

The Golf Rules Review

An Important Communicative by the 2020 WWGA Golf Rules Maven

SPECIAL EDITION

Help! I Don't Know When to Pick Up

The recently issued Tuesday Golf Rules is requiring players to pick up the ball once they reach their maximum allowed for handicap purposes. Why this is being done and how to know when to pick up is the topic for this special edition of The Golf Rules Review (TGRR).

Background

A major change in the revised 2019 rules was to speed up play. Five hour rounds are intolerable and drives players away from the game. You already saw in previous issues of TGRR, the reason cited for many of the rules changes related to pace of play. The USGA also added a new rule "Play Ready Golf" into the 5th Rule of Golf which covers playing a round.

In accordance with "Play Ready Golf", many leagues around the country are asking players to pick up when they reach their maximum strokes on a hole allowed for handicap posting. Since any strokes after your maximum strokes will not count for your handicap, why prolong play. Players are still holing out for important Tournaments like Club Championships. However, for league play and casual play they are picking up. Although there is no penalty if you don't pick up, it is just good golf etiquette and common courtesy to those you are playing with and to those behind you. So, like many other Leagues, our League is following suit and requiring players to pick up to keep up. We have also adjusted our games so you can continue playing and compete in the game for the day even when you pick up.

When to Pick Up

Knowing when you've reached your maximum strokes allowed so you can pick up is basic competency all golfers should know. The maximum strokes allowed on a hole for handicap posting is Net Double Bogey which equals Par for the Hole +2+ Your Handicap Strokes on the Hole. Here are the "How To's" for determining the number of handicap strokes you have for each hole.

1. Get your course handicap from GHIN. The GHIN course handicap calculator asks which course you are playing, Mountain View or Stony Lick and whether you are playing 9 or 18 holes. Once you have answered those questions it will give you your course handicap.

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Help! I Don't Know When to Pick Up (continued)

2. Once you have your course handicap you can start to allocate your strokes to each hole. "Dots" in the upper left corner for each hole in the scorecard are used to denote handicap strokes on a hole.
 - Find the line on the score card that says "handicap". This line will have a number associated with each hole. This number is the ranking of each hole from hardest to easiest. See example on 3rd page.
 - Handicap strokes are always first allocated to the hardest holes. Starting with the hardest hole and working towards the easiest hole, put a dot on each hole to represent a stroke down until you run out of strokes. If you have more than an 18 handicap, you just continue working from the hardest to the easiest hole until you run out of strokes. If your course handicap is 54, all holes would end up with 3 dots each.
 - The Golf Rules Maven usually just compares her strokes to multiples of 18 and simplifies the "dot" marking. For example:
 - If my handicap were 28, 28 is 10 strokes higher than 18, so I know I get 2 strokes on the 10 hardest holes and 1 stroke on the 8 easiest holes (18-10=8). Since 28 is a lot of dots to mark, I would just put 2 dots on each of the 10 hardest holes and leaving the 8 easy holes without dots knowing that I get one stroke on each of them.
 - If my handicap were 39, 39 is 3 strokes higher than 36, so I know I would get 3 strokes on the 3 hardest holes (39-36=3) and 2 strokes on the remaining 15 holes (18-3=15). In this case I would only mark my score card with the dots on the 3 hardest holes and leave the rest blank knowing that I get 2 strokes there.
 - If my handicap is 16, I know I get a dot on the first 16 hardest holes and no dots on the 2 easiest holes.
3. Now that you have your scorecard marked for your strokes, it is just simple math to figure out the maximum score you can have on each hole. You simply add together Par for the Hole + 2 + your "Dots" = Maximum Score (Net Double Bogey). When your strokes on a hole equal that, **Pick Up!**
4. The score card on the next page illustrates the "dot" allocation and what the maximum score would be for each hole.

You don't have to write down your maximum score. However, before you play a hole you should do the simple math to know when to pick up for that hole.

Example on Next Page

Example of Player with a 24 Course Handicap

Allocating Dots to Representing Handicap Strokes for Each Hole

The Player gets 2 strokes on the 6 hardest holes (24-18=6) and 1 Stroke on the 12 easiest holes (18-6 = 12)

Line Showing hole ranking for Handicap Strokes
1=Hardest Hole
18= Easiest Hole

The hardest hole

The easiest hole



HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL	HCP NET
WHITE TEES	181	120	260	170	149	126	262	306	220	1834	251	131	258	325	298	154	113	169	149	1858	3692	
GREEN TEES	172	120	269	156	142	116	252	296	210	1756	244	117	249	312	279	154	99	153	137	1744	3600	
GOLD TEES	126	110	258	140	155	305	194	253	200	1541	207	102	240	241	234	135	64	130	125	1498	3039	
HANDICAP	6	17	13	7	3	15	9	1	11		6	16	14	2	10	4	18	8	12			
PAR	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	31	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	31	62	

Fiona Blue

Maximum = 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 8 7 8 6 7 8 7 7 6 6 6

Course/Slope Ratings: **White** MEN 68.9/97 Green MEN 58.9/92 **Gold** MEN 58.9/92
 WOMEN 60.9/90 WOMEN 58.9/84 WOMEN 58.9/84
 Date: _____ Scorer: _____ Attest: _____

RULES OF PLAY

- ▶ USGA Rules govern unless modified by local rules.
- ▶ Golfers are responsible for damage to adjoining properties!
- ▶ Golf carts use 90 degree rule unless posted otherwise.
- ▶ Out-of-bounds is defined by edge of pavement on roadways unless otherwise marked.
- ▶ Comfort Stations are located after holes 4, 5, 9 and 13.

- ▶ In the event of lightning, seek shelter. Return to the Clubhouse if possible.
- ▶ In case of emergency, call 911. To contact The Woods Pro Shop, dial 304-754-7222.
- ▶ No outside coolers. Alcoholic beverages must be purchased from the beverage cart or the Clubhouse Grille.
- ▶ AVOID SLOW PLAY! Be ready to hit at your turn. Keep up with the group in front of you. Exit greens quickly and record scores at next tee.

The Woods
 Pro Shop: 304-754-7222
 Clubhouse Grille: 304-754-3482