

## **Posting & Handicaps at The Hampton Hall Golf Club**

The purpose of the USGA Handicap System™ is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling golfers of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis. The System provides fair Course Handicaps™ for players regardless of ability, and adjusts a player's Handicap Index™ up or down as one's game changes. At the same time, it disregards high scores that bear little relation to the player's potential ability and promotes continuity by making handicaps continuous from one playing season or year to the next. A Handicap Index is useful for all forms of play. A basic premise underlies the Handicap System, namely that every player will try to make the best score at each hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review.

A Handicap Index is issued by a golf club or authorized golf association and indicates a golfer's skill. An Index is issued only to individuals who are members of a golf club. Policies of golf clubs and golf associations issuing Handicap Indexes must be consistent with the Rules of Golf and the USGA Handicap System. The Hampton Hall Club is a member of the South Carolina Golf Association (SCGA) and issues Handicaps to its members under the USGA Handicap System. An essential element of the Handicap System is the requirement that each golf club that issues Handicap Indexes must have a Handicap Committee to ensure the integrity of the Indexes issued by the club. In order to obtain a USGA recognized Handicap Index, a golfer must join a golf club and post adjusted gross scores. These scores are subject to peer and handicap committee review. After at least five scores have been posted, the club issues a Handicap Index to the golfer in accordance with the rules of the Handicap System.

A Handicap Index compares a player's scoring ability to the scoring ability of an expert amateur on a course of standard difficulty. A player posting a score makes a scoring record which includes the appropriate course and slope ratings associated with the tees played. A Handicap Index is computed from no more than 20 of these scores plus eligible Tournament Scores in the scoring record. It reflects the player's potential because it is based upon the best scores posted for a given number of rounds, ideally the best 10 of the last 20 rounds.

A Handicap Index is designed to travel well from course to course, as well as from one set of tees to another set of tees on the same course. A player's Handicap Index determines the number of strokes a player receives from an expert golfer playing from the same tees and depend upon the length and difficulty of the course being played.

A USGA Course Rating™ is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal conditions based on yardage and other obstacles that affect scoring ability. A USGA Slope Rating™ is an evaluation of how much more difficult the course plays for individuals who are not scratch golfers. Each course is rated from each set of tees for both the scratch golfer and the bogey golfer. The Course Rating reflects the difficulty of the course for the scratch golfer. The Course Rating and Slope Rating together reflect the difficulty of the course for players who are not scratch golfers. The greater the difference between the scores of the scratch and bogey golfers on a certain course, the higher the Slope Rating will be and the more strokes golfers will receive. Conversely, the less the difference, the lower the Slope Rating will be-and the fewer strokes golfers will receive.

## Course Handicap

It is the player's responsibility to determine his/her correct Course Handicap and to know the holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received. A player locates his most current Handicap Index from the handicap computer in the pro shop using his/her membership number. This computer also provides the current course handicap for each set of tees available for play. The handicap index may also be used to determine the course handicap from the appropriate Course Handicap Table for each tee to find the corresponding Course Handicap. Course Handicap Tables are posted on the handicap bulletin board. There is a Course Handicap Table for each set of tees used by men and by women. The number of strokes a player receives

(Course Handicap) is calculated from the relative difficulty (Slope Rating) of the each course. Each set of rated tees will have a different Course Handicap Table for men and women based on their respective Slope Ratings for those tees. Note: On a golf course that does not have a USGA Course and/or Slope Rating, a player determines his Course Handicap based on a Slope Rating of 113.

### Players Competing From Different Tees

Different tees usually have different Course Ratings. Since course ratings reflect the probable scores of scratch golfers, the higher rated course is more difficult, and the player playing from the set of tees with the higher Course Rating receives additional strokes equal to the difference between the Course Ratings, with .5 or greater rounded upward.

First, the Course Handicaps should be determined as summarized above, and then additional strokes are added to the Course Handicap of the player playing from the higher-rated set of tees.

