

## HANDICAP OVERVIEW 2010

In order for the Handicap System to provide for fair play among players with potentially wide varying handicaps, it is important for everyone to follow the same rules outlined by the USGA, VSGA, and local courses. This includes posting your scores in both casual and tournament golfing, either at your home course or an away course.

The USGA Handicap System requires a golf club or association to meet the requirements set forth by the USGA in order to use the terms “USGA Handicap Index, “Course Handicap”, or “Slope Rating” and identify them as such on handicap cards or elsewhere. It is the responsibility of the Handicap Committee to ensure the integrity of the USGA Handicap Indexes issued by the club.

In order to comply with these requirements, the Handicap Committee performs peer reviews for those who maintain handicaps. These reviews are NOT biased towards any individual golfer but are in fact used for ensuring that golfers follow the same guidelines for posting scores. Peer reviews point out errors in how and/or when scores are posted. For example, you may post a score for a tournament the day after play and forget to assign it as a tournament score.

Just as golfers make mistakes posting scores, reviewers make mistakes in reviewing scores. If you believe that an error has been made, please inform a member of the Handicap Committee. Remember, the goal is to provide for fair play among golfers and the best way to accomplish this is with an accurate record of the individual scores. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact someone on the Handicap Committee.

### Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)

Equitable Stroke Control is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player’s potential scoring ability. ESC sets a maximum number that a player can post as defined below:

<b>9-Hole Handicap</b>	<b>18-Hole handicap</b>	<b>Maximum Hole Score</b>
4 or less	9 or less	Double Bogey
5-9	10-19	7
10-14	20-29	8
15-19	30-39	9
20 or more	40 or more	10

### Member Playing Requirements

MGA members must have an established USGA Handicap Index of 36.4 or less at Ford’s Colony to begin play in 18-hole competition subject to USGA rules. This index equates to the following **maximum allowable handicap** for all players **before adjustment for different tees**.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Gold Tees</b>	<b>Silver Tees</b>	<b>Bronze Tees</b>
Blackheath	42	39	34
Blue Heron	41	39	37
Marsh Hawk	40	37	

## **Posting Scores**

You must play by the USGA Rules of Golf in order to post your score. To post an 18-hole score, you must play 13 or more holes. If you do not play a hole or play it other than under the Rules of Golf (e.g. using a “mulligan”), the score for that hole for handicap purposes shall be par plus any handicap strokes to which you are entitled. This hole score should be indicated with an “X” on the score

Scores achieved under match play or stroke play, including those in multi-ball competition, shall be used for handicap purposes (Posting). This includes holes **where the ball has not been holed out**. In this case, the rule states that you **record the score you most likely would have received, subject to the maximum under ESC**.

Nine-hole golfers post their 9-hole scores for calculation of a USGA Handicap Index (N); the maximum USGA Handicap Index (N) is 18.2 for men and 20.2 for women. To post a 9-hole score, you must play a minimum of 7 holes. Members who play in both MGA 18 hole and MGA 9 hole events should establish a 9 hole and 18 hole handicap (2 separate computer numbers).

## **Tournament Scores**

Tournament scores are identified with a "T" when posted. The following scores, from rounds played under the Rules of Golf, shall be posted as tournament (“T”) scores:

- All scores from local, state and national qualifiers and competitions.
- Rounds of inter-club competition organized and conducted by a golf association committee, including “best ball” events. These scores are to be posted at the time of the event and, in cases of away competition, can be posted via Internet through the VSGA system with the appropriate Course Ratings and Slopes applied.
- The following events are designated for “T” scores:

**The Memorial Match Play Championship**

**Red Coat Championship**

**The MGA Championship**

**Monthly Stroke Play**

**Williamsburg Cup matches**

**FCCC Club Championship**

**FCCC Match Play**

If a player fails to post a score, the Handicap Committee may post the score without the player’s authorization.

# **POLICY FOR PLAYERS COMPETING FROM DIFFERENT TEES**

## **"GOLD/SILVER/BRONZE"**

(Updated by the MGA Board of Directors February 2010)

### **Specified Tournaments**

- In MGA specified tournaments (Memorial Match Play, Shark Shootout, 18 and 36 Hole Monthly Stroke Play, and others so designated by the Tournament Director), a player may play from the Silver or Bronze Tees only if at least 50% of the latest posted scores (if less than 20) or ten of the last 20 posted scores are from the Silver or Bronze tees and verified from the computer posting.
- For multi-day events, the player must play from the same tees for the entire event.
- It is the intent of the MGA to have separate flights for the Gold and Silver/Bronze tee players in these tournaments whenever practicable.

### **Silver/Bronze Tee Rounds**

- Posted scores from weekly (M, W, F & S) rounds played from the Silver or bronze tees will establish the requirements of a Silver or Bronze Tee handicap for Specified Tournaments. (See Paragraph 1a).
- Posted scores from non MGA Weekly Tournament rounds played at FCCC will also establish the requirements of Specified Tournaments (paragraph 1.a).

### **Handicap Adjustment for Players Using Different Tees**

Because 1) handicaps are calculated to give a player a "reasonable potential" to have a net score equal to the Course Rating, and 2) because the courses have different ratings for each set of tees, there must be an equitable adjustment as stipulated in *The Rules of Golf*. When players are competing from 3 different tees; Gold, Silver and Bronze, they must use the handicap for the tee they are using, and subtract the adjustment.

Course	Men's Rating		Adjust Silver Handicap	Men's Rating	
	Gold Tees	Silver Tees		Bronze Tees	Adjust Bronze Handicap
Blackheath	68.9	66.0	3	62.7	6
Blue Heron	70.2	67.2	3	64.5	6
Marsh Hawk	69.8	66.1	4	N/A	-

If play is only from the Silver and Bronze tees, those playing from the Bronze tees will subtract 3 strokes from their Bronze handicap on both Blackheath and Blue Heron.