

Appendix I

European Handicap System – Extracts & Comments

The stated **purpose** of the **EGA Handicap System** is to:

- Enable as many golfers as possible, men and women, to obtain a handicap.
- Achieve equity and uniformity of handicapping throughout Europe.
- Produce fair handicaps that reflect the scoring potential of the players and enable players of differing abilities to take part in various forms of competitions on as equitable and fair a basis as possible.
- Provide portability of exact handicaps from course to course, as well as from one set of tees to another set of tees on the same course.

An affiliated club (eg MGCC):

Is the *handicapping authority* for all members for whom it is the home club subject to the overall jurisdiction of the *national association*.

Must ensure that the EGA Handicap System is correctly applied at the club.

May at its discretion direct that an *active exact handicap* is a prerequisite for entry into a competition under its jurisdiction for which an *EGA Exact Handicap* is required.

Must appoint a *handicap committee* to perform their obligations (set out in section 3.4 of the policy doc) and to ensure the integrity of the *EGA Handicaps* issued by the club. This committee may be combined with another committee with similar regulatory functions if it is deemed appropriate.

Must, when a member changes his *home club*, inform the new *home club* of his current *exact handicap* and provide the *handicap committee* of that club with a copy of the player's handicap record for the current and previous year.

The player:

3.5.1 Must have only one *exact handicap* which must be allotted and recorded by his *handicapping authority*. (SC note: i.e. his home club) That handicap applies everywhere where the *EGA Handicap System* applies.

3.5.2 Must, if he is a member of more than one *affiliated club*, select one *affiliated club* as his *home club* and notify that club and the others of his choice.

3.5.3 Must not change his *home club* except by giving advance notice of the change which can take effect only at the end of a calendar year unless he has ceased to be a member of his *home club* or both *affiliated clubs* agree to the change taking place at an earlier date.

3.5.4 Must ensure that before playing a *qualifying round* his entry is registered as required.

3.5.5 Must ensure that all *qualifying scores*, whether or not complete, are returned to his *handicapping authority*. If played at an *affiliated club* other than his *home club*, the player is obliged to report all these scores to his *home club*.

3.5.6 Must, prior to playing in any competition at any *affiliated club*, ensure that appropriate alterations of his *exact handicap* have been made.

3.5.9 Must return at least four (4) *qualifying scores* each calendar year to provide his *handicapping authority* sufficient information about his playing ability to confirm or adjust his *exact handicap* at the *AHR*.

Note: If a player fails to report at least four (4) *qualifying scores*, including *NR* adjusted to Stableford scores, his *EGA Handicap* is statistically not reliable and should normally not be acceptable for entry into competitions which require an *EGA Handicap*.

3.5.10 Must endeavour to comply with the intent and purpose of the fundamental principles of the *EGA Handicap System* at all times.

Given these very clear OBLIGATIONS on the Club and the Player, MGCC Committee has a duty to ensure these obligations are met.

It was agreed that the Handicap Committee would be merged with the Competitions Committee and comprise of Competitions Secretary, TR and Captain, SP.

It was agreed that the formal (and mandatory by EGA rules) Annual Handicap Review would be carried by the Handicap Committee.

It was agreed that MGCC should communicate the Obligations of the Player to its members, discover which members also hold memberships at other clubs in Europe, establish among those members which club is declared their 'home club.' Once this understanding is reached, individual member's handicaps can be managed properly.

It should be said added here that MGCC as an affiliated club of the National Association of Spain which in turn is an affiliate of the EGA and manages the handicaps of its 'home club' members in an exemplary manner. Not only precisely following the rules of the system but having qualifying competitions twice per week. As such, the many members who regularly participate in the Monday and Wednesday competitions arguably have handicaps that are amongst the most accurate and up-to-date in the whole of Europe. However, it is clear that there are some areas that require some fine tuning.