

Chapter 6

Handicapping

Whether computing handicaps for one player or hundreds, Mulligan's Eagle has capabilities to provide casual or official handicaps for any golfer.

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Introduction

Any golf handicapping system is essentially a way for golfers of various skill levels to compete equally and have fun. You may have played in events that computed your “net” score in a number of ways – using a handicap computed from just one round, like the Callaway or Peoria methods, or using the handicap or Handicap Index computed for you by your home golf club or golf association.

You might also be responsible for handicapping a group of golfers, like the players in your league, on your golf team, or at your club.

Mulligan’s Eagle supports most of the handicapping systems described in this chapter.

Handicapping Systems

USGA Handicap System™

The United States Golf Association administers the Rules of Golf and the Rules of Handicapping in the United States and on behalf of other national golf authorities. Since January 1, 2020, the USGA, in association with the R&A implemented the World Handicap System, and ceased use and authorization of The USGA Handicap System.

The Rules of Handicapping manual is available (along with many other publications, like the Rules of Golf) from the USGA Order Department at <http://www.usgapubs.com> or 1-800-336-4446.

World Handicap System

The World Handicap System (WHS) was introduced in 2020 as a unified organization of multi-national golf associations responsible for the administration of golf and its rules around the world. Initiated and developed by the United States Golf Association and the R&A, the Rules of Handicapping are regularly reviewed, updated and published by the USGA, the R&A and certain major national golf associations who administer handicapping throughout the world.

The World Handicap System and its associated golf authorities specify the rules by which a golf club, organization or association calculates, issues and authorizes golf handicaps for its members. In the United States, the Rules of Handicapping are available online at <https://www.publications.com/collections/handicapping/products/rules-of-handicapping-effective-january-2024>.

An authorized golf association or golf club must obtain permission to use the trademarks and service marks associated with the WHS, and to issue

a Handicap Index. Mulligan Software provides support for the World Handicap System, and users must certify that this capability is used for the purpose of following the Rules of Handicapping and use of the USGA's and associated authority's marks. *Only an authorized golf association or golf club can issue a World Handicap Index.*

RCGA Handicap System™

The Royal Canadian Golf Association (Golf Canada) publishes the RCGA Handicap Manual, which is the complete book of information and instruction about the RCGA Handicap System.

An authorized provincial golf association or Member golf club must obtain a license from Golf Canada to utilize the RCGA Handicap System, to use Golf Canada's trademarks or service marks, and to issue an RCGA Handicap Factor. Mulligan Software provides support for the RCGA Handicap System, and users must certify that this capability is used for the purpose of following the RCGA Handicap System and using Golf Canada's marks. *Only an authorized provincial golf association or member golf club can issue an RCGA Handicap Factor.*

CONGU Unified Handicapping System

The Council of National Golf Unions comprises representatives of nine golf unions in Great Britain and Ireland, who publish and administer the CONGU Unified Handicapping System.

A golf union and its affiliated clubs are charged with the responsibility of administering the Unified Handicapping System in their jurisdiction and providing their members with a CONGU Handicap. Mulligan Software provides support for the CONGU Unified Handicapping System, and users must certify that that capability is used for the purpose of calculating a CONGU Handicap on behalf of the affiliated home club of a member.

Australian Handicapping System

Golf Australia, the governing body for golf and golf handicapping in Australia, publishes and maintains the Australian Men's Handicapping System and the Australian Women's Handicapping System.

Australian handicapping is administered by the responsible State Handicap Manager and the club handicap manager or committee who provide appropriate recording of scores and the calculation of an affiliated member's exact handicap. Mulligan Software provides support for the Australian Handicapping System, and users must certify that this capability is used for the purpose of calculating an Australian Men's Handicap or Australian Women's Handicap on behalf of the affiliated member's home club.

