

PWGA HANDICAPPING NEWS

Summer

2007

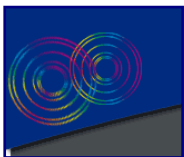
Handicap Update

by Handicap Director, Kay Robinson

How have you all been faring in your post as Handicap Chair of your club? I must congratulate you for your participation this year's round of PWGA Workshops held at each of the eight Areas during the month of February. As a member of the Executive Board, I travel with about a dozen other officers to each of the Areas as each of us presents our "specialty" in general and break-out sessions.

I thank the women of the San Jose Area for being my "test" workshop. From you I learned the pace of the presentation and areas of concern. With your input and that of the women at successive workshops, the information presented was distilled and improved. The workshops are a learning experience for the attendees, but also for me as the new Handicap Director for PWGA. I have been a Handicap Chair for about 6 years, knowing the "job" from the club viewpoint. Now I am learning a whole new spectrum of issues. Bear with me throughout this year as I come to understand more of the GHIN system.

I wish to thank each and every one of you for the effort and expertise you are providing to your club(s) as handicapper. I hope that the workshop materials are providing needed support. If they fall short of answering your questions, please contact me or Caroline and we will respond as soon as possible.



Who – or What - is GHIN?

GHIN – Golf Handicap Information Network – was organized and

developed in 1981 and has now become the world's largest handicap computation service. GHIN is provided through 61 State, Regional or National Golf Associations to over 10,000 clubs and approximately 1.9 million golfers. GHIN is maintained by the United States Golf Association®. Be aware that there are other handicap computation services available (such as IGN – International Golf Network). If a new member comes to you with a non-GHIN number, contact the PWGA office to validate her handicap index and to secure her score history. A GHIN number will be issued to her when she is activated. PWGA contracts with GHIN to provide handicapping computation services and pays an annual amount to NCGA for computer upgrades.

In This Issue

- Home Vs. Multi
- GHINClub.net reports
- Custom Scores Report
- Please Reboot
- 9 vs. 18-hole indexes

GHINClub.net

A great way to keep your club's records current from home!

Have you tried GHINClub.net? Does it work for you? Are you enjoying its use or intimidated by the web-based service?

If you are hesitant to use it, try following the handout that was given to all handicap chairs at the workshop titled *GHINClub.net – PWGA Workshop Presentation*. This pamphlet will walk you through each screen of the website. It will coach you how to sign on, add members (whether they have a GHIN number or not), edit member addresses (home and email), change, add or delete scores, change service type (Home or Multi), or get reports.

You can de-activate (called "inactivate" at the club computer) a member or reactivate a member who has been inactive on your club roster. The one thing you CANNOT do from GHINClub.net is to delete a member. You may only delete a member at the club computer.

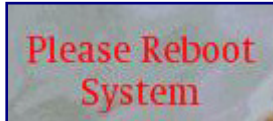
There are two ways that you can get reports from GHINClub.net, an emailed report or a web-based report. The emailed report has an appearance very similar to the old 11"x17" paper reports that used to be mailed to the clubs. The web-based reports (click on "Web Reports" on the Report Requests screen) are more clear and easier to read. They are also exportable to Word or Excel if you wish to reformat a report by enlarging the type or reorganizing the columns. Check out the article on page 3 for the "How-to's".

If you choose, it can be a great asset. Go ahead, give it a try!

Member Name Change?

That's an easy change to make in the computer. You can do it either at the club computer or via GHINClub.net. Just call up the member's data screen, make the name change and click on Save. That's it!

And if a new player joins your club and has an existing GHIN number but under a different last name? Enter her into your computer (or via GHINClub.net) under the old name. Do a Transmit. Then go in and change (edit) her old name to her new name. Be aware that you may need for the new revision to come out (the first of the month) for all changes to take effect on all interfaces (the club computer, your home computer).



Please Reboot

Have you ever seen this red warning in the lower left corner of your score entry screen? Wondered what it meant? Well, all it means is that your computer has not been turned off (re-booted) for over one week.

The telephone/communications company which provides Internet access to your computer occasionally changes its configurations. When a computer is shut off and then turned on, the computer automatically finds the correct configurations for communication. However, if your computer at the club is rarely or never shut down, it may have difficulty in connecting to the Internet because of these changed configurations.

The solution is simple: shut down your computer at the club for 5-10 minutes on a regular (weekly) basis. Reboot it and the next transmission with GHIN will occur seamlessly. In order to shut down the computer you need to get to the Start button on the task bar (lower left corner of the screen). Click on the GHIN logo in the lower right corner, enter your Exit password, then click on the Start button in the lower left corner. Anyone who has access to the GHIN management program can do this: you, the NCGA handicapper, the pro, the general manager, a pro shop employee. Find a quiet time to do this. For example: late afternoon, on a rainy day, or in the middle of a shotgun tournament when the clubhouse is quiet, not at 9 a.m. on the first day of the month!

