

# COURSE RATING SYSTEM FOR WOMEN

A REVISED EDITION of *The Conduct of Women's Golf* is being distributed to Member Clubs and to women's district, state and sectional golf associations. The 42-page booklet is prepared by the USGA Women's Committee for guidance in the conduct of women's golf in clubs and associations.

This edition sets forth, for the first time, detailed recommendations for rating courses for women's play. As these recommendations are adopted and implemented by women's district and state associations, women's ratings will be substituted for women's par in computing handicaps.

Course rating is a method of rating each hole, in decimals when necessary, according to the average score a scratch golfer should make every ten times she plays it, without making any poor shots or any exceptionally good ones. The total of the hole ratings, to the nearest whole number, is the course rating.

This contrasts with par, in which the rating of each hole, in a whole number, is based primarily on the yardage of the hole, allowing two putts on each green. Since course ratings are more refined than par, they provide a more accurate measure of the relative playing difficulty of courses and hence a more accurate basis for handicaps.

The USGA Handicap Committee adopted the Massachusetts Golf Association's recommendations for course ratings for men in 1947, and men's ratings developed by men's district and state associations have been used for some time instead of par in computing men's handicaps in those areas.

## **Patterned on Men's System**

The USGA course rating system for women is patterned closely upon the USGA course rating system for men, except for changes necessitated by the fact that women require different clubs than men to play strokes of the same distance.

The *Conduct of Women's Golf* may be obtained from the USGA headquarters, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. The price is 25 cents per copy.

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## **NEW MEMBERS OF THE USGA**

### **Regular**

Alberville Golf & Country Club, Ala.  
Clamond Country Club, Iowa  
Elizabeth Manor Golf & Country Club, Va.  
Graymere Club, Tenn.  
Highland Golf Club, Okla.  
Hohokam Country Club, Ariz.  
Hopewell Valley Golf Club, N. J.  
Lakeview Country Club, W. Va.  
Municipal Golf & Tennis Association, Del.  
Normandy Shores Golf Club, Fla.  
Paintsville Country Club, Ky.  
Stones River Golf & Country Club, Tenn.  
Watertown Golf Club, Conn.  
Woodstock Club, Ind.

### **Associate**

Edgewood Municipal Golf Course, No. Dak.  
Indian Hills Golf Club, Neb.  
Mountain Manor Inc. Golf Club, Pa.

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The task of establishing course ratings is one which must be assumed by district and state associations for the courses within their areas. The USGA recommends a system of course rating, but it cannot rate the 1,800 courses of its Member Clubs all over the country. It is necessary, therefore, for district and state associations which adopt the system to establish course rating committees, comprised of women of better than average playing ability. These committee members then share the task of rating their associations' courses uniformly.

The *Conduct of Women's Golf* has been expanded in other ways, too. New sections have been prepared for detailed guidance in the conduct of match play and team events and to assist women serving as Chairmen of Rules of Golf, Handicap and Junior Golf Committees. The sections on the functions of the Golf Committee and on the responsibilities of contestants have been expanded. In the preparation of these sections, material has been adapted from the excellent booklet of the Chicago Women's District Golf Association entitled *Handbook for Golf Chairmen*. The origin of this material is gratefully acknowledged.

### Handicap Computation

The recommendations for computing handicaps remain the same in principle but the section has been reorganized and rewritten for clarification. The substance of the recommendations follows:

"Each handicap should be based upon:

"1. The five best scores made under USGA Rules of Golf within the current and the last previous playing seasons or calendar years, and

"2. USGA course rating or par.

"The handicap is figured by taking four fifths ( $4/5$ ) of the difference between the average of course rating or par for the five rounds played and the average of the five best scores, a fraction of one half or more to count as a stroke, under one half to be dropped."

There has been a revision in the recommendations for handicap allowances in various forms of play, so that they now conform to those recommended by the USGA Handicap Committee for men. The new allowances are:

"INDIVIDUAL STROKE PLAY: Allow each competitor her full handicap.

"SINGLES MATCH PLAY: Allow the higher-handicapped player the full difference between the handicaps of the two players.

"FOURSOMES (not four-ball) STROKE PLAY: Allow 50% of the partners' combined handicaps. (When selected drives are permitted, allow 40%.)

"FOURSOMES MATCH PLAY: Allow the higher-handicapped side 50% of the full difference between the combined handicaps of the two sides. (When selected drives are permitted, allow 40%.)

"FOUR-BALL STROKE PLAY (better-ball basis): Allow each player 85% of her individual handicap, the strokes to be taken as they come on the card.

"FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY: Reduce the handicaps of all four players by the handicap of the low-handicapped player, the low-handicapped player then to play from scratch. Allow each of the three other players 85% of the resulting difference, the strokes to be taken by each player as they come on the card."

### USGA PUBLICATIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST

THE RULES OF GOLF, as approved by the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, effective January 1, 1954. Booklet, 25 cents (special rates for quantity orders). Poster, 25 cents.

ARE YOUR LOCAL RULES NECESSARY? a reprint of a USGA Journal article containing recommendations regarding local rules. No charge.

THE RULE ABOUT OBSTRUCTIONS, a reprint of a USGA Journal article. No charge.

USGA GOLF HANDICAP SYSTEM FOR MEN, containing recommendations for computing Basic and Current Handicaps and for rating courses. Booklet, 25 cents. Poster 10 cents.

THE CONDUCT OF WOMEN'S GOLF, containing suggestions for guidance in the conduct of women's golf in clubs and associations, including tournament procedures, handicapping and course rating. 25 cents.

HANDICAPPING THE UNHANDICAPPED, a reprint of a USGA Journal article explaining the Callaway System of automatic handicapping for occasional players in a single tournament. No charge.

TOURNAMENTS FOR YOUR CLUB, a reprint of a USGA Journal article detailing various types of competitions. No charge.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AGAINST LIGHTNING ON GOLF COURSES, a poster. No charge.

MOTION PICTURES ON GOLF (list). No charge.

MOTION PICTURES RELATING TO GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE (list). No charge.

HOLE-IN-ONE AWARDS. No charge.

AMATEURISM IS IN THE HEART, a reprint of a USGA Journal article by E. G. Grace. No charge.

BETTER LAWNS TO COME, a reprint of a USGA Journal article. No charge.

TURF MANAGEMENT, by H. B. Musser (McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.), the authoritative book on greenkeeping. \$7.

USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT, a 33-page magazine published seven times a year and containing authoritative information on the Rules of Golf, USGA championships, handicapping, amateur status, greenkeeping methods, clubs and ball, new trends and the play of the game. \$2 a year.

These publications are available on request to the United States Golf Association, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y.