

## HANDICAP INFO

### Do I need a low handicap to participate in our chapter's golf activities?

No, not at all. Here is what you need to know about why a handicap is needed.

### What is a handicap and how do I get one?

The main purpose of having a USGA Handicap is to help make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling players of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis.

### Why should I get a handicap?

Maintaining a handicap gives you a measurable means of tracking improvement. It provides you the opportunity to participate in local tournaments or fun events, allowing score adjustments based on your individual skill level.

### How do I get a handicap?

All LPGA Amateur Golf members can obtain an Official USGA **Handicap Index** through the GN21 System at no additional cost. Powered by GolfNet, GN21 is a full featured system that enables users to track their scores, print out scoring records, and monitor their progress. See this PDF on **How to Post Scores in GN21**.

### What is Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)?

After you have established a Handicap Index (how many strokes over Par that you usually play), use this chart to post only the maximum score you can record per hole and course handicap rating. ESC is designed to keep exceptionally bad holes from dramatically affecting your Handicap Index. If you shoot a 10 on a Par 4, and your maximum ESC is 8, then take 2 off your score to arrive at your Adjusted Gross Score.

<u>ESC Chart / Handicap Index</u>	<u>Maximum Strokes per Hole</u>
9 or less	Double bogey
10 – 19	7
20 – 29	8
30 – 39	9
40 and above	10

### How long does it take to establish a handicap?

You need to post the equivalent of 5 eighteen-hole rounds before you will be issued a Handicap Index. You can also post your 9-hole rounds! The system will automatically match them up to create 18-hole rounds. After posting at least 5 rounds, (or ten 9-hole rounds) the system will calculate a Handicap Index following each revision date, usually twice a month by GolfNet's System, on the 1st and 15th. Your Trend Index is an unofficial indication is what your index will likely be at the next revision date if it was calculated using the current scores posted.

### What score do I record when I do not complete a hole?

This is one of the most common questions handicap committee members are asked and you might be surprised by the answer. When you don't finish a hole - either you give up, you

conceded the hole in match play, you get interrupted and must take a phone call, or you are out of the hole for whatever reason - you should record your "most likely score" for that hole. That means the number of strokes you already had, plus what you think you would need to finish the hole. This is a judgment call. Of course, the maximum you can take on any hole for handicap purposes is the maximum ESC score for your handicap (7 - 10, depending on your course handicap). But, often the score for the hole you don't complete won't be your max. So, consider taking the "most likely score" next time you don't complete a hole.

**For more information on Handicaps and to Post Your Score**, log into the LPGA Amateurs website and select "[My Handicap](#)" from the left side Menu bar. <https://lpgaamateurs.com/>