

General Information

1. Membership

Full Membership dues for the full calendar year 2022 is \$20. This amount is subject to change each year. Your membership will entitle you to participate in BWGA events as well as preferred tee times for Tuesday tournaments, Wednesday afternoon, and Weekend / Holiday play (as applicable). A portion of your membership dues goes to underwrite BWGA events and related expenses.

Social Memberships are available. These memberships are for those who no longer wish to golf, but want to participate in various BWGA social events. Inquire of the BWGA Treasurer for more information about social memberships.

2. Your Handicap

As a BWGA member, you should get your USGA/GHIN handicap through the Massachusetts Golf Association (massGolf.org). The purpose of the USGA Handicap System (also called GHIN System) is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling golfers of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis. The basic premise of this system is that every player will try to make the best score she can at each hole in every round she plays, regardless of where the round is played, and she will post every round for peer review.

Once you have established or renewed your annual membership in the GHIN System, the score for every round of golf you play should be posted by entering it, hopefully on the app on your phone or via tablet or laptop at home. If you need help, ask a Brookline Golf Club Pro Shop employee. If you play at another course, post your score at that course using your GHIN number, noting where you played.

You will need to play five rounds to establish a handicap index. Thereafter, your handicap will be based on the best 8 of your last 20 posted scores. Regularly, a new handicap will be posted and that information available to you on the GHIN website. Each golf course has been analyzed by the USGA so that handicap indices are fair from course to course.

3. GHIN Scoring maximums

When posting your score for handicap purposes, you may occasionally be required to "adjust" your score. The GHIN System allows for a maximum number that you can post on any hole, depending on your handicap. Therefore, when posting, you must adjust downward, to your maximum, any hole scores that are higher than that number. During play itself, your playing score may continue to increase after reaching that maximum, particularly in tournament situations. Other organizations recommend 'picking up' when you reach the GHIN max, to alleviate pace of play concerns.

As per USGA scoring rules (modified in 2019) , the maximum score for each hole played is limited to a net double bogey – which is equal to Par of the hole + 2 strokes (double bogey) + any handicap strokes the player is entitled to receive on that hole based on their Course Handicap. This is an important aspect of golf and you should understand how this works and how and when to apply this to your scores!

Note these rules about scoring

- A player is required to record a hole score for every hole not finished, not played, or not played under the Rules of Golf, and to adjust any hole score to the above maximum.
- If a player starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, that player must record, for handicap purposes, the score **most likely** to be made. When recorded on your card, the score is to be preceded by an “X”.
- There is no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round.
- **If a player completes a hole but scores more than the maximum, she should record the actual score on the card but enter the GHIN maximum when posting the total score on the computer. You might want to circle the score as a reminder to adjust it before putting your score into the computer.**
- Note that if a player does not play a hole or plays it other than under the Rules of Golf (except for preferred lies), the score for that hole for handicap purposes is par plus any handicap strokes received on the hole. **This is the score that is to be put into the computer, not the handicap maximum.**
- If 13 or more holes are played, the player must post an 18-hole score. If 7 to 12 holes are played, the player must post a nine-hole score. The score for the balance of holes is determined as shown in the previous paragraph.
- Two nine-hole scores can be combined to create an 18-hole score “behind the scenes” in your GHIN account.

4. Rules

Play at Brookline Golf is in accordance with the current rules of the USGA, as modified by the course’s local rules found later in this booklet. If you have questions about the rules – which can be quite difficult and confusing at times – there are many sources to help you. Here are some:

- First: for USGA rules and interpretations, visit www.USGA.org. This website is invaluable.
- Second, ask one of the Brookline Pro’s to clarify. they don’t know the answer, they will find out for you.