Mulligan Handicapping

The Mulligan Handicapping System has been in continuous use since 1995 by clubs, leagues and golf organizations. Developed by Mulligan Software and supported by the classic Mulligan's Golf Personal stats and handicapping application, the Mulligan System closely resembles the scoring system of other sports, discarding the best and worst performances and calculating an "Estimated Handicap" from the remaining scores.

The Mulligan System produces quite stable and useful handicaps calculated on gross scores and their relationship to the best available course ratings from the tees played. Popular use seems to indicate that the method provides accurate and competitive playing handicaps for players of all skill levels. Mulligan's Eagle supports the Mulligan Handicapping System without any limitations on its use.

Second-Best Score System

The Second-Best Score System (copyright © 1980, 1989 United States Golf Association) was developed by the USGA to provide a method of handicapping a player with just a few rounds available. It bases a player's handicap on a formula which uses the player's second-best reported score. The USGA provides this disclaimer:

"The Second Best Score System is an alternative handicapping method intended for casual play and local use only. A Second Best Score System handicap is not transportable from club to club. **NOTE: The use of the Second Best Score System will not produce a valid USGA Handicap or a USGA Handicap Index.**"

Mulligan's Eagle supports the Second-Best Score System for handicapping players with few rounds available.

Personal Handicapping

You may wish to configure and use a handicapping technique of your own. Mulligan's Eagle supports this capability, and allows you, in the application settings ("Handicapping" on page 17) to indicate key parameters that will be used to calculate a handicap for players. If none of the handicapping methods described here are appropriate for your use, you may be able to specify a calculation that meets your requirements.

Single Round (Event) Handicapping

Mulligan's Eagle supports a number of single round handicapping methods developed for golf events in which there are a number of unhandicapped golfers, or golfers with a very wide range of skills.

Generally, the goal of single round handicapping is to derive a handicap (or handicap allowance), computed from all or part of the player's gross scores, that can be used to provide a net score by which the competition is decided. Whether the calculation is biased toward rewarding good play, or producing almost random results, most methods tend to "shrink" the range of scores returned by the competitors. The effect is that those who don't win come close.

Mulligan's Eagle supports the single-round methods described here (also mentioned in the "Glossary" on page 199):

The "Official" Callaway System

The Callaway System (copyright © 1957 Lionel F. Callaway) computes a handicap based on the hole-by-hole scores of a single round, ignoring some number of a player's "worst holes" based on the player's total gross score for the round. It is useful for computing handicaps for a group of unhandicapped players or for players with no playing history on which to base a handicap. The objective of the Callaway System is to produce net scores in a range from par to the middle 70's. Occasionally, a net score below par is produced.

The Scheid System

The Scheid System (copyright © 1988 United States Golf Association) computes a handicap based on the hole-by-hole scores of a single round. It is useful for computing handicaps for a large group of unhandicapped players or for players with no playing history on which to base a handicap. The Scheid System produces approximately equal net scores. The USGA provides this disclaimer:

"The Scheid System is an alternative handicapping method intended for casual play and local use only. A Scheid System handicap is not transportable from club to club. **NOTE: The use of the Scheid System will not produce a valid USGA Handicap or a USGA Handicap.**"

The Peoria and Modified Peoria Systems

Both the Peoria System and the Modified Peoria System are commonly used to compute handicaps for a group of unhandicapped players or for players with no playing history on which to base a handicap.

In a Peoria competition, the committee selects, unknown to the players, six holes on the course at which the player's scores will be used to compute a single-round handicap. The methods differ only in the computation of the player's handicap allowance for the round.

