



GOLFING UNION OF IRELAND

National Headquarters | Carton Demesne | Maynooth | County Kildare | W23 R8C6
T: +353 (0)1 5054000 | F: +353 (0)1 5054001 | E: information@gui.ie | W: www.golfnet.ie

22 February 2017

Re: **HANDICAP AWARENESS MONTH**

Dear Honorary Secretary,

Handicapping is a fundamental aspect of the game and the Golfing Union of Ireland, through its member clubs, is responsible for the administration of the CONGU Unified Handicapping System (UHS) in Ireland.

Unlike most sports, golf is largely played in the absence of a referee. The game, and the handicapping system, rely on the integrity of the individual. It is up to every single player to observe the spirit and intent of the handicapping system. Only then can the game be as fair and equitable as possible.

On 1 March, the Golfing Union of Ireland will launch its first ever Handicap Awareness Month. The aim of this campaign is to inform clubs and golfers on handicapping as well as providing beginners with everything they need to know. Throughout the month-long campaign, the GUI will provide all the information necessary to be handicap aware on the golf course in 2017.

You will find enclosed posters and leaflets promoting Handicap Awareness Month, which I hope you will display in prominent areas of your club.

To find out more, visit our website at Golfnet.ie, where, from 1 March, you can access essential information, including guidance for administering and maintaining handicaps.

You can keep up to date with everything that's happening during Handicapping Awareness Month through the GUI's social media channels on Facebook and Twitter, using the hashtag #TheFairWay.

Alan Kelly, our Communications Manager, will be in contact via email over the coming days with resources for your club to use internally and on social media to generate awareness amongst your members.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Finn
CEO

#TheFairWay

HANDICAP CHEATING

Playing in a qualifying competition and setting out with the aim of 'getting 0.1 back' or not trying your best at any point in the round with the aim of manipulating your handicap, is cheating.

This is **unacceptable behaviour** and needs to be eradicated in golf clubs across Ireland.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HANDICAPS AT

www.golfnet.ie/HandicapAwareness

16.5

THE AVERAGE
HANDICAP FOR
MEN IN IRELAND

46%

OF ALL
HANDICAPS ARE
FROM 12.5 TO 20.4

4%

OF ALL
GOLFERS ARE IN
CATEGORY ONE



GOLFING UNION
OF IRELAND

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING #TheFairWay



Follow us on Twitter: @GUILGolf



Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GolfingUnionOfIreland

GUI HANDICAP AWARENESS MONTH

#TheFairWay

FAIR & CONSISTENT HANDICAPPING

Handicapping is an attempt to make the game as fair and equitable as possible but the game relies on each individual observing the spirit and intent of the system in order to make it work as effectively as possible. Simply put, you must endeavour to make the best score you can at each hole and not manipulate the system in order to gain an advantage over your fellow golfers.

The aim of this campaign is to keep clubs and golfers up to speed on handicapping as well as providing beginners with everything they need to know. Throughout the month-long campaign, the GUI will provide all the information necessary to be handicap aware on the golf course in 2017.

2.5

THE AVERAGE
CATEGORY ONE
HANDICAP IN
IRELAND

+6

RORY MCILROY'S
HANDICAP WHEN
HE TURNED PRO

300

THE NUMBER OF
MALE GOLFERS
WITH HANDICAP
BETTER THAN 0

SEE MORE AT

www.golfnet.ie/HandicapAwareness