

# The Golf Rules Review

An Intermittent Communique by the 2020 WWGA Golf Rules Maven

Issue II

May 5, 2020

## World Handicap System Identifies Acceptable Rounds to Post

The effectiveness of the Handicap system lies with the Players themselves and is dependent on the integrity of the players in posting. Not every round can be posted into the World Handicap System. Here are the Do's and Don't's.

### Do Post

A score for any 9 hole or 18 hole round played using one of the authorized formats:

- Individual Stroke Play
- Four Ball Stroke Play, aka, better ball or best ball
- Individual Match Play
- Four Ball Match Play, aka, better ball or best ball

This includes organized competitions as well as general play. Stableford formats are also allowed. The USGA also lists two other authorized stroke play formants such as Par/Bogey (see sidebar on page 2) and Maximum Score which we have not played at The Woods.

### Don't Post

Any round not played by the *Rules of Golf* which includes the following:

1. When you have not played the *required number* of holes for a round of golf. The *required number* of holes is a minimum of 7 holes for a 9 hole round and a minimum of 14 holes for an 18 hole round.
2. When your score cannot be verified by another person. For example when you are playing alone or are with are a non-player who is unable to verify your score.
3. When the number or type of golf clubs are restricted during play. For example, 3 clubs and a putter competitions.
4. A round played while being coached. For example, playing a round with your Pro as part of a lesson, or with by another golfer in which the main purpose of play is to give advice to help your game. Neither the "coach" nor the player would post their score.
5. When using non-conforming equipment.
6. When the player does not play their own ball, e.g. scrambles, shambles.

## Playing with Non-Conforming Golf Clubs?

The Rules of Golf cover club design. An overarching principle is the club must not be substantially different from "traditional and customary form and make". This rule was used to ban the introduction of steel shaft clubs in 1910.

A second overarching principle is the club head must be "plain in shape". Recently this principle was bent to allow for square shape driver heads.

My Sister In Law once visited me and played golf with 1 club and a putter. She could easily adjust the club for the next shot anywhere between a 4 iron and a wedge. We had a great time and her club was totally illegal.

The Golf Rules Maven has an adjustable club head on her driver. It is a conforming club unless she adjusts it during the round. Then it becomes non-conforming.

Check the internet and you will find non-conforming drivers, balls, and wedges quite easily. Would they offer the Golf Rules Maven an advantage? ....lets just say she's not going to waste her money.

## World Handicap System Identifies Acceptable Rounds to Post (Cont.)

### More Don't's

Even if you follow the Rules of Golf, don't post a score into the World Handicap System for the following

1. If the course you are playing does not have a course rating. This happens on very short courses such as a Pitch and Putt course. The length of the Stoney Lick course is just barely long enough from the forward tees to receive a course rating.
2. When you are playing the course during its inactive season. Any time you play a course during its active season, you must post the score. Sun belt states typically do not have any inactive season, so post those Florida and Arizona scores you play in the winter.

### FAQs

#### Should I post the score for my round if I play outside the USA?

Yes, the new World Handicap system allows handicaps to travel easily around the world.

#### How do I know if my equipment is non-conforming?

If you purchased your equipment from a reputable dealer chances are it is conforming. Usually, golfers that play with nonconforming equipment know it because they bought it and more often than not brag about it. If you have concerns about your equipment talk to our Pro – Ron Springer.



“I switched it to auto-putt.”

### Play a Match By Yourself

Par/Bogey is a stroke play game which is played in competition, but you can also play it by yourself. In Par-Bogey competitions you compete against a fixed score to beat such as Par or Bogey. If your net score beats the fixed score you get 1 point, ties get a 1/2 point and 0 points for losing the hole. For example, if you were playing Bogey as the score to beat and on a Par 4 and you had a net 4, you would get 1 point for beating bogey. At the end of your round, tally your points. A perfect score is 18. If Bogey becomes too easy, drop down to Par as your target to beat.

**Remember,  
Only  
You  
Can  
Protect  
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Handicap  
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