# MLGA MESSAGES
# SEPTEMBER 2026

August 4, 2026

Ladies,
NOTE: THE SCAMMER WAS AT IT AGAIN! If you received an email from "Elaine Knobler" it wasn't from her! It's our very persistent scammer who has been trying for several years to get us to buy gifts cards, etc. Block this "Elaine" and delete the email.

It was cooler but very muggy out there Monday. 74 of 77 ladies signed up to play. That's great! I will note that I got my 77 just after the "cut off" of NOON on Sunday and there were a few changes AFTER that time. One cancelled. 2 came out to play, not on Jim's list. I will take 74 no matter how we get there, but just remember, NOON SUNDAY is supposed to be our deadline to add or delete for Monday's golf. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE STOP CALLING THE GOLF COURSE ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY IF YOU CAN'T PLAY ON MONDAY! They work for the Golf Course, they are NOT our employees there to take messages from us for Jim on Monday.

We had some more Birdies and Chip-In's on Monday. Congrats to the following ladies:

Donna Fogarty for her Chip-In on #8
Marie Gardewine for her Chip-In on #8
Pat Strange for her Chip-In on #2 (Bet she wished she would have put money in for this at the first of the year!)
Evelyn Weir for her Chip-In on #6 and Birdie on #7

While I was out there yesterday, I did notice a few things and was made aware of a few other "incidents" that I feel need to be addressed. Our rules are pretty simple, and we want to be sure that EVERYONE has a good time, avoids injury and stay civil when playing.

- STAY OUT OF THE CREEKS! I cannot stress this enough. It is potentially very dangerous, causes unneccessary delays and simply isn't worth it. I got to vent my frustrations at many a group for climbing down to retrieve a $2 or less golf ball. If you can't reach your ball with your retriever, forget it! PLEASE!

- CALL ON MONDAY! As I mentioned above, call on Monday, if you can't play and you don't know before NOON ON SUNDAY (to REMOVE YOUR NAME). If you don't want to get up to call, then call or text someone in your group or even text ME to say you are NOT coming.
- AVOID SLOW PLAY! Search for golf balls for 3 minutes. Ask for assistance if you can't find your ball right away.
- CROSSING THE CREEK! We have NO RULE to "try twice' and then go to the other side to hit. You MUST HIT YOUR BALL OVER IT to keep hitting from the other side. Even if your ball is "out of play" on the other bank, you still have NOT successfully gotten your ball OVER the creek. You must GO BACK and try again with a penalty.
- HOLD YOUR TEMPER! Rude or unladylike conduct is NOT ACCEPTABLE, whether it is directed at someone else in the league, the Grounds Crew or Golf Course staff.

Here's the deal with the mowers: Usually, the mowing guys are pretty good about getting out of our way while they are out there. I know that didn't seem to happen on Monday. They ABSOLUTELY DO NOT HAVE TO BE SO POLITE TO US. There are cages on those mowers just for that reason. If it bothers you to have a mower in the fareway ahead of you, then let someone else hit or wait a minute to let him pass. They will not turn off the mowers for us to hit. The engine noise will be there. Tune it out. I try to see if I CAN HIT THE MOWER. I am NOT that accurate, so I have only done it once in 14 years.

Mowing is their job and they MUST DO IT EVEN WHILE WE PLAY. It has always been this way and will NOT change. It does no good to become angry about it, call the mowers names or rant in the clubhouse. Ladies and men have been banned from playing at Ballwin for ranting and raving at staff before. We don't want that to be YOU!

Ouch! I just fell off my "soap box". Please, ladies, let's have fun. Enjoy each other and this very frustrating game called golf.

That's it from me for another week. Until next time, enjoy life and I hope to see YOU at the golf course!

Debbie Fagin
MLGA - Secretary

August 11, 2026

Ladies,
It was a hot overcast day with a lightning delay but we managed to have 58 of the 72 signed up to play come and give it a go. That's around 80% of those who signed up but we have been averaging closer to 91% so it's down but I can't say I blame any of you who thought it was going to rain or be 102 heat index.

What I am currious about is why, with it being hot, play was so slow. Most groups averaged over 3 hours. Do yourselves a favor, when it's hot, don't mouse around looking for balls (especially in the creeks) and be ready to play. Some groups reported having to wait 15 minutes on most every hole. That shouldn't be happening, especially with the low turn out.

