



2006 HANDICAPPING AND POSTING GUIDELINES:

PURPOSE OF HAVING A HANDICAP:

The main purpose of handicapping is so people of differing levels of ability can compete together. As such, it is mandatory that all members playing in our leagues (except for the Harbor Links and Heartland beginner leagues) establish and maintain a handicap. In addition, participation in EWGA's Chapter Championship series requires a handicap.

Generally, the way a handicap works is the lesser of two players is allotted "strokes" so that the better player not only has to win, but has to win by that predetermined margin of strokes. One obtains a handicap by entering one's scores (and some additional information) into a United States Golf Association (USGA) recognized computer system; the computer system does all the required calculations. After you have entered five 18-hole scores (or ten 9-hole scores), the system will calculate your handicap.

EWGA GOLF LIFE MANAGEMENT HANDICAP SYSTEM (GLMS):

All EWGA members, regardless of membership level, will automatically have access to the EWGA Golf Life Management Handicap System, a USGA-recognized handicapping computer system. There is no additional cost to you for this service; it is included in your annual dues. The only requirements to use this system are you must be a current member of EWGA and you must have Internet access.

Getting started on the EWGA system is easy. If you do not already have an established handicap, as soon as the system becomes available, begin posting your scores (see below for posting instructions). If you do have an established handicap, then you must enter your recent history in the EWGA system. To do this, log onto GHIN.com and enter your 7-digit GHIN number. Follow the prompts to have GHIN.com display your 20 most recent scores (fewer if you have not played twenty times). Print out this information so you can enter these scores into the EWGA system; this will effectively transfer your handicap history into the EWGA system.

POSTING SCORES:

Whenever you play (there are some exceptions described below), you must enter ("post") your score. To do so, merely log on to the EWGA handicap system through the EWGA.com website and access the handicap system through the Members Only section. You must enter three numbers: your score, the course's

course rating and the course's slope ratings. Once you post your score, the EWGA handicap system will do all the necessary calculations to calculate your handicap.

Course and Slope Ratings:

Generally, a course rating represents what an average professional golfer will shoot on that course on an average day. So if par for the course is 71 and the course rating is 73, the course is more difficult than par would indicate. The course rating is based primarily on the length of the course.

The slope rating is the degree to which a course is more difficult for an "average" golfer than a pro. Generally, it takes into account water hazards, bunkers, width of fairways, etc. and indicates a course's difficulty. The average slope rating is 113, so if a course has a slope rating of 135, it is more difficult than average, and a rating of 108 would indicate the course is easier than average.

Handicaps are calculated using these two numbers. Par is not part of the handicap calculation.

You can find any (NY Metropolitan area) golf course's course and slope ratings by consulting the **MGA poster** which usually hangs in the course's pro shop.

Before you post a score, you should make any adjustments for "Equitable Stroke Control" and "Unfinished Rounds" as described below.

SYSTEM UPDATES:

In accordance with rules promulgated by the USGA, the EWGA system will update your handicap every two weeks. At any time, you can log on to the handicap system and print out a listing of your current handicap (along with all scores associated with your current calculation).

POSTING SEASON / PLAYING OUTSIDE THE REGION:

The posting season for the Metropolitan New York area runs from early April to early October (exact dates will be posted on the EWGALI.org website when they become known). You may not post scores played in this geographic area which are played outside of the posting season dates. However, if you play a course in some other area (e.g. Florida, Arizona) during that course's posting season, you must post that score even if it is not within our area's posting season.

POST ALL YOUR SCORES:

In order for a handicap calculation to be meaningful, a player must post all rounds in which seven or more holes are played. It is imperative, therefore, that all rounds played are posted. See "unfinished rounds" below to calculate the score you should post if you play less than 18 or 9 holes.

HOW TO POST A SCORE WHEN YOU'VE "PICKED UP" ON A HOLE:

Our leagues and other outings often mandate using the "double par pick-up" rule. This informal rule is instituted to help speed up play. Generally, when you have taken double the par in shots (e.g. you've hit 8 shots on a par 4); you should pick up your ball and not make any more shots for that hole.

The question, then, is how to calculate a score for handicap posting purposes when you've picked up. The answer is to estimate, to the best of your knowledge, what score you would have taken had you finished the hole. Post this score (subject to Equitable Stroke Control described below) for handicap purposes.

DATES:

If you are posting a score played on a date other than the date you are posting, remember to change the date in the computer to reflect the date you played.

EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL:

You must adjust all scores for Equitable Stroke Control. Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) has been established by handicapping governing bodies so that posted scores reflect the true ability of a player and do not include out of the ordinary, badly played holes. For example, if a player shoots mostly pars and bogeys during a round, but shoots an 8 on a par 3, including this 8 in the total score posted for the round would be misleading for handicap purposes. Of course, the 8 counts in the player's total score, but an adjustment must be made before posting this round for handicapping purposes.

Depending on your existing handicap, the maximum score you are allowed to post for a particular hole may be lower than the score you actually made. The maximum scores you may post depending on your existing handicap are:

<u>Existing Handicap</u>		<u>Maximum Posted Score</u>
Less than or equal to 9	=	double bogey
From 10 through 19	=	7 (on any hole regardless of par)
From 20 through 29	=	8 (on any hole regardless of par)
From 30 through 39	=	9 (on any hole regardless of par)
40 and higher	=	10 (on any hole regardless of par)
No current handicap	=	10 (on any hole regardless of par)

So, for example, a player with a handicap of 25 (maximum postable strokes equals 8) shoots a 103. But this 103 includes a 10 that the player shot on one of the holes. When the player posts her score, she should deduct 2 strokes. So although she shot a 103, she would enter a 101 into the computer system. She would make this adjustment for any hole on which she shot more than an 8.

CALCULATING SCORES FOR UNFINISHED ROUNDS:

Post all scores unless you play 6 or less holes in a round. If you play 7 through 12 holes, you should post a nine-hole score (your first nine holes count, disregard your scores on holes 10, 11 & 12). If you play 13 through 18 holes, you will post an 18-hole score. Whenever you play less holes than you are posting (e.g. you play 16 holes but are posting an 18-hole score or play 7 holes and are posting a 9-hole score) you must include a score for the holes not played.

How to do this: First, look at the scorecard and ascertain which holes on the course are considered the hardest. You will see a "handicap rating" for each hole on the card. So, for example, the 17th hole may have a handicap rating of 6. This means the 17th hole is considered the 6th hardest hole on the course. Now, take your current handicap, or if you don't yet have one, use the highest handicap allowed for women which is 40.4 (round to 40) and look to see on which holes you are assigned a stroke.

Example 1: Your handicap is 15 – assign yourself a stroke for handicap holes number 1 through 15 (the hardest 15 holes on the course).

Example 2: Your handicap is a 38 - assign yourself two strokes on each hole then one stroke more for the #1 & #2 handicap-rated holes. In this example, you'd have 3 handicap strokes on the first and second hardest holes on the course.

After you have done this, you can determine your "postable score" for any hole you did not play. The postable score is par plus the number of handicap strokes you are assigned for that hole. So if your handicap is a 38 and you have played 17 holes, your estimated postable score on the 18th hole (let's say a par 5 which is the #1 rated handicap hole) would be an 8.

This will result in the best estimated score had you been able to finish your round. Use this estimate to calculate the score for any unplayed holes and include them when you calculate your total score to be posted.

ANY QUESTIONS?:

Contact Suzanne Garcia, Rules and Handicap Committee Chair sgarcia@optonline.net