2023 audit.

The Board chose to move the accounting/bookkeeping to MNP to allow for better segregation of duties within the organization and give our ED more time to focus on managing Golf NS.

Statement of Operations:

2022 was comparable to 2021; resulting in an excess of revenues over expenses \$15,984 (2021 - \$23,147). Total revenues increased in 2022 by ~\$140k, which is a result of an increase in memberships and a slight increase in the price of membership dues. Additionally, Nova Scotia Golf Association received additional grant revenues of ~\$63,000, primarily from Golf Canada and Tech Director funding support from SNS.

The increase in revenues has been offset by the increase in expenses; Salaries and Wages increased by \$65k due to the 2021 year having only 2 staff for part of the year, while 2022 had 4 staff for most of the year. We also seen an increase in tournament expenses for 2022, which is consistent with the increase in tournament revenues. This also includes \$20k of national team funding which would not have occurred in 2021 year due to covid.

Statement of Financial Position:

Golf NS maintains a healthy cash position at the end of 2022 with \$313K in cash, and net cash of \$143K after deducting current liabilities. This has reduced from 2021 as the association has invested \$125K in low risk, marketable securities, which is consistent with the goal of maintaining a reserve fund to support the association in the event of any external impacts that could negatively impact the association in the future. Furthermore, the 2021 cash position was inflated due to the timing of the payment of Golf Canada dues (\$395,738), which was not paid until the 2022 period.

Golf NS will be looking to increase the amount held in reserves in future years, with the goal of maintaining a reserve which could support a year of operations for the association.

Conclusion:

Golf NS has made some key changes to how the accounting and finance operations function, which includes moving all bookkeeping to MNP, the payroll function to Sport Nova Scotia and a focus on increasing internal controls within the organization moving forward. This includes an improved process, with additional levels of approval, for e-transfers. An updated expense report process and updating the associations policies and procedures moving into the future.

We will continue to improve the accounting and finance functions for the association into the future to allow for the management to focus on improving golf for all within the province.



RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

KENT RODGER,
CHAIR

Committee Members

Kent Rodgers (Chair), Sheila Crummell, Ruth Christian, Blehr MacKinley, John Lothian



The 2023 tournament season was not without its challenges as the weather was a major factor for many of our events. That made for long days for our staff and volunteers, including our referees. I thank the referees for carrying out their responsibilities in a professional manner.

In May, 2023 a number of our referees attended the Golf Canada Tournament and Rules Seminar which took place at New Ashburn. Our association will benefit from the information and tips gleaned from the presentations, including course marking.

As our referee pool is starting to thin, Jason Lohnes has done an admirable job in recruiting many individuals with an interest in taking the rules education program that was offered by Golf Newfoundland-Labrador over the winter. Many will be writing the Golf Canada Level II exam next month. For those that wish to volunteer with Golf Nova Scotia we will be offering a mentorship program over the summer.

The Committee continues to work on revisions to the Tournament Manual to assure consistent officiating and course marking throughout our Provincial Championships. My thanks to my fellow committee members, Sheila Crummell, Ruth Christian, Blehr MacKinley, and John Lothian.



HANDICAP & COURSE RATING COMMITTEE REPORT

ROB PRESCOT,
CHAIR



Committee Members

Robert Prescott (Chair), David Bolton (2nd Chair), Dave Potter, Catherine Beaton (Ex Officio), Jill MacDonald, Donnie Rowe, Jason Lohnes (Ex Officio) Sara Wilson (Ex Officio)

The World Handicap system is now well established and is in its second edition as of January 17, 2024. Golf Canada has developed an agreement form for all golf courses in Canada outlining what member clubs can expect from Golf Canada and Golf NS.

2023 - 2024 in review

Handicap:

The need to revitalize handicap committees has been seen throughout the province as it is part of the World Handicap Association expectations. Golf Canada has recognized the need for Handicap training and has on-line open book training and certification.

Golf NS will help golf clubs develop Handicap Committees by providing a Club Handicap Committee Tool Kit, to be released by Golf Canada in April 2024.

With a new Handicap algorithm being developed this year we expect to see an increase in the frequency of PCC (Playing Conditions Calculation) applications.

Golf Canada provided a two-day training session in October to train the trainers on the new Handicapping Rules established for 2024.



Highlights:

- New rules include the requirement to rate 18-hole courses of 1500 yds or more, 9 holes of 750 yds or more.
- The WHS system will treat 9-hole scores as a demonstrated play and will be part of the score record with handicap index adjustment after each 9-hole score entry.
- The only reason acceptable for playing less than 9 holes will be a hole closure by the course. With an allowance of up to 2 holes closed in a 9-hole course.
- Once you have played at least 10 holes the round will be adjusted by calculation of the holes played differential against the holes not played.
- This is one reason we should consider going to Hole-by-Hole (HBH) scoring and the APP will have the ability to designate a hole not played.
- Discussion is ongoing nationally to have the system require HBH score entry in the near future.
- This will be well communicated as we move forward for club members and there will be some updates to the website and App to accommodate the changes.
- Due to the difficulty of monitoring Public Players score and handicap reviews, all provincial public players should be set at Hole-by-Hole score entry only. This has been done by the largest provinces.

Course Rating:

We continue to grow our capacity in Course Rating, now reaching 7 Team Leaders and 10 Raters moving toward completing the training in 2024. We have received many enquiries from potential raters and will bring on many new raters as we progress.

