



Policy #3: SBWGA-18 Expectations of Handicap Integrity

Purpose:

To ensure every league member abides by the USGA Rules of Handicapping and is aware of the consequences of not meeting those standards.

Process/Procedure:

1. The integrity of the World Handicap System relies on all key stakeholders, ensuring that the requirements set down within the Rules of Handicapping are satisfied and that they carry out their obligations.
2. The players must act with integrity, ensure they have only one handicap index, know their handicap index, attempt to make the best possible score at each hole, ensure all acceptable scores are submitted for handicap purposes, certify the score of other players, and “as soon as possible after the round is completed and before midnight on the day of play (local time) and in correct chronological order ensure their scores as posted”.
3. Among many detailed items, several of which address our responsibilities as a league (SBWGA-18) sanctioned by the AGA/USGA, we must review each player's handicap index at a minimum of annually, to establish a procedure when a player is not fulfilling their responsibilities, adjust or withdraw the handicap index of a player whose handicap index no longer reflects their demonstrated ability or who fails to meet their responsibilities under the Rules of Handicapping, or whose actions are determined to be for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage.
4. The SBWGA-18 is sanctioned/governed through the AGA, a state/regional association which is sanctioned under the national association of the USGA. The organization recommends 100% compliance and applying USGA stated penalties to those who do not conform, to include but are not limited to, applying a low handicap score for any late postings, adjustment of the handicap index, followed by a suspension or withdrawal of a handicap index.
5. One of the main tenets of the SBWGA-18 league is to ensure a fair field- whether you are a ‘social’ or ‘competitive’ golfer. Please remember that your dues paid each year are passed through to the league operations and league membership. Compensation to our members must be correctly, fairly and consistently applied to each member.

6. When a member fails to post her scores before midnight on the day of play on multiple occasions, the SBWGA-18 Standing Rules permit the Handicap Committee to apply penalties. Penalties may include exclusion from TPD sweeps and major tournaments.
7. The SBWGA-18 uses the GHIN administrative portal's report system to run all league member data used for reporting. These reports are standard templates that allow date customization. These are used for auditing posting compliance on weekly, monthly and annual basis.

References:

1. Rules of Golf Effective January 2019 copyright 2018 R&A Limited and The United States Golf Association
2. Rules of Handicapping Effective January 2024 copyright 2023 R&A Limited and the United States Golf Association
3. SBWGA-18 Standing Rules (Effective 9-4-24 v2)