

GOLF ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO



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Get to know the **GAO**

2012 HANDICAP SYSTEM (SYSTEM USED TO TRACK HANDICAPS) INFORMATION PACKAGE

Dear Member Club;

This letter is to help prepare you with your decision to implement the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) at your club. There are several advantages to a networked system, your members can; view scores over the internet, post scores on-line, track golf game statistics (greens in regulation, number of putts per round, etc), view performance reports, and review fellow members records. Your members can not only post scores over the internet, they can post scores to their record from over 300 + member courses across Ontario (600+ nationwide). There are over 80,000 members using the System across Ontario, 200,000+ nationwide). Your members will have access to a customized on-line Year-end Performance Report (showing provincial rankings and other interesting statistics).

A few key points to consider about Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) (if you are a newly constructed club/course please disregard the following as it does not apply). We are able electronically converted data from many of the common Handicap Software Providers in the market to the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) (saving time from data entry). If this is not possible, the only alternative is to have this done manually. Several clubs have had the scores of each member entered by a data entry clerk, or the club printed off the member records with scores from the old system and placed these into a binder and asked members to take a few minutes to post their last 20 scores in the new season. Other clubs have had pro-shop staff enter the information. It's up to you to decide the best way to proceed in converting your data to the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps).

When your decision has been made to take advantage and order the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps), the following procedure will help speed up the installation and setup process for your club;

- 1) Obtain the proper hardware (enclosed is a specifications sheet)
- 2) Make sure you have a suitable internet connection, preferably high speed that can be used by the computer. Make sure the computer to be used as the Handicap Terminal has access the Internet (it is mandatory to use the system).
- 3) Return the form below and follow the instructions contained.

We are certain your club will enjoy the benefits of being part of the National Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps). If you would like the GAO to attend one of your meetings to answer all the questions your Board/Club has, we would be happy to attend, please inquire with us. And, if you have any more questions about the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) or would like more information, please contact Craig Loughry at the GAO.

Sincerely,

Craig Loughry
Golf Association of Ontario
Director of Handicapping & Course Rating Ext. 230
Craig_Loughry@gao.ca



HANDICAP SYSTEM (SYSTEM USED TO TRACK HANDICAPS) & MEMBERSHIP FEES

(please add hst)

Membership Fee Junior Boy/Girl \$17.50 (includes Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) Fee of \$2.00)

Membership Fee Adult Male/Female \$28.50 (includes Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) Fee of \$3.50)

Minimum Membership Requirements

60 Adult Members for an 18 Hole Facility (Private or Semi-Private)

40 Adult Members for a 9 Hole Facility (Private or Semi-Private)

GAO Public Golf Course Fee

18 Hole Fee \$1400.00 (per year)

9 Hole Fee \$ 900.00 (per year)

Non-Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) Membership Fee Example: If a club is a member club of the GAO but not on the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) the fees are as follows;

Adult Male/Female Members 19 and over pay: \$25 + hst (per Member).

Junior Boys /Girls pay: \$15.50 + hst (per Junior Member).

Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) Membership Fee Example: If a club is a member club of the GAO/GC and is on the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) the fees are as follows;

Adult Male/Female Members 19 and over pay: \$28.50 + hst (per Member)

Juniors Boys/Girls pay: \$17.50 + hst (per Junior Member).

Computer Specifications – Requirements for the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps);

Note, it is highly recommended you EXCEED these specifications for efficient operation of the system

Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) access from the golf course computer (kiosk):

- Pentium 4 processor with 256 megabytes RAM
- DSL, cable, or satellite Internet connection
- Internet Explorer 8.0 or higher
- Windows XP with all the most recent updates installed from Microsoft
- 17" colour monitor or larger, set to 1024 x 768 resolution
- Touch Screen Monitor optional – many clubs have found this to be very user friendly.



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PO Box 970, Uxbridge, Ontario, L9P 1N3

Please return the following agreement to the GAO via mail or fax (905-852-8893)
Attention: Craig Loughry.

The _____ golf club would like to participate in
the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps).

Club Name (please print): _____

Club contact person (please print): _____

We have High Speed Internet access from the terminal to be installed (please circle): YES NO

Signature: _____

Date: _____

We understand that the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) is a member service provided by the GAO/RCGA. As a member club you are responsible for the reporting and paying of member dues (including Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) fees) for all golfers registered on the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps).

Once you have completed this form please fax it to the GAO 905-852-8893, once we receive this we authorize the provider to release the software/system to your club. If you have the proper hardware and internet connection already setup and have sent this form to the GAO, you can contact GolfNet at 1-800-536-7888 for installation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us.

Best Regards,

Craig Loughry
Golf Association of Ontario
Director of Handicapping & Course Rating Ext. 230
Craig_Loughry@gao.ca



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Benefits of the a National Handicap System

1. **Increased Peer Review** - Posting and viewing Handicap member records on the web. Your members can post scores through www.gao.ca and also view their Handicap information straight from the web.
2. **Automatic backups** Back-up of data – you may backup locally, or know that real time your data is safe off-site .
3. **System Robustness** - By connecting to the National System you share handicap information with over 300+ member clubs on the system in Ontario over 600 nationwide (including over 80,000 individual members on the system in Ontario and 200,000 nationwide).
4. **Improved Communication** – The RCGA, provincial golf associations and member clubs will be able to communicate directly with individual members providing news and events. Member to member communication is also available (setup a game or send a note to a fellow member, or an event promotional blast to all members at the club!).
5. **Easy to use**, posting scores is effortless for users.
6. **Handicap Queries**; you can immediately find the Handicap of any of thousands of members on the system.
7. **Statistics Galore and Performance Tracking** – by using hole-by-hole score entry, golfers have the ability to track and trend a variety of performance statistics. A year-end Performance Report Card is available on-line. These Reports provide year-end handicap, summary of the last 20 scores posted, provincial rankings, club rankings and more. Members may also track game statistics (putts per round, fairways hit, and greens in regulation).
8. **Full support** of the system Monday to Sunday for any problems you may encounter. Most stand-alone systems don't have any support or have an annual support fee; this is simply included with the National Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps)!
9. **Reports** - Handicap Reports (most improved player per month/year, by Handicap, member report: last name alpha report by category (Men's/Ladies, Senior, Junior etc...)) are all available at your finger tips. There are over 50 reports available to your clubs finger tips that help Handicap Committees, and tournament organizers!
10. **REAL TIME access**: No waiting, all scores, records are off-site and backed up. This allows 100% restoration of data in any case of any problems at the club (theft, fire etc etc etc)
11. **Golf Course Search** – members will be able to search a comprehensive database of information on golf courses across Canada and the US with up to date Ratings.
12. **Fully Bilingual** – users of the Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) will be able to select French or English as their preferred language.
13. **Compatible with other software programs** – The Handicap System (system used to track Handicaps) will provide advanced tools for data migration to and from other software programs (membership, food and beverage, tee time reservation system etc etc etc).