

2015-2016 Season

HANDICAP MODIFICATION PROCEDURES

As per the USGA handicap manual:

In order to obtain a handicap index, a player must join a golf club and post adjusted gross scores. These scores are subject to peer review. After at least five scores have been posted (at least two must be played with and attested by a member in good standing), the club will be eligible to issue a handicap index to the player in accordance with the USGA Handicap System.

Fair handicapping depends upon full and accurate information regarding a player's potential scoring ability as reflected by a complete scoring record.

Consequently, to maintain a handicap **(Important Requirement!)**:

- The player is responsible for returning all acceptable scores, including scores from other courses
 - If 7 to 12 holes are played, a nine hole score should be posted. (*)
 - If 13 or more holes are played, an 18 hole score should be posted. (*)
- The player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round.
- All Section 4 adjustments, including Equitable Stroke Control, must be applied to all scores including tournament scores

() Unplayed holes are assigned the most likely score, based on the player's handicap. The player has the option of just leaving the unplayed holes blank, in which case the handicap program will automatically assign the most likely score or they player can enter the scores, preceded by an X as per Section 4-2 of the USGA Handicap Manual.*

Handicap Modification Procedures

As stated in the USGA Handicap Manual, *“the purpose of the USGA Handicap System is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling players of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis.”* To make this possible, the handicap formula was developed to provide an estimate of the player’s potential. The manual also acknowledges that it is necessary (and a requirement) for handicap committees to review the handicaps and to make adjustments to the standard handicap index to address players who are rapidly improving, post numerous away scores, have recent injury, fail to post scores, or posting of erroneous scores.

In accordance with this, the **RT Golf Club Handicap Committee** has agreed to take the following steps to regularly review and make adjustments to handicaps using the following procedures:

1. If a player scores net 66 or lower in a tournament (determined at 100% of his/her course handicap), adjustment scores (labeled as a P score) may be added to the player’s scoring history to immediately (even before the next scheduled revision date) force the handicap index down:
 - 1 for a net 66
 - 2 for a net 65
 - 3 for a net 64
 - 4 for a net 63 or less

We say may, because if the handicap program re-calculates the handicap index and it gets lowered by the required amount, no penalty scores are added.

2. All gross and net tournament prize winners’ scoring histories are reviewed for casual score recording. If it is determined that a member is neglecting to record their casual scores, two or more even par 71 penalty scores are awarded. We understand that not all casual rounds can be recorded, but this is meant for people who consistently or intentionally choose not to turn in scores. This penalty award isn’t an attempt to lower the player’s handicap to the proper playing level, instead it is a penalty incurred for not recording scores.

3. Review scoring patterns, including comparison of casual, Internet and away scores in relation to tournament scores and consider injuries or other factors which may warrant making adjustments to a player's handicap index.
4. Notify players by e-mail and/or letter that their handicap index is going to be modified with an opportunity for them to respond to the committee regarding the proposed change before the modification is implemented.
5. Any modified handicap indexes will be denoted by the letter M, following the index. [Example 8.4M]

Respectfully,

RTGC Handicap Committee

(POSTED 10/15/2015)