

# **LWMGC Policy & Procedure**

## **Section 11 - HANDICAPPING**

### **POLICY:**

The United States Golf Association (USGA) Handicap System™ enables golfers of all skill levels to compete on an equitable basis. The Laguna Woods Men's Golf Club (LWMGC) is required under our license agreement with the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) to follow the USGA handicap system.

### **HANDICAP CHAIRMAN:**

The Handicap Chairman is appointed by the LWMGC Board of Directors. He must attend the SCGA Handicap Certification Class and receive certification to hold the position. SCGA requires re-certification every four (4) years.

### **HANDICAP COMMITTEE:**

Members are selected by the Handicap Chairman and approved by the LWMGC Board of Directors. Considerations to member diversity and playing ability are criteria for selection. There is no stipulation made for the number of members required to make up the Committee.

The Committee is responsible for all aspects of the USGA Handicap System, including the computation of each member's Handicap Index. The committee will verify that all acceptable scores are reported for handicap purposes. All recorded scores will be made readily available for peer review and random scorecard audits will be performed.

### **HANDICAP COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

The Committee is comprised of the LWMGC Board of Directors with the Head Golf Professional serving as a Consultant to the Committee.

**The Handicap Committee has set forth the following policies and procedures for all members using the USGA Handicap System.**

1. Post all acceptable rounds, including 9 hole scores
2. Scores must be posted **within three days** of the game being played
3. Equitable Stroke Control must be applied to all scores for posting purposes

### **What is an Acceptable Score?**

- If 13 or more holes are played in an 18 hole round
- If 7 to 12 holes are played for a 9 hole round
- Match play, stroke play and team competitions
- If a player is requested to pick up when out of contention, including team competitions

- If a player is disqualified from a competition but has an acceptable score it must be posted

**All acceptable scores must be posted within three days using one of the following methods:**

- Posting computer at any golf course utilizing GHIN
- SCGA.ORG website
- GHIN.COM website
- GHIN Application for Apple or Android Smartphones
- Scorecard delivered to a Handicap Committee member for posting

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR FAILURE TO POST SCORES:**

1. First failure to post a score will result in an email notice to the player.
2. Second failure will result in the appropriate penalty round issued for score not posted.
3. Third failure will result in a penalty round issued. In addition, a “MODIFIED” Handicap Index may be assigned to the player. The modified handicap index will be in effect for 6 months. The player will be notified in advance of issuing a modified handicap index.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR MANIPULATION OF SCORING RECORDS:**

1. First confirmation of manipulating a scoring record will result in the player being issued a written or email warning. The player will be given the opportunity to explain the circumstances.
2. Second confirmation of manipulating a scoring record may result in the committee making an adjustment to the player’s handicap index issued by the SCGA. The player will be given the opportunity to explain the circumstances. The committee will communicate the proposed adjusted index and the duration of the adjustment prior to issuing it. The adjustment will be indicated as a modified index and will be listed as an “M” following the index.
3. Additional confirmations of manipulating a scoring record may result in the Handicap Committee withdrawing the player’s Handicap Index.

### **Examples of Player Manipulating Rounds:**

- Posting erroneous information to the scoring record
- Stopping play prior to 7 holes to avoid posting scores
- Repeatedly playing more than one ball to avoid posting scores
- Not adjusting scores when necessary
- Deliberately reporting more or fewer strokes than actually scored
- Deliberately taking extra strokes to inflate a score
- Not observing the two basic premises which underlie the USGA Handicap System; **each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review.**

**A player must earn a Handicap Index. No player has an inherent right to a Handicap Index without providing full evidence of ability to our golf club's Handicap Committee. The Handicap Committee has the ultimate authority and obligation to adjust a Handicap Index if it feels necessary to do so. Please direct any questions or concerns to the Handicap Committee.**