System 36

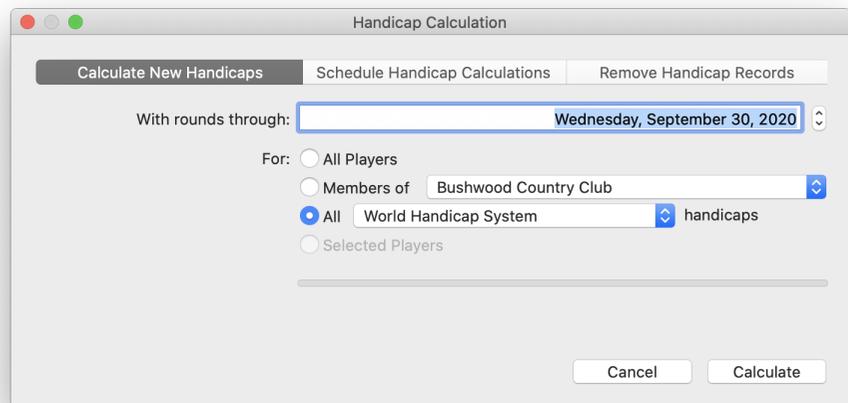
System 36 is a method of computing a one-round handicap for events in which unhandicapped players participate. The player's handicap allowance is derived from "points" which are earned by pars and bogeys made during the round. The more points accumulated, the lower the allowance.

Zig-Zag Handicapping

Zig-Zag handicapping is a method of calculating a handicap in a Scramble or other team event. It generates net results of a somewhat random nature, with almost all results under par.

Calculating Handicaps

To calculate handicaps for some or all of the players for whom you keep records, choose Calculate Handicaps... from the Golf menu. If you want to perform the calculation for just a single player or small group of players, select them in the Players panel of Eagle's main window before you choose the Calculate Handicaps... menu item. A dialog will be displayed for you to indicate what kind of handicap calculations you want:



Handicap Calculation Dialog

Select the handicapping calculation activity you want to perform. Generally, you'll choose Calculate New Handicaps - creating handicap records for a group of players. You may also schedule regular automatic handicap calculations by choosing Schedule Handicap Calculations. Or, this calculation function also provides a method to remove old handicapping records for

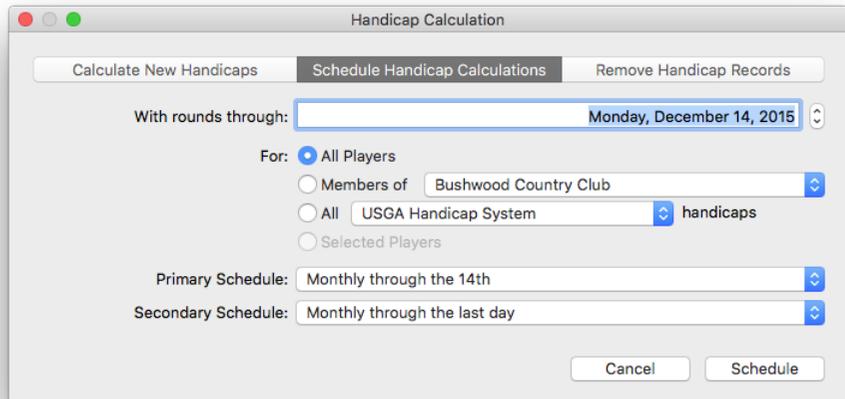
periods before or after a specified date. To perform that activity, choose Remove Old Records.

With rounds through – Indicate the ending selection date for the handicap calculations - the last date on which a round can be recorded and be included in this calculation. Any rounds after this date are not considered for calculating new handicap records.

***Note:** If your schedule for calculating handicaps must coordinate or coincide with a schedule dictated by your local or regional golf association or their handicapping service, they may expect a delay between days on which a round is played and when it is posted for handicap calculation. The effect, commonly seen in club handicapping, is that some rounds that precede the handicapping “effective date” do not appear in the handicapping record. This is **not** the case when calculating handicaps with Mulligan’s Eagle. The date you enter here represents a true cutoff date, and the “effective date” of the calculated handicapping record is the next day. That is, if you select all rounds through December 31st for calculation, the player’s new handicap is “effective” for any round played on January 1st or later.*

For – Identify the players for whom new handicap records are to be calculated (or records removed). To be included, a player must meet the selection criteria here (all players, just members of a particular golf club, anyone whose handicap is determined by a specific handicapping method, or specifically selected players) and this software must have been certified for use in calculating handicaps for the player’s designated handicapping method. For example, if a player’s records indicate their handicap is computed by the World Handicap System, but this software is not certified to calculate Handicap Indexes for such players, there will be no handicap calculation for that player. See discussion of “Handicapping Certification” on page 11.