Example 1: If men playing from the middle tees where the men's SCGA/USGA Course Rating is 70.3 compete against men playing from the back tees where the men's Course Rating is 72.6 the men playing from the back tees will add 2 strokes to their Course Handicap. ( $72.6 - 70.3 = 2.3$  Rounded to 2 strokes)

Example 2: If women playing from the forward tees where the women's Course Rating is 73.4 compete against men playing from the middle tees where the men's Course Rating is 70.9, the women will add 3 strokes to their Course Handicaps. ( $73.4 - 70.9 = 2.5$  Rounded to 3 strokes)

Example 3: Men and women playing from the same set of tees will have different Course Ratings. Since the women's Course Rating will usually be higher, women receive additional strokes equal to the rounded difference between the Course Rating, with .5 or greater rounded upward. If women playing from the middle tees where the women's Course Rating is 77.3 compete against men playing from the middle tees where the men's Course Rating is 70.9, the women will add 6 strokes to their Course Handicap. ( $77.3 - 70.9 = 6.4$  Rounded to 6 strokes)

## Posting Rounds

Fair handicapping depends upon full, accurate information regarding a player's potential scoring ability as reflected by his/her scores. Every golfer is responsible for returning all his/her acceptable scores. The preferred method to expose scores to peer review is to post scores in person immediately following the round. The SCGA computer in the pro shop is provided for this purpose and is available for players to record every round played. The posted scores for each day are immediately accessible to all members for peer review following posting. Away scores should be posted at the course being played or provided to The Hampton Hall Club's pro shop for posting. The scores can also be posted on-line using Golfnet.com. The adjusted gross score, the date and the

corresponding SCGA/USGA Course Rating and Slope Rating are required for each of these away rounds played. This information is normally found on each away course scorecard. Total scores may be returned and need not be recorded hole-by-hole. Scorecards should be signed, dated and placed in the box near the computer to allow the handicap committee to perform the required SCGA/USGA scorecard audits. Please ensure that the scorecards contain:

- i. "Complete" Player's name or identification number;
- ii. Date of the round played;
- iii. Tees played;
- iv. Adjusted gross score.

### Adjusted Gross Scores

Every golfer is responsible for posting all of his/her acceptable scores. The acceptability of scores is determined by understanding and using the following guidelines and definitions to adjust and correct the actual strokes taken during a round. All posted scores must be made in accordance with the principles of the Rules of Golf. Scores in both match play and stroke play, including those made in team competitions shall be posted. Scores made in team competitions in which players are requested to pick up when out of contention shall be posted for handicap purposes. A summary of the most popular golfing games and the posting requirements are included as Table 1.

A golfer posts an 18 hole score when he/she plays an 18-hole round and a 9-hole score when he/she plays a 9-hole round. Nine hole rounds are combined automatically with other nine hole rounds to create a 18 hole round for the purpose of handicap index calculations.

A golfer also posts an 18 hole score when 13 or more holes are played in an 18-hole round. A golfer posts a 9-hole score when 7 to 12 holes are played. The holes not played are scored using "net par" for each hole as discussed below.

### Holes Not Played or Not Played Under The Rules of Golf

If a player does not play a hole or plays it other than under the principles of the Rules of Golf (except for preferred lies), his/her score for that hole for handicap purposes is par plus any handicap strokes he/she is entitled to receive on the hole. This number is defined to be "Net Par". When recording this hole score, it should be preceded by an "X".

### Mulligan

If a player uses a Mulligan for a shot on a hole, he/she has not played it under the Rules of Golf, so the score for that hole for handicap purposes is "Net Par".

### Unfinished Holes & Conceded Strokes

If a player starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, he/she shall record for handicap purposes what he/she most likely would have made.

The most likely score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in his/her best judgment, the number of strokes that the player would need to complete the hole from that position more than half the time.

Such scores shall not exceed his/her Equitable Stroke Control limit. There is no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round provided that failure to finish is not for the purpose of handicap manipulation.

