

Web Site Message

A Message From The YG&TC Handicap Committee

Handicap System—General Information

The purpose of the USGA Handicap System is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling golfers of differing abilities to compete, whether in club tournaments or with your golfing friends, on an equitable basis. The System provides Course Handicaps for players regardless of ability, and adjusts a player's Handicap Index up or down as one's game changes. A basic premise, however, underlies the USGA Handicap System, namely that every player tries to make the best score at each hole in every round, regardless of where or when the round is played. In addition, it is each player's responsibility to post his/her score following every round.

A USGA Handicap Index, issued by a golf club or authorized golf association, indicates a golfer's skill and comes in the form of a number taken to one decimal place, e.g. 14.2. A USGA Handicap Index compares a player's scoring ability to the scoring ability of an expert amateur on a course of standard difficulty. As a player posts scores along with the respective USGA Course and Slope Ratings of the courses played, a scoring record is established. The Handicap Index is computed from no more than the most recent 20 scores in the scoring record. It reflects the player's scoring potential because it is based upon the best scores posted for a given number of rounds, typically the best 10 of the last 20 rounds.

A USGA Handicap Index travels well from course to course, as well as from one set of tees to another set of tees on the same course. A player's Handicap Index determines the number of strokes a player receives depending upon the length and difficulty of the course being played. Remember, though, playing to your handicap, statistically, happens less than 25% of the time.

A Few Things To Keep In Mind

1. Posting scores at YG&TC—It is the responsibility of each player to post his/her 'adjusted gross score' immediately following their 'active season' round when played at YG&TC or as soon as practical when played at an away course. Our 'active season' is the period of time from roughly mid-April through mid-October. Those players enjoying golf in warmer climates during our 'inactive season', must save their scores with respective course and slope ratings for posting in April. Note: Players can now post their scores via the Internet. Go to www.ghin.com and click on the 'Post On-line' button. Enter your GHIN Number (without the hyphen) and name. Then enter the course rating, slope and your adjusted gross score.
2. Adjusted gross score—A player must adjust his/her gross score under USGA Handicap System procedures for unfinished holes, conceded strokes, holes not played or hole scores requiring Equitable Stroke Control.

If a player starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, that player shall record for handicap purposes the score he/she most likely would have made. The most likely score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in the player's best judgment, the number of strokes that the player would need to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. This

number may not exceed the player's Equitable Stroke Control limit. An "X" should precede this most likely score. There is no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round. This may occur for example in a match when a player has lost a hole and picks up to speed up play.

If a player does not play a hole, his/her score for that hole for handicap purposes shall be par plus any handicap strokes he/she is entitled to receive on the hole. An "X" should precede this hole score when recorded. This may occur for example when a match is won 4-up with 3 holes to play or if players leave the course because of weather conditions.

Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability. ESC sets a maximum number that a player can post on any hole depending on the player's Course Handicap. ESC is used only when a player's actual or most likely score exceeds his/her maximum number based on the table below, but is applied to all scores for handicap purposes. There is no limit to the number of holes on which a player may adjust his/her score.

EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL

Course Handicap	Maximum Number On Any Hole
9 or less	Double Bogey*
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10

Under no circumstances shall these procedures be used by a player to manipulate his/her Handicap Index.

3. Scores to post—If 13 or more holes are played, the player shall post an 18-hole score. If 7 to 12 holes are played, the player shall post a nine-hole score. Adjusted gross scores from all courses with USGA Course and Slope Ratings, both at home and away, shall be posted by the player along with the appropriate USGA Course Ratings and USGA Slope Ratings. Remember, 9-hole 'league' scores must be posted. The computer is set up to handle these scores. Scores in both match play and stroke play shall be posted for handicap purposes. This includes scores made in multi-ball or team competitions. Exceptions are Scotch or alternate shot competitions where each player does not play his/her own ball through the hole or where 'funky rules' are made such as 3-club or Turkey shoot competitions.
4. Handicap Committee duties and responsibilities—
 - The Handicap Committee is responsible for communicating USGA Handicap System information to the YG&TC membership in order that golfing members understand their responsibility as players. Golf is a fun sport, however, fair and equitable play, whether in tournaments or with friends, is paramount. The Handicap System helps keep it that way.

- The Handicap Committee is responsible for maintaining players' records, including displaying prominently a list of YG&TC members' USGA Handicap Indexes. Current scoring records of all players in the club from the most recent revision are available to all members on the computer located in the hallway opposite the Pro Shop.
- The Handicap Committee will communicate with new members to obtain scoring records and the corresponding USGA Course and Slope Ratings and set up a local membership number, as well as provide computer instruction for using the System.
- The Handicap Committee will audit for timely posting of rounds played at YG&TC and will occasionally audit scorecards for appropriate Equitable Stroke Control adjustments. If a player fails to post a score, the Handicap Committee may post the score without the player's authorization.
- The Handicap Committee will examine results of tournament competitions. If net scores of any players appear exceptional, the Handicap Committee will take appropriate action under procedures of the USGA Handicap System. The Handicap Committee will also forward exceptional tournament scores of guests to the guest's golf club or golf association.
- The Handicap Committee has the responsibility of making certain that a player's USGA Handicap Index reflects his/her potential ability. Under various circumstances it may be necessary for the Handicap Committee to make adjustments, either + or -, to the player's USGA Handicap Index. Before an adjustment becomes effective, the Committee will give the player an opportunity to explain the circumstances surrounding the proposed adjustment, either in writing or by appearing before the Committee. When an adjustment does become effective, it will be identified with the letter M, reflecting that the Handicap Committee has modified the Handicap Index.
- If a player repeatedly fails to meet his/her responsibilities under the USGA Handicap System, the Handicap Committee will withdraw the player's USGA Handicap Index. Before any action is taken, the player will be advised of the information available to the Committee and will be invited to respond to the Committee either in writing or by appearing in person before the Committee. A player whose USGA Handicap Index has been withdrawn may be reinstated under conditions set forth by the Handicap Committee.

If you have questions regarding the Handicap System, please contact any member of the Handicap Committee, Kyle Page or any of Kyle's pro-shop staff.

Respectfully submitted by the Handicap Committee:

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