

# Stone Creek Men's Club Handicapping Policy

The Stone Creek Men's Club (SCMC) is dedicated to providing its membership with an open and honest golf club governed by the Rules of Golf as established by the United States Golf Association (USGA). Furthermore, SCMC believes that an essential function of the SCMC is to maintain a handicap system where all participants have a fair and equal opportunity for success as determined by a player's indicated potential ability and actual performance. Therefore, to ensure compliance with USGA handicap rules, SCMC has enacted the following handicapping policy:

1. A SCMC Handicap Committee has been established to ensure that the intent of the USGA Handicap System is adhered to by its membership. SCMC has a Handicap Chairman who has been officially certified by the Oregon Golf Association (OGA) through its Handicap Certification Program. Being that the SCMC meets all the requirements of a golf club as defined by the USGA, SCMC has been licensed by the USGA to issue Handicap Indexes.
2. All rounds of golf played by members of SCMC are to be played in accordance with the principals and Rules of Golf as defined by the USGA. In the event of adverse weather or course conditions, SCMC has adopted a written rule that addresses the use of "preferred lies" and all rounds played by members under such conditions will be posted during the active golf season.
3. Member scores are to be posted immediately after play, or as soon as possible thereafter. Scores can be posted on the Stone Creek GHIN computer located in the pro shop or on a GHIN computer located at most other OGA affiliated golf courses. Scores may also be posted online at GHIN.com. Members are responsible for accurately posting all their own scores except for tournament rounds of golf when a tournament committee will post your score as a tournament score. Failure to post an accurate score in an acceptable time period may result in a penalty score being posted to that member's GHIN score history by the handicap committee.
4. SCMC requires that members post all eligible scores accurately and in accordance to USGA handicap rules to their GHIN score history. Each member is expected to know how to adjust their score with Equitable Stroke Control (ESC). Members are required post 9 hole scores. Most incomplete rounds are required to be posted following the USGA handicap system guidelines. Members that travel to Sunbelt states in the off season are required to post their scores to their GHIN before the start of the next OGA season. Members are encouraged to seek clarification of any handicap posting rules by contacting the SCMC handicap chairman.

5. SCMC is a strong advocate of the peer review system and encourages all members to freely view other members' scores and handicap information on the club's GHIN computer or online at GHIN.com. All members share a responsibility to safeguard the integrity of the club and are asked to confidentially notify the handicap committee or handicap chairman with any concerns they may have in regards to possible handicap abuse by other members. SCMC is committed to keeping our weekly games honest and fair and can only do so by having all of our members follow the rules as intended.
  
6. The SCMC handicap committee has the responsibility for making sure that its members have a USGA handicap index that is truly reflective of their potential ability. The handicap committee has the ultimate authority to adjust a member's handicap index under any circumstance that it feels necessary to do so. The following are some, but not all, of the reasons for the handicap committee to adjust a member's handicap index:
  - a. Manipulation of posted scores
  - b. Ability improving faster than handicap system can react
  - c. Numerous away or internet scores change handicap index
  - d. Temporary player disability or personal hardship
  - e. Continued violation of posting unacceptable scores
  - f. Failure to post all scores

Members may appeal any handicap index adjustment or penalty score to the handicap committee, in person, at the next scheduled SCMC Board meeting. After careful evaluation of a member's appeal, the committee may or may not make further adjustments based on the merits of the member's testimony.

7. For new members of the SCMC, the handicap committee will make every reasonable effort to obtain previous acceptable scores to maintain a continuous score history. If a current score history is not available, the new member will be required to return 5 acceptable scores before the next scheduled OGA handicap revision period to establish a new USGA handicap index. Handicap indexes are routinely updated during OGA scheduled revisions which are performed twice a month during the OGA golf season.