



**USAGA RANKING & COMPETITION STANDARDS ©**

Version 2.0

Property of USAGA



## CONTENTS

**Forward**

**Acknowledgements**

**1.0 Introduction**

**2.0 Eligibility & Classification Standards**

**2.1 Player Eligibility**

**2.2 Player Classification**

**2.2.1 Golfers with lower limb impairments**

**2.2.2 Golfers with arm impairments**

**2.2.3 Golfers with combined impairments in arms and legs**

**2.2.4 Seated Golfers**

**2.2.5 Golfers with Visual Impairments**

**2.2.6 Short in Stature**

**2.3 Distance Allowances**

**3.0 Competitive Pathways**

**3.1 USAGA Adaptive Golf Ranking (USAGR)<sup>™</sup> Standards**

**3.2 Coverage & Inclusion**

**3.3 Event Certification**

**3.3.1 Purpose & Location**

**3.3.2 Participation**

**3.3.3 Event Classification**

**3.3.4 Size of Event**

**3.3.5 General Standards**

**3.3.6 2021 Accredited Events**

**3.3.7 Event Certification Process**

**3.4 Establishing Ranking using USAGR<sup>™</sup>**

**3.4.1 Individual Player Inclusion as a Ranked Player**

**3.4.2 USAGA Ranking System<sup>®</sup>**

**3.4.2.1 Gross Overall Ranking**

**3.4.2.2 Event Performance Factor Adjustment (EPFA)**

**3.4.2.3 Alternative Method for Calculating EPFA**

**3.4.2.4 USAGR Net Ranking**

**3.5 Weighing of Tournaments**

**3.6 Reporting Requirements of USAGR<sup>™</sup>**

**3.7 Updating and Reporting**

**4.0 Conclusion**



## ***NOW EVERYONE CAN PLAY GOLF***

Copyright © 2019 United States Adaptive Golf Alliance (USAGA)

*This book contains material protected under International Copyright Laws and Treaties.*

*The use of this book does not authorize the user to make electronic copies or paper copies and printouts for their personal use. Any unauthorized reprint or use of this material is prohibited. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without express written permission from the United States Adaptive Golf Alliance (USAGA).*

### **FORWARD**

The United States Adaptive Golf Alliance (USAGA) was formed in 2014 to create a unified structure and voice for the existing disabled golf organizations in the United States allowing them to join together and enhance their shared mission of introducing the game of golf to people with disabilities. The members of USAGA operate autonomously with independent boards and leadership, communicate with each other through the Alliance and work together to promote interest and grow the game for players with disabilities.

Millions of people with disabilities in the United States have been introduced to the game of golf over the last several decades. A percentage of those have “graduated” to an advanced level, having played the game on a regular basis, and even competing in various tournaments for the last 70+ years. However, the “competitive” disabled golf industry has grown without a basic set of unified standards of play.

USAGA felt one of its primary roles in the game was to establish a set of unified competitive standards of play for golfers with disabilities in the United States and to provide competitive pathways to the highest level regardless of an individual player’s geographic location, age, race, gender, skill level or disability type.

After 5 years of effort, research, collaborating with numerous organizations and individuals with multiple decades of experience working with golfers with disabilities, USAGA is proud to present this guidance document, titled ***USAGA Ranking and Competition Standards***, for our wonderful sport so all golfers with disabilities can follow and use these standards as we continue our joint mission of introducing and growing the sport of golf for people with disabilities.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The USAGA Ranking System and Competition Standards would not have been possible without the efforts, research, advice and years of experience of many individuals and organizations too numerous to name, some of which, are no longer alive. Special thanks to the three individuals who contributed to the original production, editing and publishing of this Manual:

Edmund Q. Sylvester, USAGA Chairman

Alan Gentry, USAGA Executive Board Member & Chairman of Committee on Competitions

Mark Johnson, former USAGA Director of Advancement

Additional thanks to the various golf organizations in this country who have worked to introduce our game to people with disabilities, especially the following:

