

Zone 6  
Handicap Report  
April 6, 2020

The basic premise that underlies the Handicap System is that each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review.

The handicap system was put into place to enable players to compete with others of different golfing abilities and at different courses of varying difficulties. The only way the system works fairly is if the players understand and use equitable stroke control, enter tournament scores when applicable, that the score is entered on the correct tees, and that it is entered in a timely fashion. Also, golfers need to understand when to take maximum strokes and when to take estimated strokes to hole out. If a ball is put into play, you need to take the estimated number of strokes to hole out. If a ball is not put into play (rained out, halted by darkness, etc.) it is par "plus applicable strokes". The handicap chair should take the time to assist the golfers in their club, especially the new ladies.

All players should be entering their score before midnight on the day of play; they should also be very careful and use the right date if score was not entered on that particular day. It is important that we all enter a correct score and I suggest that if you do not know how to add with your strokes with the new system, please enter you score hole by hole and the computer will do your calculations. Using the Golf Canada App works really well.

I had a hard time to get my head around the new rule of playing conditions and could not figure out whose call it was to say what conditions were in place. But I attended the handicap seminar in February and this is how it works: if you play on one of these days and at least eight others play the course that same day the computer will adjust your score accordingly.

I have had many golfers come to me inquiring about a player's handicap index, assuming it is incorrect. It is difficult to ensure that every score is entered (other than ladies' day scores). Some of the clubs might just do random checks; however, it should be stressed to the golfers in your club the importance of entering ALL acceptable scores. This will enable the system that is in place to work and to level the playing field. When golfers consistently win "low net" awards, it becomes questionable as to the accuracy of their factor.

The handicap chair of each club is or should be the one who monitors the correct entry of scores. If all players enter their score immediately after completing their games there is less chance of forgetting to do so.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Vail  
Zone 6 Handicap & Course Rating Chair