The Role of the Handicap Committee

FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSE
The Handicap Committee functions to ensure that all members of the Van Schaick Island Country Club comply with the USGA Handicap System. The role of the Handicap Committee in fair and equitable competition is critical. Players throughout the club depend on the committee to:

- Know the USGA Handicap System
- Communicate the System to the players
- Faithfully apply the System at VSICC

The USGA Handicap System makes the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling golfers of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis. In particular, the system requires that:

I. All acceptable* home or away scores are correctly posted for peer review, including nine or eighteen acceptable holes, using the correct USGA Course Rating and Slope Rating. Penalties are applied for players failing to return scores or who do not observe the spirit of the USGA Handicap System.

II. The USGA procedure to adjust hole scores using equitable stroke control (ESC) is employed correctly.

III. Current scoring records and a list of VSICC/USGA handicap indexes of all members are made readily available for inspection by others.

IV. Handicap indexes of any player whose handicap does not reflect his potential ability are reduced or increased accordingly.

The Handicap Committee shall reduce or withdraw the handicap index of players who do not return all acceptable scores, or otherwise do not observe the spirit of the USGA Handicap System. Players who have their Handicap Index withdrawn become ineligible for competitive play.

AUDIT PROCEDURES
The committee may audit, either completely or randomly, the rounds of golf that are played each day of the week at home or away. The daily tee sheets from the Pro Shop are cross-checked to determine which members did not post.

The committee takes precaution to double check that scores have not been posted late by the player after the committee’s audit date, and to confirm that score adjustments made by the committee are correct. Please contact any of the committee members in the case of errors, problems, or injustices in order for the issue to be corrected in a timely manner.

Adjustment Notification
The committee may make the penalty and score adjustments without directly notifying the player. Your notification will show up on your GHIN computer’s scoring record with a “P” for penalty. A score correction adjustment is not annotated, but a listing of these adjustments will be posted each month on the bulletin board in the Lounge.

In the case of a handicap adjustment, you will be personally notified of a handicap modified by committee (“M”) or handicap withdrawn by committee (“WD”) prior to the pending action.

Handicaps are automatically reduced for exceptional tournament performance by the GHIN System and show up on your Handicap Index as an “R” adjustment.

Appeal Process
Any action taken by the Handicap Committee may be appealed to the committee either in person at the committee’s monthly meeting or in writing to the Handicap Committee Chairman.

Anyone who is temporarily unable to play golf to his potential due to illness, injury, disability, or other valid reason may request that the committee withdraw his handicap index temporarily or assign a temporary handicap index.

Internet Score Posting and hand held devices
The Handicap Committee and the VSICC Board of Directors have approved the use of the internet to post scores. The use of handheld devices such as smartphones have apps associated to the NYSGA. Search for the free app and download. You will need your 7 digit GHIN number to configure the app.

When the golf course re-opens, internet posting will be discontinued until the region’s active posting season begins. Scores may be submitted to the committee for posting only if the scores are played on a course during the course’s active posting season.

Internet posting may be accessed on the GHIN website at www.ghin.com. You will need to supply details on the course rating and slope for the tee markers played, the date of play, and adjusted score. Scores will be recorded in the players record with an “I” designation.

It is preferred that a golfer’s score is posted immediately after the round at the course where the round was played, as well as turning in the score card within 48 hours of home or away play.

Tournaments
The Handicap Committee reserves the right to post Tournament scores where medal play is conducted. Such tournaments are the Club Championship scratch qualifying and the Senior Club Championships.

PEER REVIEW
Peer review provides a reasonable and regular opportunity for members of VSICC to access and inspect scoring records and USGA Handicap Indexes for all members.

This peer review process may and should be utilized by each VSICC member, as well as the Handicap Committee, as follows:

a.) Ensure that scores are accurate and by USGA rules
b.) Review and attest score cards
c.) Review monthly scoring records and handicap indexes posted in the clubhouse porch
d.) Access member scoring records, including internet postings, via the GHIN computer

HANDICAP COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Ralph Marks (Chair), Eileen Derensis

* Acceptable scores are the 9 or 18 hole course total scores, adjusted for ESC, that are played in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf and the Van Schaick Island Country Club Local Rules.