	<b><u>Founded</u></b>
• U.S. Blind Golf Association	1953
• National Amputee Golf Association	1960
• Eastern Amputee Golf Association	1987
• Midwestern Amputee Golf Association	2000
• North American One-Armed Golfer Association	2001
• United States Adaptive Golf Alliance	2014
• United States Disabled Golf Association	2016

Thanks to the USGA, our national and rules governing body of Golf in the United States, and the Royal & Ancient (R&A), the oldest governing body of Golf in the world, for their work and adoption of the Rules Modifications for Players with Disabilities. Thanks also to the National Alliance for Accessible Golf (NAAG) for its continued research & efforts in improving access to the game and promoting golf facility compliance in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

And finally, ENORMOUS thanks to the real pioneers and leaders of adaptive golf in the United States, who persevered for decades on shoestring budgets, providing countless volunteer hours of instruction, inspiration and opportunity to golf for people with disabilities, because they had a passion for the mission, namely USBGA, NAGA, EAGA, MWAGA, WAGA, SAGA, MAGA, NAOAGA, FGA, Ray Rice and Chris Maled Memorials, and Amputee Golf Charities, among many others.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The USAGA Ranking and Competition Standards publication is described in the following pages and consists of published standards of guidance for:

- Player eligibility
- Divisional sport classification based on disability type
- Competition yardage range standards based on sport classification
- Event accreditation process, and
- Establishing a competitive pathway to the highest level through a national ranking system and a valuable exemption structure to the USAGA International Para-Golf Championship

The standards are effective immediately for Member Chapter organizations of USAGA. USAGA representatives are available to assist any and all member organizations, and all prospective member organizations, who wish to participate and share in our mission.

## 2.0 ELIGIBILITY & CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

### 2.1 Player Eligibility

The USAGA aligns its eligibility criteria with the published eligible impairment types of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The IPC has established 10 eligible impairments that qualify for participation:

**Impaired muscle power:** Reduced force generated by muscles or muscle groups, such as muscles of one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused, for example, by spinal cord injuries, spina bifida or polio.

**Impaired passive range of movement:** Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently, for example due to arthrogyrosis. Hypermobility of joints, joint instability, and acute conditions, such as arthritis, are not considered eligible impairments.

**Limb deficiency:** Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident), illness (e.g. bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia).

**Leg length difference:** Bone shortening in one leg due to congenital deficiency or trauma.

**Short stature:** Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk, for example due to achondroplasia or growth hormone dysfunction.

**Hypertonia:** Abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch,

due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.

**Ataxia:** Lack of co-ordination of muscle movements due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.

**Athetosis:** Generally characterised by unbalanced, involuntary movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture, due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.

**Visual impairment:** Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or the visual cortex.

**Intellectual Impairment:** A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills, which originates before age 18.

## **2.2 Player Classification**

**In accordance with eligibility standards recognized by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), USAGA will classify golfers with disabilities based upon the following definitions:**

### **2.2.1 Golfers with lower limb impairments:**

**Sport Class G1:** The golfers have an impairment affecting one leg, for example an amputation above the knee. They may use a prosthesis or golf on one leg.

**Sport Class G2:** Golfers in this sport class include those with impairments in the lower parts of one leg, but with less impact on golfing compared to G1. Typical examples are amputations above the ankle or loss of muscle control in one leg or leg length difference.

**Sport Class G3:** This sport class includes golfers with an impairment in both legs, such as muscle weakness in both legs or double amputation.

### **2.2.2 Golfers with arm impairments:**

**Sport Class G4:** The golfers in this sport class have impairments affecting one arm and either 1) do not use any golf aide or adaptive device to connect to the club, or 2) do not intentionally use the impaired arm when initiating a stroke through striking the ball. At the initiation of the stroke through striking of the ball, there can only be one intentional point of contact on the club. All golfers in this category, must play every stroke during a round of golf with one arm - any aid from an artificial appliance, prosthetic, or part of the impaired arm is not allowed. This category includes limb deficiency, impaired passive range of motion and impaired muscle power related to the arm.

