

Morningstar Golf Club - Local Rules During Inactive Season

November 2022

Inactive Season at Morningstar

The inactive season begins each year in British Columbia on November 15. The inactive season triggers a number of changes to how we play during this period.

Handicaps During Inactive Season

Since the introduction of the World Handicap System, Golf Canada is unable to provide handicap updates during the inactive season. In order to have current handicaps during the inactive season, Morningstar has adopted the handicap calculation system provided by Chronogolf in the scoring factor section of their website. Chronogolf is the program that members and guests use for bookings at Morningstar. It was chosen because it is a simple system, that we are all somewhat familiar with.

To set up your handicap for the inactive season, start by logging into your account on Chronogolf. Once logged in, on the dashboard on the left select "Scoring Factor", and then once on the page select "activate".

Once you are activated go to "edit factor" and enter a past date and set it to the scoring factor (handicap index) that you had on that date based on the handicap history on the Golf Canada website. For example, if you go back to September 1, 2022 on Golf Canada website go to scoring history, obtain your handicap index from that date and enter it into the space provided. At this time, you should record your scores and the dates played from Golf Canada after September 1. Note it will not allow you to enter scores prior to September 1, so if you need to go back further to enter 20 scores then set an earlier date.

By selecting start, you will be directed to the page to enter scores. By hitting "New Score" you can select the date you played and then use the search bar under "Course played" to find the course you played. You can then select the number of holes you played and the tee box played. You can then enter your score at the bottom and then hit save.

Please note the Chronogolf Scoring Factor is not a mirror of the proprietary and patented USGA or Golf Canada's handicap formula. Chronogolf provides a free scoring factor, which is based on an average of your best 10 out of your last 20 scores, multiplied by the golf course's difficulty factor. The difficulty factor is entered by the management in the software settings. 9-hole rounds can be taken into consideration in the scoring factor only if another 9 hole round can be matched in a front/back pair.

Preferred Lies

The local rule states that a player shall be allowed to take relief from abnormal conditions. If the player chooses to use a preferred lie, they may lift, clean and place their ball no nearer the hole within 12" on the 'general area' of the golf course. When a ball is lifted to take relief under this rule, the player is not required to mark the spot before lifting the ball. However, once the ball is placed, it is in play and cannot be moved again.

The general area of the golf course is defined as the whole area of the golf course but does not include bunkers and penalty areas. Under this rule relief can be taken in the treed areas but must adhere to the 12" rule, no nearer the hole.

Temporary Water

Relief may be taken from temporary water which is clearly visible before or after a player takes their stance. There is no stipulation on the distance the ball may be moved but it must be the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole.

Bunker Play

In a bunker, a ball may be lifted, cleaned, and placed on the same spot from where it was lifted. The bunker may be raked after the ball is lifted and prior to placement. In addition, if a ball lies in the bunker relief may be taken from temporary water. The ball must be placed at the nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole. If relief cannot be taken, the committee should request that the bunker be taken out of play. If the bunker is taken out of play for any reason, ball must be placed at the nearest point of relief no nearer the hole.

Turf Mat Use

Turf mats will again be used this year at Morningstar during the inactive season. In the past, the use of mats significantly reduced divots and improved spring playing conditions.

Here are the rules for mat use:

- Turf mats must be used on full shots being played from the fairway. It is optional to use turf mats from the rough.
- You may chip off the grass without using the turf mat if you are in close proximity to the green and will not damage the turf
- Turf mats are not to be used in the penalty areas or bunkers

Traffic During Abnormally Wet Conditions in the Inactive Season

Traffic on wet turf can cause considerable damage to the golf course. During these conditions, power carts must remain on the asphalt portion of the cart paths. Pull/push carts can also cause significant damage. For that reason, pull/push carts must stay 30 yards from the green and exit the turf area and go to the cart path. Under no circumstances, shall pull/push carts be allowed

between the green and greenside bunkers. Under extremely wet conditions, pull/push carts may be required to stay on the cart path unless walkways are provided.

It is important for all players to avoid soft and muddy areas. For those who walk, you may have to put on a few more steps, but it will help to preserve and improve our playing conditions for the future. Look for high spots or 'drier' routes to walk in order to reduce damage to these areas.

Morningstar Handicap Committee members

Jim Ross – Chair
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