



Meriwether Men's Club Member Handicapping Policy

2.1.2010

"The purpose of the USGA Handicap System is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling golfers of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis. The System provides a fair Course Handicap for each player regardless of ability, and adjusts a player's USGA Handicap Index up or down as the player's game changes. At the same time, the System disregards high scores that bear little relation to the player's potential ability and promotes continuity by making a Handicap Index continuous from one playing season or year to the next. A USGA Handicap Index is useful for all forms of play, and is issued only to individuals who are members of a golf club.

Two basic premises underlie the USGA Handicap System, namely that each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review. The player and the player's Handicap Committee have joint responsibility for adhering to these premises." (Section 1-1. USGA Handicap System Manual. 2008-2011)

The following Handicapping and Score Posting Procedures are in effect beginning 3.1.2010 at Meriwether Golf Club for all members desiring to have an OGA/USGA Handicap Index. These procedures must be adhered to as part of "Requirements for Compliance" with USGA handicapping rules, and for Meriwether Men's Golf Club to retain certified and licensed membership status in the Oregon Golf Association.

Our club firmly believes that **"A player must earn a USGA Handicap Index. No player has an inherent right to a USGA Handicap Index without providing full evidence of ability to the golf club's Handicap Committee."** (Section 8-4. USGA Handicap System Manual)

1. **A Handicap Committee of consisting of the current board members of the Meriwether Men's Club has been appointed to ensure that the full intent of the USGA Handicap System is followed.** (Section 8) Our club meets the USGA "Definition of a Golf Club", **Dean Auenson** has been officially certified by the OGA through their Handicap Certification Program, and our club has been licensed by the USGA to issue Handicap Indexes.

2. **All rounds are to be played in accordance with the principles of the Rules of Golf.** Although Preferred Lies ("Winter Rules") are not endorsed by the USGA nor the OGA, a written policy has been adopted by this club accepting scores turned in under Preferred Lies and will be posted for clarification when the weather conditions are adverse enough to warrant such a declaration. **All rounds played under Preferred Lies still must be posted in active season.** (*Section 5,7*). The Handicap Committee has the authority to make the determination if course conditions are so poor that score posting should be suspended for a brief period. If score posting is suspended for an extended period, the golf club must obtain approval from the OGA.
3. **Member's scores are to be posted immediately after completing play when playing at Meriwether via the GHIN computer in the club house. Scores from other courses must be posted as well. Internet posting is allowed, but not encouraged for rounds played at Meriwether.** Please note the Handicap Revision Schedule for the sixteen times per year that updated Handicap Indexes are issued for all clubs in the OGA region. Since the OGA is a seasonal association, there is an active handicapping period and an "off-season" in which local scores are not to be posted to your score history. Please take note of these dates. Handicap cards/stickers are available for pick-up on revision days at (posting area, bulletin board, file, or print your own). If you'd rather receive your updated Handicap Index via email, please let the Handicap Chair know, or sign up directly at www.oga.org.
4. **All eligible scores must be posted to your score history**, including all 9-hole rounds! See OGA score posting flyers for detailed clarification. Home scores are to be posted the same day of the round, and away scores within 7 days (or you may simply post as a guest at the away courses). If the player fails to post an acceptable score within these guidelines the Committee will post the actual score (if we know what that is) or a **penalty score**. **Each golfer is responsible for adjusting their own scores for Equitable Stroke Control and for knowing how to adjust scores for not finishing either a hole or a round**; if you are confused about the proper adjustments, please consult the chart by the computer or ask a Committee member. (see "Score Posting Responsibilities"). If you are traveling during the OGA off season to Sunbelt states, those rounds **MUST** be posted to your scoring history. Post when and where you play, if at all possible. It is imperative that you get your rounds in prior to the season start date, as the OGA updates Handicap Indexes on opening day as a courtesy to Sunbelt travelers. If you find you have made a mistake in posting at any time during the year, please notify the handicap chairman or any officer of the club and the Handicap Committee will make the correction to your score history as soon as possible. (*Section 4, 5, 8*).

5. **Peer review is an essential part of the USGA Handicap System and will be in place at all times at this club!** Members' scores must freely be viewed by any other member at any time by way of (specific screen on GHIN program, printout listing members' score histories, or inquiries on ghin.com). The responsibility rests on all of us to keep each other honest! Please point out to your fellow players when they are not observing either the Rules of Golf or the Handicap System. If the player refuses to abide by the proper procedures, do not hesitate to contact the Handicap Committee. We are determined to keep our games fair and can only do so if everyone follows the same code.
6. **USGA and Meriwether Men's Club scoring policy**
 Scores in Match play, Best Ball play and Stroke play shall be posted for handicap purposes. This includes scores made in multi-ball or in team competitions in which players have not completed one or more holes or in which players are requested to pick up when out of contention on a hole.

The USGA GHIN handicap rules require each player to post a score using equitable stroke control (ESC) for **all rounds played**. The score to post is the score you are "most likely to have achieved" or the maximum score allowed for that hole according to ESC rules outlined below.

ADJUST YOUR SCORES WITH EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL	
18-Hole Course Handicap	Maximum Number Posted on Any Hole
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10