

GUIDANCE ON THE WHS RULES OF HANDICAPPING AS APPLIED WITHIN GB&I

Version 1.1

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Introduction

This Guidance document provides additional information to support the implementation of WHS in GB&I. It is not a substitute for the WHS Rules of Handicapping and the two documents should be read side by side.

Who Should Read This Document

This Guidance document is aimed primarily for Committees and Officials within Golf Clubs responsible for handicapping and the running of competitions and for Officials of the Regional Associations in GB&I. It will also be helpful to those golfers who wish to have a deeper understanding of handicapping under WHS.

Format

This document is available in downloadable electronic format only. The Guidance sections reflect the order of the Rules within WHS Rules of Handicapping (Effective January 2020) and the numbering reflects the numbering used for the Rules, prefaced with a 'G'. Where specific Guidance does not directly pertain to a Rule of Handicapping, the information is placed at the end of the relevant section. The Contents list below also includes the date of any amendments or additions to the Guidance.

Appendix H details specific guidance on the use of Local Rules to cover adverse course conditions in GB&I; Appendix I gives worked examples of the main calculations used in WHS. Neither of these Appendices directly relate to a specific Rule, Interpretation or Appendix of the WHS Rules of Handicapping. Appendix J provides examples of the treatment of Disqualified Scores.

Document Control

Version	Date	Reason for Change	Approved
1.0	15/09/2020	First Issue	CONGU®
1.1	03/10/2020	Corrected example for Foursomes	CONGU®

Change Descriptions

Version	Item	Description
1.1	1	Course Handicap Calculation for Foursomes (Megan) was incorrect, now corrected.

Reference In this Document	Topic Title	WHS Rule Reference	Updated
Definitions			
G-Def/1	Active and Inactive Seasons	Definitions	
G-Def/2	Authorized Association	Definitions	
G-Def/3	General Play	Definitions	
Rule 1- Purpose And Authorization; Obtaining A Handicap Index			
G1.4a	Joining a Golf Club	1.4a	
G1.4b	Communication Between Golf Clubs	1.4b	
G1.4b/3	Membership of Multiple Golf Clubs in Different Jurisdictions	1.4b/3	
Rule 2- Scores Acceptable For Handicap Purposes			
G2.1	Status of a Marker in an Authorized Competition	2.1	
G2.1/1	Playing Holes in the Order Set by the Committee	2.1/1	
G2.1/2	Scores When Stroke Play and Match Play Played Concurrently	2.1/2	
G2.1/3	Temporary Greens or Tees	2.1/3	
G2.1a (1)	Authorized Formats of Play	2.1a	
G2.1a (2)	Pre-Registration Prior to Play	2.1a	
G2.1a (3)	Withdrawal From a 2 nd or Subsequent Round of a Competition held over more than One Round	2.1a	
G2.1a (4)	Player Disqualified From an Early Round of a Competition held over more than One Round	2.1a	
G2.1b/1	Handicap on the Scorecard	2.1b/1	
G2.1b/2	Disqualified Scores	2.1b/1	
G2.2 (1)	Minimum Number of Holes Played	2.2	
G2.2 (2)	Status of a Play-Off	2.2	
Rule 3 – Adjustment Of Hole Scores			
G3.2/2	Designation of Holes Not Played	3.2/2	
G3.3	Designation of Hole Not Completed in Stroke Play	3.3	
G3.3/1	Meaning of MLS for Handicap Purposes	3.3/1	
Rule 4 – Submitting A Score			
G4.1a	Information Required for Scoring Record	4.1a	
Rule 5 – Handicap Index Calculation			
G 5.1b	The PCC in the 9-Hole Score Differential Calculation	5.1b	
G5.2a (1)	Scores for the Initial Handicap	5.2a	
G5.2a (2)	Initial Handicap for Elite Players	5.2a	
G5.3	Maximum Handicap for Competitions	5.3	
G5.4	Frequency of Handicap Revision when Competitions played over more than One Round	5.4	
G5.5	Treatment of 9-Hole Scores in the Scoring Record	5.5	
G5.6 (1)	Returning Scores from Overseas	5.6	
G5.6 (2)	Scores and the PCC Calculation returned in an Abandoned Competition	5.6	
G5.6/1 (1)	The Playing Conditions Calculation (“The PCC”)	5.6/1	
G5.6/1 (2)	Inclusion of 9-Hole Scores in the PCC Calculation	5.6/1	
G5.6/1 (3)	Overseas Scores in the PCC Calculation	5.6/1	

