



# Handicap FAQ\*

**\*Frequently Asked Questions**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why obtain a USGA Handicap Index?

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.

Having a handicap index allows golfers to participate in more events (those that require a handicap index), have a measurable means of tracking improvement, and allows score adjustments to even the playing field when playing with golfers of different skill levels.

In our Northern Nevada Chapter, handicap indexes are used to determine the most improved player at each six-week league play session, and to help determine fair pairings at the two InterLeague Challenge competitions. You must have a valid handicap to play in the Chapter Championship and the California Cup Tournament.

## How do I get my handicap?

All EWGA members have the opportunity to obtain an official USGA Handicap Index through the **EWGA Handicap System (GN21)** at no additional cost. This new system was introduced March 26, 2010, and replaces the former Golf Life Management System (GLMS) used prior to this date. *EWGA members are invited to activate their GN21 account by logging in as a member, then clicking on **Handicap** at [www.EWGA.com](http://www.EWGA.com)*

## What is the GN21 system?

Powered by GolfNet, the GN21 system (formerly the Golf Life Management System or GLMS) is a full featured system that enables all members to obtain an official USGA handicap. It gives members the ability to:

- Post scores
- Access 20,000+ golf course profiles
- Track personal game statistics
- Print a handicap card
- View scoring history, and more

## When should I get a handicap?

If you are just learning the game of golf and spend the majority of your time taking lessons or practicing, then it may be too early for you to get a handicap. Every member who is playing well enough to keep score is encouraged to obtain a Handicap Index through GN21. Players are required to have at least three 18-hole or six 9-hole scores posted to their handicap record for the

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current year (2010) prior to the Chapter Championship, if you intend to compete in this event. But don't worry if you do not have a handicap yet - NNVEWGA is the perfect place to get started on and obtain your handicap!

### When do I post my scores?

In general, you must post every score, except:

- Scores when fewer than seven holes are played
- Scores made on a golf course in an area with an inactive season in effect
- Scores made when a majority of the holes are not played in accordance with principles of *The Rules of Golf*
- Scores made when the length of the course is less than 3,000 yards for 18 holes or 1,500 yards for nine holes
- Scores made on a course with no USGA Course rating or Slope rating
- Scores when as a condition of competition, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14, or types of clubs are limited as, for example, in a competition that allows only iron clubs

The handicap system automatically updates your handicap on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

**Keep in mind:** 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.

### What is the active / inactive season for Northern Nevada?

The active season for Northern Nevada for 2010 is March 1<sup>st</sup> through November 14<sup>th</sup>. Acceptable scores made at any golf course observing an active season must be posted for handicap purposes. (See *When do I post my scores?* above for scores that are not acceptable.)

### Is there a maximum score I can post for my handicap?

Yes. For handicap purposes, a player is required to adjust hole scores when they are higher than the player's maximum ESC (Equitable Stroke Control) number, based upon the player's Course Handicap.

Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) Table

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18-Hole Course Handicap	Maximum ESC Number On Any Hole
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10

### Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

For more information on the USGA Handicap System, visit the Handicap section of the United States Golf Association website, [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

- OR -

Email your NNVEWGA Handicap Committee through [handicap@nnvewga.org](mailto:handicap@nnvewga.org)

- OR -

Call Jocelyn Zarubi, Handicap Chair, at 775-843-1148

Please consider joining Jocelyn Zarubi and Allyson Edgington on the Handicap Committee – we welcome your involvement!