

Date: January 7, 2020  
To: Penn National Handicap System Members  
From: Penn National Handicap Committee

## **New Handicap System for 2020!**

There is a new handicap system for all golfers throughout the world. Information and informational links have been distributed on your handicap revision emails from our handicap provider, National Golf Network. As always, the USGA website contains additional information and the official documents at <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping.html>.

This email, along with additional planned communications, is intended to ease the transition into the new system. Many of the fundamental principles do not change. We will continue to post our scores and receive handicaps based upon those scores. We will continue to use our handicaps to determine net scores for a hole. But, there are also changes that each of us will want to understand and things that we will need to do differently.

We are providing the following three pieces of information to allow you to post your score under the new handicap system and have confidence that you are doing it correctly.

- 1) **The one change that everyone must make involves the maximum score that you can post for a hole.** Previously this was equitable stroke control or ESC. It was a chart based upon handicap groupings (0-9; 10-19; 20-29...). For example, a member with a 25 handicap could not post a score higher than an 8 on any hole. A 35 handicap could post a maximum score of 9.

As of January 1, 2020, the highest score that anyone can post on a hole is: **net double bogey**. It is now more appropriately referred to as "maximum hole score". In other words, the highest score that you can post on a hole is the score that would give you a NET double bogey for that hole. The official calculation is (PAR + 2 + the number of strokes that you receive on that hole).

For example, if you are playing a **par 4** and based upon your course handicap receive **1 stroke** on that hole, net double bogey would be  $4 + 2 + 1 = 7$ . The "highest" score that you can post is a 7 on that par 4.

If you get two strokes on a par 4, your maximum hole score would be  $4+2+2= 8$ .

If you get no strokes on the hole, the calculation is  $4+2+0= 6$ .

For a **par 3**, if you get 1 handicap stroke for the hole, your net double bogey is  $(3+2+1)= 6$ .

For a **par 5**, if you get 1 handicap stroke for the hole, your net double bogey is  $(5+2+1)= 8$ .

- 2) If you always post your score on the same day that you play, there is no change for you!  
But if you do **NOT** always post your score prior to midnight of the day that you play your round, there is a change that you must make.

**All scores must be posted on the day that they are played**, prior to midnight local time.

There are two reasons for this. Revisions of your handicap index now occur daily, not just on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The system also requires all scores to be posted to determine a new Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) that will adjust everyone's scores for that day.

- 3) Your course handicap (your handicap for each tee) is now calculated differently so there won't be stroke adjustments when golfers are playing from different tees or when men and women are competing against each other. Now, your course handicaps reflect the strokes you get in relation to *par*, as a single standard. Previously, your course handicaps represented the number of strokes you got in relation to the *slope rating* which varied by tee. Prior to 2020, it was common for your course handicap to change very little from tee to tee. The new method will result in a course handicap that will vary more from tee to tee and will more accurately reflect the number of strokes when playing from different tees against a single standard. The adjustments that were previously added or subtracted when players used different tees are now automatically calculated in the course handicap so that manual calculation of the adjustments are no longer needed

There is a lot more information on the changes that went into effect on January 1, 2020. The information above will allow you to play, record your score and have confidence that you are abiding by the new system implemented by the USGA under the World Handicap System.

If you have any questions, please contact any Handicap Committee member. Or, talk with Darin, Dave or Kevin in the Pro Shop.

Looking forward to the 2020 golf season,  
Your Penn National Handicap Committee