

APRIL 2021

Volume 2, Issue 2

GM's Update

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Instead of writing the same old General Manager's update where I go through each department giving a brief status on the operation, I thought I would make things slightly more interesting by communicating a list of items that I am personally excited about this season as they relate to enhancing the member experience at Glacier Greens Golf Club.

The 50th anniversary of Glacier Greens Golf Club

The 50th milestone only comes once in a club's history and Glacier Greens has a lot to celebrate. A 50th anniversary committee is currently being assembled and will be responsible for arranging a week (Sept 20-25) of member events to mark the occasion.

New members

With a growing membership base, I am very much looking forward to meeting the many new members at Glacier Greens and doing my part to welcome them to one of the best golf experiences in the Comox Valley. I hope our existing members feel the same.

Improved golf course conditioning

It is no secret that Glacier Greens is full of untapped potential as a golf course, and with the recent appointment of Tyler Cook to Golf Course Super, I am extremely confident that Tyler and his crew will showcase this potential this season and for years to come.

Events

Although we are still under many restrictions that can play havoc on event planning, our committee is planning a long list of activities for members to get involved with. Stay tuned for a large event calendar to be posted outside the ProShop door to better communicate club activities. *(See page 4 of this newsletter for more details).*

Social Center banquet room renovation

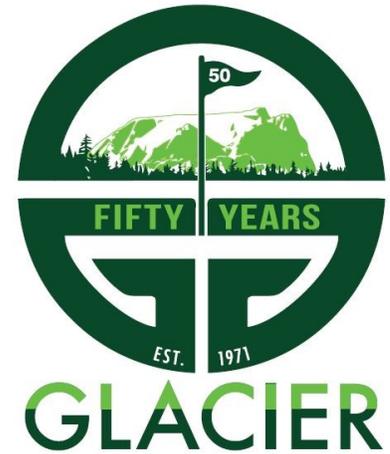
Spearheaded by our former Chairperson, Guy Tremblay, the Social Center banquet room renovation project will be underway this spring. This will include new flooring, windows, lighting, paint, washrooms, and audio-visual capabilities. I am hopeful that the completion of this renovation will coincide with the lifting of restrictions to social gatherings.

Long range planning

With golf on the rise, I am looking forward to having the ability to begin a long-range plan for the club. This will include but is not limited to capital investment items such as, significant upgrades to our aging irrigation system, architectural improvements to the golf course, adding drainage to areas in need, long overdue investment into our Maintenance Facility, and an equipment replacement strategy.

I can certainly feel the buzz of a busy golf season ahead and I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the culture of the club relies on the perspective you bring with you each time you visit. Please engage our staff, other members, and our guests with a friendly attitude and enjoy the club in whatever capacity you choose.

Michael Newton
GM



"The object of golf is not just win. It is to play like a gentleman, and win."

Phil Mickelson

Editor's Note:

Submissions from all life forms for GG Newsletter are welcomed. Please send email thru the course manager at manager@glaciergreens.com. Also, feel free to contact any of the Advisory Committee members whose info can be found at the website www.glaciergreens.com. Feedback is always good.

The GGGC Newsletter is published monthly...try to anyway.



Your Golf Handicap

Allow me to draw your attention to Golf Canada Score Centre (see the image on the right). When you click on "View History" and then click on the 'Handicap Calculation' tab, this will give you all the details you need about your handicap including:

- Hcp Index Calculation,
- Scores Used in the Calculation,
- Limits on Hcp Index Upward Movements,
- Adjusted Scores,
- Committee Adjustments, and
- Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC).

This 'Performance Report' is a cool feature available to all members! Please check it out. They do a very good job with step by step illustration on how score adjustments are applied to the handicap. However if you need further explanation on how calculations are formulated, consult the rules under the **World Handicap System** which can also be found in this same site.

Golf terminologies we golfers use sometimes depends on who you ask. The aim is to have consistency in the interpretation. Below are commonly used terms found in your hcp report:

Handicap Index

The measure of a player's demonstrated ability calculated against the Slope Rating of a golf course of standard playing difficulty (that is, a course with a Slope Rating of 113) (see WHS Rule 5.2).

