

La Valle Coastal Club MGA Handicap Policies and Procedures: Rev 5 February 29, 2024

The Handicap Chairman chairs the Handicap Committee. He must be a member in good standing of the La Valle Coastal Club Men's Golf Association (LVCCMGA or MGA). He must also have attended the USGA/SCGA Handicap Seminar and passed the certification test.

The Handicap Committee is composed of MGA members and is responsible for ensuring compliance with all aspects of the USGA/SCGA Handicap System, including:

- Computation and availability of each MGA member's handicap index
- Verification that all acceptable scores are properly posted into the handicap system
- Ensuring all recorded scores are readily available for peer review
- Randomly auditing member scorecards for accuracy and proper posting
- Deciding which competitions /tournament" scores, should be posted as "Competition" scores
- Ensuring each handicap index reflects the "full potential" of each MGA member
- Determine if course conditions are so poor that score posting should be suspended
- Coordinating with the SCGA on periodic course ratings, and determining the handicap stroke allocations to holes
- Regularly communicating with all MGA members to report on handicap compliance, new handicap policies and procedures, reminders, etc.
- Assisting members by correcting/deleting incorrectly posted or duplicate scores
- Notifying members of reporting violations and enforcing disciplinary actions

MGA Members are responsible for:

- Following the principles of the "Rules of Golf"
- Applying Net Double Bogey rule to all scores for posting purposes
- Signing and attesting all scorecards for completeness and accuracy
- Posting all acceptable scores, including 9-hole and disqualification round/event scores
- Posting scores same day played.
- Submitting all home scorecards to the designated MGA handicap location. However, per USGA/SCGA handicap rules, turning in scorecards is not a requirement for posting of scores or maintaining a handicap; thus, the Handicap Committee will not penalize members nor restrict tournament access to members only on the basis of failure to submit scorecards.
- Notifying the Handicap Committee of the reason for all unposted scores, such as by submitting a blank scorecard documenting the unacceptable round. Currently, members in Group 1 (see below) are exempted from this requirement.

Acceptable Scores:

All rounds played by the rules of golf and at least one other person is present during play and:

- Nine-hole scores must be posted when played over a rated or complete nine-hole course. Post all nine-hole scores as a complete nine or hole by hole.

- When 10-17 holes are played: post all holes played hole by hole, or a nine-hole total score with remaining holes played using the hole-by-hole method. Do not fill in holes not played with a made-up score such as net par.
- Post all eighteen holes scores either hole by hole or by complete score method.
- Scores on all courses with a valid Course Rating™ and Slope Rating®
- Scores in all forms of competition: match play, stroke play, and team competitions where each player plays his own ball. Pick-up holes are scored as “most likely score”.
- Scores made under The Rules of Golf
- Scores played under the local rule of “preferred lies”
- Scores made in an area observing an active season

Unacceptable Scores:

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

- When fewer than nine holes are played or the combination of nine holes is over more than one course
- When made on a golf course in an area in which an inactive season established by the authorized golf association is in effect
- When, as a condition of the competition, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14 (as the 5-club tournament)
- When scores are made on a course with no USGA Course Rating or Slope Rating
- When a player uses non-conforming clubs, non-conforming balls, or non-conforming tees
- When a player plays alone and is not accompanied by another person
- When a player ignores one or more Rules of Golf, such as in practice rounds
- Scores in games where each player does not play his own ball (e.g., scramble, shamble) or where the same color tees are not used on every hole

Net Double Bogey rule

A player may not post any score on a hole greater than net double “bogey” or, two strokes over their net par for that hole.

Complete and Accurate Scorecard includes:

- Names, Course Handicap and GHIN number for each MGA member in the group
- Course(s) and tees played
- Gross scores on each hole and 9- and 18-hole totals
- Date the round is played
- Net Double Bogey rule adjustments for posting
- Signed by both the scorekeeper and attester

Acceptable Scores Posting “by midnight” of the day played using one of the following: GHIN using “World Handicap System” (WHS)

- Posting computer at any golf course utilizing GHIN Handicap Service
- GHIN Mobile app
- SCGA Mobile web page
- scga.org website

- ghin.com website
- IGN at any course not utilizing GHIN Handicap Services
- Or other means such as Golf Genuis

Member Groups and Tournament Eligibility

The Handicap Committee will place each MGA member in one of three groups based on their posting record:

- Group 1: Members with excellent posting records as demonstrated by no unposted eligible scores over a period of several months
- Group 2: Members who post many but not all of their eligible scores, and may be subject to handicap modification.
- Group 3: Members who rarely or never post their scores.

Members in Group 1 are automatically eligible for all MGA tournaments using their current SCGA handicap.

Members in Group 2 are eligible for tournaments, they must post at least 90 holes played within six months prior to any tournament entered. And, they may have their handicap modified by the Handicap Committee through assessment of penalty rounds or assignment of a temporary modified handicap.

Members in Group 3 are not eligible for tournaments unless specifically authorized by the Handicap Committee (exceptions may be made if a member has an acceptable reason for not playing and posting scores, such as illness/injury, extended vacations or particularly demanding family and/or business obligations). At any time, Group Three members may request to be moved to Group Two in order to qualify to play in tournaments.

The Handicap Committee will periodically inform members of which group they are currently in and will notify members individually when they change groups. Any member can request information on which group they are currently in and details on their compliance record. The Handicap Committee will not notify the general membership of the group status of individual members.

Disciplinary Actions

The following disciplinary actions will be taken for failure to post or other violations of MGA and/or USGA/SCGA handicap rules:

- Men's Club events with a failure to post will result in a reminder to post – after which, if the player does not enter a score – a penalty score will be assessed.
- Non-posting violations will result in an email notification to the member explaining the violations and providing specific dates. The member will be given the opportunity to explain the reasons for the non-posts and will be provided with information to clarify the posting requirements and to assist them in avoiding future violations.

- A second violation within six months may result in a penalty score being assessed at the discretion of the Handicap committee.
- Third violations within a six-month period may result in a member moving into group two.
- Further, if violations continue or the player does not respond to notifications, after the second notification of the violation/infraction, further disciplinary action will be taken as the Handicap Chairman/Committee and MGA Board deem fair and equitable, including modifying the player's handicap, moving the player to Group 3 and thus ineligible for MGA tournament play, and/or withdrawing the player's handicap.

Future Modifications

These Handicap Policies and Procedures are intended to ensure that the LVCC MGA satisfies all USGA/SCGA handicap requirements, that all MGA members have valid handicaps, and that all MGA competitions are fair for all players, while avoiding placing any unnecessary burdens on members. They may be modified in the future as needed to best meet these goals. If members have any questions or suggestions regarding these policies or procedures, they are encouraged to contact the current MGA Handicap Chairman.