To perform the specified handicap calculations, click the Calculate button. The dialog will display the progress of the calculation, then will close automatically.



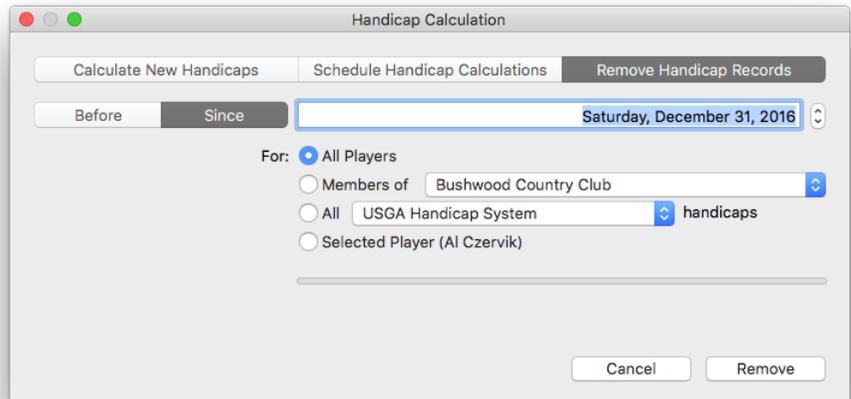
Handicap Calculation Scheduling

To schedule a regular handicap calculation, choose Schedule Handicap Calculations, provide a date through which rounds are to be selected for each calculation, and identify the players whose handicap is to be calculated. Then...

Primary Schedule – Choose the interval on which the handicap calculation is to take place. Options are daily, weekly through a particular day of the week, monthly through a particular day of the month, or monthly through the last day of the month.

Secondary Schedule – In some cases, an additional calculation might be desired - for example performing a calculation through the 15th and through the last day of the month. If needed, choose an appropriate additional schedule.

Click the Schedule button to finalize and save your handicap calculation schedule. Eagle will examine the schedule you've requested every time it is started and will perform the calculation automatically if needed. Automatic scheduling of a handicap calculation is limited to just one schedule. If you need another handicap calculation performed according to another schedule, you may do that calculation manually by choosing the Calculate New Handicaps option.



Handicap Record Removal

Before or Since – When removing old handicap records, choose whether you want to delete records before the indicated date or since the indicated date. Records with an effective date equal to the indicated date are not removed. Click the Remove button to permanently delete the handicap records.

Note: To review and delete individual handicap records, see the Settings topic “Advanced” on page 19.

How Handicap Records are Used

Handicap records are produced whenever you calculate handicaps (as just described beginning on page 144), or make a handicap adjustment for a player (page 55), or save information after looking up a handicap (page 57). These records have an “effective date” and contain a handicap (Handicap Index®, etc.) to be used for play beginning on or after that effective date. Handicap records continue to be effective until another record is produced that has a later effective date.

Unless you override the handicap to be used (see “Players’ Rounds” on page 84 and note below), when you create a new round on a scorecard for a player, the latest handicap record with an effective date on or before the scorecard’s date is used to determine the handicap to be used for that player’s round and the calculation of the playing handicap (Course Handicap, etc.) for that round.

Note: If the Handicap field for a player’s round on a scorecard is overridden (a value entered), that overridden value remains in effect on that scorecard until it’s removed, regardless of any subsequent calculation of handicap records.

