

## WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM IMPACT ON SMGA EVENTS

While there are a number of changes in handicap calculation and adjustment contained in the new handicap system in use from 1/1/20 forward, those highlighted below may have an impact on SMGA events. Note that there are two handicaps referred to below; the Course Handicap is your full handicap for that course and those tees selected in any given event, while the Playing Handicap includes the adjustment (usually 85%) recommended by the USGA for competitive events.

- 1) Handicaps will be adjusted daily in the GHIN system but the SMGA will continue to use the handicaps on the day of pairings as the handicaps for the event.
- 2) Maximum score per hole will be net double bogey (based on your Playing Handicap), regardless of handicap level, at all events except stroke play. There will be no maximum score per hole for stroke play events. The net double bogey score limit (based on your Course Handicap) will apply for handicap score posting purposes, just as the Equitable Stroke Control process worked in the past.
- 3) When you will not factor in the hole, **we strongly encourage players to pick up**. To facilitate faster pace of play, the USGA has set scoring guidelines in this situation. They are: a) at 5 feet or closer to the pin, take 1 stroke; b) when between 5 feet and 20 yards from the hole, take 2 or 3 strokes based on what you deem appropriate; and c) beyond 20 yards from the hole, take 3 or 4 strokes as you deem appropriate.
- 4) The number of holes completed to be considered a postable round is increased from 13 to 14 holes. Net par remains the score to be taken for holes not completed.
- 5) Course Handicaps will reflect the handicap index and slope adjustment as well as differences in course rating as related to par between the forward and regular tees, so no additional adjustment will be made in determining the Playing Handicap based on tee selection.
- 6) When posting a score in GHIN, you must select (at present) Home, Away or Tournament as part of the process. The USGA, in the past, has not encouraged using the Tournament classification in most situations. The Tournament classification is being removed and a Competition classification is replacing it. The USGA is encouraging the use of the Competition classification in all organized events, which would include the SMGA events. Accordingly, starting in 2020, all SMGA events should be posted as Competition.