Low Handicap Index

The lowest Handicap Index achieved by a player during the **365-day period** (one year) preceding the day on which the most recent score in their scoring record was played (see WHS Rule 5.7).

IMPORTANT NOTE: A limit is set in order to control sudden rise in the **Handicap Index** in relation to the **Low handicap Index** within the 365-day period, they are called **soft cap** (a rise > 3.0 strokes) and **hard cap** (no more than 5.0 strokes after soft cap application). It is further explained in Rule 5.8 of the WHS manual.

Principle of the Rule:

The Course Handicap calculation converts a Handicap Index to the number of strokes a player requires to play any golf course with a Course Rating and Slope Rating. This allows portability of a player's Handicap Index wherever they play. The Playing Handicap calculation enables equity amongst players of all handicap levels within different formats of the game. For formats of play where a handicap allowance of 100% is adopted, the Playing Handicap will be the same as the Course Handicap.

Course Handicap - For handicap purposes, a Course Handicap is used to determine the number of strokes that a player receives (or gives) on any golf course and for the correct application of net par and net double bogey adjustments (see Rule 6.1).

Playing Handicap - For equity purposes, the Playing Handicap calculation determines the number of strokes each player gives or receives, to ensure that all players can enjoy a fair and equal game when playing with or competing against one another (see Rule 6.2). *Note: This is seldom used due to calculations involving handicap allowances - too much math for me ;-)*

Review your '**Performance Report**' from time to time as it gives you a better understanding of your playing ability and its fluctuations thru statistical data. Golf Canada will manage the numbers for you.

Until next time...please post your scores right after each round (hole by hole highly recommended). Stay safe out there!

AC the Club C

HANDICAP INDEX CALCULATION

You have 20 scores available. Each score produces a differential which is calculated as follows: 113 / Slope x (Score - Rating - PCC). Scores highlighted are used in calculating the Golf Canada Handicap Index®.

Date	Course	CR/SL	Score	Diff	Adj	Adj Diff
2020-11-15	Glacier Greens Golf Club	66.1/114	74H	7.8	0	7.8
2020-11-14	Glacier Greens Golf Club	66.1/114	80H	13.8	0	13.8
2020-11-13	Glacier Greens Golf Club	66.1/114	79H	12.8	0	12.8
2020-11-01	Glacier Greens Golf Club	67.9/119	78H	9.6	0	9.6
2020-10-31	Glacier Greens Golf Club	67.9/119	81H	11.5	0	11.5
2020-10-30	Glacier Greens Golf Club	67.9/119	82H	12.4	0	12.4
2020-10-29	Glacier Greens Golf Club	67.9/119	78H	9.6	0	9.6
2020-10-15	Glacier Greens Golf Club	67.9/119	85H	16.2	0	16.2
2020-10-12	Glacier Greens Golf Club	67.9/119	81H	12.4	0	12.4
2020-10-10	Glacier Greens Golf Club	67.9/119	84H	15.3	0	15.3
2020-10-04	Glacier Greens Golf Club	67.9/119	76H	7.7	0	7.7

Print Email

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Tee	CR	SL	Par	Course Hcp	Target Score
Mens BLUE	70.1	125	71	9	80
Mens WHITE/BLUE	69.2	123	71	7	78
Mens BLUE/WHITE	68.0	121	71	6	77
Mens WHITE	67.9	119	71	6	77
Mens GREEN	66.1	114	71	4	75
Mens RED	64.9	112	71	2	73

Just The FAQs: Drop Zones Discussed



Got a question on local golf rules or interesting query about Glacier Greens? We'd like to hear it. May or may not publish it, but we'd still like to hear it. ;-)

Q: *My ball landed behind hole #15 in the green staked area. What are my options?*

A: Green stakes denotes no play zone. Please stay off the tulips and daffodils! There is a drop area to the left side of the rock wall. Free relief allowed under Rule 16.

