

Get to know your club

THE REASON WHY
YOU BELONG TO A
GROUP OF GOLFERS



BY FRANCES NEE
SCGA SENIOR DIRECTOR
OF HANDICAP AND MEMBERSHIP

What does your golf club mean to you? Some clubs are formed at a workplace like the L.A. City Firefighters Golf Club, based on years of friendships like the Valley Fog Golf Club, or at a golf course facility such as Brookside Golf Club. No matter the reason for forming a club, individual golfers cannot obtain a Handicap Index without belonging to one.

The USGA Handicap System defines a golf club as “an organization of at least 10 individual members that operates under bylaws with committees (especially a handicap committee) to supervise golf activities, provide peer review, and maintain the integrity of the USGA Handicap System.” It is the people who drive the success of the golf club. So in this age of volunteerism, it’s time for you to get involved and support your club!

Golf clubs are an important social component of the game. They provide an opportunity for members to get together both on the golf course and in social settings. Most importantly, the golf club allows each of us to establish and maintain a Handicap Index. Without the club, we would be haggling it out on the first tee determining who gets how many strokes!

A club cannot survive without participation from all members. Participation can be in many forms, ranging from peer review to volunteering as the club’s

tournament chair. As part of peer review, club members play golf with one another to gain an understanding of their fellow golfers’ potential. It is each member’s responsibility to notify the Handicap Committee if members are observed not posting their scores, posting incorrect scores (too high or too low), or making improper use of Equitable Stroke

Control. The Handicap Committee is responsible for ensuring the accuracy and playing potential of each member’s Handicap Index. The committee must rely on the assistance of fellow club members to alert them when a player is not following the Handicap System, so that they can address the member.

Education is key, especially for new players to golf. This might be an area where you could assist. Offer to play the next round with a new member. Show him or her how to fill out a scorecard correctly and how to post the adjusted gross score. Be a mentor to a new member so they feel more comfortable not only with fellow club members, but on the golf course as well.

Not everyone in the club will have the time to devote to be a part of the board of directors or chair a committee, but there is always an opportunity for you to get involved and help out. Asking if you can assist with check-in at the next tournament, offering to write an article for the newsletter or Web site, or even helping for a few hours with auditing member scores will go a long way to support the club.

The next time your board asks for volunteers, don’t be afraid to step up and offer your services. Many hands make light work, and those few hours you provide could make a huge difference to your club and its continued success. 🏌️