**Sport Class G5:** The golfers in this sport class have impairments affecting one arm and either 1) use a golf aide or adaptive device to connect to the club or 2) use the impaired arm at any time in the swing between when initiating a stroke through striking the ball. At the initiation of the stroke through striking the ball, this class is allowed to have two points of intentional contact on the club while striking the ball for any stroke during a round of golf. This category includes limb deficiency, impaired passive range of motion and impaired muscle power related to the arm.

**Sport Class G6:** This sport class is designated for athletes with impairments in both arms that prohibit them full use of the golf club. Golfers, for example, have missing hands or cannot grip firmly the club properly. Therefore, you may see them using an adaptive golf tool.

### **2.2.3 Golfers with combined impairments in arms and legs:**

**Sport Class G7:** This sport class is designed for golfers who have an impairment in arms and legs. Some of the G7 golfers have mild coordination problems in all extremities. Others have amputations affecting at one arm and one leg.

**Sport Class G8:** Athletes with Neurological Conditions and Coordination Impairments. Abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch, lack of coordination of muscle movements, unbalanced, involuntary movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.

### **2.2.4 Seated Golfers:**

#### **Seated Golfers:**

All seated-golfers that have an impairment affecting their body in which they use a Paramobile device to compete. They are allocated different sport classes depending on their trunk control, which is very important for golf.

**Sport Class G9:** Golfers have an impairment that limits their leg and trunk function. They would be unable to sit without supporting himself or herself with the arms, for example due to paraplegia.

**Sport Class G10:** Golfers in this sport class have near to normal trunk control.

### **2.2.5 Golfers with Visual Impairments**

**Sport Class G11:** These athletes have a very low visual acuity and/or no light perception.

**Sport Class G12:** Athletes have a higher visual acuity/ higher than athletes competing in the G11 sport class & a visual acuity higher than 20/600 with some light perception.

**Sport Class G13:** Athletes have the least severe visual impairment eligible for Paralympic sport. They have the highest visual acuity and/or a visual field of less than 20 degrees radius. To ensure safety all G11 & G12 golfers must use a caddy, while a G13 may use a caddy.

**2.2.6 Short In Stature**

**Sport Class G14 -** Athletes with short stature compete in this sport class\_

**2.3 Distance Allowances**

Golfers with disabilities often play the game differently due to varying physical limitations and may compete from a yardage distance based on their type (and/or level) of disability. USAGA classifies golfers with disabilities into one of fourteen defined sport classes and recommends they compete from within the following distance ranges for each of those impairments.

*USAGA recognizes that many golfers with disabilities play the game for recreational and other therapeutic reasons; and, therefore, is supportive of decisions made at the individual tournament level that may help promote the 2011 Tee it Forward Initiative jointly published by the PGA of America and the USGA.*

The recommended distance requirement by classification for Men is defined as below:

Class	Description	4,800 - 5,600 Yds	5,400 – 6,200 Yds	5,800 – 6,600 Yds
<b>G1, G2</b>	Single Leg Impairment			<b>X</b>
<b>G3</b>	Multiple Leg Impairment		<b>X</b>	
<b>G4</b>	Single Arm - Unassisted		<b>X</b>	
<b>G5</b>	Single Arm - Assisted			<b>X</b>
<b>G6</b>	Multiple Arm Impairment		<b>X</b>	
<b>G7</b>	Multiple Arm & Leg Impairment		<b>X</b>	
<b>G8</b>	Neurological Condition and Coordination Impairments		<b>X</b>	
<b>G9, G10</b>	Seated Golfers	<b>X</b>		
<b>G11, G12</b>	Visually Impaired	<b>X</b>		
<b>G13</b>	Visually Impaired		<b>X</b>	
<b>G14</b>	Short of Stature			<b>X</b>

