

HANDICAP NOTICE TO MEMBERS



This notice, guided by The World Handicap System adopted by the USGA and the Rules of Golf, outlines the Handicap System established by the local Handicap Committee. It expresses two basic premises **1)** each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and **2)** the player will post every acceptable round for peer review. Within this notice members are advised of the following policy items:

(i) How and where scores are returned

- Scores are only posted in the "active season". (See Item (V) below)
- A player who starts, but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke must record for handicap purposes the *most likely score* (Ref. USGA Handicap Manual p38). The most likely score may not exceed the player's Adjusted Gross Score limit. This most likely score should be preceded by an "X".
- Posting scores in person immediately following the round at the course where the round is played is the preferred way to expose scores to peer review. This method of posting must be used whenever possible. The place for returning scores from all courses will be made convenient for players to record every round played. The posted scores for the day must be immediately available for all members for peer review (Ref. USGA Handicap Manual p41). Scores at The Woods can be posted on either the computer located in the lobby adjacent to the pro shop, by logging on to the GHIN system with any browser, or by using the GHIN app on smart phones.
- If 14 or more holes are played, the player must post an 18-hole score. If 7-12 holes are played, the player must post a nine-hole score. In either case, scores for un-played holes must be recorded as par plus any handicap strokes that the player is entitled to receive on the un-played holes.

(ii) How each Handicap Index is verified

The Handicap Committee will periodically verify scores by the process of random checking player score entries.

(iii) The duration of The Woods inactive season established by The West Virginia Golf Association (WVGA)

The West Virginia Golf association (WVGA) has authority in this area and is responsible for declaring the duration of any inactive season.

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Scores made during this inactive season are not acceptable for handicap purposes. Scores made at a golf course in an area observing an active season must be posted for handicap purposes, even if the golf club from which the player receives a Handicap Index is observing an inactive season.

Example: When players from The Woods play golf in Florida during The Woods inactive season, scores made in Florida are acceptable and must be entered in the GHIN system.

The inactive season for The Woods Resort is from November 1st to March 31st.

(iv) How away scores are posted during any inactive season

Scores made in an area where the Ruling Golf Association has declared an inactive season will not be accepted for handicap purposes (e.g., scores made at The Woods between November 1 and March 31). However, scores made in an area having an active season (e.g., scores made in Florida) must be posted as soon as practicable.

(v) Handicap Index adjustment responsibilities of the Handicap Committee (Ref. USGA Handicap Manual p69)

General

A player must earn a Handicap Index. No player has an inherent right to a Handicap Index without providing full evidence of ability to the Handicap Committee. Only the Handicap Committee where a player maintains a Handicap Index can adjust that player's Handicap Index. There will be no automatic increases at the beginning of a playing season or year. A Handicap Index is continuous from one playing season or year to the next.

The Handicap Committee has the responsibility of making certain that each player has a Handicap Index reflecting potential ability. Under the following circumstances, it will be necessary for the Handicap Committee to adjust the player's Handicap Index. However, the following list is not all-inclusive, and the Handicap Committee has the ultimate authority to adjust a Handicap Index under any circumstance that it feels necessary to do so. Before an adjustment becomes effective, the Handicap 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, indicating that the Handicap Committee has

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modified the Handicap Index (e.g., 4.9M):

- Improving Faster Than the System (GHIN) Can React

A player recently taking up the game may improve too rapidly for a Handicap Index calculated by the standard procedure to reflect potential ability. For example, a player who is practicing aspects of that player's game and/or taking playing lessons may not have a scoring record that exhibits potential ability and may need a Handicap Index adjustment.

- Numerous Away Scores Change Index

If a player's Handicap Index increases by 3.0 or more due to the posting of numerous away scores, and subsequent scores at The Woods clearly indicate that the increased Handicap Index is too high, the Handicap Committee will adjust the player's Handicap Index downward.

- Temporary Disability

An increase in a Handicap Index will not be granted because a player's game is temporarily off or the player has discontinued play. However, an increased handicap may be given for a temporary disability. The modified Handicap Index will be identified by the letter "M" to indicate that the Handicap Committee have modified it. For example, a player having had recent surgery may be given a modified Handicap Index while recovering.

- Player Manipulates Round

The Handicap Committee will adjust or withdraw the Handicap Index of a player who manipulates scores. Examples of manipulating scores include the following:

- (a) Posting erroneous information to the scoring record
- (b) Stopping play prior to 7 or 14 holes to avoid posting scores
- (c) Repeatedly playing more than one ball to avoid posting scores
- (d) Not adjusting hole scores under The World Handicap System i.e failing to adjust to a net double bogey score on each hole before posting
- (e) Deliberately reporting more or fewer strokes than actually taken
- (f) Deliberately taking extra strokes to inflate a score.

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(g) Not observing either or both of the two basic premises that underlie the USGA Handicap System (Ref: First Para)

- Continued violations Section 5-1e (Unacceptable Scores).

The Handicap Committee is responsible for identifying and notifying a player who regularly violates any provision within Section 5-1e that such rounds are unacceptable for handicap purposes. If the player persists in violating clause(s) within Section 5-1e after being notified by the Handicap Committee, the Handicap Committee is authorized to consider withdrawal of the player's Handicap Index.

- Duration of Adjustment by Handicap Committee

The Handicap Committee will determine how long a player's Handicap Index is to remain modified or withdrawn. Periodically, the Handicap Committee should compare the modified Handicap Index to the value determined by the normal computation method under USGA Rules of Handicapping. For example, the Handicap Committee may lift a modified Handicap Index of 4.9M, when subsequent scores posted to a player's scoring record produce a lower Handicap Index (e.g., 4.0).

- Tournament Performance Review

The Handicap Committee will review the reduction of a player's Handicap Index for exceptional tournament scores. The procedure for reducing a player's Handicap Index is explained in USGA Handicap Manual p50.

After each handicap revision, the Handicap Committee will re-evaluate the player's reduced Handicap Index choosing one of the following:

- a) Continue to allow the reduction to run its normal course, or
- b) Further reduce the Handicap Index, or
- c) Override the reduction. For example, the Handicap Committee may override, or cancel a reduction of the Handicap Index of a player who has returned, say, 50 tournament scores, and whose Handicap Index reduction was based on early scores.

- Handicap Index Withdrawal

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The Handicap Committee will withdraw the Handicap Index of a player who repeatedly fails to meet the player responsibilities under the USGA Handicap System. Before any action is taken, the player will be advised of the information available to the Handicap Committee and be invited to respond to the Handicap Committee either in writing or by appearing in person. A withdrawn Handicap Index may be reinstated under conditions set forth by the Handicap Committee.

(vi) Penalties for players failing to return scores (USGA Ref. Section 8-4b)

If a player fails to post an acceptable score as soon as practical after completion of the round, the Handicap Committee will invoke one of the three options:

- a) Post the actual score made by the player
- b) Post a penalty score equal to the lowest/highest Handicap Differential in the player's scoring record
- c) 3)Post the actual score and a penalty score

The Handicap Committee will notify the player prior to posting a penalty score.