Happy Notes:

* Welcome back to Sandy DeStefano who is back after undergoing knee replacement.
* We had some great shooting by 3 ladies. Congrats to the following:
  - Jo Boncek with a "Chip-In" on hole #5
  - Marie Gardewine with about a 50 ft. "Chip-In" on hole #1 (we looked all over for the ball until, I suggested she just look in the hole - woo hoo, it was there!)
  - Lynda Kniepmann with a "Chip-In" on hole #5

Tee Times for September (7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) will be opening up on **Saturday at 5:00** PM. If, for some reason, "SignUpGenius" doesn't send out the invitation e-mail. Know that Carol will open it for our use as near as possible to 5:00 and you should just go ahead and sign up. **REMINDER:** If you get a message that a code is required, then Carol has NOT opened "Genius" up yet. Please try again. Please give her a few minutes before you start bombarding her with e-mails or calls. **THANK YOU!**

Speaking of September, we had scheduled the "Ballwin Cup" for September 21 on your original MLGA Event Calendars. Your Officers met on Monday and decided to postpone playing that Event (another Shotgun Start with lunch after tournament) until Monday, October 5, 2026. We want to give the golf course some additional time to insure that the bathroom renovations and Event Center are ready for "Prime Time" (that's us). Not going to chance a scheduled luncheon with only porta pottys for our use. I am sure you ALL can appreciate that!

With that being the case, there will be NO EVENT/GAME in September. Just all regular play days. That's a good thing for many who are trying to get in their 10 rounds to be asked back for the 2027 golf season. Take a look at the posted "Handicaps" sheet at the club house to see where you are or view in the "Membership" section on our website: http://www.mlgagolf.com

I currently have, officially, heard from 12 who have had medical or family reasons for possibly not making the required 10 rounds. But there are many more that have very few rounds so far which is concerning. We have 10 weeks remaining in the season. If you have not e-mailed me with why you haven't been playing, and it is medical - I need to know now rather than later. I don't want to hear from you in October that in June you had xyz that kept you from playing all season. I will presume that Mondays turned out NOT TO BE A GOOD DAY FOR YOU TO COMMIT TO GOLFING. Life happens and you cannot predict it in March. We always have a "wait list" with ladies who would love to join us.

I cannot believe there are only 10 weeks left in this year's MLGA Season. What a wild weather ride we have been on. Thanks to all who have been so good about coming out to play. Averaging 91% of those signed up coming out to play has been awesome!

Well, that's it from me for another week. Until next time, stay cool and I hope to see YOU at the golf course!

Debbie Fagin
MLGA - Secretary

Part 2:

Ladies,
Bless my pea pickin' forgetful heart, I forgot to mention that next Monday is "Pink Ball". For those of you who have never played in this game, here's the scoop:

- Each tee time is a "Team" and will be given an MLGA Pink Ball to use during Monday's round.
- For each hole one member of the team will use the Pink Ball in place of their own ball.

- Team decides order that the ball will be played throughout the round. As in: Mary on hole 1; Tammy on hole 2; Bunny on hole 3; Wanda on hole 4; Mary on hole 5; Tammy - 6; Bunny - 7; Wanda 8 and again Mary on 9.
- Keep own individual scores (no "Pink Ball" score). (These scores will be used for handicap and Monday will COUNT for a round played).
- If your team returns with the Pink Ball you started with (not one you found in the creek or elsewhere, your original Pink Ball), everyone who played on that team will win $5.
- If "Pinkie" goes in the creek you have Options:

1. You can use your ball retriever w/o going into the creek and take your penalty and keep playing or
2. Retieve the ball as above use your "free out of water" and keep playing or
3. Leave it, take the penalty (or free oow) and play on with your own ball

That's it, simple, USE IT - DON'T LOSE IT! And don't be upset if it get's lost, keep playing your own game.

Tina or I will be there to hand out the Pink Balls and collect them at the end of the round. Winners will get their $5 after the ball is returned.

See you on Monday!

Debbie Fagin
Forgetful MLGA Secretary

<u>August 18, 2026</u>

Ladies,
"Pink Ball" was a success. 58 of the 73 golfers who signed up to play went out and 49 ladies came back with their Pink Ball. That was $45 more than we anticipated so, unfortunately, we ran out of "prize money" before everyone returned. Fear not, all you guardians of "Pinkie", your winnings will be at the course next Monday for you to pick up.

More great play on the course. Congrats to the following:

- Brenda Fauls with a "Chip-In" on hole #3
- Sally Suozzi with a "Chip-In" on hole #6
- Nancy Zykan with a "Birdie" on hole #9

We had another **SLOW** go out on the course Monday, however. Not sure if there was excessive "looking for the Pink Ball", it being "Cart Path Only" or just failure to stay aware of your "Pace of Play". There were large gaps (25-30 minutes) between groups as they came into the clubhouse after play. Because we were so slow, most of the afternoon play on the golf course was affected. When the course notified me that some of our groups contributed to the mayhem on the course, I get pretty concerned. With only 58 golfers that should have NEVER happened. Please pay attention to "Pace of Play" ladies.

