

WANTED - - - A SCORE FOR EVERY ROUND

by

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EVERY GOLFER who has an ounce of honesty in his veins knows his correct score for any given round is based on (and must include) every stroke he has played during that round.

What every golfer may not know, or realize, is that his correct handicap for any given period of time is based on (and must include) every score he has made during that time.

This means that every score made is just as important to proper handicapping as every stroke played is to proper scoring. Accordingly, the player who fails to record every stroke he plays and the player who fails to turn in every score he makes are both taking an equally unfair advantage of their fellow competitors.

The player who does not count all his strokes is generally called dishonest, but the player who does not turn in all his scores is oftentimes excused on the grounds of ignorance of the handicap system requirements. There is some justification for this latter view because in times past many handicap systems were based on a certain number of the player's lowest scores made during the year, irrespective of the number of rounds played, and called for the posting of the player's lowest scores only.

Times and Customs Change

Times have changed, however, and practically every modern system bases handicaps more equitably on a specified percentage of ALL the scores made by each player. Under the present *USGA Golf Handicap System for Men*, a Basic Handicap is computed from the lowest 20% of a player's scores, while a Current Handicap is computed from the lowest 66-2/3% of his scores. To be a bit more specific, a Basic Handicap is figured from the lowest

MEN'S HANDICAPS FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Effective this year, handicaps submitted by amateurs as a basis for eligibility for the Amateur, Senior Amateur and Open Championships must have been computed in accordance with the USGA Golf Handicap System for Men (1953 edition). Either basic or current handicaps will be acceptable.

While the USGA has long maintained a handicap qualification as a basis for eligibility of amateurs in these championships, it has not previously specified the method by which these handicaps should be computed.

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.

10 of the player's last 50 scores (or, if fewer than 50 scores are posted, from the lowest 20% of his available scores), and a Current Handicap is figured from the lowest 10 of his last 15 scores.

Failure to report a score for every 18-hole round played leaves the handicapper with insufficient material to work with and results in certain discrepancies and inequities. For example, every score not turned in will increase the spread of the total number of scores from which the player's lowest 10 are selected, thereby delaying a possibly justifiable revision in his handicap.

Also, if a player turns in only his better scores, his handicap, computed from a percentage of these better scores, will be lower than he is entitled to and will prevent him from winning his share of prizes and matches.

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USGA GOLF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The USGA has received inquiry as to whether there is any connection between the USGA Golf Museum and Library in "Golf House", New York City, and plans announced by other groups for collections of golf items at Yonkers, N. Y., and Foxburg, Pa.

The USGA Golf Museum and Library in "Golf House" is the official home of the United States Golf Association collection of historical golf material. It has no connection with either of the other projects in question.

The USGA collection was started in 1936 and now occupies most of three floors in "Golf House." Visitors are most welcome.

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On the other hand, if a player turns in only his poorer scores, his handicap, computed from a percentage of these poorer scores, will be too high, will give him an unfair advantage over his fellow players, and will leave him open to censure and a reputation for poor sportsmanship.

So it is plain to see that every player, to be honest with himself, as well as with his fellow members, must make it a point to turn in or post a score every time he plays an 18-hole round of golf, whether that score be a good one or a bad one, and the sooner every player is informed of, and made to comply with, this requirement the sooner the handicap system will produce the equitable handicaps it was designed to produce.

Proper Facilities Urged

Clubs are encouraged to provide facilities which will make it as easy as possible for their members to report or record every score. If your club does not provide these facilities, get together with a few other members and make an urgent request to your golf or handicap committee for them. Correct and complete handicap records are much more important than

many other golf club functions and should receive the attention, time and funds necessary to promote the very thing that contributes most towards perpetuating a club's existence. Golf is the lifeblood of your club and equitable handicapping is the lifeblood of golf.

Good handicapping, meaning handicaps fair to all, requires the cooperation of every player, handicapper, handicap committee, club and golf association throughout the country. So let's get on the ball and see to it that every player turns in

A SCORE FOR EVERY ROUND.

The Gallant Golfer

It intrigues us that the following poem was brought to our attention once again recently, not by a literary agent, but by Bobby Reith, son of the junior professional at the Minikahda Club, in Minneapolis, Minn.:

Please note the gallant golfer, as from tee to green he hies;
For fun or doctor's orders, he is taking exercise.
His head he carries rather high, one club that made the stroke,
He also carries matches, in case he wants a smoke.
And with the gallant golfer, as he wanders west and east,
There trudges forth a skinny kid, who's burdened like a beast.
The lad, who seeks no exercise but just his caddie fees,
Goes carting total tonnage that would spring a pack-mule's knees.
The golfer gay who goes his way, a-watching of the ball,
May have the fun, but exercise? The caddie gets it all.

John Kieran

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DO YOU KNOW YOUR GOLF?

(Answers to questions on page 18)

1. (c) Mary, Queen of Scots
2. (c) Three times. 1920, 1947, 1952.
3. (d) Six times. 1922, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1949, 1955.
4. Yes.
5. Yes. "B's" ball should be considered lost. "A" holed in one.
6. Yes. See Rule 34-3.
7. No. See Rule 17-3.