

F.L.O.G. F.A.Q.

Q. What is a F.A.Q.?

A. F.A.Q. stands for Frequently Asked Questions. ...Like the ones on this page!

Q. What is F.L.O.G.?

A. F.L.O.G. stands for Federated Lake Oswego Golfers. F.L.O.G. is an O.G.A. chartered Associate Golf Club. It was established to allow golfers who consider Lake Oswego Golf Course their home course to have an official, USGA Handicap Index.

Q. What is the O.G.A.?

A. The O.G.A. is the Oregon Golf Association. It was founded in 1924 by member clubs to conduct the Oregon Amateur Golf Championship.

Q. How is F.L.O.G. connected to the O.G.A.?

A. F.L.O.G. is an O.G.A. member club formed under the rules that allow a Club Without Real Estate, an Associate Club. As a member club, it has all the same rights, privileges, and duties as a Regular Club, except for those duties of the course, itself.

Q. How is F.L.O.G. connected to the U.S.G.A.?

A. The only way a Golf Club can be recognized by the USGA (and it's GHIN Handicap System) is to be a member club of a recognized Golf Association, like the O.G.A.

Q. What is GHIN?

A. GHIN stands for Golf Handicap & Information Network. It is the only computer database authorized by the USGA to issue Handicap Indexes.

Q. Is a F.L.O.G. Handicap as good as one from one of the long courses?

A. In a word? Yes! Because the L.O.G.C. is less than the minimum of 3,000 yards, it cannot be rated with a Course and a Slope Rating, and it cannot host a Regular Golf Club. F.L.O.G. is a Club Without Real Estate, an Associate Club. F.L.O.G.'s handicaps are administered by the USGA GHIN system, and are accepted as "official" by any USGA member course in the country.

Q. What do I get when I become a member?

A. You get a USGA Handicap Index Issued by the Oregon Golf Association.

Q. And?

A. Nothing. That is it. The GHIN Handicap is the whole purpose for having an Associate Club. When you join, you are issued a GHIN identification number that is yours for life. If you leave FLOG and join another Club, your GHIN number provides a continuous record of your golfing history.

Q. Why would I want a GHIN Handicap Index?

A. All golfers play to a different level based on their ability, but often compete against one another. In a "gross score" competition, the lowest score wins. In many ways, however, golfers are really competing against their own best game. A player who usually shoots 10 over par will consider a 15 over score as a poor showing. A player who usually shoots 20 over par will consider that same 15 over score a great day. Both players are correct. A USGA Handicap Index allows both players to compete against their own best play, and compare that to one another in a "net score."

Q. How do I use my Handicap Index?

A. A Handicap Index is based on your potential ability on a standard golf course, but since every course presents a different level of challenge to each golfer, the course itself is also rated. The number of strokes each player is allowed is a product of the player's own Handicap Index, and the Slope Rating of the course. When each player's Handicap Index has been converted to a Course Handicap, they can deduct that Course Handicap from their gross score to get a net score.

Q. What is a Course Rating, and how does it compare to a Slope Rating?

A. In the simplest terms, a Course Rating is the average number of strokes that a scratch (zero handicap) golfer will need to play that specific course. Course Handicaps are specified to a tenth of a stroke. Slope Ratings are intended to be used with non-zero Handicap Indexes to adjust the net score of two or more golfers of unequal ability.

Q. How do I convert my Handicap Index to a local Course Handicap?

A. Many golf courses have a chart posted that will give the Course Handicap Table. In the absence of that, you can calculate your Course Handicap by multiplying your Handicap Index by the Slope Rating and dividing that by 113, and rounded to the nearest whole number.

$$\frac{(\text{Handicap Index}) \times (\text{Slope Rating})}{113} = (\text{Course Handicap})$$

Q. How do I post scores?

A. Record your GROSS SCORE on each hole including any penalty strokes needed for balls out-of-bounds, in water hazards, etc. Score cards should show the total gross score with no adjustments. Any deductions from the gross score for Handicap or Equitable Stroke Control should be noted as such and made after recording the gross score.

