COVID-19 Rules and Handicapping
Posting Scores and Modifications to the Hole

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced clubs in Virginia and across the country to think outside the box to limit touchpoints both on and off the golf course. Specifically, on the putting green, many clubs have chosen to make modifications to the hole, including raising hole liners above ground level or placing PVC, pool noodles or other objects in the hole so the ball can be more easily removed.

The USGA has put in place a temporary measure to accept scores played under these conditions for handicap purposes using the most likely score guidelines (Rule 3.3 in the Rules of Handicapping), even though the player has not holed out. When using most likely score, the player should consider the number of strokes most likely required to complete the hole, and determine whether the ball would have been holed or not. Most likely score is at the player’s best judgement and should not be used to gain an unfair advantage.

This temporary measure is in effect within the United States until advised otherwise by the USGA.