Top 5 Things A Golfer Needs To Know (Part 4)

Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

We continue with Part 4 of the Top 5 Things a Golfer Needs to Know about the World Handicap System (WHS), which became active on January 1, 2020. Parts 1-3 can be accessed at www.msgagolf.org/newsletter-archive. For more information about the WHS go to www.usga.org/whs. We will also have additional educational resources posted on our website soon.

#4: Your Handicap Index Will Be Revised Daily

Previously, official revisions of Handicap Indexes were scheduled twice a month, the 1st and 15th. Between revisions, you could check your Trend Handicap, which would change as you add scores.

Now, your Handicap Index will be revised DAILY, provided that you posted a score the day before. If you didn’t submit a score, there is no update. If you submitted more the one score, it does not update in real time, like the Trend Handicap did. Your Index will update just once, on the following day.

The reasons for this change are: 1) Handicap Indexes will be more responsive and up-to-date, with scores factored in right away, instead of waiting up to 2 weeks; 2) Establishing an Index will be quicker and easier, the day after submitting the 3rd acceptable 18-hole score (made up of any combination of 9-hole and 18-hole rounds); 3) Posting scores right after playing improves the accuracy and likelihood that they will be posted, and contributes to the fairness of the game; 4) Indexes used for setting up competitions will be more up-to-date; and 5) The new Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) will be more accurate because it is based on the scores posted that day.

What does this mean for you? You will need to change your habits, if you weren’t already posting your score the day you played! Why is this so important? Golf is largely based on the honor system. It teaches us to think of others, when we replace divots or rake the sand. Submitting to this new rule helps ensure that you aren’t receiving an unfair advantage in comparison to others, which contributes to the integrity of the game.

Of course, this doesn’t have to be a difficult thing! There are many tools available to make this easy! Most courses have a kiosk available in the pro shop or locker room. You can also download the MSGA Smartphone app (search for “Montana State Golf Association” in the app store), which gives you access right in your pocket. And, the online handicap system can be accessed from any computer at www.msgagolf.org/login. If you don’t know your MSGA login, or are having problems logging in, please contact us and we’d be glad to help!

If you are a club, and you post scores for your players, this applies to you too! They are relying on you to help keep their index up to date. Along with the other tools, clubs have access to Rapid Score Posting (by hand or by importing a spreadsheet) and Tournament Software. If you or your staff need help, please contact me and I’ll walk you through the process. Together, we can make this streamlined for your players!
Congratulations to our NEWEST WINNERS!

JANUARY'S DRAWING:
Rome, Italy - Dean Folkvord, Three Forks
$200 cash - Kristy Paine, Calimesa, CA

** FEBRUARY'S TRIP PRIZE is Albuquerque Ballooning **

Handicapping FAQs
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

I CAN'T GET LOGGED IN TO THE NEW APP

First, make sure you have the updated version. On your device desktop, the icon will have a blue background behind the MSGA logo instead of black. If not, you'll need to uninstall and reinstall the app. (Search for "Montana State Golf Association"). You should also verify you have the correct login information. Please contact us for assistance.

WHY CAN'T I LOG IN TO GHIN?

Many people are confusing GHIN with the USGA Network. GHIN is handicap software used by many Associations, but there are others, like Golfinet, which Montana uses. On 1/1/20, all golfers' records under the USGA “umbrella” were moved to one network location, which can then be accessed by any handicap provider. This change happened behind the scenes, and does not refer to changing programs.

The benefit of the USGA Network is that all Associations will now see the same player lookup. Records can be transferred easily. Players will have just one Network # and score record that will follow them, or can be shared between multiple Associations, even if they use different handicap software providers. Montana's players received new Network #s as a part of this process. Some people are calling them "GHIN #s", but they are actually "USGA #s", so you will not be able to use them with the GHIN software (unless you are a multi-member, and also a member of an Association that uses GHIN).

Order your copy of the Marvel Comics Avengers Junior Golf Guide and Teachers Edition today. Click Here.