Q. What is Equitable Stroke Control?

A. Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is a method by which players scores are capped to a maximum for handicap purposes. ESC is not a stroke limit. **YOU DO NOT PICKUP YOUR BALL AFTER EXCEEDING THE E.S.C. ! You must post every stroke used.** The ESC is only used to adjust your gross score prior to calculating a handicap index. ESC is used to avoid having the occasional bad hole have a greater effect on a player's Handicap Index than it should. The ESC maximum is based on your individual Course Handicap as follows:

<u>Course Handicap</u>	<u>Maximum Score per Hole</u>
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 and above	10

Q. **What scores do I post?**

A. The handicap system only works if all players post all their scores during the season. The season may be (and, in fact is) limited by the local Golf Association to part of the year, but within that defined season all member players should post every score played on a rated course under the rules of golf.

Q. **What makes a score unacceptable?**

A. Among the reasons a score might be unacceptable are:

- Scores obtained on an unrated course are not acceptable. L.O.G.C. is not a rated course, and may be the only non-rated course in the metropolitan area. Games played at L.O.G.C. are not postable.
- Games that are not played under the Rules of Golf are not acceptable. Scrambles, and similar games where players share a team score are not postable, but match play scores where each player keeps their own score are valid.
- Games played with non-conforming equipment or ended after 9 and prior to 13 holes. For games of less than 13 holes, post the first nine, only. For games of 13 holes or more, you can estimate your score for the remaining holes and post the total for your handicap. All non-standard variants of the game of golf that change the odds or abilities of the players should be considered unacceptable.
- Games played when the local season is declared closed are unacceptable, but even when your home association is closed, games played where the local season is open (Hawaii, Arizona, etc.) should be posted. Off season scores that are postable should either be posted where they were played or saved until the Oregon season is re-opened.

Q. **Can I post 9-hole scores?**

A. Under a special rule the USGA has allowed some golf associations to post two 9-hole scores as a combined score for handicapping purposes. The OGA allows this kind of posting, so we REQUIRE that you post 9-hole scores in the same way 18-hole scores are required to be posted.

Q. **How are 9-hole scores calculated?**

A. Nine hole scores are saved in a temporary file by the GHIN computer awaiting the next nine-hole score. These need not be consecutive nor from the same course. A nine-hole score will be saved for as long as needed awaiting a second nine-hole score. Each nine hole score is slope adjusted separately and then combined to make an 18-hole equivalent.

Q. **What is the correct way to mark my card?**

A. In order to be sure that your scores are posted fairly and correctly, each player's score should be plainly indicated. On score cards left for the committee to post, each player should note their three-digit LOCAL number and the DATE of the game. The LOCAL number is noted on your Handicap Card on the top line, just to the right of your name. The local number identifies you to the local GHIN terminal for posting scores. You only need the Club Number and Your GHIN Number when you post scores away from the local GHIN terminal.

Q. **Do score cards need to be signed and attested?**

A. No. That is only needed for Tournaments. The handicap system only requires your Local Number, the Date played, and the Course and Slope Rating.