### Equitable Stroke Control

Equitable Stroke Control must be applied to all scores posted for handicap purposes. Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) sets a maximum number that a player can post on any hole depending on the player's Course Handicap. ESC is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential scoring ability. ESC is used only when a player's actual or most likely score exceeds his maximum number based on the ESC tables. Both 9 and 18 hole ESC posting limits are provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) Limits

<b>18 Hole Course Handicap</b>	<b>Max Score Posted on</b>		
	<b>Par 3</b>	<b>Par 4</b>	<b>Par 5</b>
9 or Less	5	6	7
10-19	7	7	7
20-29	8	8	8
30-39	9	9	9
40+	10	10	10
<b>9 Hole Course Handicap</b>	<b>Max Score Posted on</b>		
	<b>Par 3</b>	<b>Par 4</b>	<b>Par 5</b>
4 or Less	5	6	7
5-9	7	7	7
10-14	8	8	8
15-19	9	9	9
20+	10	10	10

### **Scores Not Acceptable for Posting**

Scores are not acceptable for posting when a course does not meet SCGA/USGA requirements for an executive or regulation golf course. An executive course is defined as having yardage from 3,000 to 5,000 yards while a regulation course is over 5,000 yards. Scores are also not acceptable for posting when a game is played on a course under repair with temporary tees and/or greens in use and a SCGA/USGA temporary rating has not been issued. Scores are not acceptable for posting when scores are made on a course with no USGA Course or Slope Rating.

Scores are not acceptable for posting when a majority of the holes are not played in accordance with the principles of the Rules of Golf.

Scores are not acceptable for posting when, as a condition of the competition, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14, or types of clubs are limited (as in a competition in which only iron clubs are allowed).

Scores are not acceptable for posting when fewer than 7 holes are played.

## **Penalty Score**

A penalty score is a score posted by the handicap committee for a player who does not return scores or otherwise does not observe the spirit of the Handicap System. When a penalty round is issued, the lowest differential in the player's score file is duplicated and added to the file. The penalty score is issued in date sequence. The penalty score is played through the scoring file under regular computation methods. Under normal conditions, a penalty round will be active in the scoring file until an additional 20 rounds have been posted. The Handicap Committee does not assign a penalty round for minor scorecard violations such as missing first initials, incorrect dates, etc.

Continued violations or deviations by players from written or stated policies of the Handicap Committee may result in their suspension from tournament play by deletion of their indexes.

## **How Well Should You Play?**

The USGA's Handicap Research Team tells us that the average player is expected to play to his Course Handicap or better only about 25% of the time. The player normally averages three strokes higher than his Course Handicap. The player's best score in twenty should only be two strokes better than his Course Handicap.

## **Hampton Hall Club Requirements**

A summary of the unique handicap information, requirements and responsibilities for Hampton Hall Club members is provided as Appendix A.

Table 1: Score Posting Sheet

<b>Format of Play</b>	<b>Post - Yes/No</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Individual Stroke	Yes	Must complete 13 holes or more (7 for 9-hole score).
Individual Match	Yes	Upon close of a match of 13 holes or more, the players must take net par without exceeding Equitable Stroke Control (ESC). If the match is still in progress and your opponent concedes a hole, post the score you most likely would have made on that hole without exceeding ESC. If a player chooses to discontinue play, net par must be taken for those holes not completed. However, if play continues, follow the guidelines under the SCGNUSGA rules of handicapping.
Four-ball  (Better-ball)  Stroke Play	Yes	The proper name of this format is Four-Ball; however, it is commonly referred to as better-ball. By either name, you must post your score for handicapping purposes. In a stroke play format, if you are out of the hole and pick up to speed up play, put down the score you would most likely would have made, not to exceed maximum allowable under ESC. For example, if your ball were two feet from the hole lying 5, your "most likely" score would be a 6.
Four-ball  (Better-ball)  Match Play	Yes	Just as in match play format, you must post for handicapping purposes. If A & B are partners and A is putting for a 3 and makes it and player B has a 25 foot putt for a 4, player B should post a 5 for handicap purposes - i.e., the score most likely to have been taken for that hole - not to exceed maximum allowable under ESC. Please Note: If in the course of a round you play 13 holes or more you must post your score utilizing net par for holes not played.
Foursome  (Scotch)	No	In a foursome format (better known as Scotch) you will not post your scores for handicapping purposes. In this format you are not playing your own ball throughout the round.
Pinehurst/ Chapman	No	In the Pinehurst/Chapman format or any modification of this format, you are not playing your own ball throughout the round and therefore, you cannot post your score for handicapping purposes.
Scramble	No	Scramble formats cannot be posted for handicap purposes because you are not playing your own ball from the original spot in which the ball was hit throughout the round.
Stableford/ Point-Par Points	Yes	With any type of point tournament, e.g., Stableford, Tin Whistle, etc., you must post your score for handicapping purposes. If you are out of the hole, follow the SCGNUSGA posting procedure of the score you most likely would have made, not to exceed maximum allowable under ESC.
Eclectic Event	Yes	With this event you must post all rounds for handicapping purposes. If you pick up on a hole you should follow the SCGNUSGA posting procedures of posting the score you most likely would have made on that hole not to exceed ESC. If there are any restrictions imposed by the committee such as limitation of number or types of clubs - e.g., irons-only event - the resulting score should not be posted for handicap purposes.

