

APPENDIX C – Handicap Policy

The purpose of the USGA Handicap system is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling players of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis. All QVMGA members must uphold the integrity and sportsmanship of the game.

WHAT SCORES MUST BE POSTED:

All Scores made at any golf course must be posted, provided they are witnessed by another player. No unattested scores shall be posted:

- a. Less than 9 holes played: (Do not post)
- b. 9 holes played: (Post a 9 hole score)
- c. 10-17 holes played: (Post hole by hole score)

WHEN:

It is recommended and preferred that you post immediately following your round. The Committee advises members to post no later than 24 hours to permit review of handicaps for events and fellow peers.

REVIEW OF PLAYER RECORDS:

Handicap Indexes are checked and verified by the Handicap Committee prior to each revision. The playing records of all players who are issued a USGA Handicap Index are subject to Handicap Committee and peer review. Some of the Handicap Committee checks include:

- *Rounds played vs. rounds posted
- *Proper posting of holes played and use of Equitable Stroke Control
- *Posting of away scores
- *Posting of all tournament scores
- *Review of individual player scorecards when required by the committee

PENALTIES:

The Handicap Committee is required to reduce or increase a player's Handicap Index whose handicap does not reflect the player's potential ability. Some reasons of Handicap Index adjustment as defined in USGA Handicap Section 7-1b include:

- A player is improving faster than the system can react
- Numerous away scores change index -Temporary disability
- Failure to post -Player manipulates round
- Imbalance of tournament scores vs. non-tournament rounds
- Continued violation certain provisions, ex: posting unacceptable scores

The USGA, and basic fairness and golf etiquette, require the committee to withdraw a player's USGA Index if they persist in non-compliant posting.

THE PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING A MEMBER'S FAILURE TO PROPERLY POST INCLUDES:

- An initial failure to properly post will result in a notice known as a “Section 7-1b letter”.

The Club Professional will be notified of all players who receive any letters from the MGA Handicap Committee. Letters will be sent by US mail or emailed.

- A second failure to properly post will result in notification of a Penalty Score being applied. The penalty Score is determined and posted by the Handicap Committee. Players who do not return a score or who otherwise do not observe the rules or the basic premises of the USGA Handicap System are subject to a Penalty Score.
- A third failure to properly post will result in notification of Adjusting or Withdrawal of the Player's Handicap Index for a period to be determined by the Committee. A player whose USGA Handicap Index has been adjusted or withdrawn may be reinstated under conditions set forth by the Handicap Committee.
- A fourth failure will result in the Withdrawal of the Players Handicap Index for a period determined by the Committee. Repeated failures by a player to meet their responsibilities under the USGA Handicap System will result in permanent revocation of a QVMGA member Handicap Index.

PLAYER APPEAL PROCESS:

Prior to making an adjustment or withdrawal of a player's Handicap Index, the player will be given the opportunity to respond either in writing or in person to the Handicap Committee. The player should be provided the information available as to why the Handicap Index is being adjusted or withdrawn as well as the duration. The Handicap Committee should ensure that it has procedures in place to settle any disputes in relation to a handicap review or the application of the Rules of Handicapping in general.

PERFORMANCE OF ANNUAL HANDICAP REVIEWS:

The QVMGA Handicap Committee will perform a handicap review annually of all members of its club. Handicap reviews can also be conducted for individual players at any time during the year. The Handicap Committee will pay particular attention to any scores on a player's scoring record that have been brought to the Handicap Committee's attention by other members or players. This can be aided through reporting tools available in the handicap software. The purpose of the review is for the Handicap Committee to make certain the Handicap Index of the player is representative of their demonstrated ability. The Handicap Committee will also look for anomalies within the scoring record.

PRO SHOP CHECK IN:

ALL QVMGA members are required to **CHECK IN** the Pro Shop on all MGA tournaments and open play.