Synchronizing Your Handicap Calculations

If it's required, you are responsible for making sure that your calculation of handicaps occurs on a particular schedule or is synchronized with your club's calculation of handicaps. You may wish to perform a handicap calculation at the end of every month, or on a particular day of every month. With Eagle, the process is simple. To calculate handicaps for all your players, make sure you have entered or posted all their rounds *through* your chosen date (the "effective date" will be the next day), then calculate handicaps as described in this chapter through that date. If you receive eligible scores after the calculation is performed, you should record the scores, but have a choice about whether to recalculate a player's handicap before the next scheduled calculation. Since you have the capability of re-calculating a handicap record for a single player, you can do so or wait for the next regularly scheduled calculation.

If you're trying to synchronize your calculations with those of your club or a handicapping service, you need to know the date *through* which scores are included in their processing, regardless of what they call their "effective date." You should select the same "through" date when you perform your calculation.

Retroactive Handicap Calculations

If you have already recorded rounds and need to calculate the handicaps that *should* have been used when scorecards for those rounds were created, you may perform a handicap calculation with an effective date before those rounds, but you may notice certain differences:

In a player's list of rounds ("Scores" on page 58), those rounds after the effective date will **not** be listed with new playing handicaps. That is, Eagle will **not** automatically recalculate playing handicaps for rounds whose scoring is "complete" to prevent possible retroactive changes to net scores, event results, etc.

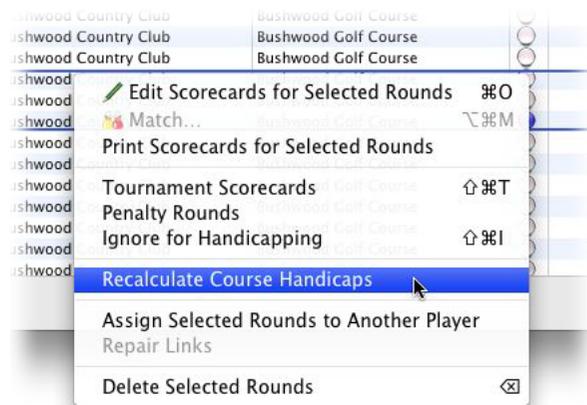
In the player's list of rounds, those rounds after the effective date whose scoring is **not** complete *will* have their playing handicaps recalculated. Those rounds are easy to identify – they're dim in the list of rounds.

If you wish to update the playing handicap used for a round entered before an appropriate handicap was calculated retroactively, just open the scorecard.

Opening any scorecard re-evaluates (if it's not overridden) the handicap used to calculate playing handicaps on that scorecard.

***Note:** This means that if you open a scorecard used in an event and it results in the recalculation of any participant's handicap, it may also effect the results of the event. To restore the original event results, you may have to override the handicap used for that player's round.*

If you need to recalculate the playing handicaps for several rounds in a player's scoring record, open an editing window for that player and select the Scores panel. Select (by clicking, SHIFT-clicking or COMMAND-clicking) the rounds for which recalculation is to take place. Then hold down the CONTROL key while you click and hold to display the contextual menu for the selected rounds:



Recalculating Playing Handicaps

Choose the Recalculate option in that menu. When you release your mouse button, handicaps will be re-evaluated and playing handicaps recalculated for each of the selected rounds.

Handicap Cards

You can produce handicap cards for players in your golf club or association. If you are properly licensed to provide “official” handicaps for your players, and you have certified your authority to provide such handicaps, these handicap cards can provide your members with documentation of their “official” handicaps.

