

Bend Golf Club
Handicapping Policies and Procedures
May 2018

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the rules, regulations, responsibilities, and guidelines for the governance of handicapping of all players at the Bend Golf Club.

Handicap Committee:

Formation: The Bend Golf Club will form and maintain a Handicap Committee.

Duties and Responsibilities: The Bend Golf Club Handicap Committee will oversee all rules, regulations, responsibilities, guidelines, administration and aspects of the USGA Handicap System and the handicapping at the club for both men and women. The Handicap Committee will perform the following duties:

1. Ensure all acceptable rounds are posted, including 9-hole scores, which includes:
 - a. Maintaining players records;
 - b. Establishing new member handicap scoring record either by obtaining their past scoring record, establishing a new record including a modified scoring record until such time enough scores have been entered to establish a new handicap;
 - c. Preserving scoring record of resigned members for a period of one (1) year;
 - d. Provide corrections to any scores entered into the computation service incorrectly.
2. Ensure all scores are posted within an acceptable timeframe of the round being played.
3. Ensure tournament scores are posted appropriately, which includes examining results of competitions held at Bend Golf Club.
4. Ensure scores are adjusted properly for handicap purposes.

5. Ensure all acceptable rounds posted are available for peer review, including 9-hole scores.
6. Audit scorecards periodically and review the accuracy of scoring records and information entered by any computation services and work with OGA to get corrections made to scoring records if any inaccuracies exist.
7. Review scorecard data every five (5) years to ensure proper handicapping of holes at Bend Golf Club.
8. Administer review and take any disciplinary action necessary for players who fail to properly post scores or who manipulate scores to create false handicaps for themselves.
9. Ensure Bend Golf Club maintains a method for members to post all scores, including 9-hole scores;
10. Ensure handicaps are updated and posted consistently with OGA handicapping season.
11. Provide education information to members regarding all aspects of the USGA and OGA handicap system, handicapping, and the maintaining of a handicap.
12. Ensure player's handicaps and course conversion charts are posted in both the men's and women's locker rooms and on the board adjacent to the first tee.

Serving on the Handicap Committee:

Handicap committee service shall be voluntary and by appointment by the Board of Directors. The Handicap Chair, MGA Chair, LGA Chair, General Manager, or Club Pro may solicit members for their candidacy to the committee and submit them to the Board of Directors for approval. Membership on the Committee shall consist of an odd number of members comprised of a chairperson and an equal number of members of the MGA and LGA. The Club's Head Pro or their designee may serve as an ex-officio member to the Handicap Committee.

Maintaining Handicaps:

All golf members are encouraged to maintain a handicap. All LGA and MGA members who compete in club games or club tournaments are required to maintain handicaps. Starting in 2019, the MGA began separating out its fees from

the handicap fees so that it was possible to keep a handicap outside of MGA membership. LGA fees are not separated out.

A player must earn a handicap index. No player has an inherent right to a Handicap index without providing full evidence of ability to the Handicap Committee. The committee has the ultimate authority and obligation to adjust or withdraw a handicap index if it deems it necessary to do so.

Posting of Scores:

The following rules govern the posting of scores at the Bend Golf Club. **Exhibit A** provides a **list of acceptable and nonacceptable scores for posting** and provides guidance to all players in determining which scores to post and which ones should not be posted.

1. All members are required to post all scores of acceptable rounds, including 9-hole scores.
2. All scores are required to be posted should be posted no more than 48 hours from the completion of the round. See **Exhibit C on How to Post Scores.**
3. Tournament scores will be posted by the club and should not be posted by individual participants. The MGA and LGA have determined the following events will be posted as tournament scores:
 - a. Bend Masters
 - b. Spring Invitational
 - c. Men's and Women's Member/Member
 - d. Men's and Women's Member/Guest
 - e. Men's and Women's Club Championships
 - f. Any other tournaments designated as such that are not part of the MGA or LGA tournament schedule, but our members participate in and are held at Bend Golf Club such as The Mirror Pond, Oregon Am, etc.

Failure to Post or Manipulating Handicap Index

Golf is a game of integrity, honesty, and fairness. It is incumbent upon each player to post all of their acceptable scores. Failure to post scores or any

attempt to manipulate a player's handicap index may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary action will consist of:

1. First failure to post or manipulation of a player's score will result in a verbal warning.
2. Second failure will result in a written warning.
3. Third failure will result in posting of penalty round scores for scores not posted.
4. After a player's fourth failure to post scores or continued manipulation of scores, further disciplinary action will be taken as the handicap committee deems fair and equitable.

Adjusting Handicaps

The Handicap Committee has the responsibility to ensure each player has a handicap index that accurately reflects their playing ability. The Handicap Committee maintains the right to modify handicaps under any circumstances it deems appropriate. The most common reasons why the Handicap Committee may modify handicaps are listed below. Any handicap that has been modified will be noted with the letter (M).

1. Improving faster than the system can adjust to
2. Numerous away scores change index
3. Temporary disability
4. Player manipulates rounds or scores
5. Continued violations of Section 5-1e (see Exhibit A)

Temporary Disability:

An increase in a player's handicap will not be given because a player's game is temporarily off or a player has discontinued to play. However, an increased handicap maybe given if a player has a temporary disability. To receive such a modification, the player must demonstrate their playing ability is temporarily affected and they must petition the Handicap Committee in writing stating the reason for requesting such a modification.

