

# Handicap

## No License = No Handicap

IF YOUR CLUB IS NOT LICENSED YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET AN RCGA CERTIFIED HANDICAP BY MATT MACKAY, RCGA HANDICAP & COURSE RATING COORDINATOR

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the application and understanding of the RCGA Handicap System® at the club level, the RCGA and provincial golf associations have initiated an RCGA Member Club Licensing Program. The purpose of the RCGA Club Licensing Program is to ensure that all RCGA Member Clubs comply with the RCGA Handicap System. Through compliance, a club can be sure that the Handicap Factors they issue to members are accurate and will reflect the equity that handicapping brings to competition between golfers of differing abilities.

The following Q&A outlines the main points of the program. If you have further questions, please call your provincial golf association or the RCGA at 1-800-263-0009 x209.

### Q: Who is eligible to participate in the Club Licensing Program?

A: The Club Licensing Program is required for all RCGA Member Clubs that issue RCGA Handicap Factors® to members.

### Q: What are the benefits of being an RCGA Licensed Club?

A: Through their compliance with the RCGA Handicap System, licensed clubs will be authorized to use the RCGA Handicap and Course Rating systems and trademarks and issue official RCGA Handicap Factors to their members. Being licensed ensures that the club's own members, and members of other licensed clubs across Canada, will have accurate RCGA Handicap Factors. The RCGA and provincial golf associations will work together to provide assistance to clubs in order to ensure they meet the licensing requirements, including conducting handicap seminars and provid-

ing educational material. Licensed clubs will be promoted through the RCGA Web site and will be given a window sticker to post at their pro shop.

### Q: When does the Club Licensing Program begin and how long will the program last?

A: RCGA Member Clubs have until December 31, 2005 to sign the license agreement, valid until December 31, 2007, at which time the RCGA Member Club will have to renew the agreement. Starting January 2006, any RCGA Member Club that has not been licensed will not be authorized to issue RCGA Handicap Factors. Licensed clubs will remain so until December 31, 2007, unless it is determined at any time that a club no longer complies with the RCGA Handicap System.

### Q: What is required of RCGA Member Clubs to meet the qualifications of the Club Licensing Agreement?

A: Under the agreement, RCGA Member Clubs are obliged to comply with all provisions of the RCGA Handicap System Manual, including the Compliance Checklist in Section 8. Within two years of execution of the agreement, RCGA Member Clubs must send a representative to attend a Handicap System seminar conducted by the authorized provincial golf association or the RCGA and pass a test exhibiting knowledge of the RCGA Handicap System and its policies. Clubs that have already had a member attend a seminar and pass the test will be considered to have met this requirement for the term of the license.

### Q: Where can RCGA Member Clubs obtain an application for the Club Licensing Agreement?

A: The provincial golf associations are

responsible for distributing copies of the license agreement to their member clubs, collecting signed agreements, and forwarding a copy of the signed agreement to the RCGA for final approval. The license can be transmitted and returned electronically, please consult your provincial golf association for details.

### Q: How does an individual know if a club is licensed by the RCGA?

A: Once a club is approved, the RCGA will have an updated listing of golf clubs that are licensed and authorized to use the RCGA Handicap System on the RCGA Web site, [www.rcga.org](http://www.rcga.org). Licensed golf clubs will be encouraged to display window stickers acknowledging that they have been licensed. This way, all patrons of a club will know that your facility is in compliance with the RCGA Handicap System.

### Q: Our club has received notice that we are being audited by the RCGA and provincial association. Why was our club selected to be audited?

A: Periodic random audits will be conducted to ensure the integrity of the RCGA Handicap System is being maintained as per the license agreement. All licensed clubs will be subject to being audited, regardless of whether there is a compliance item in question or not. However, any licensed club that is reported in writing to the RCGA or provincial associations as having a potential compliance issue will immediately be subject to an audit.

### Q: Our license has been removed. How can we be reinstated as a club authorized to issue an RCGA Handicap Factor?

A: A golf club that has lost the privilege to issue an RCGA Handicap Factor to its members will have to correct compliance deficiencies identified by the association and resubmit a license agreement application with proof that the deficiencies have been corrected. Upon receipt of the application, the provincial association will confirm that the Handicap System requirements have been met before reconsidering the application.