**\*Yardages above are guidelines and provide tournament organizers flexibility to offer distance allowances to players based on their level of ability.**

**The recommended distance requirement by class for the Women is defined as below:**

Class	Description	4,500 – 5,200 Yds	4,800 – 5,500 Yds
<b>G1, G2</b>	Single Leg Impairment		<b>X</b>
<b>G3</b>	Multiple Leg Impairment	<b>X</b>	
<b>G4</b>	Single Arm - Unassisted	<b>X</b>	
<b>G5</b>	Single Arm - Assisted		<b>X</b>
<b>G6</b>	Multiple Arm Impairment	<b>X</b>	
<b>G7</b>	Multiple Arm & Leg Impairment	<b>X</b>	
<b>G8</b>	Neurological Condition and Coordination Impairments	<b>X</b>	
<b>G9, G10</b>	Seated Golfers	<b>X</b>	
<b>G11, G12</b>	Visually Impaired	<b>X</b>	
<b>G13</b>	Visually Impaired	<b>X</b>	
<b>G14</b>	Short in Stature	<b>X</b>	

**\*Yardages above are guidelines and provide tournament organizers flexibility to offer distance allowances to players based on their level of ability.**

If a player wants to compete for an overall tournament championship award in which the overall tournament champion is defined by the player that records the “lowest gross score” for that event, then that player must compete from the longest distance provided by the Tournament Director.

As an alternative approach, the Tournament Organizer or Director may opt to award its overall tournament champion as the player who performs the best as defined by the rating he or she achieves over the course of the event using the USAGA rating methodology explained in Section 3.4 below. If the overall tournament champion is determined by the best “event rating” achieved versus the best “gross score” posted, then all players are eligible for the overall tournament championship award regardless of the distance from which they played.

### **3.0 COMPETITIVE PATHWAYS**

USAGA will establish competitive pathways for all of its players who participate in accredited tournaments regardless of skill level or disability type through the establishment of a ranking system. At the conclusion of the season-ending USAGA International Para-Golf Championship, a United States Para-Golf team will be named and honored by USAGA, and will consist of the top-2 highest-ranked eligible players from each of the 14 Sport Class divisions, as well as the top-2 highest-ranked women, and the top 2 highest-ranked eligible players in the Net Rankings. Details of how this works are explained below.

### **3.1 USAGA Adaptive Golf Ranking (USAGR™) Standards**

The purpose is to create a Ranking System for United States golfers with disabilities compiled from tournaments run by USAGA and its Member Organizations. In the future, this ranking system can be used to create valuable “exemption” status to the season-ending USAGA International Para-Golf Championship.

The USAGA Golf Ranking System (USAGR™), which comprises a men’s and women’s gross and net ranking for golfers with disabilities in the USA, is offered and developed from actual performance at USAGA accredited tournaments following specific incorporation of USAGA standards for their sport class and in compliance with USAGA tournament guidelines.

USAGA and its members offer the most comprehensive and accurate ranking of golfers with disabilities by effectively comparing players’ stroke tournament scores and associated computed ratings from accredited tournaments around the country. For those who may never directly compete against one another, USAGR™ is available to all tournaments for golfers with disabilities hosted by members of USAGA in good standing, and to non-member organizations who choose to join.

### **3.2 Coverage & Inclusion**

USAGR™ includes adaptive golfers from around the USA with the ability to participate or are participating in more than 20 national, regional and local tournaments and championships annually. USAGA agrees with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) that athletes with disabilities within a sport should be classified based on their disability impairment to promote fair and equitable competition and avoid the “threat of one-sided and predictable competitions, in which the least-impaired athletes always win.” As a result, USAGA follows “para-sport” protocol by classifying its golfers “by the degree of activity limitation resulting from the impairment,” and has identified and defined 14 different sport classes by which golfers with disabilities are ranked.