In very faint letters in the lower left corner of the Score Entry screen you can see the last date and time of transmission. Check it periodically. If your computer is scheduled to transmit every day and the last noted transmission date was several days ago, this, rebooting, should be the first troubleshooting technique you try. Once the computer is rebooted, follow up with a manual transmission (click on the "Transmit" button in GHP).

If the red warning says "Please Reboot and Transmit" it's probably at the beginning of a month when a revision should have occurred. The solution? Reboot and transmit.

Home vs. Multi

There is an important difference in how your club members are put into the computer. Does she belong to one or to more than one PWGA club?

She is considered a Home member if your club is her one and only PW club. She is considered a Multi member if she is a member of two or more PW clubs AND another PWGA-affiliated club is listed as her Home club. When you enter a new member, in the "Service" field you will need to change "Regular" to either "H" or "M".

Be aware that being a member of WGANC or NCGA or a club in Southern California has no bearing on this issue. Let's say she belongs to Fountaingrove Golf and Country Club and to Bennett Valley WGC. At Fountaingrove she is affiliated with Women's Golf Association of Northern California (WGANC). Her only PWGA club is Bennett Valley; therefore, Bennett Valley is her Home Club. If she was also a member at Rooster Run WGC, then she would have to designate on her membership renewals/applications which of the two clubs, Bennett Valley or Rooster Run, will be her Home club and which will be her Multi club.

It is important to get the designation correct so that clubs are billed correctly. A golfer will owe \$21 in PWGA dues to her Home Club and will owe \$4 in PWGA dues to each and every Multi Club to which she belongs. The clubs, in turn, will forward these monies to PWGA when dues are billed. Occasionally we are finding golfers who are designated as Home at several clubs (Multi at none) – they are overpaying their dues. Conversely, we are finding that some members are shown as Multi at several clubs and no club is listed as their Home club. In this case, PWGA is not receiving the appropriate dues.

It is important that you, as the Club Handicap Chair, work closely with your Treasurer and Membership Chair to assure that all members are correctly identified and, therefore, correctly billed.

In early 2007, PW staff did a check of our membership rolls. Members were identified who were incorrectly designated (usually designated "M" when it should have been "H"). Subsequent billings went out and as a result, over \$2000 was collected in additional dues, easing the financial strain on PWGA's budget.

If you have questions about a member's designation, you may want to contact the Handicap Chair at her other club to check her status on that computer.

REMEMBER:

**ALL GOLFERS ADDED BEFORE
DECEMBER 1ST WILL BE BILLED FOR
2007 AND AGAIN IN JANUARY 2008**



Shaft Labels!

The USGA is offering a new feature in 2007, shaft labels for your golf clubs! Order the stock material (as well as blank score cards for use with TPP) through the PWGA office. The label report is available on your club computer in the "Players" folder. Label options are name, address, email address and club name with the ability to customize your labels. A nice "extra" for your Invitational!

Remember, we are here to support you. If you have any handicapping questions please contact Executive Secretary Caroline O'Brien at the PWGA office, 916-315-8304 cobrien@golfpwga.org or contact Kay Robinson, Handicap Director, at 707-433-3205 kedntay@sonic.net

GHINClub.net Abbreviations

What do the letters mean in the Player Data section called "Clubs to which a golfer belongs"?

For example: for a fictitious golfer

Jane Palmer: 28-123-03E A Happy Camp WGC

E = Electronic Club or

P = Paper Club

A = Active member in one GHIN-affiliated club or

M = Active member in more than one GHIN-affiliated club or

D = De-activated in that club

9-hole vs. 18-hole HANDICAP INDEX

Having both a 9 and an 18-hole index (and GHIN #) can be confusing. Here are some pointers:

For the player who carries only a 9-hole Handicap Index:

Players who have a 9-hole Index will have an "N" following the index number.

When she plays an 18-hole game, she will need to post a 9-hole score for the front nine and a 9-hole score for the back nine. **If she plans to play an 18-hole game and needs an 18-hole handicap, she will need to double her 9-hole Handicap Index and convert that to a Course Handicap using the Course Handicap Table.**

For the player who carries both a 9-hole and an 18-hole

Handicap Index: When she plays a 9-hole game, she will post a 9-hole score to her 9-hole GHIN number AND a 9-hole score to her 18-hole GHIN number. This requires double posting: posting to both her 9-hole and her 18-hole GHIN numbers.

When she plays an 18-hole game, she will post an 18-hole game to her 18-hole GHIN number and *two* 9-hole games to her 9-hole GHIN number. Again, this requires double posting.

