



Handicap Policy

1. Purpose

As defined in the Wildwinds Competition Committee Charter, the Committee has established a Handicap Policy to ensure alignment to Golf Canada and WHS score posting and handicapping requirements. This policy outlines the posting, monitoring, and maintenance of Golf Canada/WHS handicaps and the application of those handicaps in sanctioned events at Wildwinds.

2. Handicap Policy

1. Wildwinds will provide access to a certified Golf Canada/WHS handicap system for those members who want to establish and maintain a Golf Canada/WHS handicap.
2. Questions related to the policies described herein or handicap requirements may be addressed to Wildwinds Management or members of the Wildwinds Competition Committee. Whenever questions arise that require changes to this policy, the Competition Committee shall inform all members of any subsequent amendments.
3. Changes to this policy require approval by the Competition Committee. All changes require a simple majority for approval. Voting by Competition Committee members may be done by email, text etc. when they cannot be present.
4. Wildwinds Members are required to submit all 9 and 18-hole round scores, including those played at other courses, within 24 hours of completion of the round. Detailed expectations for score submission are aligned with Golf Canada and WHS, and may be found at: <https://www.golfcanada.ca/handicapping/>
5. The Competition Committee oversees the appropriate entry and maintenance of all handicaps, and reserves the right to levy disciplinary action against players found violating WHS, Golf Canada/R&A/USGA, provincial and/or local Rules of Golf or handicapping requirements.
6. Wildwinds Management is authorized to make handicap adjustments when necessary. The Competition Committee may assist in this matter by developing criterion and providing recommendation for adjustments.

3. Role of Wildwinds Players

1. Players must have a WHS Number to participate in Wildwinds-sanctioned events. A player can get registered for a WHS handicap, or transfer an existing handicap from another club, by speaking with Wildwinds Management. Annual handicap registration fees are included in your Wildwinds Membership dues.
2. Players must post all acceptable scores within 24 hours of round completion.
3. All rounds are to be played in accordance with the principles of the Golf Canada Rules of Golf, Rules of Handicapping, and provincial/local rules. The following high-level expectations apply:
 - a. Play the course as you find it and play your ball as it lies.
 - b. Play by the Rules and in the spirit of the game.
 - c. You are responsible for applying your own penalties if you breach a rule, so that you cannot gain any potential advantage over your opponent in match play or other players in stroke play.

When To Post a Score:

Players are responsible to post all rounds played, including 9-hole and 18-hole rounds, within one day of play. Each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where/when the round is played.

When Not To Post a Score:

There are 3 instances where players are not to post a score:

1. Players playing in a scramble
2. Players playing by themselves
3. Player playing in a practice format (e.g., playing multiple balls, moving balls to preferred lies, etc.)

How to Post a Score:

A minimal number of scores is needed to obtain a new handicap. The number of holes required to establish a handicap index is 54 holes, through any combination of 18-hole and 9-hole rounds. Rounds must be played in the current season.

To Maintain a Valid Handicap, you must post your Score within 24 hours following each round of golf. You cannot pick and choose which scores you submit.

Scores may be posted at <https://scg.golfcanada.ca/> using the “Post a Score” feature.

There are 2 ways you can post your score:

1. Hole by Hole (Preferred Method)
2. Adjusted Score

When posting an adjusted score, players must consider their hole-by-hole scores and adjust the total submitted score, per Golf Canada/WHS guidelines. The maximum per-hole score a player may consider is a double-bogey plus any strokes provided based on your handicap.

For Example:

- If your handicap is 18, you may post a maximum of 3 over par on all holes (double bogey, plus one stroke afforded on each hole based on your handicap).
- If your Handicap is 9, you may post a maximum of 2 over par on the 9 highest handicap holes, and 3 over par on the 9 lowest handicap holes (a hole handicap of 1 being the lowest and 18 being the highest).

The total adjusted score should be submitted for handicap purposes. Therefore, it is possible to submit a score for handicapping which is lower than the actual round total.

Player Violations:

Players may be found in violation of the Wildwinds Handicapping policy for the following:

- Not posting a score for a completed round
- Not posting a score within 24 hours of round completion (i.e., late posting)
- Posting an inaccurate 9 or 18-hole score, including (but not limited to): intentionally modifying or misrepresenting scores, rounds played in violation of Golf Canada/R&A/USGA Rules of Golf, etc.

Disciplinary Actions for Violations:

The Competition Committee makes every effort to ensure members are aware and compliant with Handicapping Policies. Members' failure to comply with Handicapping Policy may result in disciplinary action.

1. First (1st) Violation - Verbal warning followed up with an email. Corrective action may be advised to remedy the violation.
2. For repeat and/or particularly egregious violations, additional/alternative disciplinary action may be applied by the Competition Committee with support of Wildwinds Management. This includes (but is not limited to) exclusion from future Wildwinds-sanctioned events.

Upon determination of the appropriate disciplinary action, the Competition Committee will communicate all penalties levied to the affected Member(s).

4. Role of the Competition Committee

The Competition Committee will monitor the inputting of member's scores for the purpose of qualifying members for tournament play and other play where handicaps are required. The Competition Committee will further act on and resolve any concerns regarding player's handicaps as set forth in this section.

Before an announced tournament, the Competition Committee may review members' handicaps and their posted rounds of golf. The Committee will determine which members have not met the pre-event handicap posting requirements. A representative of the Committee will alert the individual member by phone and/or email that they have not complied with the handicap policy. The member will have 24 hours to either post the relevant/correct score or contact the Committee and explain any circumstances that support their lack of posting the required rounds.

As needed, the Committee at their discretion, may (a) meet and discuss the individual member's case and decide if the reasons presented mitigate not posting the required rounds before a tournament, (b) post a penalty score or (c) prescribe disciplinary actions, in alignment with Section 3 (Role of Wildwinds Players), above. The decision of the Competition Committee will be final and may not be appealed.

The Competition Committee will determine and communicate handicap application rules for Wildwinds-sanctioned events. For example, the Committee will determine and communicate whether a full or partial/percentage will be leveraged, on an event-by-event basis.