

■ **c. Removal of a Reduction**

When a club handicap committee wants to override a reduction due to exceptional “T” scores, the club must contact the *authorized provincial golf association* with the supporting information where the *authorized provincial golf association* will perform the reduction override. The *authorized provincial golf association* must work with the local golf club’s handicap committee to resolve any disagreements surrounding the proposed reduction, and will have final authority on the matter.

■ **d. Notify Clubs When a Member’s Handicap Factor Increases or Decreases Substantially Using Scoring Data**

The *authorized provincial golf association* must monitor the scoring records of all members (either those through *authorized provincial golf association* member clubs, or affiliated for handicap purposes), and when it increases outside of what would be considered a “normal range” notify the player’s golf club(s) to take appropriate measures.

■ **e. Tournament Scores**

The *authorized provincial golf association* should advise the golf club on what scores should be identified as tournament scores as noted in Section 2, and if there is a dispute at the golf club level, the *authorized provincial golf association* has authority to make the final decision.

■ **f. Handicap Factor Withdrawal**

The *authorized provincial golf association* must review all *Handicap Factor* withdrawals and work with the golf club where a withdrawal is being considered. Where there is a conflict of interest on the matter, or where evidence exists that supports a withdrawal, the *authorized provincial golf association* has final authority on the matter.

■ **g. Provincial Handicap Committee**

The *authorized provincial golf association* must have a Handicap Committee that meets on a regular basis to review and settle any disputes at the golf club level pertaining to any part of the Handicap System. In extreme cases, these matters can be brought to Golf Canada for resolution.

■ **h. Preferred Lies**

The *authorized provincial golf association* will assist in the determination of when preferred lies may be in operation for acceptable scores under authorized formats to be posted.

■ **i. Hole Par and Stroke Allocation**

The *authorized provincial golf association* will adjudicate questions of hole par and provide Stroke Allocation recommendations (par will be factored into the Course Handicap under the proposed World Handicap System).

■ **j. Active Season**

The *authorized provincial golf association* will determine active season schedules within its territory for handicap purposes.

■ **k. Handicap System Support**

The *authorized provincial golf association* is to provide regular support on the Handicap System, as well as offer educational opportunities to member and direct access clubs on an annual basis.

■ **l. Course and Slope Ratings**

The *authorized provincial golf association* must ensure that all courses within the *authorized provincial golf association’s* territory have a current Course Rating and Slope Rating issued within the last 10 years.

Golf Canada Handicap Manual

Changes, 2018-2019

Effective March 1, 2018
– December 31, 2019

Section 2 Definitions

Golf Club

A “*golf club*” is an organization of at least ten individual members* that operates under bylaws with committees (especially a *Handicap Committee*) to supervise golf activities, provide *peer review*, and maintain the integrity of the *Handicap System* (see Club Compliance Checklist, Section 8-2m and Decision 2/7). A *golf club* must be a member in good standing with Golf Canada and an *authorized provincial golf association* and be authorized by Golf Canada to utilize the *Handicap System*. A club can obtain authorization from an *authorized provincial golf association* that is already authorized by Golf Canada and that has jurisdiction in the geographic area that includes the principal location of the *golf club*. (See Appendix F.)

Members of a *golf club* must have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with each other. The Members’ scores must be posted as soon as practicable and be available for inspection by others, including, but not limited to, fellow members and the club’s *Handicap Committee*.

A *golf club* is one of two (2) Types:

Type 1. Clubs With Property: The members of a Type 1 club are located at a single specific golf course with a valid *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* where a majority of the club’s events are played and where the club’s *scoring records* are accessible and demonstrate a frequency of play (see Decision 2/6.5); or

Type 2. Clubs Without Property: The members of a Type 2 club may be affiliated, or known to one another, via a business, fraternal, ethnic, or social organization.

The majority of the club members had an affiliation prior to organizing the club; alternatively they may have no prior affiliation and a majority of the recruiting and sign up of the membership is done by solicitation to the public (e.g. newspaper, internet). Members do not exhibit any regularity of play at any specific golf course and the residence or business address of each member of the golf club must generally be within approximately 100km of the principal location of the golf club.

