



CHICAGO WOMEN'S DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLUB HANDICAP CHAIRS 2021

Handicaps for the Chicago Women's District Golf Association shall be kept in accordance with the R&A and USGA World Handicap System (WHS), effective January 2020. Numerous changes were made and new terminology was introduced. CWDGA will provide each Club Handicap Chair a copy of the *Rules of Handicapping, Effective January 2020*. Please familiarize yourself with the changes.

Scoring records are maintained continuously from season to season. The CWDGA active season is from **April 1 through October 31**, and all scores should be turned in during this period. If the rating or slope of a course is unknown, check the *CWDGA Handbook for Members*, the CWDGA website, or contact the CWDGA Handicap Chair.

HANDICAPS

CWDGA member clubs must use the World Handicap System (WHS). To ensure the consistency of the World Handicap System, the Handicap Index of every player in the United States will be calculated and issued by the USGA. CDGA (Chicago District Golf Association) is the authorized Golf Association in our area providing this information. Handicap Indexes will now be updated the day after a score is posted.

Scores made in a new playing season and away scores shall be added to those of the preceding playing season to make up the required total scores from which to select the player's lowest 8 Handicap Differentials of the last twenty scores.

Current Handicap Indexes will be used for all CWDGA events. Handicap Index revision dates for tournaments will be posted on the CWDGA website by the Tournament and/or Championship Chair. Each Sectional Handicap Chair will announce Four-Ball Match Play revision dates.

When a player has fewer than 20 scores posted (especially a player establishing a handicap), her Handicap Index can now be established after 54 acceptable holes. The maximum Handicap Index that can be issued to a player is 54.0. Note: the Committee in charge of a competition may set a maximum limit for entry. (Rule 7.2 *Rules of Handicapping, Effective January 2020*).

The Club Handicap Chair should discuss with her golf professional or club manager how the revisions will be posted at her club. If you have difficulty correcting any errors that may appear, notify the CDGA office in Lemont at www.cdga.org or the CWDGA Handicap Chair.

INACTIVE SEASON

Scores made at a golf course in an area observing an **active season must be posted** for handicap purposes, even if the golf club from which the player receives a Handicap Index is observing an inactive season.

Example: If a player belonging to a golf club in Illinois plays golf in Florida during January, any scores made in Florida are acceptable and must be posted (Rule 2.1 *Rules of Handicapping, Effective January 2020*).

PLAYERS BELONGING TO MORE THAN ONE CLUB

Members will use the same identification number at both clubs. They can post at both clubs and the scores will automatically appear on their records at the other club. If you have an active handicap number through a golf association other than the CDGA, these numbers should be linked for WHS purposes. You will need to contact the CDGA to start this process.

CWDGA EVENTS

All CWDGA events require a current CDGA handicap. Players with a Handicap Index of 0-26 are eligible to compete in the Annual Championship Tournament. Players with a Handicap Index of 0-33 are eligible for One-Day Stroke Play, Better-Ball of Pairs and Senior Better-Ball of Pairs tournaments. In Four-Ball Match Play, a player with a Handicap Index above 28.0 may be approved by the Team Match Chair as a permanent player for registration purposes, but must play to a Handicap Index of 28.0 in all matches. If a regular player or substitute's Handicap Index exceeds 28.0 on the revision date of the match, she must play to a USGA Handicap Index of 28.0. Make certain that all team players' names and substitute players' names appear on the computer or handicap sheets. Handicap Indexes will be used to determine Course Handicaps for Four-Ball Match Play dates.



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DUTIES OF CLUB HANDICAP COMMITTEE

1. Verify that all acceptable scores (Rule 2.1 *Rules of Handicapping, Effective January 2020*) are reported for handicap purposes and are available for review by all members. Also be sure your club has been certified for handicap reporting purposes.
2. Advise and educate members on the new World Handicap System (WHS). Six major changes:
 - The Handicap Index Calculation changed. The number is now based off your 8 best scores out of the past 20.
 - Safeguards were added to protect your Handicap Index. The system will account for abnormal playing conditions, limit extreme upward movement of a Handicap Index (Soft Cap), and reduce a Handicap Index when an exceptional score is posted.
 - The formula for calculating your Course Handicap changed with WHS. Slope Rating, Course Rating and Par are used to determine your Course Handicap, allowing you to play from different sets of tees without any adjustment.
 - Net Double Bogey replaced ESC (Equitable Stroke Control). The **maximum score on any hole for handicap purposes** will be limited to Net Double Bogey (Par + 2 strokes + any handicap strokes you receive.) It is each player's responsibility to know her Course Handicap and on which holes where she receives strokes.
 - 14 holes must be played to be an acceptable 18-hole score for posting. 7 holes must be played to post a 9-hole score. Refer to Rule 3.3 *Rules of Handicapping, Effective January 2020* page 39 for more specific guidelines for determining "most likely score" when a hole is started but player does not hole out.
 - Handicap Indexes update daily. (If you submit a score, your index will update the day after you post a score. On days you don't submit a score, no update will take place.) **Please stress to your players how important it is for them to post their score before midnight on the day that they played.**
3. Continue to advise members at the start of season regarding:
 - How and when scores are returned.
 - How handicap cards or labels are issued.
 - How each Handicap Index is verified at each revision.
 - The dates of the Active and Inactive seasons in our area.
 - How away scores are posted prior to the start of the active season.
 - Handicap Index adjustment responsibilities of the Handicap Committee.
 - Penalties for players failing to return scores.
4. Display the USGA Course Rating and Slope chart of the home club and all CWDGA member clubs. Keep it up to date and instruct your members in its use when posting scores.
5. See Golf Club/Handicap Committee Responsibilities on page 80 Appendix A Section 2, in *Rules of Handicapping, Effective January 2020* to determine if your club is following the WHS. Also, see Rule 7 page 68 for more detailed instructions regarding Handicap Committee Actions and Responsibilities.