

Date: January 27, 2020  
To: Penn National Handicap System Members  
From: Penn National Handicap Committee

As indicated in our first communication about the new World Handicap System, there are a couple of items that are important for every player under the new system.

- 1) Every score must be posted on the day that it is played, prior to midnight local time. Scores are still posted just like we did in 2019: on the computer in the Pro Shop, online at [www.nationalgolfnetwork](http://www.nationalgolfnetwork.com) or through GolfNet's phone app.
- 2) The maximum score that anyone can post on a hole is net double bogey (Par + 2 + # of strokes you receive on that hole).
- 3) You will still have a Handicap Index and a calculated course handicap based upon the tee that you play. No adjustment is required for players competing from different tees, the course handicap now accurately reflects the handicap strokes for each tee.

Golf has become a global game. "We now have a single set of handicapping rules **(i)** to encourage as many golfers as possible to obtain and maintain a handicap; **(ii)** to enable golfers of differing abilities, genders and nationalities to take their handicap to any course in the world and compete on a fair basis; and **(iii)** to indicate with sufficient accuracy the score a golfer is reasonably capable of achieving on any course around the world, playing under normal conditions." Visit the USGA website for a short video on the new World Handicap System at:

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping.html>.

There are a number of changes that we have not addressed in our communications. This is because the fundamental principles are the same as they have been in the past. The majority of changes are internal to the actual maintenance and calculation of the handicaps performed by our technology provider, GolfNet.

We will continue to provide additional information on the new system implemented by the USGA under the World Handicap System prior to the start of our Penn National season on April 1st. Page 2 of this communication provides an IF YOU KNEW... set of changes for those players that were knowledgeable of the inner workings of the previous handicap system.

If you have any questions, please contact any Handicap Committee member, including our two new members Jeff Hutchison and Steve Ramdat. Or, talk with one of our PGA Pros in the Pro Shop.

Penn National Handicap Committee

Kathy Gallagher

Jeff Hutchison

Ken Motter

Steve Ramdat

Jeff Welty

## IF YOU KNEW...

- that handicap revisions occurred on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Now they are revised daily.
- that you used a chart to determine your equitable stroke control (ESC). Now it is net double bogey.
- that your handicap index was based upon the 10 best of your last 20 scores with a percentage adjustment. It is now the top 8 of 20 with no adjustment.
- that it took 5 18-hole scores to establish a handicap. It now takes the equivalent of 3 18-hole scores.
- that handicap adjustments were required for players competing from different tees. There is no longer an adjustment.
- that the handicap system did not care what your course or weather conditions were when you played your round. Now there is a playing condition calculation, PCC, to adjust handicaps for out-of-ordinary conditions.
- that playing 13 holes required you to post an 18-hole score. Now it takes 14 holes.
- that you needed to use a “most likely score” for holes that you did not complete. Now there are specific guidelines documented for determining that most likely score.
- that the maximum handicap for a male was 36.4 and the maximum for a female was 40.4. Now it is 54 for anyone.
- that tournament scores were used to regulate a handicap index. Now you have some new definitions and a lot of reading to understand how it works now! (See Rule 5 of the Rules of Handicapping found on the USGA website)

Players do not need to know or understand any of the information above. It is a great feature of the handicap system. We simply need to record our scores and the system takes care of the rest. However, if you like to know more about the new handicap system and the changes that occurred on January 1, 2020 please use the link provided in the first page of this communication.