Q: *Wouldn't it be easier to have a drop area on hole #4 par 3 when the ball goes into the aquatic penalty area rather than figuring out the local equal distance or point of entry rules?*

A: Interesting question. Agree there has been confusion on hole #4 on the local rule of equal distance and point of entry rules, especially those new to the course. The equal distance rule had been removed by the R&A and USGA, however the rule may be imposed locally which is allowed under rule 17. Drop area is a good option, it avoids confusion and speeds up pace of play. Use reasonable judgment in determining reference point for where the ball crossed the penalty area. Although this local rule could be something that GGCC could look at changing. Perhaps more to follow on this.

*Please replace **divots** and repair **ball marks**. It takes up to 3 weeks for greens to heal if **ball marks** are not fixed right away. Who wants to putt on a bumpy, spotty, and yucky greens like that one in the picture!!*



News from the Pro Shop (Circle Square Golf)

Hello Members

Very excited to see the interest in membership for the coming season. It has been very nice to see the new and returning faces for summer golf. The Proshop staff is happy to see the membership supporting our new professional **Nick Crookall** and making him very busy with golf questions and lessons. We appreciate the patience of our membership while we are working through membership renewals and managing the massive increase in traffic through the golf shop. We only expect things to get busier as the weather improves.

New in the Proshop for the coming Months:

- Srixon Golf Balls
- 50th Anniversary hats towels and select items
- **Trackman** in full use on the range with Nick or Jesse
- Ping Clothing Line
- Dexim for Ladies
- Largest Demo Program in Comox
- PING, Cleveland, Titleist Wedge Fitting System.

Thank you,

Jesse Moussa
Head Professional

2021 Golf Season

Glacier Greens Event Schedule (Listed below are planned events. Other events not listed will be announced accordingly. Each event may be modified in order to abide by mandated COVID-19 protocols):

Tuesday Ladies League. Starts on 06 April with the final event on 28 Sept 2021.

Men's Shootout is back. A three-round men's doubles event played on 3 different formats (scramble, best ball, and alternate shot). To be held 24 April, 01 May, and 08 May.

Men's Match Play. First 64 players to sign up will play this exciting format. If 64 is not met, then the first 32 players qualify. First round losers will form a consolation flight (B Flight), so each player is guaranteed to play two rounds. Competitors will schedule their matches and have 2 weeks to complete them. Starts in early May. A tee time will be booked for the finals, a foursome of A & B Flight finalists. *Participating members with tee time restricting memberships will not be subject to a green fee if matches are scheduled outside of permitted tee times.*

Ladies Match Play. Details to be promulgated.

His & Her's Event. Club mixed doubles with a shotgun start on Sunday, 18 July. Details to be promulgated.

Club Championship. 2-day event 21-22 Aug. *All men's categories will be teeing off from the same tee boxes (modified Blue) - this format allows for anyone a chance to be the club champion regardless of age. Categories include Ladies, Juniors, Men's Open (age <54), Men's Senior (age 55-69), Men's Super Senior (age >70). ; also, men's snips (fees apply) will be flighted by handicap each day . Entry fee will be waived for all members.*

Ladies Shootout. 3-day event Sept 07, 14, and 21. Details to be promulgated.

Men's Devil's Scramble. One day event held on 25 September. Draw will be held to determine teams of five players. COVID protocols will be followed and dictate how the event will be conducted. More to follow.

Saturday Members' Morning. Every Saturday throughout the year, barring other scheduled club events or inclement weather.

Glacier Greens Golf Club 50th Anniversary Week. Starts on 20 Sept—Events TBA!

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Events are open to Glacier Greens Golf Club members only - unless otherwise specified by the organizing committee; and
2. Participants must hold a valid and current **Handicap**. It is therefore **important** that you post your score right away every time you play a round.

****Success of these events depend on interest and participation. Some events will also rely heavily on the help of volunteers. So if you would like to get involved or just hang around and give a hand, just contact the event organizers. Your contribution will be very much appreciated.**

Remember when posting Golf Scores:

- Check the **TEE BOX** used. A common mistake since the system usually defaults to White tees.
- Ensure correct **DATE** of round played.
- **Hole-by-Hole** is the preferred way of posting as it avoids max hole score (net double bogey) errors.