Reference In this Document	Topic Title	WHS Rule Reference	Updated
Rule 6 – Course Handicap And Playing Handicap Calculation			
G6.2a	Playing Handicap Calculation	6.2a	
G6.2b	Calculation when Multiple Tees are used in a Competition	6.2b	
Rule 7 – Committee Actions			
G7.2b	Dealing with Poor Playing Conditions	7.2b	
Appendix A – Rights And Responsibilities			
GA	Club Responsibility re Acceptable Scores	Appendix A	
Appendix B – Player’s Scoring Record			
GB (1)	Peer Review	Appendix B	
GB (2)	Score Type Designations	Appendix B	
Appendix C – Handicap Allowances			
GC	Handicap Allowances	Appendix C	
GC/1	Handicap Allowances for Small Fields	C/1	
Appendix E – Stroke Index Allocation			
GE	Changing Existing Stroke Index Allocations	Appendix E	
Appendix G – The Golf Course, Course Rating And Slope Rating			
GG	9-Hole Course Ratings	Appendix G	
Appendix H – Local Rules For Adverse Course Conditions			
GH/1	Preferred Lies		
GH/2	Local Rule requiring compulsory use of Fairway Mats		
GH/3	Artificially Surfaced Tees		
GH/4	Local Rule for Lift, Clean and Replace		
GH/5	Local Rule Requiring a ball to be Lifted from the Fairway and Dropped or Placed in the Semi-Rough		
Appendix I – Examples Of Calculations Within WHS			
<u>I</u>	The Handicap Index	5.1b	
<u>II</u>	The Course Handicap and its use in calculating Score Differentials for Handicapping Purposes	5.2a	
<u>III</u>	The Playing Handicap and its use in Stroke Allowances for Competition Purposes – Individual Formats of Play	5.2a	
<u>IV</u>	The Playing Handicap and its use in Stroke Allowances for Competition Purposes – Team Formats of Play	5.3	
Appendix J – Acceptability of Disqualified Scores			
J1	Disqualified Scores Acceptable	2.1b/1	
J2	Disqualified Scores Not Acceptable	2.1b/1	

GDef/1 Active and Inactive Seasons

Active and Inactive seasons are not implemented in GB&I. Golf should be played throughout the year; although for many clubs the course setup may mean that, in winter, scores will not be acceptable for handicap purposes. However, it is expected that all clubs will endeavour to encourage players to return acceptable scores throughout the year where possible.

Guidance is provided for the use of temporary greens and tees in G2.1/3. Further guidance in Appendix H is applicable when adverse course conditions prevail.

Clubs should refer to their National Association for specific guidance on dealing with adverse course conditions.

GDef/2 Authorized Association

In the context of the WHS Definition of Authorized Association:

- CONGU® is a Multi-National Association;
- England Golf, Golf Ireland, Scottish Golf and Wales Golf are all National Associations;
- Counties in England and Wales, Regional Executives in Ireland, Areas and Counties in Scotland are all Regional Associations.

Any delegation of responsibilities to these Regional Associations is at the discretion of the relevant National Association and is subject to any separate guidance given by that National Association.

GDef/3 General Play

Scores for handicap that fall under the term Supplementary Score in the CONGU® Handicapping System are classed as General Play scores in the WHS.

See also G2.1a (1) (Authorized Formats of Play) for guidance on the treatment of scores returned in 'organized competitions' that are not run by the Club Committee.

RULE**1**

Purpose and Authorization; Obtaining a Handicap Index

G1.4a Joining a Golf Club

Currently, golf club membership is the only route to obtaining a WHS handicap in GB&I. The WHS also permits Authorized Associations to directly issue and maintain handicaps and it is for each National Association to determine if and how it would run an alternative system alongside the golf club membership route.

