



## HANDICAP SYSTEM – 2021

The purpose of handicapping is to create equity and fairness for all players in a tournament.

To ensure a level playing field where all members feel they have a chance of winning, if they play well, the SGNM Executive Board has a responsibility and reserves the right to review each player's handicap record to make sure that it reflects their true playing ability. The SGNM Executive Board will enforce our handicap policy by proactively reviewing a player's SGNM handicap index and compare it to any established Golf Handicap Information Network (GHIN) handicap index. If there are significant differences between the two handicap indexes the SGNM Executive Board may make appropriate handicap adjustments.

SGNM will continue to maintain a separate handicap for our tournaments as discussed below; however, the SGNM Executive Board encourages players to join a USGA GHIN golf club to establish a GHIN handicap. If you are or become a GHIN member, you should post all your eligible scores including SGNM tournaments to the GHIN system. This will provide everyone a more accurate estimate of your playing ability.

Although USGA GHIN had implemented the World Handicap System (WHS) in 2020, SGNM will continue to follow our past 2019 handicap practices (except increasing the maximum handicap allowed from 40 to 54). Handicaps for members in the Senior Golfers of New Mexico have been and are established in accordance with the 2019 U.S.G.A. GHIN Handicap System except as modified below:

### 1. New Members:

For your first SGNM tournament, the Handicap Chairman will assign you an Initial Handicap (Hcp) with zero scores. Your GHIN Hcp Index will be used. If you do not have a GHIN or club Hcp, the Handicap Chairman will assign you an Initial Handicap based on your recent scores and/or our estimate of one that we feel is fair to both you and your competitors.

This Initial Handicap for women will be adjusted to men course/slope ratings.

Default Tee: You have the option to choose either the Middle or Forward tees to play from as your default tee for the entire year. If you do not make a tee selection, you will by default be assigned to the Middle tees.

### 2. Renewing Members Default Tees:

All member golfers will have a choice regardless of age or handicap at the beginning of the season to play from either the Middle or Forward tees for the entire year. If you are transitioning to a different tee from last year, a handicap adjustment will be made (see below). To reduce possible wide fluctuations in the updated transition handicaps in the first few tournaments, the adjustment period will be 3 tournaments maximum – the same as that for new members.

- a. If you are transitioning from the Middle tees to the Forward tees this year, you will be assigned an Initial HCP equal to your last-year's final SGNM Handicap less 3 strokes, with zero active scores.

This transition is considered permanent from season to season irrespective of your subsequent handicap levels until and if you want to return to the Middle tees as your default tee. The return can occur only between-seasons using the same process as in paragraph 2.b. below for that year.

If you subsequently want to transition back to the Forward tees again, then you must start the process in this paragraph 2.a. all over again including meeting the eligibility conditions once again.

- b. If you are transitioning from the Forward tees to the Middle tees this year, you will be assigned an Initial HCP equal to your last-year's final SGNM Handicap plus 3 strokes with zero active scores.
- c. If you are not making any change in tees this year, then your last-year's final SGNM HCP will be recalculated for this year's starting handicap as your last-year's final SGNM Handicap from all your previous active scores excluding those greater than 2 years old.

3. In your 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament your Hcp will be the lower of:
  - a. Your Initial Hcp if applicable, or
  - b. A Hcp based on your 1<sup>st</sup> Tournament score (\* see ESC Note below)
4. In your 3<sup>rd</sup> tournament your Hcp will be the lower of:
  - c. Your Initial Hcp, if applicable, or
  - d. A Hcp based on the lowest handicap differential of your previous 2 tournament scores.
5. In your 4<sup>th</sup> tournament your Hcp will be based on the lowest handicap differential of your previous 3 tournament scores.
6. In your 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> tournaments your Hcp will be based on the 2 lowest handicap differentials of your previous tournament scores.
7. In your 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> tournaments your Hcp will be based on the 3 lowest handicap differentials of your previous tournament scores.

8. In your 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tournament your Hcp will be based on the 4 lowest handicap differentials of your previous tournament scores.
9. In all succeeding tournaments your Hcp will be based on the 5 lowest handicap differentials from your latest 10 tournament scores.
10. All updated Hcps will be based on a constant slope rating of 113 regardless of the SGNM tournament courses played.
- \* ESC Note: All tournament scores are adjusted for Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) as prescribed by the U.S.G.A. GHIN 2019 Handicap System.
11. At the beginning of each calendar year the handicap file shall be revised to exclude all scores older than two (2) years, and then the handicaps updated from the remaining scores.
12. Male Golfer "Move Up One Set of Tees" Option Deleted:  
Any male golfer must play from his default Middle or Forward tees and may not move up a set of tees (if available) in any individual tournament.
13. Female golfer "Move Up One Set of Tees" Option:  
Any female golfer playing from her default Forward tees may move up to the Next Forward tees (if available) while remaining in the same flight she was in before the move in any individual tournament and compete without any course handicap adjustment. Any female player taking this option will not be eligible for any Low Gross award in her flight. This option will be listed on the tournament entry form.
14. During the interim period until there are enough women golfers to establish women's flights, women will use the men's course/slope ratings for establishing and updating their handicaps.

Also, to be eligible for the end of year SGNM Championship tournament, you must post a score in at least one (1) SGNM tournament during the current season.

The SGNM Executive Board wishes all a fun, satisfying, upcoming SGNM golf season and we look forward to seeing you on the "links."

Kaz Oishi, Handicap Chairman  
1/24/21