



## VGC HANDICAP POLICY

### General

The purpose of the Handicap System is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling players of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis. Two basic principles support the Handicap System:

- a. The player will try to make the best possible score at every hole in every round,
- b. The player will post every acceptable round (adjusted gross individual score) for peer review.

### Member Responsibilities

All members are encouraged to maintain a current and valid handicap. All members participating in club competitions including trophy events, Men's League and Women's Days, and inter-club competitions **must** maintain a current and valid handicap according to the World Handicapping System as adopted by Golf Canada. Access to the handicap system is included with Club membership. A computer dedicated to the handicap program is provided in the Clubhouse for members' use. Please contact the Pro Shop if you require assistance. Alternatively, members may post their scores directly online through the Golf Canada website.

It is not the player's option to enter only selected scores. All scores for all rounds played, where an individual score may be recorded, (including 9 hole and incomplete rounds) should be entered into the handicap system, according to Golf Canada guidelines, preferably on the day of play.

It is the responsibility of each player to review their opponent's handicap prior to competitions, and to raise any questions regarding handicaps or posted scores at that time. Players are also responsible for ensuring that they use the correct handicap for the specific tees in use for the competition.

### Handicap Committee Responsibilities

The Club is required by Golf Canada to have a dedicated Handicap Committee to monitor handicaps. The Handicap Committee oversees a four-pronged approach to monitoring the handicaps of the membership. Club tournaments are defined as trophy events, Men's League, Women's Days and the Club Championships. The four prongs of the monitoring approach are as follows:

1. **Non-Competitive Membership** – maintain a list of the members who do not wish to compete in Club competitions and are not interested in keeping a valid handicap. These



players will not be monitored by the automated Golf Canada system and will be left to enjoy their golf at the Club. They may participate in the gross score competition of any club tournament. In any handicap competition, if their most recent valid handicap index was between 0 and 54, they may play with a handicap of zero, or if a plus handicap index, they may play with a handicap of plus 5.

2. **General Review** – review the roster of members participating in the handicap system on a semi-annual basis. (February and July). Rounds played at the club will be compared to scores posted on Golf Canada and any member not reaching a minimum 80% posting threshold will be contacted by a Captain, the Head Professional or another member of the Committee.
3. **Automatic Adjustment by Golf Canada** - Regarding exceptional scores, for exceptional score differentials from 7.0 – 9.9 lower than the player’s handicap index a reduction of 1.0 is applied to each of the most recent 20 score differentials recorded in the player’s scoring record, including the exceptional score, and for score differentials 10.0 or more lower than the player’s handicap index, a reduction of 2.0 is applied in the same manner.
4. **Specific Member Review** - closely monitor tournament winners at the club and review their handicaps to make sure they are accurate and determine when a handicap adjustment or the issuing of a tournament handicap is warranted. A Specific Member Review will take place when any of the following occur:
  - a. A member scores an Exceptional Score: A Score Differential which is at least 7.0 strokes better than the player’s Handicap Index at the time the round was played, in a club tournament round.
  - b. Notwithstanding Golf Canada’s proactive reduction of a player’s handicap when they shoot exceptional scores, the committee reserves the right to further reduce a Member’s handicap for competitive rounds should they notice a trend in play in competition that indicates the Member has the ability to perform exceptionally in tournament settings compared to their peers.
  - c. A member has won multiple VGC net events as follows:
    1. two wins in the current season,
    2. three wins in the prior two seasons, or
    3. four wins in the prior three seasons.
  - d. A specific inquiry is forwarded to the VGC Handicap Committee.

## Penalties

Players found to be using handicaps that are invalid or are not current, in contravention of the



requirements of this policy statement, shall forfeit their match and shall be withdrawn from the competition in question. Players who are determined to have violated the handicap policy on more than one occasion may be barred from further club competitions in that season.

**Approval** - This policy was approved by the VGC Board of Directors on: April 16, 2025.



## **APPENDIX - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q. What is involved in a Handicap Review?**

A. The Golf Canada Handicap Manual sets out a formal process for a Handicap Review, which the Committee follows when analyzing a player's handicap. This includes 16 different check points for the committee to go through to analyze whether a handicap adjustment is needed. These include things like scores posted vs. rounds played; competitive scores vs. casual scores; handicap trend over the past 12 – 24 months; scores posted in different formats of play (Stableford, par points, stroke play, match play etc) and further details are included in Golf Canada's Rules of Handicapping, Appendix D.

### **Q. How can I contact the Committee to ask a handicap-related question or ask for another player to be reviewed?**

A. Members are encouraged to reach out to the Handicap Committee if they have questions or concerns about handicapping at VGC. There is a member feedback form on the website that will allow you to submit a question or comment to the Committee.

### **Q. Who is on the Handicap Committee:**

A. The Committee is co-chaired by the Men's and Women's Captains and composed of 4 VGC members advised by the Head Professional.

### **Q. How is a Tournament Handicap, or a Handicap Adjustment implemented?**

A. After a Handicap Review is conducted, if the Committee determines that action is required, the member will receive correspondence from the Handicap Committee informing them of the change to their handicap. The member will be given a two-week period to appeal the revision. The member will be required to play to their adjusted handicap in net VGC tournament events for the remainder of the VGC competitive season.