



In an effort to better educate clubs on the inner workings of the USGA Handicap System, the NCGA embarked on a bold educational initiative in 2002.

Dubbed the "NCGA Handicap Certification Program," a series of half-day seminars were conducted region-wide to provide clubs with the tools to better organize their Handicap Committee and better administer the Handicap System. Special emphasis was placed on dealing with those golfers who abuse the System for their own benefit.

54 seminars in all regions of Northern California have been conducted from 2002-2008 drawing in excess of 2,800 individuals representing more than 1,200 member clubs. More importantly, these seminars have clearly triggered a rededication by clubs toward their handicap-related duties. In short, more and more clubs are taking a closer look at the posting activities of their members and at the accuracy of the Index being issued.

Topics of discussion at the seminars include individual golfer responsibilities, club responsibilities, penalty options for System abusers, software training and a review of NCGA membership policies. Interaction in the form of discussion periods, question and answer sessions, etc., is highly encouraged.

Attendance by all member clubs between 2008 and 2011 is **MANDATORY!**

Clubs are required to send a representative to attend and complete a session and are required to maintain a certified attendee on their active roster each year from this point on.

Clubs that fail to fulfill and maintain this mandatory attendance requirement are denied eligibility in NCGA competitions. In addition, the USGA requires completion of such a seminar between 2008 – 2011 in order to be licensed to issue so-called "official" handicaps.

There are two means by which a club may satisfy this requirement; 1) attendance and completion of an NCGA "live" Handicap Certification Seminar and/or 2) completion of the NCGA on-line Handicap Certification Seminar. The schedule of 2009 "live" seminars is listed below. The on-line seminar is in development and expected to be unveiled this summer.

Two NCGA Handicap Certification Seminars have been scheduled for 2009. Both seminars have been scheduled for Saturdays. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. The seminar will conclude at 3:30 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. There is no charge for the seminar or meals.

PLEASE NOTE: Clubs that currently retain an individual on their roster that successfully completed an NCGA Handicap Certification Seminar between 2002 and 2008 are deemed to be in full compliance with NCGA and USGA requirements at this time. For such clubs there is no urgency in attending an NCGA Certification Seminar in 2009. As long as the representative that completed a previous NCGA Certification Seminar remains with the club, they have until 2011 to renew their USGA requirement. All clubs also has the option of renewing their requirement via our on-line seminar which will be available this summer.