



## **Competitive Handicap Evaluation Policy**

### **Purpose:**

The UGA's Competitive Handicap Evaluation Policy is designed to review and potentially adjust the handicap of players who perform significantly better in competitive golf events than what is represented by their handicap. The goal is to have the player's handicap represent the potential they demonstrate in competitive rounds. The USGA Handicap Rights and Responsibilities of the Player, the golf club and its Handicap Committee, and the Authorized Association (UGA) can be found in Appendix A: Rights and Responsibilities of the USGA Rules of Handicapping.

### **Handicap Review by Golf Club:**

At any time, a golf club can conduct its own handicap reviews and notify the UGA of their findings and request a modification to the player's handicap. For the UGA to make any modification to a player's handicap, a club must be able to verify to the UGA that the player in question (1) has been made aware of, and been given the opportunity to contribute towards, the handicap review process to the extent practicable and (2) must have recourse to an appeals procedure, if requested. If that criteria has not been met, the UGA will not modify the player's handicap without conducting its own review. If that criteria has been met, the UGA has no authority to alter the initial decision of the golf club which decided to modify the player's handicap. In that instance, the UGA's only role and responsibility is to implement the wishes of the golf club's Handicap Committee. However, in that situation, the player will still have a right to appeal the modification to the UGA. If the player does so, the UGA will review the handicap modification.

### **Handicap Review by the UGA:**

#### **Initiation:**

- The UGA will only consider performing a Competitive Handicap Evaluation (CHE) if it has received a request from a Head Golf Professional, Director of Golf, General Manager or Chairperson of the Handicap Committee at a UGA member club or is initiated by UGA staff. The UGA will not take requests from golfers or other sources.
- A CHE can only be requested in writing to the UGA Executive Director or Director, Championships & Golf Operations.
- Once a request has been made by an appropriate party, the UGA will review all pertinent information and if deemed appropriate, modify the player's handicap index accordingly. The UGA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee will consider relevant data available to them to make an accurate assessment. One of the tools the UGA will use to assist in the modification process is the Competitive Score Evaluation Formula (CSEF) which is based on the player's score history. An example of the formula is listed below.

#### **Notifications:**

- The UGA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee will be notified a CHE has been requested and will be presented with information compiled by UGA staff. Committee members will be given time to review the evaluation and decide whether a modification is warranted based on the relevant data available to them. Following a review and before any reduction in a player's handicap index, the following notifications will take place.
  1. The player in question will be made aware of, and be given the opportunity to contribute towards, the handicap review process to the extent practicable. If the player's handicap index is ultimately reduced, the UGA will make reasonable efforts to notify the player by email and U.S. Mail of the modification to their handicap index.
  2. The entity who requested the CHE will be notified of the findings and the UGA's recommendation. If a club's Handicap Committee determines that a different action should be taken, it may take that action, but first must notify the UGA. The UGA may request additional information before any further action is taken by the club. Any action taken by a club's Handicap Committee that differs from the recommendation of the UGA will be communicated by the club directly to the player. As stated above, before any modification of a player's handicap index takes place, the club must allow the player to contribute to the review process and have recourse to an appeals process.

#### **Appeal:**

- For any player whose handicap index has been modified, the player may appeal the modification to the club's Handicap Committee and if warranted, appeal to the UGA. Any appeal to the UGA will be considered by the UGA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee. That committee will render a final decision.
- If a modification takes place, the UGA will revisit the player's reduction again after six months.

#### **Additional Breaches:**

- Should a player's handicap index need to be modified under this policy for a second time, the UGA may withdraw the player's handicap for some period of time in addition to the reduction.
- Should a player's handicap index need to be modified under this policy for a third time, the UGA may permanently revoke the player's UGA membership.

**Competitive Score Evaluation Formula:**

- The UGA will calculate a Potential for Competitive Scoring (PCS) in the following manner:
  1. The UGA will compile a list of the player’s last 12 months of competitive scores. This list will not include any player posted competitive scores.
  2. From this list of competitive scores, the UGA will take the average of a certain number of those scores (see table below) to represent the player’s PCS.
  3. The player’s PCS will then be compared to their current Handicap Index. If the player’s PCS has a difference of less than the required amount to consider a reduction (see table below), no modification will take place. If the player’s PCS has a difference equal to or greater than the required amount to consider a reduction (see table below), the player will be modified to their PCS number by an adjustment to the player’s previous 20 differentials.
  4. In addition, the player’s Low Handicap Index may be modified below their PCS.

How to determine the number of scores to calculate a player’s PCS (Formula: Section 2):

# of eligible C-Scores	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
# of C-Scores to use	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	40%

How to determine if a player should be considered for a reduction (Formula: Section 3):

# of eligible C-Scores	1	2	3	4	5+
Difference needed to be considered for reduction	5	4	3	2	1.5

**Example:**

Name: Player A

- Handicap Index: 10.3
- Total C-scores in past 12 months: 31
- # our C-Scores to count: 12
- Potential for Competitive Scoring: 6.53

- Outcome:

1. H.I. Adjusted by 3.8 to a 6.5
2. Low H.I. Adjusted to 4.0
  - Soft cap: 7.0
  - Hard Cap: 9.0

**12-Month Competitive Score History**

Played At	Diff.	Course Name
11/17/2019	4.8	Sunriver Golf Course - Red
8/10/2019	4.9	SLC Open Canyon Course
8/3/2019	5.1	Valley View Golf Course - Black
8/2/2019	5.1	Valley View Golf Course - Black
5/25/2019	6	Valley View Golf Course - Black
11/16/2019	6.6	Sunriver Golf Course - Red
1/10/2020	7	Coral Canyon Golf Course
2/29/2020	7.1	Ledges Golf Club Blue Tees
7/27/2019	7.3	Logan River GC - Logan River
7/26/2019	8	Birch Creek Golf Course Blue Tees
2/28/2020	8.1	Ledges Golf Club Blue Tees
2/1/2020	8.3	Championship Course
11/8/2019	8.8	Southgate - Black
1/31/2020	9.1	Championship Course
6/15/2019	9.5	Hubbard Golf Course - Hill Am
7/20/2019	9.6	Eagle Mountain Blue - Blue
8/11/2019	10.3	SLC Open Bonneville - Blue
1/17/2020	10.8	St. George GC
1/11/2020	11.2	Coral Canyon Golf Course
1/17/2020	12	St. George Golf Club
6/9/2019	12	Oquirrh Hills GC - Oquirrh Hills GC
5/17/2019	13.2	Glen Eagle GC - Glen Eagle GC
8/6/2019	13.9	The Ridge GC - The Ridge GC
6/22/2019	14.2	Ogden Golf & Country Club - Black
5/18/2019	14.4	Bountiful Ridge GC
1/19/2020	14.5	St. George GC
1/18/2020	14.5	St. George Golf Club
11/9/2019	14.9	Southgate - Black
6/1/2019	15.1	Ogden G&CC
5/31/2019	15.1	Ogden G&CC
3/1/2020	16.5	Concord Course - Revere Golf Club