BOCA WEST
COUNTRY CLUB

GOLF HANDICAP POLICY

October 2025



October 1, 2025

Boca West Members,

In the spirit of fair competition, Boca West Country Club is implementing a Golf Handicap Policy to assure legitimate and accurate handicaps for all players at the Club and to promote the honesty and integrity of golf among the playing members.

The Golf Handicap Policy will leverage the World Handicap System, which provides a fair Course Handicap for each player regardless of ability and adjusts a player's Handicap Index up or down as the player's game changes. A 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 Worldwide 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 is completely responsible for adhering to these premises.**

The Worldwide Handicap System provides a Handicap Index that is based upon the potential ability of a player rather than the average of all his scores. The USGA's Handicap Research Team tells us that the average player is expected to play to their Course Handicap or better only 25 percent of the time. But do not let this discourage you because all golfers are in the same boat.

While all of this sounds serious, and you might question – isn't golf supposed to be fun? - you can rest assured that fairness is what allows the fun to happen. *With a strong handicap policy in place, you can have a great time knowing that you have been provided the opportunity to compete on a level playing field.*

We ask all members to support the integrity of the handicapping at Boca West, safeguard the amateur's code of honor and respect your fellow members by having a handicap index that is accurately represented.

A new Handicap Subcommittee has been created to develop and oversee the Boca West handicap processes and policy on an ongoing basis. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact golfevent@bocawestcc.org

Sincerely,
Professional Golf Staff

Boca West Country Club
Handicap Policy

This Golf Handicap Policy is in effect beginning October 1, 2025, at Boca West Country Club (BWCC) for all members desiring to have a Handicap Index. This policy must be adhered to as part of "Requirements for Compliance" with the USGA Handicapping Regulations, and for BWCC to retain certified and licensed membership status in the Florida State Golf Association (FSGA).

Handicap and Score Posting Parameters

To fairly administer the Worldwide Handicap System, the following parameters are always in effect. Failure to adhere to these parameters, if discovered during peer review, constitutes cause for consideration of a handicap adjustment. The concept of peer review is an essential and crucial element of the handicap system. Without peer review, a handicap index loses its inherent value and is just a number.

a) Players are expected to post their own scores on the GHIN app or in the golf shop on the handicap computer, EVERY time they play golf. This not only includes 18-hole scores, but also 9-hole scores. It also includes all scores made away from BWCC. All scores, including match play, stroke play and any team event where you play your own ball, should be posted.

b) Scores posted are expected to be "adjusted" per the Maximum Hole Score for Handicap Purposes as described later in this document.

c) Players are expected to make the best score they can on EVERY hole.

d) Rounds must be played in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf.

e) Scores must be posted the same day of the round completed. This is important because your Handicap Index is recalculated every night. Scores may be posted via the following methods:

1. GHIN Mobile App
2. Pro Shop GHIN computer
3. GHIN internet website

f) If 'preferred lies' are in effect, the score must still be posted.

g) By requirements of the USGA, and therefore our Requirement for Compliance, the posting of rounds played alone is not allowed.

h) If you are traveling during the off season then every round played there must be posted.

Tournament Scores

A tournament score is a score made in a competition organized and conducted by the Golf Committee.

Maximum Hole Score for Handicapping Purposes

The maximum hole score for each holed played is limited to a net double bogey, calculated as follows: Par for the hole + 2 strokes + Any handicap stroke(s) that player receives on that hole. For example, player A's handicap is such that player A gets 2 strokes on the par 5 hole #3. The maximum hole score would be 9, calculated as follows:

5 (par for the hole) + 2 (double bogey) + 2 (handicap strokes for that hole) = 9 (5+2+2)

Unfinished Holes or Conceded Strokes

A player who starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, must record for handicap purposes the most likely score. The most likely score may not exceed the player's Maximum Hole Score limit. This most likely score should be preceded by an "X." This procedure is often used during match play competition. For example, players A and B are playing a match. On a hole on which neither player receives a handicap stroke, player A has holed out in 4; player B has a 30-foot putt for 5. Player B has lost the hole, so the player picks up. Player B should record an X-6 on the scorecard. "X" indicates the player did not finish the hole and 6 as the score because the player would have most likely two putted. If in doubt as to the score you should enter, consult with other players or the Pro Shop.

Holes Not Played

When a hole is not played, the score entered for handicap purposes is par for that hole plus any handicap stroke(s) the player is entitled to, based on Course Handicap.
A player must post a 9-hole score when at least 7 holes, but less than 14 holes, have been played. If a player plays 14 or more holes, then that player must post an 18-hole score.
Example: You get rained out after completing hole #16. Your Course Handicap from the Men's tee is 6, so you are entitled to a stroke on hole #17 but not on hole #18. Hole #17 is a par 4 so you would post a 5 for that hole (par + your handicap stroke or 4+1=5). Hole #18 is a par 5. Since you do not get a stroke on that hole, you would post a 5. The same logic applies for all holes not completed after you have reached the minimum of 7 holes played for a 9-hole score or 14 holes played for an 18-hole score.

Tee Box

For everyday play, players are welcome to play whichever tee they wish to play. However, for various club events as determined and announced by the Golf Committee, a particular tee may be assigned as the primary tee.

Fundamental Player Responsibilities

a) Before play, members are required to check in at the Pro Shop. This assures that the Pro Shop staff knows who is on the course for both liability issues and potential emergency contacts.

b) Know and apply the USGA Rules of Golf.

c) Know your current USGA Handicap Index.

d) Convert your USGA Handicap Index to a Course Handicap, based on the tee you will be playing, by using the GHIN app or asking the Pro Shop to provide.

e) Determine how many strokes you receive and what holes to take them on.

f) Adjust your scores per the Maximum Hole Score for Handicap Purposes, Unfinished Holes or Conceded Strokes, and Holes Not Played as outlined above.

g) Post every score played under the Rules of Golf, no matter where you play.

h) Know what makes a score acceptable vs. unacceptable for posting purposes.

Handicap Auditing

BWCC may use any or all the resources below to audit member handicaps.

a) The Pro Shop and the Handicap Subcommittee will make regular random checks to confirm players are posting scores and will track rounds played vs. rounds posted.

b) Exceptional tournament scores will be reviewed by the Pro-shop and the Handicap committee.

c) Peer review. We ask that all players in all groups assist in maintaining this policy and the integrity of the club and its players. In addition, the Handicap committee is made up of individuals who are chosen to be on the committee due to their active participation in golf and competitions at the club, providing additional peer review capabilities. Please feel free to discuss this policy within your groups, individually with a player or with the Pro Shop.

Enforcement

BWCC may implement one or more of the following procedures for violations of the handicap system.

a) Verbal discussion with member.
b) Letter notifying member of non-compliance.
c) Adjustment of member's handicap index.
d) Withdrawal of member's handicap index.
e) Render member ineligible for BWCC tournaments using net scoring.
f) Render member ineligible for BWCC team events.

Summary

It is the sole responsibility of each member to understand and comply with the guidelines and requirements within this policy. Additional detailed information may be found in the World Handicap System's "Rules of Handicapping" manual. BWCC is confident that this Golf Handicap Policy will assist in providing an accurate handicap for each member and fundamentally provide all players an opportunity to compete on a "level playing field." If you have any questions regarding this policy, please golfevent@bocawestcc.org.



Live the life you love.

LOVE THE LIFE YOU LIVE.