- Q. **Is there a penalty for NOT posting a valid score?**
A. Yes. If you fail to post a score, the Handicap Committee may post the score, post a penalty score, or in extreme cases, adjust your Handicap Index to reflect missed scores.
- Q. **What should I do if I think a fellow member is not posting scores?**
A. The GHIN system only works if all members post all valid scores. There are some players whose vanity is so strong that they resist posting bad scores for fear that those poor scores will ruin their low handicap. Those players are only cheating themselves. If their usual play is not consistent to their handicap, they will never do well in net score contests. Players that “sandbag” or keep their handicap artificially high by only posting bad scores are cheating us all. Often a brief word will be enough to alert the offending player to begin properly posting scores, but if that does not work, a letter to the Handicap Committee will begin the process of adjustment.
- Q. **Where can I post scores?**
A. Our club maintains a GHIN terminal at the Lake Oswego Golf clubhouse. We are using the most current GHIN software, and it is extremely easy to use. Current F.L.O.G. members can get to their records using Menu 2 (Members). The GHIN software is fairly straightforward and navigating it should be easy to learn. The golf course staff can often help get you started.
- Please remember that Lake Oswego Golf is NOT your home course. Post all scores as “away” unless they were specifically played in an officially sanctioned tournament.
- Q. **Can guest post scores here?**
A. They certainly can. This is a fully functional GHIN terminal. Guests post using their GHIN number and their Last Name as identifiers in the same way as you would as a guest at some other club or on the internet site..
- Q. **Do have to post my scores here?**
A. While you do have to post all scores, the choice of where to do that is up to you. Some of our members never use their home terminal, and post all scores as they are played and where they are played. You would post as a guest using your GHIN number. GHIN numbers are unique.
- Q. **Can I check my score history at our terminal?**
A. The menu offers a number of options in addition to the main function of posting our own scores. As a part of that “peer review” process, all other members scores, handicaps, and history are available for anyone to review. Be sure to look at your own record once in a while to be sure all scores are correctly recorded.
- Q. **If I find a mistake can I fix it?**
A. Only the handicap committee can modify posted scores. Leave us a note explaining the problem and the correction needed.
- Q. **How often are Handicap Indexes updated?**
A. There are twenty (20) GHIN updates during the O.G.A. designated season (March through October) and two (2) off-season updates. These updates occur once a month at the ends of the season, and once every two weeks during the busy summer months.

Q. **How do I get my personal update?**

A. F.L.O.G's GHIN terminal has a label printer attached where you can print new stickers at any time, There should be blank plastic cards available there, also.

Q. **Does the USGA or GHIN maintain a web site?**

A. Yes they both do. So does the Oregon Golf Association. Their addresses are:

- USGA -- United States Golf Association <http://www.usga.com>
- GHIN -- Golf Handicap Information Network <http://www.ghin.com>
- OGA -- Oregon Golf Association <http://www.oga.org>

Q. **Is there any way to post scores on the Internet?**

A. Yes The USGA has created a posting application on the GHIN web site ([GHIN.COM](http://www.ghin.com)). You will need your seven digit GHIN number and type in your LAST name for validation. It is a national system, and uses State and local information to drill down to the specific course.

Q. **Can I check my Handicap Index at one of those sites?**

A. Yes. The GHIN site was created to let you do just that. You can also look other people's Handicap Indexes up for comparison.

Q. **I've posted a bunch of scores, but why has my Handicap Index has not changed?**

A. Whether your scores were posted here or as a guest elsewhere, your Handicap Index will not reflect the new scores posted until one of the regular updates. The scores are processed every two weeks in the Summer and once a month in the Spring and Fall.

Q. **What do I do if I think there has been a problem or mistake on my record?**

A. Contact the Handicap Chairperson in writing. Be detailed as to what you are questioning. F.L.O.G. is NOT a city service. It is a private organization. The L.O. Golf Course staff have been very helpful, but do not direct your questions to them. Do not direct your complaints to them. THEY ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH F.L.O.G

Q. **Where do I get an application to join or renew my membership in F.L.O.G.?**

A. Applications are available by email or at the LOGC Pro Shop. Just Ask for one. Please remember that F.L.O.G. is private club and not affiliated with the City of Lake Oswego. If you receive the Acrobat PDF version of the club application, it can be filled in by hand or within the file itself, but a printed version must be enclosed with your payment. We cannot accept credit card or online applications. Your membership payment must be made in CASH or by CHECK made out to "F.L.O.G." or to the "Federated Lake Oswego Golfers", and returned to the LOGC club house pro shop.

Thank you !