

Handicap

RCGA Handicap Factor is a privilege, not a right

HANDICAP COMMITTEES AND FELLOW GOLFERS BEST DEFENSE AGAINST 'SANDBAGGERS' BY **MATT MACKAY, RCGA HANDICAP & COURSE RATING COORDINATOR**

Anyone who has played golf long enough has encountered the single-most despised figure in the game: THE SANDBAGGER. These blatant abusers of the RCGA Handicap System® routinely walk away with the first prize at every handicap tournament muttering "I can't believe how well I played today!"

Situations such as this make it painfully clear how important it is to have an effective Handicap Committee to ensure the integrity of RCGA Handicap Factors® it issues. As part of the RCGA Club Licensing Program introduced earlier this year, it will be mandatory for all RCGA Member Clubs to have a Handicap Committee in place by Dec 31, 2005 (contact your provincial golf association for more information).

An RCGA Handicap Factor® must be earned. No player has an inherent right to an RCGA Handicap Factor® without providing full evidence of their ability through compliance with the RCGA Handicap System®. Under the following circumstances it will be necessary for the handicap committee to make adjustments to the player's RCGA Handicap Factor®. Before an adjustment is made, the committee must give the player an opportunity to explain the circumstances surrounding the proposed adjustment, either in writing or by appearing before the committee.

1. Failure to post

An RCGA Handicap Factor® shall be adjusted up or down if the player does not turn in all acceptable scores. The Handicap Committee shall determine the amount of adjustment. If a player fails to post a score as soon as practicable after completion of the round, the Handicap Committee should post the score and/or a penalty score and Ratings equal to the lowest handicap differential in the player's scoring record.

2. Player manipulates round

If a player manipulates their scores to influence their RCGA Handicap Factor®, the handicap committee shall adjust or withdraw their RCGA Handicap Factor®, depending on the severity of the offense. Examples of this would include:

- a) Posting erroneous scores;
- b) Stopping play after 6 holes to avoid posting scores;
- c) Repeatedly playing more than one ball to avoid posting scores;
- d) Not properly adjusting hole scores;
- e) Deliberately reporting more or fewer strokes than actually taken;
- f) Deliberately taking extra strokes to inflate a score.

If a player repeatedly fails to meet their responsibilities under the RCGA Handicap System®, the Handicap Committee shall withdraw the player's RCGA Handicap Factor®. Before any action is taken, the player shall be advised of the information available to the Committee and shall be invited to respond to the Committee either in writing or by appearing in person before the Committee. A player whose RCGA Handicap Factor® has been withdrawn may be reinstated under conditions set forth by the Handicap Committee.

Ultimately, the individual golfer is the most effective weapon against handicap abuses. By obtaining a working understanding of the RCGA Handicap System®, making sure your club has an effective handicap committee, and reporting instances of RCGA Handicap System® violations, you will be playing a major role in preventing the scourge of "sandbaggers". Every golfer will benefit from that.

CERTIFIED RCGA HANDICAP SOFTWARE

RCGA HANDICAP FACTORS® are only valid if issued by an RCGA Member Club using one of the following RCGA-certified handicap programs:

RCGA HANDYCAP V. 1.5

Matt MacKay
800-263-0009 x209

CADDYWEB

Rejean Fortier 877-443-1990

EAGLE HANDICAP V.7.1

William Kravit 414-228-1280

GGGOLF, V.1.96

Gilles Gauthier 450-641-4241

GOLFNET HANDICAP SYSTEM V.5.13

Greg Bremer 800-536-7888

HANDICAP CREATOR 2005, V.2005-1

Francis Mattie 613-584-4652

HANDICAP MANAGER FOR WINDOWS, V2004A

John Hutton 613-825-9691

IVRNET HANDICAP SYSTEM

Calvin Chow 866-829-3336

NATIONAL GOLF NETWORK

John Montague 866-669-4646

NOVA GOLF HANDICAP V 1.0.0.1

Adrian Firth 514-695-1170

RESERVATIONMASTERS

**Nigel Eastman/Dan Kilbank
613-224-3627**

SCOR-WAY CONNECT, V.2004.413.1.1

**Fernando Mancuso
780-434-4444 x303**

TEE-ON.COM

Tom Condon 519-473-4853

TEE-RES - GOLF SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

Ross Garbig 519-821-8589