

The Golf Rules Review

An Intermittent Communique by the 2020 WWGA Golf Rules Maven

Issue III

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Posting Your Score in the World Handicap System

The World Handicap System (WHS) provides a handicap index to allow players of different abilities to compete against one another locally and around the world. At The Woods, we use GHIN to maintain our handicaps. The two most important things to remember when posting your round into GHIN are:

- Make sure any downward adjustments are made for excessive scores on your scorecard
- Make sure your posting is done on the day you played.

Here are Q&As to guide you through recording scores on your scorecard and then into GHIN. This Q&A is organized by:

- 1) Before you start playing
- 2) While you are playing, what score to put on your scorecard
- 3) After you finish playing, what scores to adjust before you post your round into GHIN

Before You Start Playing

Know your 9 or 18 hole Course Handicap for the tees you are playing.

- Updated Handicaps will be in GHIN the day after you post a score.
- Once you have your Course Handicap, allocate your handicap strokes to each hole starting with the #1 Stroke Index Hole until you run out of strokes. Most people just use a dot(s) on the scorecard hole to represent a stroke(s).

Once You Start Playing

Record the actual Score for each hole on your scorecard including penalty strokes. Your gross score is the total score of all the holes for your 9 or 18 hole round.

Sounds easy, but what should I put down for the hole if I did not play it at all?

Par plus your handicap strokes for the hole. That's it!

But what should I record if I am playing a Team event and they don't need my ball so I pick up?

Record your **most likely score** had you not picked up.

What is my most likely score?

The *most likely score* is the number of strokes already taken to the point you picked up ball:

- Plus any penalty strokes.
- Plus the number of strokes you would most likely take to complete the hole.

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Where's my Course Handicap?

Handicaps are no longer posted in the Ladies Locker room. You have 2 ways to get your current handicap strokes: 1) Via your smart phone, laptop, PC or 2) the computer located by the Pro Shop.

The day after you post a score, GHIN sends you an email with your current Handicap Index. Clicking on this email will take you the GHIN log-on screen. Alternatively you can just log on to GHIN. Entering your GHIN number and Last Name, takes you to your GHIN record. At this point, use the tab marked "Course Handicap Calculator". Then enter the course you are playing and a screen showing your course handicap strokes will appear. See our Pro, Ron Springer, if you need help.

Did you know...

The GHIN system (Golf Handicap and Network system) has been around since 1981. Prior to that, Clubs, Associations and Leagues kept track of their members' handicaps. The internet changed all that.

Once You Start Playing (continued)

How do I know how many strokes I would need to complete the hole from where I picked up?

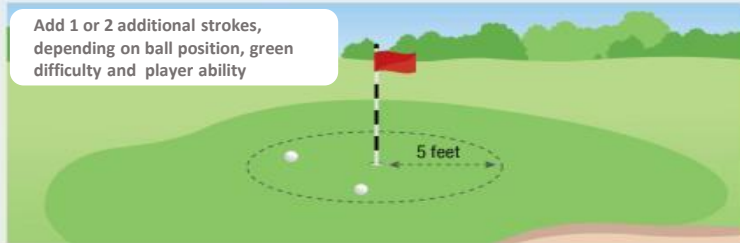
The USGA has the following guidance depending on your ability and how far your ball was from the hole when you picked up.

- Add **1 stroke** if you are on the green and within **5 feet of the hole**.
At The Woods we have adjusted this guidance to be 1-2 strokes.
- Add **2– 3 strokes** if your ball was between **5 feet and 20 yards** from the hole.
- Add **3 – 4 strokes** if your ball was **more than 20 yards** from the hole.

DIAGRAM 3.3: MOST LIKELY SCORE WHEN A HOLE IS STARTED BUT PLAYER DOES NOT HOLE OUT

▼ If the ball lies on the putting green, no more than 5 feet (1.5 metres) from the hole.

Add 1 or 2 additional strokes, depending on ball position, green difficulty and player ability



▼ If the ball lies between 5 feet (1.5 metres) and 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole.

Add 2 or 3 additional strokes depending on position of ball, difficulty of green and ability of player



▼ If the ball lies more than 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole.

Add 3 or 4 additional strokes depending on position of ball, difficulty of green and ability of player



Did you know...

That the most difficult hole may not be rated the #1 handicap hole on the course. Hole ratings are ranked based on the average score differential between a scratch golfer and a bogey golfer. The holes with the highest average differential receive the lowest hole handicap numbers.

“What’s your Handicap?”

is most common question asked when you tell someone you play golf.

According to the USGA the average handicap for women golfers in the US is around 26.4. Thirty percent of women golfers have handicaps of 21 or less and the same percentage of women have handicaps or 31 or higher. Only 4% of women golfers have a single digit handicap and only 0.4% are scratch or better.

What score should I post if I am playing a round in which there is a hole with a temporary green or tee.

Your club or committee will determine and advise how these holes should be posted.

Could you just reiterate what scores I should put on the scorecard?

- If you did not play the hole, record Par plus your Handicap Strokes.
- Record your actual score plus penalty strokes for holes you completed.
- If you picked up during the hole, then record your *Most Likely Score*.

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Once You've Finished Your Round, Post Your Score

Okay, so if I follow those rules while I play, can I just take my scorecard and enter my score into the GHIN system?

No, first check if any of your actual scores exceed the maximum score on a hole allowed for handicap purposes. This maximum is Net Double Bogey which is $\text{Par} + 2 + \text{Your Handicap Stroke(s)}$ for the Hole. For example an 18 hole Course Handicap of 54 (3 handicap strokes per hole), your Net Double Bogey score is:

- 8 on a par 3 ($3 + 2$ plus 3 handicap strokes)
- 9 on a par 4 ($4 + 2$ plus 3 handicap strokes)
- 10 on a par 5 ($5 + 2$ plus 3 handicap strokes)

Any actual scores higher than Net Double Bogey must be adjusted down along with a downward adjustment to your gross score. The adjusted score is then entered into GHIN.

Good to Know....

Instead of manually adjusting your actual scores downward to net double bogey, GHIN will automatically do it for you if you enter your score hole by hole into the GHIN system. Although not required, this is the recommended method for input.

Is it true I need to post my score on the same day I played?

Yes, with today's technology, the World Handicap System is designed to be a responsive and up to date indicator of your playing ability. The day after you post a score, you will have an updated handicap index. This means for a 2 day tournament, your handicap for the 2nd day will reflect your previous day's tournament score.

The World Handicap System also makes upward and downward adjustments for weather and course conditions that could affect your scores. The system uses all the scores posted that day to determine if an adjustment should be done. It will not retroactively calculate the adjustment due to delayed entry of scores. You are helping other Players who played that day have an accurate handicap when you post the same day you played.

Remember: When you play, your handicap should have your most recent rounds up until the day you play.

Did you know....

"Bogey" meaning one over Par, was the first stroke system developed in England at the end of the 19th century. A golf club had the idea of standardizing the number of shots at each hole a good player should have and called it the "ground score". This was adopted and during a tournament a player was said to be "a regular Bogey man" probably in reference to a popular song at the time. It wasn't until the middle of the 20th century that "Bogey" was used as the term one over Par and "Double Bogey" for 2 over par.

"Par" is derived from a stock exchange term. A stock may be above or below its normal or "par" figure. In 1870, a British sportswriter asked two Golf Professionals what score would win the Open. The response was the perfect play should have a score of 49 (The Open was played over 12 holes). The writer then called this par and the winner, Young Tom Morris won 2 over par.