

Handicap Committee Report

The Handicap Committee decided and voted to change posting of weekly WMSGAs from Tournaments to Home starting on June 28th. We had been approached by some players who were concerned that their handicaps had been reduced. They felt it was unfair that they were required to play with the lower handicap for a year because they could not play to the reduced handicap. I called and spoke with Don Doyon at MSGA about reduced handicaps. He and Jean Young had both attended a USGA clinic a couple of years ago on the topic of handicapping. They learned that USGA recommends that only tournaments played at the level of a championship or an event that you are trying for your individual best score should be posted as a Tournament.

Some of the WMSGAs team events that are posted as Tournaments can result in a lower than usual score for a player because she may take a risk she would not have ordinarily taken because a teammate already has a great score. If that risk is then rewarded, that player could end up with a lower than normal score. Then that same player could go out and play unbelievably well and have a second lower than usual score posted within a short period of time. USGA reduces a player's handicap if 2 lower than usual Tournament scores are posted within 1 year. A player will have that reduced handicap until 1 year has passed from the oldest date of those low tournament postings.

It was recommended by USGA that the usual weekly WMSGAs tournaments and the WMSGAs team tournaments be posted as Home. By doing so, it will minimize the risk of a player having their handicap reduced for having lower than usual Tournament scores posted.

Submitted by Nancy Pratt, Chairman