G1.4b Communication between Golf Clubs

When a player is a member of more than one golf club, the clubs are permitted to share information and this may result in an alteration to the player's Handicap Index. Clubs may use this information as required, particularly when considering the Annual Review, General Play adjustments or disciplinary matters.

G1.4b/3 Membership of Multiple Golf Clubs in Different Jurisdictions

There is currently no automatic post-back of scores between different jurisdictions and this facility will not be available in the short to medium term.

If players find themselves residing in different countries (outside of GB&I) for a short period of time (e.g. a holiday) then they should return any scores to their home club as soon as possible to ensure their handicap is updated. This could be on return after the holiday, or by any other facility which exists to do this in a more timely manner. An example of this would be an App which allows such a return to their own jurisdiction.

If the period is of a longer nature (e.g. the player regularly spends a month or more abroad) then they should take with them a copy of the last 20 scores supporting their Handicap Index. The foreign jurisdiction will take this and set up the handicap record locally. Typically in these situations the player is a member of an overseas club in that jurisdiction and plays competitively whilst resident there. At the end of the period away, the player should take a copy of their record whilst residing abroad to allow these scores to be input at their home club and thus adjust their handicap accordingly on the home system. This process will vary depending upon which jurisdiction the player is temporarily resident. The National Union should be able to advise the best approach for a specific country.

RULE**2**

Scores Acceptable for Handicap Purposes

G2.1 Status Of A Marker In An Organized Competition

A person other than a fellow competitor, appointed by the Committee to act as a marker, is not part of the competition. However, at the discretion of the organizing Committee and subject to the other provisions of Rule 2.1, the appointed marker may return a score under General Play.

G2.1/1 Playing Holes In The Order Set By The Committee

Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Golf requires the Committee to define what forms a “round” and the order in which the holes are played: Rule 5.3 covers the starting and ending of the round. Whilst 2.1/1 of the Rules of Handicapping seems to contradict this by stating that playing the course out of order is acceptable for handicapping purposes, it is not a carte blanche for players being able to choose the order in which they play the holes.

In a competition, players playing a round out of order would be subject to DQ if this is not within the Terms of Competition or sanctioned by the Committee either in advance (e.g. through the use of a two-tee start or a shot-gun start) or retrospectively (e.g. to cope with unexpected course conditions). The score would still be processed for handicap purposes.

In General Play, many clubs would find it unacceptable, particularly during busy periods, for players to play the holes in an unexpected order. If clubs consider that the playing of holes out of order would be problematic for traffic management over the course, they should consider having appropriate terms within their Code of Conduct so that players can be subject to internal disciplinary procedures if necessary. The scores would still be processed for handicap purposes.

In GB&I it would be unusual for holes to be played out of order. However, courses often have more than one convenient starting tee. Clubs should ensure that their terms of competition say that Rule 5.1 applies at all times and also state clearly the circumstances under which alternate points can be used

G2.1/2 Scores When Stroke Play And Match Play Are Played Concurrently

The Rules of Golf do not expressly prohibit the playing of a match whilst concurrently playing in a stroke play competition, but the guidance in Committee Procedures 6C (12) discourages such practice. CONGU® concurs with this view and strongly recommends Committees to ensure that their Terms of the Competition make it clear if and when such practice may be

permissible. If such practice is sanctioned, the Rules of the stroke play event must prevail in order for the score to be acceptable for handicapping purposes.

G2.1/3 Temporary Greens or Tees

2.1/3 empowers an Authorized Association to determine the circumstances under which temporary course conditions are acceptable for handicapping purposes.

In this context CONGU® directs that scores are acceptable for handicapping purposes if:

- No more than two temporary greens are in play for an 18-hole round; or
- Only one temporary green is in play for a 9-hole round.

Temporary or alternative tees are acceptable for handicapping purposes but whenever the length of the course has been increased or decreased by virtue of the use of temporary greens and/or tees by more than 100 yards for an 18-hole round or 50 yards for a 9-hole round, the adjustments to the Course Rating and Slope Rating set out in Appendix G of the Rules of Handicapping must be applied.