Standardized Formats

Eagle provides capabilities to produce handicap cards on standard pre-perforated forms typically used for this purpose:

Form	Size	Style	Custom Image Size
Avery 5390	2¼" x 3½" (8 cards)	Name Badge Insert (also Avery 5383, 74461, 74549, 74556)	1014w x 638h (300 dpi) 243w x 153h (72 dpi)
Avery 8371	2" x 3½" (10 cards)	Business Card (also Avery 5371, 5376, 5377, 5870, 5871, 5874, 5876, 5877, 5882, 5911, 8376, 8377, 8471, 8476, 8571, 8865, 8870, 8871, 8873, 8875, 8876, 8877, 27871, 27882, 27883, 28371, 28873, 28876, 28877, 28878)	1050w x 563h (300 dpi) 252w x 135h (72 dpi)

Standard Forms

If you have pre-printed forms for your golf club in the style shown in the table above, you may print handicap card information on the reverse (blank side) of those forms. Or, you may use Eagle to print a standard design or a design of your own on the back of the cards.

Printing Handicap Cards

To print handicap cards for a group of players, select (by clicking, SHIFT-clicking and OPTION-clicking) those players in the Players panel of Eagle's main window, then choosing Handicap Cards... from the Reports menu.

A sheet will be displayed for you to begin the production of cards for the selected players:



Handicap Card Selection

Selected Players – Choose this option to produce handicap cards for the players you selected in the main window.

Members at – Choose this option to produce handicap cards for all players who are designated as members of the indicated club (whether selected in the main window or not). Use the popup menu to select that club if necessary.

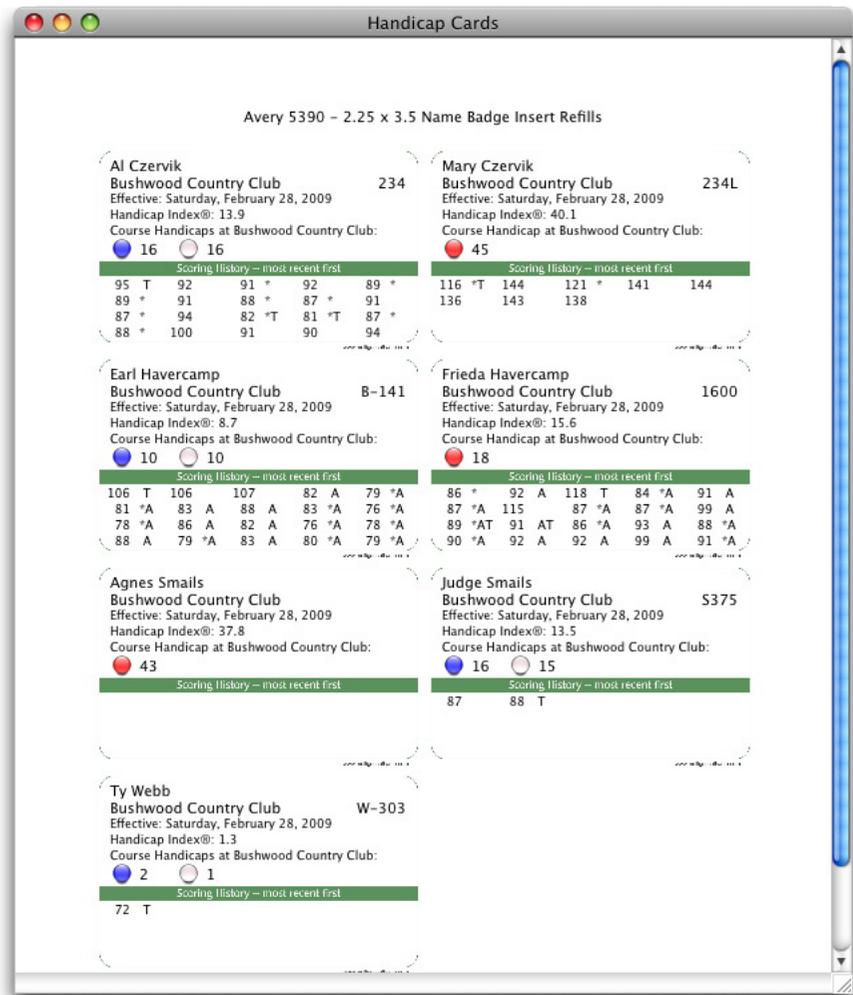
Effective – If necessary, adjust the date on which the calculated handicap shown on the handicap cards is effective. Only rounds played before (or handicap records effective on) the effective date will be considered.