### **3.3 Event Certification**

For an event to be sanctioned as an “**Accredited USAGA Tournament**”, it must comply with the following requirements:

#### **3.3.1 Purpose & Location**

Event must be held specifically for golfers with disabilities within the United States on a golf course with an official USGA Course and Slope Rating. Certification of International Events in the future is possible since a universal worldwide handicapping system that directly correlates

to **USAGR™** was recently adopted. However, for 2021, only events within the United States are currently eligible.

### **3.3.2 Participation**

Each sanctioned event must be operated by USAGA or an affiliated Member Organization of USAGA. Non-member organizations may have their events sanctioned by USAGA's Competition Ranking Committee ("CRC") upon signing up for membership.

### **3.3.3 Event Classification**

Each sanctioned event will be classified as either a Level I or Level II event. The USAGA CRC will classify each event into its appropriate "Level" in accordance with its approved event classification protocol. The CRC event classification protocol is created and approved by the CRC, and may be amended on an annual basis by the CRC as necessary.

### **3.3.4 Size of Event**

No specific participant minimums are required for event certification; however, the size and participation level of the event could affect its classification level assigned by the USAGA CRC.

### **3.3.5 General Standard**

Each accredited event should comply with USAGA competition standard(s) and the USGA Rules of Golf, including, when applicable, the Modified Rules of Golf for Players with Disabilities unless an application for deviation is approved by the USAGA's CRC. Each event participant must be classified in accordance with the USAGA Classification Standards by the Tournament Director before submitting posted scores to USAGA for purposes of entering player data into the USAGR™. USAGA will provide compliance assistance when necessary.

### **3.3.6 2021 USAGA Accredited Events - Level Definition**

Each **Accredited Event**, upon certification, is classified by the CRC as a Level I or Level II Event. For 2021, the following events have been certified and classified:

All tournaments hosted by a USAGA Member organization will be a single-weighted, Level II Event. The USAGA International Para-Golf Championship hosted by the USAGA will be the only double-weighted, Level I Event.

The ***United States Adaptive Golf Alliance (USAGA) International Para-Golf Championship*** is the premiere season-ending event used in USAGR™. At the conclusion of the USAGA International Para-Golf Championship, the nation's overall top-ranked male and female golfer for the season will be awarded the ***USAGA Cup***, and a United States team will be named

honoring the top-2 ranked players in each of 14 sport classes, along with the top 2 highest-ranked eligible women and the top 2 highest ranked eligible players in the Net Rankings.

### **3.3.7 Event Certification Process**

Player ratings and associated rankings are generated using USAGR™ from scores posted in all USAGA accredited events that are certified by the CRC. Accredited events will generally use stroke-play format and set classifications based on impairment. The objective of USAGR™ is to rank players by their overall skill level and by individual sport classes, which levels the playing field for all players with disabilities, but also to allow flexibility for individual tournament organizers that may provide tournament awards under flights or divisions that don't necessarily replicate the different sport classes being ranked.

When certifying events, the CRC will confirm that events follow certain USAGA standards. All players with disabilities that meet eligibility criteria will be allowed to compete, regardless of amateur or professional status. The Rules of Golf, governed by the USGA, and, when applicable, the USGA Modified Rules for Players with Disabilities must be followed. Local rule amendments approved by the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Committee due to weather and/or local course conditions are permitted.

Event certification is limited to events scheduled for a minimum of 18 holes. If fewer than 18 holes are played in a particular event, the event is not eligible for certification. "Best-ball" events may be eligible as long as individual scores are properly counted and verified. Cancellation of a round or rounds for reasons of weather, safety, etc., will not necessarily render the event "uncertified."

Only medal play scores are used in USAGR™ from all certified events. Scoring rounds posted in USAGR™ must be 18-hole scores. 9-hole rounds will not be included in the USAGR™ ranking system.

The USAGA's Championship Ranking Committee (CRC) may consider certifications for new events to USAGR™ system at any time. The final certification of any competition as well as the "level" designation will be at the sole discretion of the CRC. All new events must complete a CRC evaluation template and will be evaluated accordingly.