Handicap Index Converted to Course Handicap (Print for Quick Reference)

Biggest advantage with WHS is the portability of hcps, now applicable to golf courses around the world. Once travel gets back to somewhat normal, we can golf anywhere and carry a handicap, thus having the ability to play the locals for a friendly wager. This index is converted to course hcp relative to the rated tee boxes. So go ahead and play against your visiting friend from Alberta (within your golfing bubble of course) using the Glacier Greens Course Handicap Chart below.

BLUE Course Rating: 70.1 - Slope Rating: 125 - Par: 71				
Handicap Index	Course HCP	Handicap Index	Course HCP	
+5	to +4.2	+6	24.8 to 25.6	27
+4.1	to +3.3	+5	25.7 to 26.5	28
+3.2	to +2.4	+4	26.6 to 27.4	29
+2.3	to +1.5	+3	27.5 to 28.3	30
+1.4	to +0.6	+2	28.4 to 29.2	31
+0.5	to 0.3	+1	29.3 to 30.1	32
0.4	to 1.2	0	30.2 to 31	33
1.3	to 2.1	1	31.1 to 32	34
2.2	to 3	2	32 to 32.9	35
3.1	to 3.9	3	33 to 33.8	36
4	to 4.8	4	33.9 to 34.7	37
4.9	to 5.7	5	34.8 to 35.6	38
5.8	to 6.6	6	35.7 to 36.5	39
6.7	to 7.5	7	36.6 to 37.4	40
7.6	to 8.4	8	37.5 to 38.3	41
8.5	to 9.4	9	38.4 to 39.2	42
9.5	to 10.3	10	39.3 to 40.1	43
10.4	to 11.2	11	40.2 to 41	44
11.3	to 12.1	12	41.1 to 41.9	45
12.2	to 13	13	42 to 42.8	46
13.1	to 13.9	14	42.9 to 43.7	47
14	to 14.8	15	43.8 to 44.6	48
14.9	to 15.7	16	44.7 to 45.5	49
15.8	to 16.6	17	45.6 to 46.4	50
16.7	to 17.5	18	46.5 to 47.3	51
17.6	to 18.4	19	47.4 to 48.2	52
18.5	to 19.3	20	48.3 to 49.1	53
19.4	to 20.2	21	49.2 to 50	54
20.3	to 21.1	22	50.1 to 50.9	55
21.2	to 22	23	51 to 51.8	56
22.1	to 22.9	24	51.9 to 52.7	57
23	to 23.8	25	52.8 to 53.6	58
23.9	to 24.7	26	53.7 to 54	59

WHITE Course Rating: 67.9 - Slope Rating: 119 - Par: 71				
Handicap Index	Course HCP	Handicap Index	Course HCP	
+5	to +4.2	+8	25.3 to 26.2	24
+4.1	to +3.3	+7	26.3 to 27.1	25
+3.2	to +2.3	+6	27.2 to 28.1	26
+2.2	to +1.4	+5	28.2 to 29	27
+1.3	to +0.4	+4	29.1 to 30	28
+0.3	to 0.5	+3	30.1 to 30.9	29
0.6	to 1.5	+2	31 to 31.9	30
1.6	to 2.4	+1	32 to 32.8	31
2.5	to 3.4	0	32.9 to 33.8	32
3.5	to 4.3	1	33.9 to 34.7	33
4.4	to 5.3	2	34.8 to 35.7	34
5.4	to 6.2	3	35.8 to 36.6	35
6.3	to 7.2	4	36.7 to 37.6	36
7.3	to 8.1	5	37.7 to 38.5	37
8.2	to 9.1	6	38.6 to 39.5	38
9.2	to 10	7	39.6 to 40.4	39
10.1	to 11	8	40.5 to 41.4	40
11.1	to 11.9	9	41.5 to 42.3	41
12	to 12.9	10	42.4 to 43.3	42
13	to 13.8	11	43.4 to 44.2	43
13.9	to 14.8	12	44.3 to 45.1	44
14.9	to 15.7	13	45.2 to 46.1	45
15.8	to 16.7	14	46.2 to 47	46
16.8	to 17.6	15	47.1 to 48	47
17.7	to 18.6	16	48.1 to 48.9	48
18.7	to 19.5	17	49 to 49.9	49
19.6	to 20.5	18	50 to 50.8	50
20.6	to 21.4	19	50.9 to 51.8	51
21.5	to 22.4	20	51.9 to 52.7	52
22.5	to 23.3	21	52.8 to 53.7	53
23.4	to 24.3	22	53.8 to 54	54
24.4	to 25.2	23		