**Note:* For administrative reasons, some *authorized provincial golf associations* may require a *golf club* to have more than the Golf Canada minimum of ten members in order for the *golf club* to be a member of the *authorized provincial golf association*. Within the context of the *Handicap System* a member is defined as one who is affiliated with a licensed *golf club* for the purpose of obtaining a *Handicap Factor*. A club’s type should be determined at the local club level. Where clarification of a golf club type is needed, the *authorized provincial golf association* or Golf Canada will make the final determination as to the club type.

5-2e. Posting a Tournament Score

A tournament score is a score made in a competition organized and conducted by a committee in charge of the competition. The competition must identify a winner(s) based on a stipulated round(s), and must be played under The Rules of Golf. The competition can be match play or stroke play. Golf Canada recommends that the Committee in charge of the competition should post all tournament scores.

The committee (preferably the Handicap Committee, in consultation with the committee in charge of the competition) must determine in advance if these conditions are met, and announce in advance whether the score must be identified by the letter “T” when posted. Routine events such as regular play days normally are not to be designated as T-scores because they are not significant in the traditions, schedules, formats, and membership of the club. (See Section 2 and Decisions 10-3/1 through 10-3/6.)

8-4c.(iii) Temporary Injury

An increase in a Handicap Factor must not be granted because a player’s game is temporarily off or the player has discontinued play. However, an increased handicap may be given for a temporary injury. The modified Handicap Factor must be identified by the letter “M” to indicate that it has been modified by the club’s Handicap Committee. For example, a player having had recent surgery may be given a modified Handicap Factor while recovering. (See Decisions 8-4c/1, 8-4c/2.)

Decision 8-4c/1. Treatment of Player with Temporary Injury

Q: A player with a *Handicap Factor* of 11.1 discontinued play due to an injury. The player has started to play again, but due to recovery from the injury, the three latest scores have been 104, 100, and 102. May the player receive a special adjustment while recovering?

A: The player is entitled to a special adjustment under Section 8-4c.(iii). The player should be assigned a modified *Handicap Factor* (M) to reflect current ability, as needed during the temporary injury, and it must be identified by the letter “M” to indicate that it has been modified by the club *Handicap Committee*. (REVISED)

Decision 8-4c/2. Treatment of Player with Permanent Injury

Q: Two players have suffered extreme physical injuries. Player A is able to resume playing golf after not being able to play for many months. Player B does not have a previous scoring record. Player A will not ever be able to play to the *Handicap Factor* established before the injury and Player B did not have a Handicap Factor. May these players be entitled to a special adjustment?

A: Yes. The injuries described appear to be permanent and more extensive than contemplated by Section 8-4c.(iii). The club *Handicap Committee* may discard Player A’s previous scoring record and provide Player A with a modified *Handicap Factor* (M) for use until five scores have been returned to establish a new *Handicap Factor*. Player B must post five scores to establish a Handicap Factor. (REVISED)

11-11 Authorized Provincial Golf Association Responsibilities

The *authorized provincial golf association* plays a critical role in the administration and oversight of the Handicap System within its territory and will have the following responsibilities. (NEW)

■ a. Approval of Club Authorization Application

The *authorized provincial golf association* must review all golf club applications for use of the Handicap System, including those golf clubs required to affiliate with the *authorized provincial golf association* for handicap administration and oversight purposes. The *authorized provincial golf association* must have access to the appropriate handicap data and must conduct a review on a regular basis.

■ b. Review/Approve Handicap Adjustments

When a club handicap committee is going to modify the Handicap Factor of a member, the *authorized provincial golf association* will have the opportunity to review the adjustment and ensure the committee has followed the proper procedures. If the *authorized provincial golf association* has evidence where the adjustment does not reflect the player’s current potential ability, or in cases where an adjustment should have been applied, it has authority to overrule the golf club.