

I am looking forward to working with our AWGA GHIN Clubs and their members during the 08 golfing season. Because all of our AWGA GHIN Clubs are now report less and are on the electronic option we can look forward to two improvements in the area of GHIN Handicapping.

All of our clubs will now be printing their own Handicap Reports. This means that updated reports are always available to clubs and their members with a simple stroke of the key. These reports will take up much less of that all-important bulletin board space and are much easier to read.

During the busy golfing months of the year (April to September) there will be two handicap revision a month, bring a total of 19 revisions during the year. Our '08 Arkansas GHIN handicap revisions will now arrive on Wednesday of the revision week. All scores that are transmitted by the Tuesday before the Wednesday revision will show up on that Wednesday's revision. In the past scores had to be transmitted by Tuesday before the Friday revision. This should help to insure all indexes are as current as possible when playing in casual and tournament competition. Be sure to keep your e-mail address updated on <http://www.ghin.com> so that you will receive your index via e-revision at your e-mail address.

There are some updates to USGA Handicap System's policies that became effective January 1, 2008. One of the items is revised policy regarding how nine-hole scores are to be combined. The key phrase in the updated concept is: "regardless of where played." This eliminates the cumbersome restriction of combining only scores posted where a player receives a Handicap Index® with like scores. The output after the combination for scoring record purposes will meet the new USGA policy regarding the date: *The combined 18-hole score will display the date and course name (if applicable) of the latest nine-hole score (e.g., April 29 and May 4 = May 4).* While the USGA policy suggests displaying the course name of the latest nine-hole score, GHIN is planning on going above and beyond this requirement by display both course names in a combined fashion.

This change of nine hole reporting will only be noticed for clubs using the V5 or the GHP on their computers. Version 3 will not be updated to show these changes. At the close of 08 GHIN will no longer support any versions below V5 of the GHP.

Clubs still using V3 of the GHP need to make every effort to update their software to V5 during the current year.

The USGA requires that all clubs using the USGA Handicapping System be licensed. This license will be for 2008 ó 2011. The USGA has set up an online seminar and quiz to facilitate this requirement. This site is:

http://www.usga.org/playing/handicaps/understanding_handicap/seminar/

Handicap Chairpersons and Handicap Committee personal will be busy taking care of this requirement for their clubs during 2008. A big thanks to all club members that work in the handicapping area. Without their hard work and diligence my job would be impossible and the game of golf would not be the same.