In addition, an Authorized Association is expected to determine the eligible period when preferred lies may be in operation for acceptable scores to be posted. Guidance on the Local Rules required when adverse course conditions prevail can be found in the Rules of Golf and this is covered in more detail in Appendix H of this document.

G2.1a (1) Authorized Formats of Play

The authorized formats of play that are acceptable for handicap purposes within GB&I are broadly the same as under the CONGU® system. Other countries in the world may have a narrower or wider range of acceptable formats.

Note: It is Ireland's intention to trial the inclusion of some match play events into handicapping and to also include some Four Ball Better-Ball scores in situations where the returned scores are better than a target expectation for this format of play. Golf Ireland will issue details of these provisions in due course.

It is a requirement in GB&I that players pre-register on the day if they wish their scores to be used for handicapping purposes both for competitions and for General Play. Clubs will need to have procedures in place for this, and with increasing computerization of handicapping they may find that their software will have an inbuilt pre-registration facility.

WHS requires that rounds in 'organized competitions' in an acceptable format are considered to have been pre-registered. This raises the question as to what comprises an 'organized competition'? The term is broader than would previously have been considered by most clubs and players. Under WHS, for example, regular informal competitions, often organized as roll-ups or society events, would now fall into this category. Players have a responsibility to ensure that their scores from such events are returned to their home clubs.

Clubs that regularly hold such events may well find that setting them up as competitions on the computer will make it easier for players to ensure that their scores are returned correctly.

G2.1a (2) Pre-Registration Prior To Play

In GB&I it is a requirement that all rounds for handicapping purposes (other than those used for the Initial Handicap Award) must be pre-registered either through the computer software or manually. Entering a competition or being named in a draw or a booking system is not in itself pre-registration. Registration must be confirmed on the day itself in the manner prescribed by the club/Committee.

A round has not started until the player has teed off; and any player who for whatever reason does not start his/her round after pre-registering must be removed from the event and must not have a score posted on his/her handicap record.

Players who start a round but who do not play the minimum number of holes required may be subject to a penalty score (Rule 7.1b).

Players who withdraw after pre-registration without a valid reason acceptable to the Committee could, depending on the particular circumstances, be subject to disciplinary sanctions under the Terms of the Competition or Code of Conduct.

In submitting General Play scores, players must ensure that they do not breach Rule 5.2 (Practice) of the Rules of Golf.

G2.1a (3) Withdrawal From a 2nd or Subsequent Round of a Competition Held Over More Than One Round

Regardless of the reason, a player who does not start the 2nd or subsequent round of a competition must not be included in that round and must not have any adjustment made to his/her handicap as a result of the round not played.

G2.1a (4) Player Disqualified From An Early Round of a Competition Held Over More Than One Round

Depending on the Terms of the Competition and at the discretion of the Committee a player who has been disqualified from an early round of a competition held over more than one round, or who has failed to post a score, may play in subsequent round(s). His/her subsequent score must be included in the PCC and the score is considered as a competition score.

G2.1b/1 Handicap On The Scorecard

To avoid a DQ under Rule 3.3b (4) of the Rules of Golf the player must put his/her Course Handicap on the scorecard (see Interpretation 3.3b (4)/1 of the Rules of Golf). This is expressed as an integer and represents the number of strokes the player receives for handicap purposes for both Competition scores and General Play returns.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to apply the handicap allowance for any stroke play competition; in practice this will be done by the software. Players need to be able to access their Handicap Index and then refer to a relevant look-up table to obtain their Course Handicap for the tees used.

Whilst not mandatory, CONGU® recommend that space for the Handicap Index and Playing Handicap is also on the scorecard.

For multi-tee or mixed-tee competitions the Handicap Allowance may include additional strokes for players who play from the tees with the higher Course Ratings. Players should be aware that under these circumstances any additional strokes they receive could affect when they pick up on a hole in certain formats, for example Stableford or Par/Bogey.

G2.1b/2 Disqualified Scores

Appendix J in this document provides a description of Disqualification Situations where the score may or may not be used as an Acceptable Score for handicap purposes.