Any professional event that includes players with disabilities, or any event conducted by a national governing body or international federation, may also be included should they meet USAGR™ system criteria.

All rounds played in an accredited event shall be used in the USAGR™ system. In accredited events that have stroke-play qualifiers and match-play finals, only the stroke-play qualifying rounds are used.

## **3.4 Establishing Rankings using USAGR™**

### **3.4.1 Individual Player Inclusion as a Ranked Player**

Competitive scores posted from each player with an eligible disability participating in an accredited event will be used in USAGR™. Eligible players are those considered with a disability or impairment in accordance with the eligibility and classification standards listed in this manual. To be eligible for seasonal ranking awards, a player must have a minimum of seven posted scores from USAGA accredited event(s) within a one-year cycle, in which the final day of the season's cycle is the day of the final round of the season-ending USAGA International Para-Golf Championship.

All posted 18-hole scores will be used from all accredited events regardless of player classification, division or from which tee box the player's division or classification group plays. Each player who records a posted score must finish the 18-hole round in its entirety, with exception to any maximum scoring standards approved by the CRC. To help alleviate pace-of-play concerns and reduce potential adverse situations amongst beginner golfers, the CRC highly recommends that Tournament Directors institute a "double-par" maximum on each hole during their event. Partial scores achieved during any round not completed, for any reason, will not be posted.

### **3.4.2 USAGA Ranking System - USAGR™**

The USAGA will use the following system in defining an overall player rating for each player, and ranking them using USAGR™ in both a gross and net format.

#### **3.4.2.1 Gross Overall Ranking**

A player's current gross **overall ranking** will be established for golfers with disabilities by comparing and ranking, in order, each player's current **Overall Rating (OR)** that is computed using the following equation:

$$\text{OR} = (\text{Sum of all CSRs used}) / \# \text{CSRs posted} = \text{Average CSR posted}$$

Where:

$$\text{CSR} = \text{Competitive Score Rating} = (\text{PS} - \text{CR}) \times (113/\text{SL}) - (\text{EPFA})$$

And:

**PS = Posted Score = actual 18-hole tournament score** posted by player in any accredited event  
**CR = Course Rating** of golf course from tee box player played  
**SL = Slope Rating** of golf course from tee box player played  
**EPFA = Event Performance Factor Adjustment** (only used if necessary – see below)

For every four (4) competitive score ratings (CSRs) earned, the worst rating is removed from the overall rating calculation. Once a player has posted at least seven (7) scores and associated CSRs, the golfer is eligible for seasonal ranking awards. The first posted CSR for every player to start each new season will be the previous year's overall rating for that player.

Please note that the player's Overall Rating (OR) listed in the Ranking System is in units reflective of his or her average CSR, rounded to the nearest tenth. The lower the number, the better the player rating.

### **3.4.2.2 Event Performance Factor Adjustment (EPFA)**

An "Event Performance Factor Adjustment (EPFA)" is applied when the average player rating achieved from a particular round is significantly above a normal expected player-rating range most likely due to factors not measured by Course and Slope Ratings (e.g. inclement weather or tougher-than-normal course conditions). Therefore, when tougher-than-normal conditions generate player ratings high enough to trigger a necessary rating adjustment, a calculated value for EPFA is simply inserted into the equation and subtracted from the actual player rating achieved for that posted score.

The EPFA is always "0" unless the ***actual average player rating earned among "previously-rated" players in a given round (AAPR)*** exceeds the ***average rating of all "previously-rated" players in the event (ARPR)*** by 10% or more. "***Previously-rated***" is defined by the player's current overall rating prior to the start of the round.