Each full course requires 2 days on site:

- First day is used for pre-rating which includes mapping the course using a GPS data logger which saves Points of Interest (PoI) These are used to confirm elevations and distances in conjunction with Google Earth Pro. Usually accomplished with teams of 2, but new raters are encouraged to attend a few of these dates during the year to enhance their training
- Second day is used for on-course measurements of 10 associated obstacles used in the rating process. Usually accomplished with two teams of 3 or 4 members with each team rating the front or back nine.

After the on-site rating work is finished, the data collected by the teams is transcribed into a Macro enhanced Excel spreadsheet (created by Darrell Peters out of Ontario) called an Automated Form 1. This AF1 is used to create the results data, then this data is transcribed into the World Handicap System website to establish the course rating and slope. A stroke allocation index is generated which we send to the course as a suggested HDCP dataset to be used on scorecards. The course is encouraged to use this index, but if they wish to generate their own index based on local data they have gathered, we will override the generated index and install their requested index in its place. Reports are generated for each rating and sent to the course for review and acceptance.

Several courses asked to have adjustments made to their Score Centre data to allow for temporary relocation of tees for maintenance or post-storm cleanup of damage. A method to track these changes will be developed as the return to normal playing status was not always indicated to the Course Rating Chair and adjusted values were not always returned to normal in a timely manner.

Training:

A series of in-person presentations planned for the spring in all regions of the province with emphasis on changes to the Rules of Handicapping and suggestions for Best Practices

On the April 15-16, 2023, weekend, we held an in-person Course rating training session to continue improving the training for our current roster of raters and to introduce the methods to new team members for the future.

Through the fall we planned for further online training and to introduce the changes brought forth in January 2024. In February and March, Golf NB in partnership with Golf NS, conducted a 5-week Course rating webinar for all Atlantic Provinces. Week 1, Rating Overview. Week 2-5, Course Rating Introduction, and Handicap system. On the first day of the training, we had 78 participants from all 4 provinces and moved the mileposts forward for Course Rating and Handicapping.

Courses:

In 2023 there were eight courses planned, four spring and four in the fall, but the devastating effects of Hurricane Fiona led to us including three of the four courses that were not completed in the fall of 2022, as they were all in regions that were affected by the hurricane and had been delayed until the spring. The fourth course affected by Fiona requested a 1-year extension to allow for repairs and remodeling of the course to be completed prior to the rating. A further addition was the partial rating performed at Hartlen Point, allowing the members to maintain a handicap while playing on the new hybrid forward tees, while awaiting the full rating scheduled for 2026

Courses Planned for Rating in 2024

We are planning to complete nine courses this coming year, with the fourth course delayed by Fiona from 2022 plus an additional eight between summer and fall. Our expected roster includes;

<u>Course</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Rating Date</u>
Mountain	Central	Apr
Fort View	Annapolis Valley	May
Greenwood	Annapolis Valley	May / Jun
Dundee Resort & Golf Club	Cape Breton	May / Jun
Baddeck Forks Golf Club	Cape Breton	May / Jun
Lingan Golf Club	Cape Breton	May / Jun
The Links at Penn Hills	Central	Aug
Island Green Golf Club	Annapolis Valley	Sep
Paragon Golf and Country Club	Annapolis Valley	Sep

With the rating of these nine courses, we should be able to bring our rating schedule back to an easily accommodated 7 – 8 courses per year, maintaining rating experience and preventing early burn-out by the team members.

GOLF NS 2023 CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

JUNE 10-11 - GOLF NS MEN'S FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP - EAGLE CREST GC

JULY 3-5 - GOLF NS JRL HALIFAX JUNIOR GIRLS/BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP - KENWO GC

JULY 7-9 - GOLF NS MEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP - THE LINKS AT PENN HILLS

JULY 14-16 - GOLF NS WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP - PARAGON G&CC

JULY 28-30 - GOLF NS MEN'S MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP - YARMOUTH LINKS

AUG 16-18 - GOLF NS #GOLFBEATTIESTRONG MEN'S SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP - BERWICK HEIGHTS GC

AUG. 23 - GOLF NS WOMEN'S PINEHURST CHAMPIONSHIP - TRURO GOLF CLUB

SEP. 12 - GOLF NS WOMEN'S BRONZE CHAMPIONSHIP - RIVER OAKS GC

SEP. 20-21 - GOLF NS MEN'S SENIOR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP - DIGBY PINES



GOLF NS 2023 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

Women's Amateur Champion:

Abbey Baker



Men's Amateur Champion:

Isaac MacNaughton



Women's Mid-Amateur Champion:

Mireille Lewis



Men's Mid-Amateur Champion:

Brett McKinnon



Men's Mid-Master Champion:

Derek Boudreau



Women's Senior Champion:

Debbie Arsenault



Men's Senior Champion:

Bryan Fader



Men's Super-Senior Champion:

Paul Batchelor



U19 Girls Champion:

Abbey Baker



U17 Girls Champion:

Olivia Seaman



U15 Girl's Champion:

Claira Frizzell



U19 Boy's Champion:

Colby Bent



U17 Boy's Champion:

Colby Bent

GOLF NS 2023 CHAMPIONS CONT'D

U13 Girl's Champion:

Lila Bishop

U15 Boy's Champion:

Kooper MacKay

U13 Boy's Champion:

Jack Grinton

Women's Pinehurst:

Mireille Lewis & Heather Hines

Women's Bronze:

*Liz Roscoe, Linda Burton,
Sandy Jolly, & Sandra Langille*

Senior 4-Ball: Co-Champions

*Gerry MacMillan + Ed Dumeah &
Keith Murphy + Glen Oliver*

Men's 4-Ball:

Aaron Nickerson & Glenn Robinson





**GOLF
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