Congratulations to our newest Ace Club Members!
Did you get a hole-in-one? Go to www.msgagolf.org to see how to get your MSGA Hole-in-One Certificate!

Ray Croff, 9/15/19, Marias Valley Golf & CC, Hole #6, 166 yds, 6 Iron

Montana's Official Golf Season:
April 1 to October 31
Off-season scores played in Montana should not be posted. Scores played where it is in-season are valid and should be posted, via the online handicap system, smartphone app, or membership linking.

2020 MSGA Tournaments:
STATE JUNIORS
June 22-23, Cottonwood Hills GC

MEN'S STATE AM
July 16-18, Yellowstone CC

WOMEN'S STATE & SENIOR AM
July 23-25, Riverside CC

MEN'S STATE SENIORS
August 4-6, Missoula

MEN'S MID AM
August 13-15, Laurel GC
DRIVE, CHIP, AND PUTT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The USGA, Masters Tournament, and PGA of America announced today that registration for 2020-2021 Drive, Chip, and Putt qualifying is now officially open on DriveChipandPutt.com. The schedule of qualifiers, set to begin this summer at hundreds of locations nationwide, was also released, including the 10 venues hosting regional qualifiers for participants who advance in the fall.

Drive, Chip, and Putt is a fun and free youth golf development initiative for junior golfers of all skill and ability levels, aimed at sparking a lifelong interest in the game. The initiative welcomes boys and girls, ages 7-15, to participate in local qualifying events in all 50 states throughout the months of May, June, July, and August. Entrants will play in girls’ and boys’ divisions in four age categories, with scoring centered around golf’s three fundamental skills – driving, chipping, and putting.

Top performers at the local level will advance through subregional and regional qualifiers in July/August and September/October, respectively. From these qualifiers, 80 finalists – 40 boys and 40 girls – will earn an invitation to compete in the National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday, April 4, the eve of the 2021 Masters Tournament. Qualifiers are conducted by all 41 sections of the PGA of America across the country.

“It’s exciting to see Drive, Chip, and Putt continue to grow the game and inspire juniors everywhere to love and play it,” said Mark Newell, USGA president. “As a founding partner of the program, we’re able to witness, firsthand, the level of passion that junior golfers have and to know that the future of the game is in good hands.”

“Drive, Chip, and Putt is a unique and exciting opportunity for participants of all skill levels to get started in the game,” said Fred Ridley, Chairman of Augusta National Golf Club and the Masters Tournament. “Our partnership with the USGA and PGA of America is rooted in the shared mission of engaging golf’s next generation, and each year, we are encouraged by the smiles we see as boys and girls have fun playing a game we hope they enjoy for the rest of their lives.”

The qualifier for Montana will be held July 10, 2020, at Canyon River Golf Club in Missoula. For more information about Drive, Chip, and Putt, including official rules and a full listing of qualifying sites, please visit DriveChipandPutt.com.

USGA GOLF MUSEUM FEATURES ‘THE ART OF THE GOLF COURSE’ EXHIBITION

As part of its ongoing commitment to celebrating golf’s rich history and elevating excellence in the game in all forms, the USGA has produced The Art of the Golf Course, an exhibition that examines golf through art, challenging viewers to expand their perspective on the game beyond a linear journey from tee to green.

The exhibition, which will be on display at the USGA Golf Museum through August 2020, uses a selection of the Museum’s exceptional fine art collection to showcase diverse artistic interpretations of the golf course. Although golf course architecture is most often discussed through the lens of designing a playing field, viewers can identify in any golf course the formal elements of line, shape, form, tone, texture, pattern, color, and composition found in all works of art.

The Museum is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more, visit usga.org/museum. To support the USGA’s efforts to preserve and celebrate the history of the game, visit the USGA Foundation Homepage.

Have you logged in online?
Post scores and view your record from home.
Don’t know your login?
Contact us at support@msgagolf.org.

Want to add something to the newsletter?
Contact us at:
support@msgagolf.org
1-800-628-3752, ext 1