

Dear fellow members of the Farms,

This is to correct a typographical error in the policy as released last week. That document incorrectly stated the number of holes required to post an 18 hole score. It is 14, not 13, as per the recent change to the USGA handicapping rules. The corrected policy is below. Please take the time to read and understand the updated policy. The responsibility falls on all of us to ensure we and our playing partners comply with the rules of the handicapping system. I am confident that this policy will help to us to achieve fair competitive play both at the Farms as well as away at other courses.

Thank you.

Charley Bates

Chairman, The Farms Handicap Committee

The FARMS HANDICAP POLICY 7/15/2020 Corrected 7/31/2020

The USGA has established a process and associated responsibilities to ensure the ***rules of handicapping*** are implemented and administered properly. The stakeholders involved in this process are The Farms Members, The Farms Handicap Committee, and our golf associations (SCGA & USGA). In 2019 Charley Bates agreed to serve as our Handicap Chairman and in 2020 Matt Horsley and Frank Flanagan agreed to round out The Farms Handicap Committee. This document defines the Handicap Committee and player responsibilities relative to the ***rules of handicapping***.

THE FARMS HANDICAP COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Farms Handicap Committee exists to ensure the integrity and accuracy of golfers' handicaps at the club who play competitive golf. It is the responsibility of the Handicap Committee to ensure our members' handicap index is administered in accordance with the USGA's ***rules of handicapping***. **Two basic premises underlie the USGA Handicap System, namely, each player will try to make the best score on every hole in every round and every player will post all rounds on the day of play for peer review. Players in each group should agree with what score each player will post for a handicap purposes.** By accomplishing these objectives, The Farms will conduct fair and enjoyable competitive events for all who play.

THE PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Act with integrity by following the ***Rules of Handicapping*** and to refrain from using, or circumventing, the ***Rules of Handicapping*** for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage.
2. Attempt to make the best score possible at each hole,

3. Submit acceptable scores for handicapping as soon as possible after the round is completed and before midnight local time,
4. Submit acceptable scores to provide reasonable evidence of their demonstrated ability
5. Play by the **Rules of Golf**, and
6. Certify the scores of fellow players.

HANDICAP COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS & REMINDERS

The Committee has observed, been informed, or deduced through data analysis a couple of areas where our players need a better understanding and/or improved compliance with the stipulated approach under the **Rules of Handicapping**. The 4 key areas include the following:

Not Posting the Correct “Most Likely Score” for a Hole

A common misunderstanding exists as to what a player must post as their “most likely score” when engaged in a match. There are various circumstances where a player does not finish a hole or need to finish a hole in a match. The circumstances may involve:

- **The result of the hole has already been decided**
- **A hole has been conceded in match play**
- **A player’s partner has already posted a better score**

The Most Likely Score, in these circumstances as determined at the time a player’s ball is no longer relevant for the outcome of the hole, is stipulated as adding one stroke if your ball is 5 feet or less from the hole or add 2 or 3 strokes if the ball is between 5 feet and 20 yards from the hole, depending on the difficulty of position, green and ability of the player. The player should confirm their score for the hole with the scorekeeper. To be clear, “putting for score” after the outcomes of the hole are determined for the games played has no impact on the score to be posted. For that purpose, the score of the hole is the lessor of the Most Likely Score and net double bogey.

Failure to Post Scores on the Same Day Played

Our members are generally posting scores in a timely manner. Scores must be posted the same day as played and must be posted per the USGA before midnight of the day played. Scores posted after this do not count toward determining if the golf course played easier or more difficult than usual. In addition, posting a round late makes it highly unlikely a peer review is possible. Peer review is an essential part of the **Rules of Handicapping**.

Failure to Post Incomplete or Partial Rounds

If a player plays “7 to 13 holes”, a 9 hole score needs to be posted. If a player plays 14 or more holes an 18 hole score should be posted. In either case, scores for unplayed holes shall be recorded as par plus any handicap strokes that the player is entitled to receive on the remaining holes.

Correcting Improperly Posted Scores

When a player makes an innocent or inadvertent error in posting a score or fails to post a score, the player should contact the head golf professional. The professional will make the correction or post the late score.

HANDICAP COMMITTEE ENFORCEMENT PLANS

Peer Review is vital to the *Rules of Handicapping*. Effective immediately, we have established a **Watch List** to improve the timeliness and validation of scores posted by members. The Watch List is a mechanism to assure timely posting and assure peer review within a group has taken place and the most likely score has been posted per the rules of handicapping. Watch List assignment is based on a combination of untimely score posting and exceptional scoring in competitive rounds. Players assigned to the Watch List will be informed by the Handicap Chairman. Players on the Watch List must adhere to the following procedures associated with posting scores:

- Identify a Playing Partner for Each Round Who Will Keep a Scorecard for the Player (all player scores may be kept on one card, if easier)
- The Scorecard is Signed by Scorekeeper and Player
- The Player Submits the Signed Card to the Pro Shop for Posting After Each Round

Watch List players may only be permitted to use scores from The Farms for tournament handicapping purposes. The player will remain on the Watch List until the Committee deems no longer necessary. Adherence to these stipulations will be required by the player to maintain eligibility for any Farms sponsored golf competitions.

APPEAL PROCESS

IF A PLAYER IS DISSATISFIED WITH ANY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THEM BY THE COMMITTEE, THE PLAYER MAY APPEAL THE ACTION. THE APPEAL SHALL BE HEARD BY A 3 PERSON PANEL CONSISTING OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL AND THE HANDICAP CHAIRPERSON. ALL DECISIONS MADE BY THIS 3 PERSON PANEL ARE FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVIEW.