



Why do I need a Golf Handicap?

A golf handicap makes it possible for fair competition between players of different ability whether it's in competitive matches, a friendly wager between friends, or a skins game with money on the line. To put it simply, handicaps are equalizers.

EWGA-Los Angeles has many opportunities for competition including the Chapter Championship, President's Cup, California Cup, as well as national EWGA events.

An EWGA member shared her reason for keeping a handicap – “Since I started keeping a handicap, I started playing by strict rules of golf. Now, I play all penalties (out-of-bounds, lost balls, unplayable lies, etc.), and I never take mulligans or gimme putts (unless, of course, it is a match play event). I always play the ball as it lies (no rolling or cleaning the ball unless “lift, clean, and place” is in effect). Now when I say I shot a certain score, it is really the score that I shot- not the score I might have shot or should have shot.”

If you get invited to play in a company or charity golf tournament, the organizers will want to know your handicap in order to make the event fair for everyone. By having a handicap, you can be paired properly.

For anyone who plans on playing courses abroad, a handicap index may be required. There are many courses that will not let you have a tee time without a verifiable handicap.

If you are thinking, “But, I don’t play in tournaments so why should I establish a handicap”? Keeping a handicap is a great way to track your improvement throughout the year. As you improve, you can expect to see your handicap gradually go down. You can even use your handicap posting service to track your game statistics like number of putts, fairways hit in regulation, greens hit in regulation, etc. which will give you valuable information on areas where you might need to focus your learning and practice.

EWGA-Los Angeles makes an annual award for the most improved golfer which is based on the handicap.