

Handicap Review Notification and Appeal Process Overview of Path 2

With the introduction of the USGA Handicap Review Tool and the recommendation for all authorized golf clubs to run a club-wide handicap review at least once every 365 days, in addition to individual reviews as needed, the USGA is providing two paths for Handicap Committees to consider when applying Handicap Index® adjustments to members of its golf club.

This paper covers Path 2, which is approved by the USGA as a practical option with use of the USGA Handicap Review Tool.

Step 1:

After conducting the club-wide review using the USGA Handicap Review Tool, for any players who received a recommended Handicap Index adjustment, the club considers all available evidence and determines whether the adjustment is warranted.

Step 2:

Upon determination that the Handicap Index adjustment is warranted, the Handicap Committee can apply the adjustment and allow the “M” next to the player’s Handicap Index to serve as the notification, e.g. 13.4M.

Step 3:

At this point, the player with an adjusted Handicap Index can appeal within the timeframe provided by the Handicap Committee (USGA recommendation 5-10 days), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A sample player appeal form has been created to assist Handicap Committees with the appeal process.

Step 4:

Upon reviewing the player's appeal, the Handicap Committee will decide whether the adjustment is justified. If it is, the adjustment will stay in place; if not, it will be removed.

Published April 3, 2025