Also, remember that if both her 9-hole club and her 18-hole club are affiliated with PWGA, one of the clubs will be considered her Home PWGA club and one will be considered her Multi PWGA club. It is recommended that the 18-hole club be listed as her Home club.

For the golfer who has only an 18-hole Handicap Index: To get a

Course Handicap for a 9-hole game, she will need to halve her 18-hole Course Handicap, round up to the next whole number and take that many strokes in a 9-hole game. Some games (such as Blind Nine) may actually use half-strokes in computation of net scores; it is up to the tournament committee.

If this seems confusing, it is! In the future, PWGA will be encouraging new 9-hole clubs to adopt 18-hole Handicap Indexes as standard and use the method in the previous paragraph to derive a 9-hole Course Handicap.

Web Reports

Do you have to get out a magnifying glass to read the GHINClub reports that are sent to you via email? There's a better way; a quick way to get a report in a readable, customizable format right at home. On the GHINClub.net website, select the Service and Golfer Status, click on Reports and then the Web Reports button. For a Handicap Index report follow these steps:

- Click on Reports
- Select the Handicap Index/CH report
- In the 4-part screen to the right, make the selections you wish:
 - Select the month you want (defaults to current month)
 - Select the report to be sorted by Name or by ascending Handicap Index
 - De-select the GHIN # or tees if you do not want them on the report (move them from the right to the left box)
- Click on the RUN button

Follow the same process if you want a scores report, a roster, or any of the other reports offered. The report that is produced can be exported to Microsoft Excel, to text software, to Microsoft Word, or it can be exported as a .pdf file if you click on the buttons at the bottom and is customizable in all but a .pdf format. Acrobat Reader is needed to read a .pdf file (available on line at no cost).

New Scores Report!

A new custom report has been made available to all PWGA clubs on their clubhouse computer. It is titled "PWGA Scores Posted Report with CH" and, in a concise format, contains only the most pertinent information that you need including name, date, course handicap, score, type and CR/slope. This is a handy report to print out when checking weekly score posting at your club so that you can readily see the course handicap (CH) to determine Equitable Stroke Control (ESC).

To download this custom report at your club computer:

1. Activate GHP (GHIN Handicap Program)
2. Click on the *Reports* button on the left side
3. Click on *Scores*
4. Click on *All Scores*
5. Click on the "Other Functions" button at the bottom left of the screen
6. Click on *Import Reports from GHIN Server*
7. Click on *Connect* (Connect AT&T Dialer)
8. Click on *OK* (to use toll free number)
9. This takes a while, let it run its course, eventually you will see the next screen titled *Import Reports from GHIN Server*
10. The screen is split into left and right columns
11. From the Available (left-hand) column select (highlight) *Scores-All Scores / PWGA Scores Posted Report with CH*
12. Click on the right arrow (>) in the middle of the screen
13. That report will shift from the Available (left-hand) column to the Selected (right-hand) column
14. Click on *OK*
15. That custom report will now show up in the Scores/All Scores folder with a leading red icon. You may have to click out of the All Scores folder and then click back into it for this custom report to show up in the list (folder is "refreshed").
16. The new custom report will be titled PWGA Scores Posted Report with CH.

The red icon indicates that it is a customized, not a standard, GHIN report. If you wish, you may click and drag this report to the Favorites/PWGA folder. A copy of the report will then be in the Favorites/PWGA section as well as the original report remaining in the Scores/All Scores folder. Feel free to customize it further with your club's name at the top of the page. A re-install of the GHP software will delete this report from the menu but it can be retrieved with a call to GHIN.

Club Computer vs. GHINClub.net

What's your preference?

GHINClub.net has made it easy for us to make changes to the GHIN database from home – whether it is adding or editing player data or making score changes. However, there are some things which you cannot do from home via GHINClub.net – changes that can only be effected from the club's computer.

Things which can only be done from the club computer:

- Delete a member (can de-activate but not delete from home)
- Change from Male to Female
- Change the Service Default Tees
- Change the Print Group
- Enter a Modified Index

If you have run into other problems with GHINClub.net, contact me so that we can investigate the issue.

Helpful Hints

- Don't plan a tournament on the first day of the month
- Cut-off time for the GHIN computer is approximately 11:45 EST
- In my experience, Tuesday evenings GHINClub.net is often unavailable; wait until the next day
- A 9-hole score is held in abeyance and combined with another 9-hole score of the same "type": *home* 9-hole scores with *home*, *away* with *away*.

Resources:

<http://www.ghinclub.net>

<http://ghin.com>

<http://usga.org/handicap/index.html>

<http://www.golfjournal.com> (click on Handicapping 101)

<http://www.golfpwga.org>