If the event's actual average player rating for previously-rated players (AAPR) does exceed the average rating of all previously-rated players (ARPR) in the event by 10% or more for a given round, then the rating computed for that particular round will be adjusted for each player by subtracting an amount equal to the percentage of the variance amount above the 10% limit, referred to as the Percent Variance (PV), multiplied by the actual player rating achieved (APR). The equation to compute the EPFA for "each" player is shown below:

$$\text{EPFA} = \text{APR} \times \text{PV}$$

where

**APR** = Actual Player Rating earned by each player from Round before applying EPFA  
**PV** = Percent of Variance of the Actual Player Rating above the Event Upper Limit (see below)

And

$$PV = ((APR - UL)/UL)$$

where

**UL** (Upper Limit) = 10% above the average rating of previously-rated players (**ARPR**), and  
**UL** = 1.1 x **ARPR**

where

**ARPR** = Average Player Rating of all Previously-Ranked Players in the Event

**Example:**

**Player A and Player B** compete in an event under difficult conditions and, like most of the other players, both shoot a score that is considerably higher than they normally shoot. The event has 12 players participating in it who were previously rated, with an average player rating of 16.2 (ARPR). The average player rating earned that day (APR) for those 12 previously-ranked players was actually 19.2, which is 3.0 above the ARPR of 16.2. Since 19.2 is above the Upper Limit (UL) of rating variance allowed, which in this case is 17.8 (e.g. 1.1 x 16.2, or 10% higher than the PPR), the player ratings earned in this event on this difficult day will be modified by the Event Performance Factor Adjustment (EPFA).

Using the equations listed above, the exact EPFA for “each” player in the event can then be computed in the following manner:

First, we must compute the Upper Limit of variance allowed (UL):

$$UL = 1.1 \times ARPR = 1.1 \times 16.2 = 17.8$$

With that, we can now compute the Percent Variance above the UL (PV):

$$PV = ((APR - UL)/UL) = (19.2 - 17.8)/17.8 = 0.08$$

Now that we know the PV, we can compute the EPFA for each player by multiplying the PV by the Actual Rating that player earned that day (APR). Assuming Player A earned a 10.0, Player A's rating of 10.0 will be adjusted down by the following amount:

$$Player\ A's\ EPFA = APR \times PV = 10.0 \times 0.08 = 0.8$$

Therefore, Player A's new modified rating after applying his calculated EPFA is:

$$10.0 - 0.8 = \underline{9.2}$$

Similarly, Player B earned a 20.2 APR and using the same methodology, we compute his EPFA to be:

$$20.2 \times .08 = 1.6$$

This adjusts Player B's rating to:

$$20.2 - 1.6 = \underline{18.6}$$

A minimum of 10 event participants must be previously-rated before an EPFA can be applied using this methodology. If an accredited event has less than 10 previously-rated event participants but does have at least 10 event participants with an official USGA Handicap Index, then that accredited event may calculate an EPFA using the alternative method described in the next section below.

### **3.4.2.3 Alternative Method for Calculating EPFA**

An alternative methodology to calculate EPFA may be used **"only"** when an accredited event has less than 10 previously-rated event participants but does have at least 10 event participants with an official USGA Handicap Index. Using this alternative methodology, the EPFA for each player can be calculated using the same process as above with the exception of the **alternative percent variance (PVa)** is computed using an **average course handicap for those with a USGA Handicap Index (ACH)** in place of an **average player rating of all previously-ranked players (ARPR)** AND the **alternate upper limit variance (ULa)** is 20% (1.2) versus 10%. The EPFAa using the alternative approach is calculated from the following equations:

$$EPFAa = APR \times PVa$$

$$PVa = ((APR - ULa)/ULa)$$

$$ULa = 1.2 \times ACH$$

This alternative methodology may be used only when less than 10 event participants have been previously-ranked and 10 or more event participants have a USGA Handicap Index.

### **3.4.2.4 USAGR Net Ranking**

In addition to the Gross Overall Rating described above, USAGR also will provide a Net Ranking for all eligible players with disabilities so that everyone can play and compete on an equal playing field regardless of specific skill level. Since the Net Ranking is a handicap index system, no sport class designations are necessary. Therefore, all players in the Net Ranking system will

cross-compete against each other regardless of age, sport class, division, or tee box from which they play.

