



2022 MGA Handicap Rules & Procedures

To ensure NGC remains in compliance with the United States Golf Association and that MGA competitions are conducted with the utmost integrity, the MGA Board has set forth the following handicap guidelines for all MGA Members for the 2022 season. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in adjustment, suspension, or dismissal from the MGA. Please contact William Keyes (wakeyes@gmail.com), MGA Handicap Chairman, with any questions.

The MGA's Main Guidelines

1. Membership in the MGA means that you agree to follow the very specific handicapping premises set by the USGA:
 - a. **Each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round regardless of where the round is played.**
 - b. **The player will post every acceptable round for peer review.**
2. Every round you play on a course that is in its active season should be entered. You can go online to <https://www.ghin.com> or use the GHIN mobile app to post at the completion of **EVERY** round. **Entering all rounds played is not optional.** See [USGA Handicap Rule 2.1](#)
3. Certain exceptions for posting will be allowed, but these exception rounds should not become the norm. Exceptions include:
 - a. Rounds played explicitly as practice rounds. **Practice rounds should be uncommon.**
 - b. Any tournament format that is not usual stroke/match play (2-man shamble, 3-club challenge, scramble format etc.).
4. Incomplete rounds should still be posted:
 - a. When you play 7-13 holes, you enter a 9-hole score.
 - b. When you play 14 or more holes, you enter an 18-hole score.
 - c. For holes not played, your score will be net par—either a gross par or gross bogey—as your handicap dictates. The scorecard combined with your course handicap will tell you what score to enter on all courses. See [Rule 3.2](#).
5. You may no longer enter scores from rounds played alone. See [Rule 2.1](#)

6. As handicaps are now recalculated daily, you should enter immediately after you play. See [Rule 4.3](#)

Additional Considerations

1. Maximum Hole Score for Handicap Purposes. [Rule 3.1](#) spells out the changes for maximum scores for a hole for posting a score for your handicap. Generally, your maximum score will be net double bogey, meaning the maximum score you can take is (Par of the hole) + (2 strokes) + (Any handicap stroke[s] the player receives on that hole). You will need to be aware of your course handicap in order to properly adjust your score for holes as needed. All hole-by-hole scores must be adjusted using this format.
 - a. As an example, if your course handicap is 10, and on #4 at NGC your gross score is a 9, the score you would enter for handicap purposes is 7 (4 + 2 + 1). If on #2 your gross score is a 9, the score you would enter for handicap purposes is 6 (4 + 2 + 0).

Remember that you can wind up with a 15 on a hole and win it against a competitor who made an 18, but you can still only enter a score reflecting what is allowed in the above and in a tournament, you can be a 3 handicap and shoot 100 and 100 is your tournament score, but what you would enter would reflect nothing more than a net double bogey on a hole.

2. Should you pick up before completing a hole, you must still record the Most Likely Score you would have earned for that hole. For example, if you pick up a 2 foot putt for bogey you should score a bogey. If you had a 30 foot putt for Par, you would also consider your most likely score to be a bogey. A player who starts, but does not complete a hole must record the most likely score. This score may not exceed a net double bogey as defined by [Rule 3.1](#)
3. A "Tournament Score" or "Competition Score" (C-Score) is a score made in a competition organized and conducted by the Committee in charge of the competition (for example all MGA tournament events, Match Play, or A-Team events). Competition scores will be denoted with a C. It is part of the GHIN system and is one of the choices within the posting app. Regular, routine events (Men's Nights, hustles, weekend skins games, etc.) are not considered tournament events and should be entered as regular rounds.

Season Specific Guidelines

1. **To participate in any NET competitions as part of the MGA, members must have a current handicap. Each MGA member must maintain two posted 18-hole scores (either full 18 or combined 9-hole scores) from NGC in the last 30 days.**
 - a. The two posted scores in the last 30 days requirement may be fulfilled by any combination of full 18-hole rounds or 9-hole combined scores. Starting April 14th 2022, to compete in NET events with your established GHIN handicap index, in the 30 days prior to the date of the event, you must have:
 - i. Two 18-hole scores posted from NGC or
 - ii. One 18-hole score + Two 9-hole scores combined into a single 18-hole-combined score all from NGC or
 - iii. Four 9-hole scores combined into two 18-hole-combined scores posted from NGC
 - b. **The Committee along with NGC golf staff will audit participant handicaps prior to each MGA tournament. If a player is found to not have a current handicap or fails to meet the 2-in-30 requirement, they will not qualify for handicapped participation in the NET event. They will be eligible to play in a GROSS event/division or any Men's Nights or Match Play as a 0 handicap.**
 - c. **If any MGA Member is unable to meet the 2-in-30 posting requirement for reasons of travel, work, injury, sickness, or the like, they may submit an appeal in writing to the MGA Handicap Committee at ngcmga@gmail.com to request a temporary exemption from the requirement. Exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis with decisions based on individual circumstances.**
2. If you are new and have played less than 20 rounds, the handicap system uses a formula to assign your handicap. (i.e. If you have 3-5 acceptable scores, the lowest 1 becomes your handicap, if you have 9-11 scores, the lowest 3 are used or if you had 18 scores, the lowest 6). See Rule 5.2a

Infraction Resolution

1. **A player in question of a breach of any rules will be informed and have the right to give an explanation.**
2. The actions that may be taken against a player not conforming to the above may use the guidance that is outlined by the USGA Handicap System (Rule 7.1b) but may include additional remedies based on the infraction committed.

- a. The USGA guidance for breaches of the MGA Handicap Rules & Procedures related to the posting of rounds played the Handicap Committee consists of three options:
 - i. Post the actual score made by the player
 - ii. Post a penalty score as deemed necessary by the Handicap Committee (including posting a 18-hole score of 72)
 - iii. Post the actual score and a penalty score
- b. The Handicap Committee retains the right to enact “spirit of the game” penalties in order to level the playing field without barring the player in question from competition. These penalties include, but are not limited to, having a player play in events as a 0 handicap or having a player play with a tournament handicap.
- c. The Handicap Committee retains the right to penalize a player as it sees fit. This includes suspending the player from MGA play or dismissing the player from the MGA for any rules violations.