

Whatcom Seniors Golf - 2026

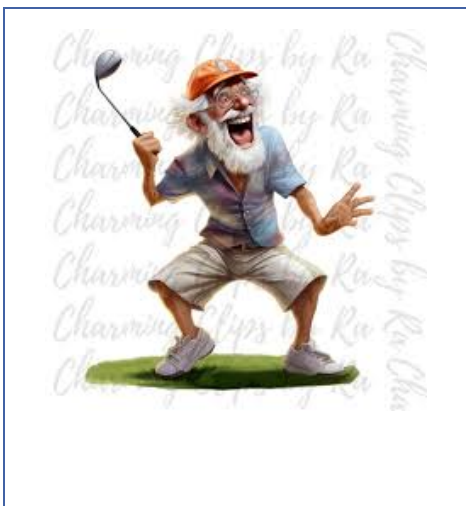
Newsletter - Issue #2 - February 2026

Welcome to the February edition of the Whatcom Seniors Golf Newsletter. After a strong response to our inaugural issue, it's clear there's real energy around reconnecting, rebuilding, and strengthening what has made WSG special for more than 35 years. January's organizational meeting reinforced something important—this group values camaraderie just as much as competition. Our goal is simple: make WSG easy to participate in, enjoyable to belong to, and fun to compete in.



With the 2026 season teeing off on **March 30**, a lot of good work is happening behind the scenes to make this year enjoyable, well-run, and community-driven. From a refreshed website to a mostly shotgun-start schedule, we're excited about where WSG is headed—and even more excited to share the fairways with you again soon.

Join/Renew Your Whatcom Seniors Golf Membership



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Tee Box Notes

2026 Whatcom Seniors Golf Schedule with Green Fee Information

2026 Schedule Update - The 2026 Whatcom Seniors Golf schedule is complete! Just a few more details to button up. Our season will feature 15 tournaments,

kicking off on March 30 at Grandview and wrapping up with our traditional, two-round Herm Stevens Tournament.

Herm Stevens Tournament - This year, both Herm Stevens Tournament rounds will be played at Sudden Valley (September 28 and October 5). You can sign up for a serve-yourself lunch when you're finished playing the final round. An 8:30 am shotgun start will kick off each round.

Don Tenpas - New Vice President/Tournament Coordinator - Yesterday, after our board meeting, Don Tenpas (Sudden Valley) stepped up and volunteered to fill the role of VP/Tournament Coordinator. Thank you, Don!

Website Update - The Whatcom Seniors Golf website is getting closer to completion. A huge thanks to Moh "Paul" Hundal for taking the lead on this. We are working with a company called Vibrant Content. The website will still be the primary location for information, signing up for tournaments, displaying for scoring and standings, and important communication, but with a more attractive look. The new website is scheduled to be up and running by late February.

WSG Board Meeting - On Monday, Feb. 2, the WSG Board met to continue discussing and preparing for the upcoming season. At the meeting, we approved the new WSG Bylaws, took a deeper look into registering WSG as a non-profit 501(c)(7) organization, discussed the 2026 budget, new website, and several other items. You can view the meeting minutes and the new Whatcom Seniors Golf bylaws below.

[Feb. 2, 2026 WSG Board Meeting Minutes](#)

[New Whatcom Seniors Golf Bylaws](#)

Membership Drive

2026 WSG Registration Is Open!

- Annual membership fee: \$50
- Another great year ahead of golf, camaraderie, and friendly competition.

Registration Options - Three Ways to Pay!

- **Traditional Payment**

Download the membership application from the website or newsletter.

Complete the form (include your handicap).

Mail the application, along with your \$50 dues, to the address listed on the form.

- **Zelle Payment**

Send your \$50 dues via Zelle to bobgarnett@comcast.net.

Download and complete the membership application (include your handicap).

Mail the completed application to the address listed on the form.

- **Online Registration** on the new WSG website.

Available near the end of February.

Membership Drive — How Are We Doing?

- Strong start thanks to current members.
- 7–8 new members have already joined through personal invitations.
- Have you encouraged someone you know to join WSG?

Help Spread the Word

- WSG posters are being displayed at our courses and around the county, starting in early February.
- **Word of mouth remains the most effective—invite a friend and bring someone new along.**

Looking Back & Setting Goals

- Pre-COVID (2019): ~175 members
- Post-COVID (2020): ~50 members
- 2025: ~80 members, with about 60 players per tournament
- 2026 Goal: 100 total members, with about 80 players per tournament

Thank You

- Your involvement is what makes Whatcom Seniors Golf thrive.
- We look forward to seeing you on the course in 2026! 🏌️

Signup Now - 2026 WSG Membership; Click Here for the 2026 Application Form



Why Play Whatcom Seniors Golf?

Who We Are... The Whatcom Seniors Golf Association (WSG) is a golf community for men and women age 50 and over. For more than 35 years, Whatcom Seniors Golf has been about more than scorecards—it's been about people. That spirit was front and center at our January meeting, where members gathered to talk about preserving what's worked while thoughtfully planning for the future.

- *Play some of the best courses in Whatcom and Skagit County*
- **Enjoy green fees often lower than standard senior rates.**
- *Open to all skill levels - from beginners to single-digit handicaps.*
- *Optional gross and net season-long scoring.*
- *Friendly tournaments in a relaxed environment.*

Click Here for the 2026 Whatcom Seniors Golf Schedule and Green Fee Information (Total Green Fee savings is over \$100!!)

Recruit your friends to join Whatcom Seniors Golf

Our league is only as strong as the people in it, and Whatcom Seniors Golf has always been built on friendships first. Invite your golfing friends to join us. If there is no room in your current foursome, encourage your new-member friends to start their own foursome. Your personal invitation could be the reason someone finds their new favorite place to play.