On another note, Tina notified me that one group failed to turn in their score card. Without it she cannot enter your scores for handicaps and track rounds played. She didn't tell me who it was, but I have a feeling it was one of the later groups. Please bring your score card for this week, next Monday. Not sure if it was your group? Contact Tina Fakonas at fakonast@hotmail.com. (Maybe you were "holding it hostage" because we ran out of money. That can work both ways, you know.)

Thanks to everyone who sent me e-mails regarding their rounds played for this golf season. Your Officers need this information before making any decisions regarding being "asked back" for next year.

From the looks of SignUpGenius by 5:15 on Saturday, there were not a whole lot of you having difficulty getting into the system to select tee times for September. I, for one, will be watching for cancellations so that I can get out there and play as nothing was available in the early time slots that I prefer. I have no fear, I will be able to get on the course and neither should you if you didn't get signed up right away.

Tina also told me that she should have a new "Handicaps/Rounds Played" list available as early as next Monday. The one posted is from about 3-4 weeks ago. Once she gets it finished, she will send to me and I will post on our website. Remember: http://www.mlgagolf.com

Well, I hope, that is it from me for this week. Until next time, enjoy the golf on TV or in person at Bellerive and I hope to see YOU at the golf course!

Debbie Fagin
MLGA - Secretary

August 24, 2026

Ladies,
What a beautiful day for golf on Monday. 70 of 71 golfers came out to play and enjoy the much needed break from the heat and rain. We had some great shots again.

CONGRATS TO:

- Peggy Gay - "Chip-In" on #6
- Lynne Ludens - "Birdie" on #9
- Lauren Luther - "Birdie/Chip-In" on #9

I must have gotten your attention last time with my comments on "Rounds Played" as several of you contacted Tina to double check our numbers. Tina and I have been working on making sure that the numbers reflected on the "Handicaps/Rounds" list is correct.

There was some confusion about "Rain Out" dates. May 4 ended up being an "Official Date" because more than 25% of the players who signed up to play completed their rounds. The horn sounded at around 11:10 bringing everyone else into the clubhouse and they were not able to complete the round. Because this was an "Official Date" we are honoring EVERYONE who was out on the course with a "Date Played" - Those who completed had Handicaps Scores to be entered, those who did NOT finish were given an "Event" counter (Round which had no handicap for use). So all 73 ladies who came out to attempt to play have been given credit for their effort.

That is the ONLY "Rain" date that we are counting. If Tina does NOT have a score card with your completed score on it, there was NO OFFICIAL PLAY DATE. You may have paid but probably got a "rain check" from Jim. We have no way of knowing that. Sorry.

We will be taking into consideration the number of "Rain" dates when looking over everyone's totals before making any decisions on who to ask back for 2027. If you are close, you probably will be fine. If you notified me of an illness/injury or personal matter that came up this season, which prevented you from playing, we usually give those ladies the opportunity to play, if they are able, the next season. At our ages, stuff happens!

A new, updated "Handicaps/Rounds" should be posted soon.

We have one more week until September, I can't believe it. We DO NOT PLAY on SEPTEMBER 7 for LABOR DAY! Remember: No Games/Events in September as "Ballwin Cup" has been moved to October 5.

That's it from me for another week. Until next time, take care and I hope to see YOU at the Golf Course!

Debbie Fagin - MLGA Secretary

August 31, 2027

Ladies,
We had another nice showing on Monday with 68 of the 75 signed up to play coming out to hit that little round ball thing that likes to take baths in the creek. Only 67 ladies actually got to go out to play, however, as the final tee time only ended up with 1 golfer. It is really important to contact Jim, in the clubhouse, if you find you are not going to be able to play on Monday. Had he known only 1 of the final 3 golfers were going to show up, he would have been able to work out the groups so that EVERYONE who came out to play would get to. Thanks Ladies!

We did have some fine shooting out there. Congrats to the following:

- Marie Gardewine with a "Birdie/Chip-In" on #7, a "Birdie" on #9 and final score of 43
- Teri Igel with a "Birdie/Chip-In" on #7
- Lisa Laudel with a "Birdie/Chip-In" on #9 (bet she's sorry she didn't put in her $5)

There is NO LEAGUE PLAY NEXT MONDAY: LABOR DAY (9/7)

Next League Play Day is Monday, September 14 (ONE DAY BEFORE OCTOBER TEE TIME SIGN UP)

Well, that is it from me on this "Hottest Week of the Summer". I am staying cool in my home with my feet up. Until next time, stay cool yourselves and I hope to see YOU at the golf course!

Debbie Fagin
MLGA - Secretary