

Requirements to be Licensed by the USGA in the United States as an Authorized Golf Association In Order to be Eligible to Utilize the USGA Handicap System™ and/or The USGA Course Rating System™

- 1.** The entity must meet each requirement identified in this document for at least one year prior to the date of its request for a Handicap System and/or Course Rating System license from the USGA. The USGA will consider requests for a provisional license during that one year period.
- 2.** Size of membership – the entity must have at least 25 member clubs and/or 1,500 individual members; the individuals must either be members of member clubs or members of the entity.
- 3.** More than 90% of the individual members must be amateur golfers.
- 4.** The entity must be a legal entity, with a constitution, by-laws and/or articles of incorporation.
- 5.** The entity must have an elected governing body comprised of amateur golfers who are members of the member clubs or members of the entity; employees of the entity may serve on the governing body ex-officio, but employees may not constitute a majority of the governing body.
- 6.** The entity must qualify as a not-for-profit entity under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. Evidence of such qualification must be submitted to the USGA. In the event that the entity has applied for but has not received such qualification, the entity must provide the USGA with evidence that it has applied for such status, and evidence of the IRS response to the application. If the entity fails to qualify as a not-for-profit entity, or otherwise fails to meet the requirements set forth herein, the USGA may revoke any USGA authorization or license granted to such entity.
- 7.** The entity must conduct its business from a specified location which shall be publicly identifiable and announced to the public.
- 8.** The entity must support its members and member clubs by being accessible to them via telephone and/or email during regularly defined business hours, and the entity must also have an operational Web site.
- 9.** The entity must serve member clubs and members within a defined contiguous geographic area (excluding Hawaii) that it is capable of serving effectively.
- 10.** The entity must agree to implement the USGA's Rules of Golf (including the Rules of Amateur Status), and/or the USGA Handicap System™ and the USGA Course Rating System™.
- 11.** The entity must:
 - (a) Assist the USGA in applying the Rules of Amateur Status upon request, including but not limited to researching and determining whether individuals or entities are complying with those Rules;
 - (b) Conduct at least two competitions annually for its members, including at least one net competition that requires the use of the USGA Handicap System™.
 - (c) Communicate regularly with the USGA, in particular the Handicap Department and the Regional Affairs Department.
- 12.** The entity must cooperate with other golf organizations to promote the game of golf and the best interests of the game, and to support the purpose and mission of the USGA.