Appendix A:  
Hampton Hall Club Bluffton, SC  
Golf Handicap Program  
As of January 1, 2012

**Hampton Hall Golf Club  
Bluffton, SC  
Golf Handicap Program  
As of January 1, 2012**

**Information, Guidelines, Member Responsibilities**

**Information:**

- Hampton Hall Golf Club (HHGC) follows the United States Golf Association (USGA) guidelines for the administration of Golf Handicap Program at HHGC.
- HHGC is a member of the South Carolina Golf Association (SCGA). The SCGA uses the Carolinas Golf Association Golf Handicap System (Golfnet.com) to calculate HHGC member handicaps.
- As a member of the SCGA the members of HHGC are also part of the Carolinas Golf Association. This association includes member golf clubs from North and South Carolina.
- The Carolinas Golf Association Handicap System is open 365 days a year for posting. HHGC is always open and does not have any seasonal closing periods for score posting. Scores for all acceptable rounds played during the year must be posted.
- Handicaps are updated every two weeks by the system and are available both on-line and posted in the men's locker room.
- Scores can be posted in the proshop or over the internet at either Golfnet or the SCGA website. Members are encouraged, however, to post all acceptable rounds immediately following their rounds in the proshop to ensure timely and accurate posting. Scorecards should be dropped in the box beside the computer to assist in handicap audits required by the USGA. The URLs for the posting sites are: [www.golfnet.com](http://www.golfnet.com) or [www.scgolf.org](http://www.scgolf.org).
- Each HHGC member is encouraged to enroll in the SCGA at their website. An HHGC member enrolling through either the SCGA website or Golfnet has access to the following benefits:
  1. Post home and away scores from your home or mobile computer
  2. Check their own handicap and scores
  3. Check other HHGC member handicaps
  4. Signup for Club Tournaments
  5. See Club Tournament tee times and results
  6. Enroll your e-mail address for handicap update and SC & NC state golf tournament information.
  7. The SCGA website will also let HHGC members know about state and USGA tournaments and qualifiers, including locations, dates and eligibility requirements.
- Carolinas Golf Handicap System does not interface with the USGA GHIN System. Scores from another club on the GHIN System must be transferred manually. In these cases the score, including course ratings and slope for the tees played, are required to be turned in to the proshop for manual posting.
- The current Handicap Chairman at HHGC is Dick Titus. His E-mail address is [Rgtitus@hargray.com](mailto:Rgtitus@hargray.com) and phone number is 843-815-5289.

### **Guidelines:**

- HHGC uses the Handicap System as specified by the USGA in their Handicap System Manual. The authorization of our club to issue USGA Handicap Indexes to its members is contingent upon following all of the procedures of the USGA Handicap System.
- The USGA Handicap System Manual is available by logging into the SCGA web site or the USGA website.
- HHGC members are encouraged to use the USGA website to research questions they have regarding issues they have about their handicap, posting scores, adjusting scores and two course handicap requirements. The HH handicap committee is also available to answer questions and provide support.
- All HHGC members are encouraged to take the USGA Handicap Seminar on the USGA website at [www.usga.org/](http://www.usga.org/).
- All HHGC members are encouraged to consult with the Handicap Chairman, a Handicap Committeeman, or the HHGC PGA Professional Staff for questions regarding score posting and adjusting scores to post.