**The Net Ranking system will work as follows:**

- For each event, each player will receive an event course handicap (ECH) which is used to calculate a net score for each posted round of the event.
- The player's ECH is determined by taking their current USAGR overall player rating (OR), otherwise referred to as their tournament handicap index (THI), and factoring in the Course Rating and Slope of the tee box from which they will compete from using the same universally accepted equation to determine a course handicap from a USGA Index.
- The ECH will be subtracted from the player's posted score each day to determine the player's Net Score. Subtracting the Course Par from the player's Net Score generates a (-) or (+) number, which is the player's Net Rating for that particular round.
- Each player's Net Rating for each posted round in a particular event is then added to the seasonal master list to generate an updated cumulative Net Ranking.
- Like the Gross Overall Rating, each player will have its worst score of every 4 posted thrown out to compute their overall net rating.

The Net Ranking will then be displayed on the USAGA website after each accredited event and will resemble a Leaderboard, so that each player will be able to clearly view how many shots they are behind or in front of anyone else.

**3.5 Weighting of Tournaments**

Each accredited event is classified by the USAGA CRC as a Level I or Level II event in accordance with the event classifying protocol established by the CRC. All scores posted in Level I events carry double-weighting, meaning they are posted twice and receive two identical CSRs, while single-weighting is applied to all Level II events. For the 2021 season, the season-ending premiere USAGA International Para-Golf Championship is the only Level I event receiving double-weighted status. All other events will be Level II events and are single-weighted.

**3.6 Reporting Requirements of USAGR™**

When an authorized USAGA Ranking official is not present to collect data from a particular accredited event, the Tournament Directors of such accredited events or individuals appointed by them, should follow specific reporting requirements listed below:

- Tournament Directors will directly email official results (scores and other pertinent data) within **24 hours** following the conclusion of their accredited competition to the USAGA "CRC".
- Should USAGA "CRC" need to contact a tournament director for clarification, a reply must be received within seven (7) days or the results may not be included in USAGR™ System.

- If results are sourced from the internet they will be verified against the results provided by the Tournament Director.
- Tournament Directors have 24 hours from the conclusion of their event to return results in order for them to be included in the USAGR™ System. This will ensure that USAGR™ System remains accurate and updated in a timely manner. Players should encourage event results be submitted as soon as the competition concludes.
- If necessary, any amendments to the USAGR™ System will be made upon results entry.

National ranking results will be maintained and posted on USAGA'S website only by the USAGA CRC.

### **3.7 Updating & Reporting**

- In most cases, rankings will be updated within 3 days after completion of each accredited event.
- Rankings will not be weighted by recent play.
- The results of all accredited events are used for ranking purposes, added and incorporated into the national USAGR™ System and made available on USAGA's website.
- The final Rankings for any given year are compiled immediately upon completion of the USAGA International Para-Golf Championship.
- The **USAGA Cup** is awarded to the overall number one ranked female and male players using **USAGR™** upon conclusion of the USAGA International Para-Golf Championship™.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

After years of collaboration with many leaders in the United States competitive and recreational adaptive golf industry, USAGA proudly publishes this **USAGA Ranking and Competition Standards, Version 2.0©** manual. This manual provides guidelines and standards that can be used by organizations running golf events in the United States for golfers with disabilities, allows ALL golfers with disabilities to participate in a fully-inclusive, fair and equitable ranking system and provides a competitive pathway, regardless of disability type, impairment or skill level, for maximum personal achievement.

USAGA believes these standards and ranking system will unite the various organizations across our nation that run events for golfers with disabilities, promote competition at all skill levels and within different sport classes, accurately identify the nation's best players amongst the different sport classes and ultimately improve outreach efforts to carry out the shared mission of introducing more people with disabilities to the wonderful game of Golf.