G2.2 (1) Minimum Number of Holes Played

A *For the Initial Handicap Index*

In GB&I a minimum number of 54 holes must be played in order to be awarded a Handicap Index; either complete 9-hole or complete 18-hole rounds, or a combination of these, can be used to make up these 54 holes. For the purpose of the initial award of a Handicap Index two 9-hole scores are combined. The maximum hole score for new golfers is par +5 strokes, and holes not completed or scoring above this will be adjusted to par + 5.

B *When the player holds a WHS Handicap Index*

For a score to be acceptable as a 9-hole score, all holes of the measured 9-hole course must have been played. 9-hole scores are scaled up to an 18-hole equivalent gross differential as set out in Rule 5.1b.

For a score to be acceptable as an 18-hole score at least 10 holes of the measured course must have been played. Scores of between 10 and 17 holes are scaled up to an 18-hole equivalent gross differential in accordance with Rule 3.2.

G2.2 (2) Status of a Play-Off

When a play-off is used to decide the winner of a stroke play competition that round, regardless of the number of holes played, is not acceptable for handicapping purposes.

Exception: In the event of an 18-hole play-off on a day subsequent to the original competition a player may elect to register his/her round as a General Play round subject to all other conditions of Rule 2.1 being met.

RULE**3**

Adjustment of Hole Scores

G3.2/2 Designation of Holes not Played

Players need to ensure that they clearly mark their card when a hole has not been commenced. It is advised that NS is entered on any hole that is not played (not started).

G3.3 Designation Of Hole Not Completed In Stroke Play

A player must ensure that they mark on their card any hole that is not completed in a Stroke Play round. This can be by writing NR, a dash or zero for the hole, but must be able to distinguish between this and a hole not played at all.

G3.3/1 Meaning of Most Likely Score (“MLS”) for Handicap Purposes

Whilst not in general use in GB&I, Ireland are trialling its use so clubs and players should be aware of this provision should they play overseas or in Ireland. The full details are taken from Interpretation 3.3/1 (included in the Rules for jurisdictions that use MLS).

Scores returned in match play or four-ball formats are Acceptable Scores in some Jurisdictions. In such situations there is a need for calculating a ‘Most Likely Score’ when a player starts a hole but does not hole out. For example:

- The result of the hole has already been decided,
- A hole has been conceded,
- A player’s partner has already posted a better score in a four-ball format and the player picks up, or
- A player has already reached their net double bogey limit on a specific hole.

When a player starts a hole but does not hole out for a valid reason, subject to other provisions set out within the Rules of Handicapping, the player must record their most likely score or net double bogey, whichever is lower, as appropriate for the situation and depending on the format of play.

The most likely score is:

The number of strokes already taken to reach a position on a hole, plus any penalty strokes incurred to that point, plus the number of strokes the player would most likely require to complete the hole from that position.

Most likely scores should be determined on any hole in accordance with the following guidelines:

Position of the ball	Strokes to be added
If the ball lies on the putting green, no more than 5 feet (1.5 metres) from the hole:	Add one additional stroke.
If the ball lies between 5 feet (1.5 meters) and 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole:	Add 2 or 3 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player.
Beyond 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole:	Add 3 or 4 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player.

There is no limit to the number of most likely scores that can be submitted within a player's score, provided that the failure to hole out is for a valid reason and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage.

RULE
4

Submitting a Score

G4.1a Information Required For Scoring Record

Rule 4.1a sets out the details that need to be recorded. In terms of requirement (ii) the National Associations in GB&I require scores to be entered as hole-by-hole scores rather than as total scores for the round. In most situations as far as the player is concerned he/she will simply enter the gross score/no score/hole not played for each hole into the computer via a touch screen or App on a mobile device. The software will make any necessary adjustments to calculate the adjusted gross score that will appear on the scoring record.

The Rule also sets out a number of other requirements expressed as 'should' and this represents best practice. It is recognized that world-wide some countries and their players may not always be able to post scores in the optimum way. In GB&I the software has been designed to ensure that best practice can be attained readily, and for rounds played within GB&I only rarely will clubs and players be unable to comply.

When scores are returned from outside GB&I, the PCC for the day can be obtained via the Authorized Association's website.