Committee Adjustment to Handicaps

Prior to adjusting a player's handicap, the Handicap Committee will give notice to the player of possible adjustments and provide an opportunity of appeal either by appearing before the Handicap Committee or in writing indicating why the committee should or should not modify their current handicap index.

OGA Season: Active/Inactive

Handicap indexes will be updated on the 1st and 15th of each month as per the USGA National Revision Schedule. OGA active handicapping season begins March 1st with the last day to post for a given season being November 30th of that same year. The last official handicap index update of the season is December 1st

No local scores can be posted during the off-season, which is December 1st through the last day of February, except rounds played in sun-belt states, which must be posted in a timely fashion.

Rules Governing Adverse Course Conditions

The OGA encourages all Handicap Committees in Oregon and SW Washington to consider adopting local rules to deal with unpleasant course conditions. The Bend Golf Club Handicap Committee has adopted the policy, when conditions dictate, of preferred lies (also known as "winter rules" or "lift clean and place"). The committee will make this determination and post notices when this temporary rule is in effect and for how long. See **Exhibit B**, titled, "Playing Golf Under the Rules in Unpleasant Course Conditions" for further explanation of the **Preferred Lies temporary rule**.

Exhibit A

Acceptability of Scores and Unacceptable Scores

Section 5-1. Acceptability of Scores

Fair handicapping depends upon full and accurate information regarding a player's potential scoring ability as reflected by a complete scoring record. Every player must be responsible for posting all acceptable scores as defined in this section. For handicapping purposes, all Section 4 adjustments, including Equitable Stroke Control, must be applied to all scores, including tournament scores.

Acceptable Scores

Players shall try to make the best score at every hole in every round regardless of where the round is played and under any conditions.

- a) Scores to post: To post a 9-hole score, the player must play between 7 and 12 holes, with at least 7 holes must be played under the rules of golf. To post an 18-hole score, the player must play at least 13 holes under the rules of golf. All holes not played must be scored using par plus, which means par plus any handicap strokes allowed for that hole.
- b) Scores on all courses: Adjusted gross scores from all courses with a USGA course rating and slope rating made during an active season, both at home and away, must be posted.
- c) Scores in all forms of competition: Scores in both match play and stroke play must be posted for handicap purposes. This includes scores made in match play, in multi-ball, or in team competitions in which players have not completed one or more holes or in which players are requested to pick up when out of contention on a hole. The USGA Handicap System Manual covers this in greater detail in [Section 4-2](#).
- d) Disqualification: A player who is disqualified from a competition, but has an acceptable score, must record an adjusted gross score for handicap purposes.

Unacceptable Scores:

Scores made under the following conditions are not acceptable for handicap purposes and should not be entered in the player's scoring record:

- a) If fewer than 7 holes are played.
- b) Rounds played on a golf course in an area in which an inactive season established by the authorized golf association is in effect.
- c) If, as a condition of the competition, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14, or types of clubs are limited, for example, in a competition that allows only iron clubs.
- d) Rounds played on a course with no USGA course rating or slope rating.
- e) If a player uses non-conforming clubs, non-conforming balls, or nonconforming tees; or when a player incurs a second breach of [Rule 14-3](#) (rangefinders and other electronic measuring devices).
- f) A round play alone or without witnesses.
- g) If a player ignores one or more Rules of Golf and fails to post an adjusted hole score as required under section [4-1 and 4-2](#) or fails to record the appropriate penalty for a breach of rule.
- h) If a player declares to the Pro Shop staff prior to playing a practice round where he/she plays more than one ball. A player should not play more than one practice round per week. The Pro Shop staff must note in some fashion the player on the tee sheet has declared a practice round.

Exhibit B Preferred Lies

Preferred Lies (also known as “winter rules” or “lift, clean, and place” is a vastly misunderstood local rule. However, it is effective and recommended by the OGA when certain local abnormal conditions in the fairway or fringe prevent the proper playing of the game. This local rule can only be used in closely mown areas through the green. Accordingly, this rule cannot be used in the rough and is restricted to use in the fairway and fringe.

An example of a local abnormal condition the OGA recommends dealing with by enacting preferred lies is the semiannual worm cast smears in the fairways during the shoulder seasons.

The specifics of this local rule can be found in Appendix 1 of the Rules of Golf (App1, A, 3b). To add this local rule, the following language is included:

“A ball lying on a closely mown area through the green may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.

A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed (Rule 20-4). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, Rule 20-3d applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and its subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other Rule apply.

If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it, moves the ball-marker prior to putting the ball back into play or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, he/she incurs a penalty of one stroke.

Note: “Closely mown area” means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

*Penalty for breach of local rule: match play = loss of hole; stroke play = two strokes.

Exhibit C
How to Post Scores

1. Every golfer is responsible for posting their own scores. If someone posts for you, the responsibility remains yours to ensure accuracy in the posting of that score.
2. Ideally, your scorecard should show the member posting number, last name, and first initial of all players, date of play, gross score, handicap, net score, be signed and attested.
3. Post the adjusted **gross** score (according to [Equitable Stroke Control](#) and rules for unplayed holes).
4. You must post all acceptable rounds at Bend Golf Club, away courses, and any tournaments in which your score is not posted by the Committee on your behalf.