

The Villages Community Golf Handicap Committee
Handicap Compliance Procedure (6/3/20)

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Peer Review Process

Objective

The Villages is the friendliest hometown for golf. With almost 7,000 active GHIN members playing on 12 Championship courses, having 306 holes, complying with the new USGA/World Handicap System (WHS) is a challenge.

The Villages Community Golf Handicap Committee is comprised of 24 members, that is, Village resident volunteers (a men's and ladies' representative) from each of the 12 Championship courses, and a Chairman, 2 Regional Vice Chairs, Compliance Officer, Secretary, Advisory member and a non-voting representative from The Villages Golf Administration.

The Committee is responsible for peer review and education of the Villagers as to USGA/WHS handicap requirements. The role of the Committee in complying with the USGA/WHS handicap requirements is set out in the following sections.

Overview

Peer review is defined by the USGA/WHS as “the ability of golfers to gain an understanding of a player's potential ability and form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a score that has been posted.” So, what does that mean to you as a member of your golf club? It is your responsibility, as you play with fellow club members to make sure each member posts correctly and accurately. If a fellow member is not posting or not posting accurate scores, it is your obligation to alert the handicap committee. The committee can then take any steps necessary to ensure the golfer has an index which is representative of their playing ability.

The USGA/WHS places the onus on each golfer to uphold peer review. The Handicap Committee is the back up.

The Villages has almost 7,000 active GHIN members. Many members play 3-5 times a week. So, the concept of playing with “fellow club members” is stretched, and it is a true onus of each of the members to monitor his or her fellow playing partner's posting.

The Committee reviews the posting history of 40-50 men and women players each month. The review includes persons brought to the attention of the Handicap Committee, those playing in Men's and Ladies Day Events, and tournaments.

Compliance with posting of scores is the easiest basis to review. If a player is negligent in posting his or her scores, reviewed over a three-month period usually, that player is provided notice of Non-Compliance by letter, and placed on a Non-Compliance List.

Approximately 3 months later, the player is again reviewed. If scores are posted to the Committee's satisfaction, the player is provided a thank you letter. If still deficient in posting, the player is sanctioned, nominally a Modification (M) to his or her handicap index.

If the player remains non-compliant in posting, the Committee may then Withdraw that person's Handicap Index (a WD). In essence, the Non-Compliant golfer can play at scratch, and may be barred from playing from Men's or Ladies Day events.

In the event the Committee is made aware of, and confirms to its satisfaction, of a player's handicap manipulation, the Committee has the right to Modify or Withdraw that player's handicap index immediately.

The Committee may Modify or Withdraw a handicap index for a player who is a repeat offender with respect to being on the Non-Compliant List

1. Peer Review process

a. Objective

In conjunction with individual players' peer review of their playing partners posting accuracy, the Committee will identify a minimum of 40 players each month for posting compliance review.

b. Source

The Committee will focus upon those players involved in Men's and Ladies Day Competition, and tournaments. In addition, the Committee will include any name provided by players in general having questions regarding a specific player's posting compliance.

c. Analysis

On initial review, the Committee will compare the play history on Village championship courses with the player's GHIN posting history. The Committee has benchmarks for posting compliance, adjusted to individual situations.

The review omits play on Executive courses, as these are not postable scores. In addition, the review overlooks if non posting on play dates designated as inclement weather. Posting of scores for Nine Hole play is expected.

d. Outcome

If the player is deficient against the Committee's posting requirements, the player will be provided a letter or email advising the player of his or her posting deficiency.

The letter will be addressed to the player's email or address as shown on the GHIN system.

The intent of the letter is to place the player on notice of the posting deficiency, and in the event that the deficiency remains after 3 months, that the player is subject to sanctions.

Those players receiving a deficiency letter will be placed on the Non-Compliance List.

The Committee may receive notice of a player's improper posting of scores, or other violation of non-compliance with USGA/WHS posting requirements. In this event, the Committee may investigate and place a player on the Non-Compliance List. The player will be provided notice, similar to any player being placed on the Non-Compliance List.

If the player is deemed in compliance after the 3-month re-review, the Committee will inform the player that he or she is in compliance and remind the player to post his or her scores.

Notices from the Committee will be sent to the player's email on file in the GHIN system. If no email is present, the notice will be mailed to the address in the GHIN system. **The Committee presumes the players maintain current email and street addresses in the GHIN system.**

2. Penalty Phase

a. Objective

Once a player is deemed in Non-Compliance with his or her posting requirements (i.e. on the Non-Compliant List) and fails to correct the deficiency at the 3-month review, then the Committee will Modify the player's handicap index to a percentage deemed adequate for the non-posting deficiency. Actions by the Committee to Modify a handicap index are in the sole discretion of the Committee.

b. Sanction

Players on the Non-Compliant List who fail to address and correct their noted deficiencies will have their handicap index Modified as determined by the Committee, in its sole discretion.

A Modified handicap index will have a "M" designation next to the handicap index as viewed in the GHIN system.

A player, having an "M" adjusted handicap index, can play in men's and ladies' day, and other tournaments, but at the handicap as adjusted by the M.

c. Outcome

The Committee desires the individual players to understand the severe implications in his or her deficiency in complying with the USGA/WHS handicap System.

It is envisioned that if the letter of notice of Non-Compliant posting does not encourage the player to address the deficiency noted, the adjustment of his or her handicap index to a lower index designated as M will underscore the importance of correcting the deficiency.

3. Withdraw Handicap

a. Objective

For those players who fail to respond to the Committee's notices as a warning, and fails after 3 months to correct the problem after having his or her handicap index reduced to an "M" value, then they are subject to having their handicaps withdrawn, that is, marked as or "WD" in the GHIN system.

b. Sanction

In the event the player does not respond to the notice of Non-Compliance and fails to comply in the 3 months following the reduced handicap (M or Modified) designation, the Committee may Withdraw the handicap index of the player. Prior to withdrawal of the player's handicap index the player will be invited to meet with the Executive Committee to appeal the decision to have their handicap index withdrawn. The Executive Committee may decide to grant a further extension of up to 3 months to become compliant or if the player does not appear before the Executive Committee or the Executive Committee denies the player's appeal the player will be notified their handicap index will be withdrawn and marked as "WD".

The player may still play in any Village tournament at scratch.

c. Outcome

The Committee must act to protect the general field of players. Those players who refuse to conform to the requirements for posting of scores are playing with an unfair advantage. Accordingly, the Committee will withdraw the handicap index for those players.

4. Other Infractions

The Committee has the sole and independent authority to impose any of the above sanctions, or any sanction, on a player found to have violated the spirit and intent of the USGA/WHS handicap guidelines and rules.

These other infractions include, for purposes of example and not for limitation, instances of falsifying reported scores, play history, or the rules of golf if egregious and affecting the scoring of the individual, whether played on a Villages Championship course or another venue.

In addition, the Committee may, in its sole discretion, impose a sanction or penalty on players who are repeat offenders or repeat non-compliant players.

5. Restoration of Handicap

The player may request the Committee to restore their handicap index, that is, withdraw the WD or M. However, the Committee, in its sole discretion will decide the conditions and requirements under which a player's handicap index is restored.