

Minnehaha Country Club
Policy Interpretation Statement
General Golf Rule #3

The following Policy has been adopted by the Board of Directors of Minnehaha Country Club (MCC) and has been in place for the benefit of the members of MCC.

General Golf Rule #3 – All golfers are requested to observe all rules of golf, care of the course, etiquette and safety. (When bad weather and/or lightning are near. Please seek shelter immediately.) (emphasis added)

Consistent with the above Policy, it is one of the responsibilities of the Competition Committee to assist and educate the membership on the “**rules of golf**” as emphasized above. One of the main functions of the Competition Committee is to serve as the Handicap Committee for MCC which oversees the membership’s compliance with the USGA Handicap System and offers information and education to the golfing membership so that it may consistently and accurately comply with these rules. Accordingly, the Competition Committee offers the following information, suggestions and guidelines to the golfing membership to utilize in adhering to the USGA Handicap System and the above stated Policy.

1. **What is a Course Handicap?** - A Course Handicap represents the number of strokes needed to play to the level of a scratch golfer—or the Course Rating™ of a particular set of tees. A Course Handicap is expressed as a whole number (e.g. 12). Course Handicap is determined by using charts located at the golf course where the round is to be played.
2. **What is the maximum Handicap Index?** The maximum Handicap Index is 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women (18.2N and 20.2N for a nine-hole Handicap Index, respectively).
3. **How to handle conceded or unfinished holes?** If a player does not finish a hole or is conceded a stroke, record the most likely score for handicap purposes. A most likely score is the number of strokes already taken, plus in the player's best judgment, the number of strokes needed to complete the hole from that point more than half the time. The most likely score should have an "X" preceding the number. **EXAMPLE** - Player A is just off the green in two strokes, and player A’s partner just holed out for a 2; therefore, player A decides to pick up. Player A determines the most likely score would have been to chip on and two putt; therefore, player A will record an “X-5” on the scorecard (2 strokes already taken plus 3 more strokes to complete the hole).
4. **Adjusting for Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)** – ESC is an adjustment of individual hole scores (for handicap purposes) in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability. See locker rooms and Golf Shop for more details.
5. **What is an acceptable score for recording?** Almost **all scores are acceptable** because of the basic premise of the USGA Handicap System™ which states that every player will try to make the best score at each hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review. Therefore, all of the following are acceptable scores:
 - a. When at least **SEVEN** holes are played, post a **9-HOLE SCORE** and when at least **THIRTEEN** holes are played, post an **18-HOLE SCORE** with the following rule:
 - For unfinished holes above, record a score of PAR + any handicap strokes received, i.e. any “bumps” or “pops” you would normally get on those holes;
 - b. Scores on all courses with a valid Course Rating™ and Slope Rating®;
 - c. Scores in **all forms of competition**: match play, stroke play, team competitions where each player plays their own ball;
 - d. Scores played under the local rule of “preferred lies” and scores made in an area observing an active season.
6. **What happens if all scores aren’t posted or turned in by a member?** The Handicap Committee in its discretion may take action to adjust, either up or down, the member’s Handicap Index if he or she does not: i) turn in all acceptable scores as outlined above; or ii) otherwise observe the spirit of the USGA Handicap System. Or, the Handicap Committee may post a substitute score equal to that member’s lowest posted round in his or her current scoring record for any missed rounds.
7. **What happens with repeated infractions and/or manipulation of rounds?** The Handicap Committee may then withdraw the Handicap Index of a member who does not follow his or her responsibilities under this Policy and the USGA Handicap System. However, before any action is taken, the member will be advised of the information available to the Handicap Committee and be invited to respond either in writing or by appearing in person. A withdrawn Handicap Index may be reinstated under conditions set forth by the Handicap Committee.