Form – Select the type of form on which you will print cards for the selected players. Your printer should be loaded with sufficient sheets to accommodate printing all of the selected cards.

Update Handicap Records – If a handicap record is not available for a player as of the specified effective date, Eagle will perform a handicap calculation to produce the handicap card. If you wish to also save a permanent handicapping record as of the specified effective date, check this box.

To print the face of the handicap cards, with the player's name, scores, handicap and other information, click the **Print** button. To print the reverse (decorative) side of the cards, click the **Print Reverse** button. Your printer should have the appropriate forms loaded to print the proper side.

A window will be displayed representing the information to be printed on the selected forms:



Handicap Cards

Choose Print from the File menu to print the handicap cards to your printer. You may close the window after printing (and repeat the process, if you wish, to print the reverse side of the forms).

After printing, separate and distribute the cards:

Al Czervik
Bushwood Country Club 234
 Effective: Saturday, February 28, 2009
 Handicap Index®: 13.9
 Course Handicaps at Bushwood Country Club:
 ● 16 ○ 16

Scoring History – most recent first

95	T	92	91 *	92	89 *
89	*	91	87 *	88 *	91
87	*	94	82 *T	81 *T	87 *
88	*	100	91	90	94

www.mulligansoftware.com

Printed Handicap Card - Front



Handicapping with:
Mulligan's Eagle™
 www.mulligansoftware.com

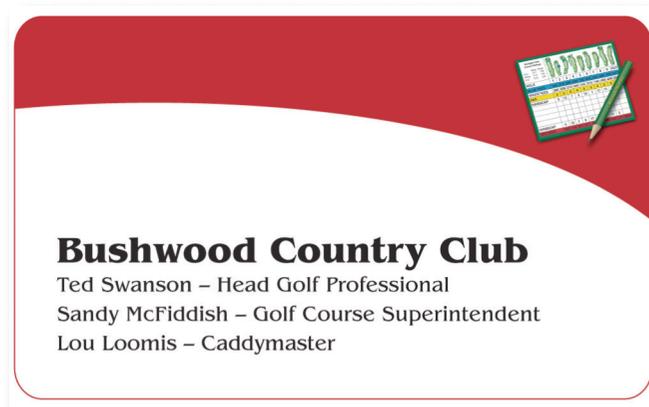
Printed Handicap Card - Reverse

Customizing Handicap Cards

To produce handicap cards with your own design on either the front or reverse, create an appropriate image of the size shown in the Standard Forms table on page 150. Because printers usually have considerably better resolution than your computer screen, the best results require an image sufficiently sized and detailed to support 300 dpi (dots per inch). For example, to produce an image for the front or reverse of a handicap card printed on Avery form 5390, create your artwork 1014 pixels wide x 638 pixels high. This image is not the complete size of the form, but leaves enough room for inaccuracies in printing.

The image file may be of any common image data type, like JPEG or PNG formats. It is preferable if the image does not include transparency. Name the image file “HandicapCardFrontnnnn” or “HandicapCardReversennnn”, where nnnn is the four-digit number identifying the form on which the image is to appear (in the example below, “HandicapCardReverse5390”).

When composing handicap cards for printing, Eagle will look first in the folder at ~/Documents/Eagle User Data/ (a folder in your user directory that may or may not exist - you can create it if needed), then in the folder at ~/Library/Application Support/Eagle/ (a folder in your user directory in which Eagle databases are kept), looking for an appropriately named image file. If it fails to find an image file to use for customization, it will proceed using its default design. You may therefore customize the front or reverse or both sides of handicap cards printed on each of the available standard forms.



*Handicap Card customized by placing
image file HandicapCardReverse5390.jpg
in ~/Documents/Eagle User Data/ folder*