



Picton Golf & Country Club Hackers Hollow – Handicap Bulletin #1

The Handicap System – What is it all about?

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 premises underlie the Handicap System, namely that each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review.

Why do we need a Handicap Policy and Handicap Committee?

As a member club of Golf Canada and its provincial organization Golf Ontario, we are authorized to offer the official Golf Canada Handicap System to our members. In doing so, the Club and its members agree to the terms set out in the Handicap License Agreement and to follow its guidelines. Part of that Agreement stipulates that we will document a Handicap Policy and maintain a Handicap Committee to ensure the policy is followed.

What does this mean for you?

We recognize that not all of our members are competitive golfers and that many play only for enjoyment, relaxation and as a social activity. As long as these golfers do not seek to compete in any events, they will likely never need a valid handicap.

Golfers who compete in any events (unless otherwise stipulated), including those who play in Club Match Play events, leagues where scores are used for placement, all sanctioned tournaments and the Club Championships, have a responsibility for adhering to the premises of the Handicap System and to maintain a valid handicap.

What does this mean for the Handicap Committee?

The Handicap Committee has a joint responsibility for adhering to the premises of the Handicap System and to support members in their responsibility.

The Goal of the Handicap Committee is:

“Education, Communication & Accountability”

Education:

The Committee will support and assist our members in their understanding of their responsibility toward the Handicap System through a variety of opportunities for learning.

Communication:

The Committee will communicate regularly with information to support our members. It will address all questions and concerns from members regarding the Handicap System and its correct implementation.

Accountability:

The Committee is accountable to Golf Canada to ensure that our club and its members maintain the guidelines outlined in the License Agreement.

The Committee is accountable to our members to assure that all handicaps are valid and maintained under the premises of the Handicap System through regular peer review and through spot checks of posted scores.

The Committee will offer assistance, adjudication and dispute resolution as necessary when issues or concerns arise.

Who sits on the Handicap Committee?

The Handicap Committee is an independent body, separate from the operation of the Board of Directors. It will be comprised of a group of peer members and will ideally include representatives from both the Men's and Women's Sections. Golf Canada stipulates that at least one member of the Committee must be certified through the completion of the Handicap Certification Course and it further encourages that all members be certified.

Finally - What happens next?

Over the next few weeks the composition of the Handicap Committee will be finalized. The Committee will develop the necessary tools to allow its successful operation. The Committee will review the existing Handicap Policy and ensure that it continues to be current for 2017. The Handicap Policy will be communicated to members as soon as it is finalized.

~ Picton Golf & Country Club Handicap Committee