

Metro St Louis Seniors Handicap System – Important Change, Please Read

Due to several issues that arose last year, we are changing to a different handicap system for 2011. This new system is comparable, but different, so there will be a learning curve that we will all go through on how to use it. We have copied the handicap data from the old system and put it into the new system, so everyone will have the same handicap index® (the new system uses the term “handicap guide” since “handicap index” is a service marked term of the USGA), as they had at the end of 2010.

You can get to the new system over the internet 2 ways: through a link from the Metro Seniors web site – www.GolfSTLSeniors.com or directly to www.OurGolfStats.com. Once on [OurGolfStats.com](http://www.OurGolfStats.com), you click on the down arrow under the picture in the middle of the page, click on your Division name, then click on the “Select a Group” button. You then must enter a password (which we did not change from previous years). The password is Metro for all 4 Divisions. Then click on the link to the Division’s specific web page, which has Announcements, Member Roster with Handicap Guides, Date Last Played, Phone Numbers and Email Addresses for each Division member.

Below the Roster is the Schedule section where the date and starting tee time are listed for each course. Below the Schedule is the section for Course Handicaps. Click the down arrow to select a course that has been scheduled, then click the “Submit” button, and you get the total number of handicap strokes you will receive for that course and set of tees, based on your current handicap guide. NOTE: If you are using an internet browser other than Internet Explorer, your Division web page will not have as many “sections” as described above, but will have “links” to click on to get to the same capabilities.

One of the additional advantages of this new handicap system is the various reports that are available to you. Click on the “Reports” link in the Roster Section. You get a list of reports on your group (Division) and reports on you – the individual. Check out what is available. Since we “grandfathered in” your last 20 rounds in order to calculate future handicap guides correctly, you already have a graph showing the Trend of your Handicap Guide over the last 20 rounds. Many Group Reports are available from the “grandfathered” data. Although the money isn’t listed, the scores from the previous year’s tournaments are available. Other reports, such as “Lowest Handicap Guides”, “Members with Fewest Rounds”, etc., are also available from the “grandfathered” data. Should you want to keep track of data such as number of putts, fairways hit, etc. which Metro Seniors will not be tracking for you, you can request a password from webmaster@OurGolfStats.com that will allow you to enter this optional data for yourself, therefore using this web site for its additional capabilities.

Again, these are different processes than you have had in the past, but we believe that you will like what is here. Other processes remain the same:

1. Scores to be used – Only actual scores recorded in regular 18-hole MSLSGA tournaments shall be used. Each golfer must enter his gross score on each hole and total for the 18 holes. All must putt out each hole. Failure to putt out a hole is a disqualification for that tournament.
2. Rules: We continue to play USGA rules with modifications listed in the Rules and Regulations pages within our Membership Directory.
3. Maximum Handicap Guide: We follow USGA rules here also where the maximum is 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women. The old system listed 40.4 for men, but actually used 36.4. After the next round, anything now listed over 36.4 for men will be cut back to what is actually used – 36.4.
4. Prize Money Qualifications: Under our operating rules, a member must have a handicap based on at least 3 recorded scores in a regularly scheduled MSLSGA tournament to qualify for prize money. After the handicap based on 3 scores is calculated, the golfer competes in a Flight during the next round of golf. All members are eligible for “Closest to the Pin”, “Hole in One” and “Double Eagle” prizes, regardless of the number of scores they have entered.
5. Flights by Handicap Guide: In an effort to even competition within flights, our Board of Governors voted in January, 2011 to divide each Division evenly among the 4 flights. Therefore, each Division now has different ranges in handicaps for their Flights. Based on renewals, transfers and non-renewals as of January 31, 2011, the Handicap Guide ranges for 2011 for each Division will be as follows:

- a. Division 1 - A = -3.5 thru 17.8 B = 17.9 thru 24.3 C = 24.4 thru 31.7 D = 31.8 thru 40.4
- b. Division 2 - A = -3.5 thru 18.3 B = 18.4 thru 23.4 C = 23.5 thru 29.3 D = 29.4 thru 40.4
- c. Division 3 - A = -3.5 thru 14.3 B = 14.4 thru 21.4 C = 21.5 thru 27.1 D = 27.2 thru 40.4
- d. Division 4 - A = -3.5 thru 16.3 B = 16.4 thru 20.7 C = 20.8 thru 26.9 D = 27.0 thru 40.4

6. Handicap Leveling: Similar to the USGA trademarked term Equitable Stroke Control™, this system feature keeps a person's Handicap Guide from artificially escalating due to a few bad holes. After applying, you get the Adjusted Gross Score. As in the past with Equitable Stroke Control™, MSLSGA has chosen to apply this feature within the MSLSGA rules.

7. Handicap Guide Calculation: The OurGolfStats.com handicap system does not copy the copyrighted USGA Handicap System. Experience has shown that the proprietary OurGolfStats.com handicap system approximates and replaces the other system very well.

It is important to realize that handicaps are not based on the best “scores” on a scorecard, but are based on the best “differentials”. This is needed because shooting a 90 on a hard course is really better than shooting 88 on an easy course. “Differentials” take that into account. Slope and course ratings are used to calculate differentials as follows: Differential = [(adjusted gross score – course rating) X 113] / slope.

While this new system allows different parameters to be used, MSLSGA rules use 96% of the average of the best 10 differentials out of the last 20 rounds of each golfer to determine the current handicap guide. Rounding and truncation is applied at various points in the calculation. If a golfer has fewer than 20 rounds recorded, fewer than the best 10 differentials are used, e.g., only the best differential is used until more than 3 rounds are recorded. The handicap guide that has been calculated is shown in the Roster after the first round, although the golfer is not yet qualified to win money in a Flight (see #4 above).

Here is an example of how this works:

The 10 best differentials are 21.4, 16.9, 21.6, 16.1, 16.6, 18.5, 18.3, 11.3, 15.8, and 21.7 totaling 178.2.

The average of the 10 is 17.82.

17.8 multiplied by 96% is 17.088.

The current handicap guide is then 17.1.

After the next round, the oldest differential (23.6) is no longer considered in figuring the best 10 of the last 20 since it was 21 rounds ago.

If the next differential is 21.7 (the highest of the best 10) or higher, the best 10 remains the same and the handicap guide remains the same.

Adjusted Gross	Differential	Adjusted Gross	Differential
97	26.0	88	18.5
99	32.8	94	26.0
89	21.4	85	18.3
88	22.6	79	11.3
84	16.9	104	38.6
88	21.6	83	5.8
81	16.1	96	25.5
97	24.1	92	21.7
85	16.6	90	22.5
95	23.1	90	23.6

We all realize that there will be more questions than normal during the first year of using a new system. With this in mind, while MSLSGA issues should be addressed within the Metro Seniors organization, issues regarding how to navigate around the new web site can be addressed directly to CustomerService@OurGolfStats.com.

Handicap Committee

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