Let's recruit 50 new members!

Upcoming Events

- **2026 Membership is now open!**
- **Next Board Meeting...North Bellingham Golf Course**
Sun Room, Monday, March 16, 2:00 PM
- **2026 WSG Season Opener...**
Grandview Golf Club, Monday, March 30, 8:30 am
Shotgun Start!!

Interview with Jim MacMillan

Many of our long-time WSG members know Jim MacMillan. Jim was the President of WSG before the COVID pandemic and for a little while afterwards.

A few weeks ago, I (Dennis Janzen) had the opportunity to visit with Jim and hear some of his stories and thoughts on Whatcom Seniors Golf. Needless to say, it was a very enjoyable and interesting visit. Here are just a few of the highlights:

Dennis: "I heard a lot of stories about how amazing Whatcom Seniors was..."

Jim: "I inherited a very good situation...it had been set up pretty well. So one of my goals was to keep it running well. And one of my goals was to make it a club."

Dennis: "What were some of the ways that you tried to make Whatcom Seniors feel like a club?"

Jim: We had representatives from each of the clubs that acted as an advisory group. In early March, we would have a meeting with all the representatives... and then we would have one at the end of the year. And we would talk about how we could improve how things were going. So I got a lot of input from people, and that helped a lot."

Dennis: "Are you from around here? Or did you move here from somewhere else?"

Jim: "I'm actually a Bellingham boy. I grew up in Bellingham...and graduated from Western. After I graduated, I went to Ohio State. I went to Ohio State not even knowing they had a football team. They introduced me to a coach named Woody Hayes. You can't graduate from Ohio State without becoming a football fan. It's not allowed. Anyway, I eventually went to Berkeley for a year and a half. And then I eventually ended up in Iowa and I taught at Northern Iowa for 30 years."

Dennis: "What got you into golf?"

Jim: "I'm not an athlete at all. My game shows it. But when I retired, I came out here. I never took up golf until I moved here. So I was 59 when I started playing golf. And that's how I got involved with Whatcom Seniors."

Dennis: "How did you get involved in Whatcom Seniors leadership?"

Jim: "We needed a rep from Birch Bay. So I offered to do that. I just played with Whatcom Seniors for a while, and then the guy before me that ran Whatcom Seniors, an audiologist at Western, had some kind of illness... And he called me in and asked me if I'd be interested in taking over his position. That's how I got into it."

Dennis: "You mentioned COVID as a primary reason why the membership dropped."

Jim: COVID killed us. What happened there was right at the time we were expecting people to sign up. They shut everything down. They shut down the border. They shut everything down. Well, nobody signed up. We used to have 175 members. And then we had 50, and we limped through that season.

Dennis: "Tell me some things that brought you a lot of joy being involved with Whatcom Seniors."

Jim: The majority of the people appreciated what I did, and they were very good about it. I liked that. That was nice. I did it predominantly because I'm the type of person who likes to promote things. And so I didn't do it because I was going to get any great scores or anything. After all, I'm not a good golfer at all."

As our visit came to a close, it was clear that Jim MacMillan's passion for Whatcom Seniors Golf still runs deep—a reflection of the countless hours, steady leadership, and genuine care he gave the organization during and after his time as president. Even now, Jim shared that he would love to keep playing WSG, but without fellow Birch Bay Village members to ride along with, he's hesitant to make the drive alone—an honest detail that says a lot about how much he values the

camaraderie that has always defined Whatcom Seniors. Jim never did this for scores or recognition; he did it because he believes in people, in community, and in making WSG feel like a true club. For all he has contributed—especially through challenging times—we owe Jim our sincere thanks and deep appreciation.

The Rules Corner

Whatcom Seniors Golf plays by USGA rules with a few agreed-upon modifications. During our January 12 Organizational Meeting at Loomis Trail Golf Club, **we decided upon the following "local" WSG rules:**

- All tournaments will be played under "Winter Rules".
- Fairway Lie Improvement - One club length in the fairway.
- Rough Lie Improvement - six inches.
- Lost Ball/Out-of-Bounds - One stroke penalty. Drop your ball at the spot where your ball entered the out-of-bounds area. Do not hit a provisional ball.
- Ready Golf - Strongly encouraged. Goal: 4 1/2 hours per round.
- Maximum Score - Double Par.
- Putt everything out. No "gimmes".
- Forward and White Tee Options.



NOTE: Because we will be playing by modified USGA rules, it is suggested that you not post your WSG scores for handicap purposes.

Equipment Tip of the Month

1. Shafts Matter More Than You Think

As we get older, swing speed naturally changes—but that doesn't mean distance has to disappear. Lighter shafts and the correct flex (often regular or senior) can help you regain launch, improve consistency, and reduce fatigue over 18 holes. A quick fitting—even at a demo bay or local shop—can make a noticeable difference without buying a whole new set.



2. Don't Overlook Your Grips

Worn or incorrect grip size can lead to tension, hand pain, and inconsistent shots. Many senior golfers benefit from slightly larger or softer grips, which reduce grip pressure and help with arthritis or hand stiffness. If your grips feel slick or shiny, it's probably time for new ones—fresh grips are one of the least expensive ways to improve performance.

3. Choose the Right Ball for Your Game

You don't need the same ball the tour pros play. Golf balls designed for moderate swing speeds can help you get more distance, better feel around the greens, and less strain on your hands. A softer compression ball often leads to straighter shots and more enjoyable rounds—something we can all appreciate.

The Lighter Side of Golf



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