

## Evergreen Men's Club-Handicap Committee Newsletter-6.1.16

Summer is nearly here with warmer weather and great course conditions, and we will all see more rounds played, hopefully lower scores, and our handicaps become more active. In a continuing effort to provide relevant information and facts about our Handicap System, and keep us in compliance with USGA/OGA requirements, I will begin this month's newsletter with a few definitions, a couple of explanations, and finally, some new policy for the club. We hope this knowledge helps you better understand the system, and how it's used in our club.-

**“Handicap/Handicap Index”**- Your *handicap* is the rounded-off, whole number USGA uses to fairly compare you to others you play golf with. (Your *handicap index* is that number expressed to the tenth decimal place) -Your *handicap index* is only an expression of your *potential* ability, based on the average of the best 10 of the last 20 rounds you've played. The typical golfer will shoot to this index only once out of four or five rounds...

**“Course Rating”**- This is the approximate and average number of strokes, from a particular set of tees, that a *scratch golfer* would finish the course with.

**“Slope”**- (Slope Rating) This the number USGA uses to measure the relative difficulty of a course for those of us who are *not* scratch golfers. A course with standard level of difficulty, for a scratch golfer, has a slope of **113**. Slope for all tees, can range from 55 (very easy) to 155 (extremely difficult), and is different for men and women golfers. Simply put, it is the way we compare a *bogey* golfer to a *scratch* golfer. Slope was adapted by all US golf associations on Jan1, 1990. Prior to this, we could only be compared to a scratch golfer- (no fun) to establish handicap. The word slope refers to lines on a graph...not topography of the course. The actual calculations on the card here at Evergreen, are recorded by USGA course raters who measure yardages, hazards, obstacles, and many other factors to calculate the slope for each set of tees. It must be done at least every 10 years, or when significant changes occur.

*Okay...how do I figure out the course rating for my tees?-*

Very simple- You take your current handicap index...(remember, the one with the tenths digits) multiply it times the slope for your tees, and then divide by **113**. (Always **113**, as this is a constant, and round up your result to the nearest whole number.) It's even easier to look at the charts in the clubhouse, or use a cell phone app.- We have it even better at Evergreen, with printed sheets that show each member's name and handicap adjustment for every set of tees, updated every 2 weeks with each revision by USGA!

### **Updated Policy for all Members-Effective June 1, 2016**

-Manipulation of scores...by not posting accurately, by not posting for an acceptable round played, or other action that deliberately circumvents the scoring system

will be promptly reviewed by the committee- and dealt with accordingly. If you cheat, you are doing a disservice to the rest of us and the game of golf. The action taken could include a penalty score being posted for you, an adjustment of your score or handicap, or even barred from participation if necessary. **Zero Tolerance !**

-In accordance with Sec.3-4 of the USGA Handicap System, “Maximum Handicap”, which states the maximum handicap for men is 36.4. All members with a handicap of 36.4-or higher...will now be identified with the letter ”L” meaning *local handicap*. Those with an “local” or “L” designation will be required to use the maximum 36.4 for competitions...which does convert to a higher index where the slope for the tee is greater than 113. **Example- a player with a Handicap Index of 36.4 will have a course handicap of 43 on a course with a slope rating of 133.**

The Evergreen Men's Club-Handicap Committee would like all members to feel free to direct any questions about the handicap system, or concerns about our policy...to any member of the committee at the course. We will do our best to provide you with an explanation or answer. Next month, we will try to consolidate and post a list of “*local rules*” as defined by management, and those currently in place for the club.

Please try to make every stroke your best effort and be sure to post scores for all rounds played, -(do not post for the ones you played alone or when not following the *Rules of Golf*). Have fun, enjoy the game...be honest with yourself and your playing partners, and your handicap will take care of itself.

-Your Committee;

Tim J, Griff H, Paul D.