### **Member Responsibilities:**

- Golf is a gentlemen's game. All HHGC members are expected to respect their fellow members and post their golf scores using the USGA Handicap System.
- Remember that a handicap index is a measure of your potential as a player, not the average number of strokes above par you shoot. As such, you are expected to post **all** of your acceptable golf scores unless the Handicap Committee and the PGA Professional temporarily suspend score posting due to course conditions.
- Scores are not acceptable for posting when a course is less than 3,000 yards or does not have a USGA rating. They are also not acceptable when a majority of the holes are not played in accordance with the principles of the Rules of Golf, less than seven holes are played, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14, or types of clubs are limited (as in a competition in which only iron clubs are allowed).
- Your handicap index is calculated by taking your 10 best scores out of your last 20 posted scores chronologically. Tournament scores are subject to additional processing and may impact the index calculation for up to a year following the round.

### **Acceptable Score Posting:**

- If you play between seven and twelve holes you must post a nine hole score. This nine hole score will eventually be combined when you post your next nine hole score at HHGC.
- If you play 13 holes or more you must post an eighteen hole score.
- The USGA rules for posting nine hole or eighteen hole rounds that are incomplete is to use "Net Par" for the unplayed holes. "Net Par" is defined for handicap purposes to be par plus any handicap strokes the player is entitled to receive on the hole. When recording this hole score, it should be preceded by an "X".
- Match Play unfinished holes: If you have conceded a hole or lost a hole without putting out,

you must post a score for that hole by adding up the strokes already taken plus penalty strokes and add the number of strokes a player would "most likely" take to hole out. "Most likely" is defined for handicap purposes as the number of stroke a player would expect to take to hole out 50% of the time. (Example: On the green inside two feet, one stroke. On the green twenty feet away, two strokes.)

**Adjusting Hole Scores:**

- Equitable Stroke Control must be applied to all scores posted for handicap purposes. Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) sets a maximum number that a player can post on any hole depending on the player's Course Handicap.
- ESC is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential scoring ability.
- ESC is used only when a player's actual or most likely score exceeds his maximum number based on the ESC tables.
- Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) Limits:

18 Hole Course Handicap	Max Score Posted on		
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30-39	9	9	9
40+	10	10	10
9 Hole Course Handicap	Max Score Posted on		
	Par 3	Par 4	Par 5
4 or Less	5	6	7
5-9	7	7	7
10-14	8	8	8
15-19	9	9	9
20+	10	10	10

**HH Tournament Scores:**

The following are scores that must be posted with a "T" due to tournament play:

1. HHGC Member-Guest Tournament.
2. HHGC Member-Member Tournament.
3. HHGC Club Championship.
4. HHGC Ryder Cup Tournament Play.
5. Other club events as specified during the year.
6. Other SCGA or USGA tournaments a HHGC member may play in as an individual (non-team) golfer throughout the year.

### **Posting Guidelines and Deadlines:**

- All acceptable scores must be posted within one week of play. Scores not posted are subject to being posted by the handicap committee and/or the posting of a penalty round in accordance with USGA handicap rules.
- When a penalty round is issued, the lowest differential in the player's score file is duplicated and added to the file. The penalty score is issued in date sequence. The penalty score is played through the scoring file under regular computation methods. Under normal conditions, a penalty round will be active in the scoring file until an additional 20 rounds have been posted.
- HHGC members who play in Saturday morning events and HHMGS tournaments must turn in their scorecards to the Pro Shop.
- Each HHGC member must post their own adjusted scores from other play or designate a captain who kept all the group's scores to post to the handicap system. A handicap roster with HHGC member numbers is available by the computer in the Proshop.
- Scorecards turned into the proshop will be kept available for member handicap & posting review for three months.

### **Peer Review:**

- HHGC members have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with each other in club functions and tournaments.
- HHGC scores are readily available for inspection by others, including, but not limited to, fellow members and the club's Handicap Committee by the current handicap post on the men's locker bulletin board.
- Each HHGC member can also view other member's score posting by logging into Golfnet.com through the SCGA website.
- HHGC members who do not follow the spirit of HHGC Handicap program are subject to review by the Handicap Committee. The Committee reserves the right to adjust an HHGC member's handicap in accordance with USGA guidelines.