

GHIN

GHIN (pronounced "jin") is an acronym that stands for "Golf Handicap and Information Network," which is a handicapping service provided by the United States Golf Association ([USGA](#)) to participating associations and clubs.

Associations and clubs sign up to use the service, allowing their member golfers to post scores, calculate handicaps and retrieve handicap information online, from any computer.

[GHIN.com](#) is the website home of the GHIN service.

ORIGINS OF GHIN

The GHIN service has been around since 1981. Prior to that, individual clubs and associations had to track their members' handicaps themselves.

But state and regional golf associations began asking the USGA for a solution, an easier way to do things. And the USGA introduced GHIN, in 1981, to meet those requests. (Once the Internet era arrived, GHIN.com soon followed.)

Today there are more than 14,000 golf clubs and more than 2.3 million golfers using GHIN, and usage has expanded outside the United States, too.

HOW GOLFERS USE GHIN

Golfers who belong to a club or association that uses GHIN - there is a [club search](#) on the GHIN website - have "GHIN numbers" to access the GHIN service. Access can be through GHIN.com, but might more likely be through a state or regional association website. GHIN also has mobile apps available.

Golfers post scores under the USGA Handicap System, and GHIN tracks those scores and updates the golfers' [handicap indexes](#).

That is the reason for GHIN's existence - posting and tracking of USGA handicap indexes - but not the only thing GHIN provides member golfers.

GHIN also includes the Tournament Pairing Program (TPP), a golf tournament management software that helps golf associations and clubs run tournaments.

Associations, clubs and individual golfers will also find other game-management and stat tracking features included in the GHIN service.