GREEN Course Rating: 66.1 - Slope Rating: 114 - Par: 71				
Handicap Index	Course HCP	Handicap Index	Course HCP	
+5	to +4.6	+10	25.2 to 26.1	21
+4.5	to +3.6	+9	26.2 to 27.1	22
+3.5	to +2.6	+8	27.2 to 28.1	23
+2.5	to +1.6	+7	28.2 to 29.1	24
+1.5	to +0.6	+6	29.2 to 30.1	25
+0.5	to 0.3	+5	30.2 to 31.1	26
0.4	to 1.3	+4	31.2 to 32.1	27
1.4	to 2.3	+3	32.2 to 33.1	28
2.4	to 3.3	+2	33.2 to 34	29
3.4	to 4.3	+1	34.1 to 35	30
4.4	to 5.3	0	35.1 to 36	31
5.4	to 6.3	1	36.1 to 37	32
6.4	to 7.3	2	37.1 to 38	33
7.4	to 8.3	3	38.1 to 39	34
8.4	to 9.3	4	39.1 to 40	35
9.4	to 10.3	5	40.1 to 41	36
10.4	to 11.2	6	41.1 to 42	37
11.3	to 12.2	7	42.1 to 43	38
12.3	to 13.2	8	43.1 to 44	39
13.3	to 14.2	9	44.1 to 45	40
14.3	to 15.2	10	45.1 to 45.9	41
15.3	to 16.2	11	46 to 46.9	42
16.3	to 17.2	12	47 to 47.9	43
17.3	to 18.2	13	48 to 48.9	44
18.3	to 19.2	14	49 to 49.9	45
19.3	to 20.2	15	50 to 50.9	46
20.3	to 21.2	16	51 to 51.9	47
21.3	to 22.2	17	52 to 52.9	48
22.3	to 23.1	18	53 to 53.9	49
23.2	to 24.1	19	54 to 54	50
24.2	to 25.1	20		

White/Blue - White tee boxes on all par 4s and Blue tee boxes on all par 3s and 5s.
Blue/White - Blue tee boxes on all par 4s and White tee boxes on all par 3s and 5s.

RED Course Rating: 64.9 - Slope Rating: 112 - Par: 71				
Handicap Index	Course HCP	Handicap Index	Course HCP	
+5	to +4.5	+11	24.9 to 25.8	19
+4.4	to +3.5	+10	25.9 to 26.8	20
+3.4	to +2.5	+9	26.9 to 27.8	21
+2.4	to +1.5	+8	27.9 to 28.8	22
+1.4	to +0.5	+7	28.9 to 29.8	23
+0.4	to 0.6	+6	29.9 to 30.8	24
0.7	to 1.6	+5	30.9 to 31.8	25
1.7	to 2.6	+4	31.9 to 32.8	26
2.7	to 3.6	+3	32.9 to 33.8	27
3.7	to 4.6	+2	33.9 to 34.9	28
4.7	to 5.6	+1	35 to 35.9	29
5.7	to 6.6	0	36 to 36.9	30
6.7	to 7.6	1	37 to 37.9	31
7.7	to 8.6	2	38 to 38.9	32
8.7	to 9.6	3	39 to 39.9	33
9.7	to 10.6	4	40 to 40.9	34
10.7	to 11.7	5	41 to 41.9	35
11.8	to 12.7	6	42 to 42.9	36
12.8	to 13.7	7	43 to 43.9	37
13.8	to 14.7	8	44 to 44.9	38
14.8	to 15.7	9	45 to 46	39
15.8	to 16.7	10	46.1 to 47	40
16.8	to 17.7	11	47.1 to 48	41
17.8	to 18.7	12	48.1 to 49	42
18.8	to 19.7	13	49.1 to 50	43
19.8	to 20.7	14	50.1 to 51	44
20.8	to 21.7	15	51.1 to 52	45
21.8	to 22.8	16	52.1 to 53	46
22.9	to 23.8	17	53.1 to 54	47
23.9	to 24.8	18		

