

Handicap – Basic Information

1. Handicap Calculation

- Calculated using your best 8 out of 20 scores
- Handicap for a course is calculated using the formula:
Handicap = handicap index * (tee slope rating/113) + (course rating – par)

2. Minimum number of games to establish a handicap

- Three 18-hole games (or 54 holes)
- Players without an established handicap can only post complete 9-hole or 18-hole games.
- Maximum handicap is 54

3. Most Likely Score

- When a hole is started, but the player does not hole out (e.g. in match play):
 - ball is on the putting green no more than 5 feet from the hole – add 1 stroke
 - ball between 5 feet to 20 yards from the hole – add 2 or 3 strokes*
 - ball is more than 20 yards from the hole – add 3 or 4 strokes*
- * depends on the position of ball, difficulty of green and ability of player

4. Posting Partial Games (See separate document “*Posting – Conceded Holes, Under Construction or Partial Games*” for more specific details)

- For players with an established handicap: If you play 10 or more holes, but not the full 18 holes, post the holes played and designate the holes not played with a score of zero “0”. This will allow Rule 3.2b to be applied and the system will calculate an adjusted score on the designated holes. For BMLGC Tuesday games, please indicate your reason for not completing the full 18 holes on your scorecard before placing it in the scorecard box.
- If you only played 9 holes, post a 9-hole score (you must play all 9 holes).
- If you play less than 9 holes do not post the score.

5. Maximum Score for Posting – Net Double Bogey

- You are strongly encouraged to post hole-by-hole scores to let the system calculate your Net Double Bogey adjustments for you
- **Net Double Bogey** = Par + 2 + any handicap strokes you’re entitled to on the hole.

6. Handicap Calculations and Playing Condition Calculation

- Handicap changes are calculated immediately after posting a score. However, after midnight, a Playing Condition Calculation (PCC) may adjust the handicap index to factor in abnormal course or weather conditions.
- NOTE: This makes it more important to post scores on the day played in order to be included in determining any PCC adjustments.

7. Reduce Handicap Spikes

- System will look at your low handicap for the past 12 months and will have soft and hard caps to limit how much your handicap can increase over a 12-month period.

Check out the “*Handicap Manual*” on Golf Canada for more detailed information