

# HANDICAPS FOR USGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

CLOSING OF ENTRIES for any of the USGA's more popular Championships is always an occasion of some sadness in "Golf House" because invariably some of the applicants must be turned down, for various reasons.

A possible new reason exists this year in the requirement that amateurs' handicaps must be computed under the USGA Golf Handicap System for Men in connection with entries for the Open, the Amateur and the Senior Amateur Championships. This is the first time that USGA-type handicaps will be essential, and we foresee some heartaches unless players, clubs and associations prepare now to produce such handicaps. They cannot be computed at a moment's notice.

The USGA therefore advises that the following steps be taken:

## BY PLAYERS:

1. Have as complete records as possible of *all* scores during 1954 and 1955, regardless of whether good or bad.

2. See that the courses on which the scores were made have official USGA Course Ratings, assigned by the Course Rating Committee of the district or sectional association.

## BY CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS:

1. Have Course Ratings assigned, as above.

2. Maintain complete scoring records for all players.

3. Maintain complete mechanics for computing USGA handicaps.

Full details on *Scoring Records, Course Rating and Handicap Computations* are contained in the booklet *USGA Golf Handicap System for Men* (revised April, 1953). Copies have been sent to all USGA Member Clubs and associations in recent years. Additional copies are available from the USGA at 25 cents each. Both Basic and Current Handicaps computed under the USGA system will be acceptable.

The cooperation of all clubs and associations is necessary to insure players' eligi-

## NO "WINTER RULES" SCORES ACCEPTABLE FOR HANDICAPS

The USGA does not recognize "winter rules" or "preferred lies."

This is a particularly important fact in connection with amateurs' entries for the Open, the Amateur and the Senior Amateur Championships. Entrants for those events must have handicaps computed under the USGA System, and the System provides as follows:

"Scores to be recorded shall be only those made when the player has complied with the Rules of Golf. Scores made under 'winter rules,' general 'teeing up' or 'preferred lies' must never be used for handicapping purposes."

bility, and will be appreciated, especially by John D. Ames, Chairman of the USGA Championship Committee, and William O. Blaney, Chairman of the Handicap Committee.

Handicap limits are:

Open Championship—3

Amateur Championship—4

Senior Amateur Championship—10

## Golden Retriever

We knew all along that Cocoa, a Dalmatian belonging to Mrs. Herman Prescott, of West Chester, Pa., was not the only golf-ball retriever to come out of a kennel, even as we were describing his exploits back in July, 1952.

A small, 4-year-old golden retriever named Bib has established a golf-ball retrieving mark which even Cocoa might envy, however.

After receiving special training in the art of retrieving golf balls which were not in play, Bib returned to his master, Philip Little, Jr., of the Woodhill Country Club, Wayzata, Minn., 180 balls in 1951, 285 balls in 1952 and 730 balls in 1953.

Mr. Little figures the dog should have been a scotty.