WHITE/BLUE Course Rating: 69.2 - Slope Rating: 123 - Par: 71				
Handicap Index	Course HCP	Handicap Index	Course HCP	
+5	to +4.4	+7	25.1 to 25.9	26
+4.3	to +3.4	+6	26 to 26.9	27
+3.3	to +2.5	+5	27 to 27.8	28
+2.4	to +1.6	+4	27.9 to 28.7	29
+1.5	to +0.7	+3	28.8 to 29.6	30
+0.6	to 0.2	+2	29.7 to 30.5	31
0.3	to 1.1	+1	30.6 to 31.5	32
1.2	to 2.1	0	31.6 to 32.4	33
2.2	to 3	1	32.5 to 33.3	34
3.1	to 3.9	2	33.4 to 34.2	35
4	to 4.8	3	34.3 to 35.1	36
4.9	to 5.7	4	35.2 to 36.1	37
5.8	to 6.7	5	36.2 to 37	38
6.8	to 7.6	6	37.1 to 37.9	39
7.7	to 8.5	7	38 to 38.8	40
8.6	to 9.4	8	38.9 to 39.7	41
9.5	to 10.3	9	39.8 to 40.6	42
10.4	to 11.2	10	40.7 to 41.6	43
11.3	to 12.2	11	41.7 to 42.5	44
12.3	to 13.1	12	42.6 to 43.4	45
13.2	to 14	13	43.5 to 44.3	46
14.1	to 14.9	14	44.4 to 45.2	47
15	to 15.8	15	45.3 to 46.2	48
15.9	to 16.8	16	46.3 to 47.1	49
16.9	to 17.7	17	47.2 to 48	50
17.8	to 18.6	18	48.1 to 48.9	51
18.7	to 19.5	19	49 to 49.8	52
19.6	to 20.4	20	49.9 to 50.8	53
20.5	to 21.4	21	50.9 to 51.7	54
21.5	to 22.3	22	51.8 to 52.6	55
22.4	to 23.2	23	52.7 to 53.5	56
23.3	to 24.1	24	53.6 to 54	57
24.2	to 25	25		

BLUE/WHITE Course Rating: 68.0 - Slope Rating: 121 - Par: 71				
Handicap Index	Course HCP	Handicap Index	Course HCP	
+5	to 4.3	+8	24.8 to 25.6	24
+4.2	to 3.3	+7	25.7 to 26.6	25
+3.2	to 2.4	+6	26.7 to 27.5	26
+2.3	to 1.5	+5	27.6 to 28.4	27
+1.4	to 0.5	+4	28.5 to 29.4	28
+0.4	to 0.4	+3	29.5 to 30.3	29
0.5	to 1.4	+2	30.4 to 31.2	30
1.5	to 2.3	+1	31.3 to 32.2	31
2.4	to 3.2	0	32.3 to 33.1	32
3.3	to 4.2	1	33.2 to 34	33
4.3	to 5.1	2	34.1 to 35	34
5.2	to 6	3	35.1 to 35.9	35
6.1	to 7	4	36 to 36.8	36
7.1	to 7.9	5	36.9 to 37.8	37
8	to 8.8	6	37.9 to 38.7	38
8.9	to 9.8	7	38.8 to 39.6	39
9.9	to 10.7	8	39.7 to 40.6	40
10.8	to 11.6	9	40.7 to 41.5	41
11.7	to 12.6	10	41.6 to 42.4	42
12.7	to 13.5	11	42.5 to 43.4	43
13.6	to 14.4	12	43.5 to 44.3	44
14.5	to 15.4	13	44.4 to 45.2	45
15.5	to 16.3	14	45.3 to 46.2	46
16.4	to 17.2	15	46.3 to 47.1	47
17.3	to 18.2	16	47.2 to 48	48
18.3	to 19.1	17	48.1 to 49	49
19.2	to 20	18	49.1 to 49.9	50
20.1	to 21	19	50 to 50.8	51
21.1	to 21.9	20	50.9 to 51.8	52
22	to 22.8	21	51.9 to 52.7	53
22.9	to 23.8	22	52.8 to 53.6	54
23.9	to 24.7	23	53.7 to 54	55



Below is an article published in the Golf Canada website last year. It lays out the relevance of keeping a handicap regardless of skill level.

