

# Valley Golfers Association (VGA) Handicap Policy

The handicap system employed by the VGA is managed and maintained by the Arizona Golf Association (AGA) by rules established by the United States Golf Association (USGA). Each member of the VGA is entitled to a USGA Handicap Index as long as the following conditions are met:

- *The member's dues are current, and the member's name is listed on the club roster.*
- *The member posts all \*acceptable golf scores on time, including scores for rounds other than those played with the VGA.*
- *The member has not been denied a Handicap Index for \*\*dishonest manipulation of the handicap system.*

\*An acceptable golf score is the gross stroke total for one completed 9 or 18-hole round, as played, or as adjusted. The gross stroke total must be adjusted for equitable stroke control; incomplete holes, incomplete rounds, and other situations where stroke count for one or more holes is calculated based on USGA practice rather than actual count.

\*\* Dishonest manipulation is the act of falsifying a handicap record by inserting fictitious scores into the posting record to generate a higher handicap index than would be earned through honest posting.

The handicap system automatically calculates the player's Handicap Index. The index is based on the best 10 of the player's most recent 20 scores posted but can be influenced by exceptional tournament (T) scores. T scores remain in the player's scoring record for 12 months. If two or more T scores are exceptionally low compared to the recent 10 best scores evaluated, the resulting Handicap Index will automatically be reduced to reflect the player's "true" scoring potential. The VGA requires all tournament scores to be posted with a "T", whether or not played as a VGA event.

The VGA is a club without affiliation to any particular golf course or home base and does not have a permanent location for the posting of golf scores. Therefore, members shall comply with the following rules:

♦ *For rounds played in VGA events, signed scorecards must be turned in to the event organizer at the end of the event and the Handicap Chairman or his designee will post all member scores. Each member is responsible for the accuracy of his/her gross score written on the scorecard. The scorecard may be signed by all members listed on the card, but shall carry at least one signature to verify that all members represented on the card have agreed to its accuracy. Event results will be determined based on the submitted scorecards. Once submitted, a signed scorecard cannot be changed except by appeal to the Handicap Committee. In no case will a post-correction on a properly submitted scorecard be a reason to change the results (winners) of a golf event.*

♦ *For all other recreational, competitive, or tournament rounds played outside the sponsorship of the VGA, each member is responsible for posting an acceptable score as soon as practical after each round played. Scores can be posted at most AGA member golf courses in Arizona and Mexico having access to \*\*\*The Golf Handicap and Information Network (GHIN). If posting at the course is not possible, the*

*member is encouraged to post a score using the internet posting service at [www.azgolf.org](http://www.azgolf.org). Additionally, the member shall sign, date, and identify the tee on a properly completed scorecard and retain the card for 30 days (one month) for peer review at the discretion of the handicap committee. If the member desires, self-posting may be avoided by turning in the completed scorecard to the VGA Handicap Chairman or his designee promptly. Upon receipt, the Handicap Chairman or his designee will post an appropriate score based on the scorecard submitted.*

\*\*\* The GHIN System is a computer-based handicapping system supplied to member courses by the AGA. VGA members may post their scores or check their scoring record at any GHIN computer terminal by signing in with their VGA local number or their GHIN number. Members with home computers may access their handicap records by logging on to [www.azgolf.org](http://www.azgolf.org).

The VGA Handicap Committee, under USGA Handicap Rules, can assess penalty strokes on incorrectly posted scores, or make temporary upward or downward adjustments to handicap indexes, and may even cancel a member's handicap index as a worst-case step in protecting the integrity of the handicap system and the club membership at large. Should such action be contemplated, it is the policy of the committee to first notify the member affected and offer that member an opportunity to address the issue. In fairness to the affected member and to the club, any disciplinary action regarding a USGA handicap index can be appealed to a joint session of the handicap committee and club officers, and as a last step, to the AGA for final resolution. The following are examples of situations that may cause the committee to consider disciplinary penalties or corrective adjustments to handicap indexes:

- ♦ *Intentional and obvious posting of higher scores than actually shot in rounds played.*
- ♦ *Posting fictitious scores for phantom rounds.*
- ♦ *Failing to post scores shot at other than VGA events*
- ♦ *Failing to adjust for equitable stroke control.*
- ♦ *Member unable to play at a level consistent with his/her Handicap Index due to a physical condition.*
- ♦ *Member who has regained the physical ability to play at a level consistent with his/her pre-adjusted handicap index.*

The handicap index is automatically recalculated by the AGA on the first and the 15th of each month and made available on all GHIN computers. To afford every member the right to compete with a current handicap index, the VGA Handicap Chairman or his designee shall be responsible for providing current handicap information to the event organizer before a VGA event.

Questions regarding this policy or the [USGA Handicap System](#) may be directed to any current VGA Handicap Committee member.

This Handicap Policy will be used in conjunction with USGA handicap rules to clarify and/or justify the club's position in all handicap disputes.