

TOURNAMENT HANDICAPPING

HANDICAPPING INTRODUCTION

The integrity of fair competition in the GMA is our highest priority. In order to manage handicaps effectively the GMA uses the following rules:

- The GMA handicap system does not include scores posted outside of the GMA.
- Excessive hole scores when matches are over are adjusted (*match over limitation*)
- There is tighter implementation of Equitable Stroke Control (ESC).

GMA TOURNAMENT INDEX

WE ONLY POST TOURNAMENT SCORES

We only will be posting GMA tournament scores. We consider scores posted outside the league to be irrelevant.

WE HAVE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL (ESC) PROCEDURES

For adjusting scores for the GMA Tournament Handicapping Index, the GMA uses very similar procedures to the USGA Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) procedures. The GMA has two tables for calculating ESC to arrive at your adjusted scores:

GMA ESC when the match is live.

GMA ESC when the match is over.

GMA ESC FOR HOLES WHEN MATCH IS LIVE AND MATCH IS OVER (DEAD)

GMA	MATCH IS LIVE	MATCH IS OVER (DEAD)
HDCP	Max Score posted for Tournament Index	Max Score posted for Tournament Index
0-5*	Handicap Holes 1 to 9: Double Bogey*	Par + Strokes Received*
0-5*	Handicap Holes 10 to 18: Bogey*	Par + Strokes Received*
6-19	Double Bogey	Bogey
20-24	Double Bogey	Double Bogey

***0-5 Handicaps**

When the match is live, and for tournament handicapping purposes only, they can post a double bogey or less on holes handicapped 1 to 9 and can only post a bogey or less on holes handicapped 10 to 18. When the match is over, they can post a score of par + whatever strokes they were receiving on the remaining hole, or less.

HANDICAPPING FOR NEW OR NEW RETURNING MEMBERS

NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS WITH A VALID GHIN HANDICAP

New and Returning Members with a valid GHIN handicap (13 or more scores in a rolling 24-month period) **are assigned a 90% course allowance**. Any new or returning member, (during

their first 5 rounds to establish a GMA Index), play on **Probation**. When playing on **Probation**, if a player's score breaks predetermined floors resulting in a differential that is 4.0 or lower for the event, they will be "Adjusted" via the negative (-) 4.0 Rule. After New members and Returning Members complete 5 rounds, and the 5 rounds have been posted to calculate their GMA Tournament Index, in their 6th round their new GMA Handicap Index is no longer subject to the negative (-) 4.0 Rule.

NEW MEMBERS OR RETURNING MEMBERS WITH A GHIN BUT WITH LESS THAN 13 SCORES OVER A ROLLING 24 MONTH PERIOD

Any new members or new returning members joining the GMA with a valid GHIN handicap that does not reflect 13 (thirteen) scores from a rolling 24-month period will be assigned a temporary index based on the GMA Differential Table and will be handicapped at 90% course allowance. Any new or returning member, (during their first 5 rounds to establish a GMA Index), play on **Probation**. When playing on **Probation**, if a player's score breaks predetermined floors resulting in a differential that is 4.0 or lower for the event, they will be "Adjusted" via the negative (-) 4.0 Rule. After New members and Returning Members complete 5 rounds, and the 5 rounds have been posted to calculate their GMA Tournament Index, in their 6th round, their new GMA Handicap Index, is no longer subject to the negative (-) 4.0 Rule.

NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS WITHOUT A GHIN HANDICAP

Any new members or new returning members joining the GMA without a valid GHIN handicap will be assigned a 0 (zero) handicap for their first round. The results of the first round will be compared to any available scoring information that can be discovered regarding the player or provided by the player. The player will then be given a temporary index for their next 4 (four) completed rounds. The new or new returning members' scores will be monitored after each of their next 4 (four) rounds and subject to an adjustment in their temporary index if necessary. The temporary index for the first round and any adjustments following each of the following 4 (four) rounds are determined by the handicap committee. All decisions made by the handicap committee will be for the good of the league and to protect its membership who have established GMA handicaps. All decisions are final.

THE -4.0 RULE

When a Rookie, New Returning Member or Guest is playing on **Probation** they are subject to the -4.0 rule. If they post a score that breaks a predetermined floor resulting in a tournament differential that is -4.0 or lower than their current handicap index they will be "adjusted".

We adjust their handicap to 0 for the event.

If they win their match, earn any top finish points or win a low gross title as a 0 handicap that is OK. For pools they would naturally be included in the Lower Birdie Pool even if they originally entered a Higher Birdie Pool. An "Adjustment" only indicates that the predetermined floor was broken and the player was "Adjusted" to protect the field.

-4 Rule Example:

Gross Score: 76

Course Rating: 70.4

Player Handicap: 9

Course Slope: 127

Standard USGA Slope Rating: 113

$$76 - 70.4 = 5.6$$

$$(113/127) = .8897$$

$$5.6 \times .8897 = 4.98$$

$$9 - 4.98 = \mathbf{4.02}$$

If the calculations meet or exceed 4.0, then this score breaks the -4 rule.

SCORE DIFFERENTIAL

Score Differential = (Adjusted Gross Score – Course Rating) x 113/Slope

This result is rounded to the nearest tenth.

GMA Differential Table for Fewer than 20 Scores

When a Rookie or New Returning player has posted fewer than 13 scores the following table indicates how many of their posted scores are currently used to calculate their GMA Handicap Index.

EXAMPLE

A player posts 8 scores. Therefore, we will use their 3 best scores to calculate their handicap.

Number of Acceptable Scores (Rounds Played)	Number of Differentials Used To Determine GMA INDEX
1 – 4	Temporary GMA Index
5	Lowest Score
6	Average of 2 lowest scores
7 – 8	Average of 3 lowest scores
9	Average of 4 lowest scores
10	Average of 5 lowest scores
11-12	Average of 6 lowest scores
13-20	Average of 8 lowest scores

HANDICAP ALLOWANCES FOR 2025

Members with a GMA Handicap Index will receive a **95%** handicap allowance for the 2025 season.

Rookies & New Returning Members (during their first 5 rounds to establish a GMA Index), will receive a **90%** handicap allowance.

Guests will receive an **80%** handicap allowance,

LADIES HANDICAP

Ladies are permitted to play any of the tees designated for that tournament. They will be handicapped "as females" according to the USGA course rating and slope database.