Your Golf Handicap – Why It Matters

Written by John Gordon

Welcome to *Golf Handicaps for Dummies: Why having a handicap is not a handicap.*

No, I'm not calling you a dummy, but if you're a golfer of any ability who doesn't maintain an accurate and consistent handicap, you're not taking advantage of one of the fundamentals that makes golf the most democratic of sports. And that's just dumb.

With all due respect, you can't go one-on-one with a pro basketball player or hope to score on an NHL goalie. They're not going to let you shoot at a basket that's lower than regulation or a net that's 10 feet wide and six feet high.

But golf's handicap system allows you to compete on an equitable basis with players who are more or less accomplished than you are. Maintaining a handicap also allows you to monitor your progress every time you play. It's an integral part of your golf experience.

The new World Handicap System makes that scenario even more attractive. More user-friendly, in other words.

"The new system gives golfers an increased opportunity to have fun and compete equitably across all skill levels and ages," says Shaun Hall, Golf Canada's senior manager of handicap & course rating.

"You don't have to be a competitive golfer. If you simply enjoy playing, having a handicap makes the game more enjoyable and allows you to track whether you're improving."

I reached out on Twitter with the question, "Do you maintain a handicap and why?" and received some testimonials.

Ontario golfer Donald Byrne says, "I'm a huge fan of keeping a handicap. I was thrilled to have closed the season inside of 20 [Handicap Index] for the first time. We should celebrate everyone who plays, no matter how they play. I just won't play anyone who doesn't have a handicap for money!"

And from Charlottetown, Jeff Craig, whose Twitter profile says he's "dedicated in my quest to break par," says, "It bugs the Hell out of me when someone [without a handicap] says, 'Well, I usually shoot in the mid-80s and wants to play for something.'"

On a personal note, my wife loves the game and posts every score. Her pride in seeing her handicap decrease is evident. Because she is diligent about maintaining her handicap and improving her skills, she was able to win the ladies' net championship at her club. As a side note, she plays annually in a member-guest at another club where you must have an official Golf Canada Handicap Index to participate.

When she first took up golf, she had waffled about establishing a handicap because, in her words, "I don't think I'm good enough to have a handicap."

And that's the most common excuse recreational golfers give for not caring about a handicap. "I'm not good enough." Hall disputes that, especially given the fact that under the new system the maximum Handicap Index (which replaces the previous "Handicap Factor" in Canada) has been raised to 54.0 for both men and women. Previously, it was 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women.

Another significant change is to Equitable Stroke Control (ESC). Net double bogey on any hole is the maximum allowed, whether it's a par 3, par 4 or par 5. So, for handicap purposes, you can count a maximum of two strokes over par plus any strokes you are entitled to, based on the stroke allowance for that hole.

Obviously, from its name, the World Handicap System is now accepted globally, meaning the same parameters are in place no matter where you play, a boon for Canadians who travel and golf outside the country. As before, all scores can be conveniently posted on the Golf Canada Score Centre, club kiosk or [Golf Canada app](#) from your phone or tablet.

3 MORE SIGNIFICANT INNOVATIONS

1. Only three 18-hole scores (or the equivalent combination of nine-hole scores) are needed to establish a Handicap Index. Previously, the minimum was five. What golfer doesn't play more than 54 holes in a season?
2. Only eight of your lowest 20 most recent scores will be used to calculate your Handicap Index, rather than the previous 10.
3. And a Playing Conditions Calculation will analyze how you played that day compared to your expected performance on that particular course, taking into account weather and course setup.

Don't ask me how that last one works, because I'm a tech dummy.

But even if you don't, don't be a dummy. Take advantage of the new **World Handicap System**.

Brand new golf balls are attracted to water, and the power of the attraction is in direct proportion to how much the balls cost.