RULE
5

Handicap Index Calculation

G5.1b The PCC in the 9-Hole Score Differential Calculation

Although a 9-hole score is scaled up to an 18-hole adjusted gross score, only half of any PCC adjustment is used when calculating the Score Differential that appears in the scoring record. This is to maintain the neutral position of the scaling up process and also avoids the possibility of doubling the effect of the PCC when 9-hole scores are combined for initial handicap allocation.

G5.2a (1) Scores for the Initial Handicap

Scores for initial handicap purposes can be submitted from any measured course at the discretion of the Home Club Handicap Committee.

Complete 9-hole or 18-hole rounds must be played. For the purpose of the initial award of a Handicap Index two 9-hole scores are combined. The maximum hole score for new golfers is par +5 strokes, and holes not completed or scoring above this will be adjusted to par + 5.

There is no requirement for players to pre-register prior to playing a round that is used to determine the Initial Handicap.

Scores for the initial handicap must be marked by a person acceptable to the Home Club Handicap Committee.

G5.2a (2) Initial Handicap for Elite players

If the scores submitted for an initial handicap indicate a handicap of 0.0 or lower for a man or 2.0 or lower for a woman the club must follow the guidance and procedures issued by its National Association before any Handicap Index is awarded.

G5.3 Maximum Handicap Index for Competitions

When setting maximum (or minimum) handicaps for entry to or use in competitions, clubs are strongly recommended to use the Handicap Index as the criterion rather than the Course Handicap or Playing Handicap. This is because players are more likely to already know their Handicap Index or can obtain it online more easily than they are their Course Handicap or Playing Handicap, particularly when entering Open competitions.

G5.4 Frequency Of Handicap Revision When Competitions Are Played Over More Than One Round

When a player plays in more than one competition on a single day, or in a 36-hole competition on one day, his/her handicap will not be automatically re-calculated between rounds. In framing the Terms of Competition played over more than one round, the following guidelines are recommended:

1. In a competition such as a 36-hole competition played on the same day or over a number of days within a short period of time, the handicap of a player applying at the beginning of a competition shall apply throughout the duration of the competition. CONGU® strongly recommends that 'a short period of time' be interpreted as being on the same or consecutive days and that anything else represents 'an extended period of time'.
2. In a competition where individual rounds of a competition are over an extended period of time and there has been the opportunity to compete in other unrelated competitions between rounds, a player must play from the handicap current at the time of entry for each of the individual rounds of the competition. This would apply, for example, in a competition where a prize is awarded for:
 - (a) the best net aggregate in the Spring, Summer and Autumn meetings each of which was a separate competition in its own right; or
 - (b) the best net aggregate in a specified number of monthly competitions.
3. In a match play competition in which the rounds are played on consecutive days to establish a winner, the original handicap index applies throughout the competition.
4. In a match play competition in which the individual rounds have a 'to be played by' date over an extended period of time, the current handicap index applies throughout the competition at the time of each match play round.

G5.5 Treatment of 9-Hole Scores in the Scoring Record

In GB&I, once a player has been awarded a Handicap Index, the combining of two 9-hole scores into a single 18-hole score is not applicable; each 9-hole score is scaled up to an 18-hole equivalent gross differential and included as an independent score in the player's scoring record.

G5.6 (1) Returning Scores From Overseas

Scores submitted from outside GB&I must be returned by the player to his/her home club as soon as possible after the round along with the PCC for the day played (available from the host club or the Authorized Association website). This score can then be added to the players' record.

G5.6 (2) Scores And PCC Calculation Returned In Abandoned Competitions

Scores returned from an abandoned competition will be entered into a player's handicap record as usual, with Net Par and Net Double Bogey adjustments made to the gross score as required. If it is decided to calculate a separate PCC for rounds played for part of the day, then the committee will use the software provided to indicate which scores are to be included. The Handicap Index calculation for those players will utilize the separate PCC rather than the PCC for the day.

G5.6/1 (1) The Playing Conditions Calculation ('The PCC')

Although the PCC calculation generates adjustments that are similar to those generated by the CONGU® CSS calculation, the method of the calculation is different and can only be performed within the handicapping software. Interpretation 5.6/1 outlines the broad methodology, and Committees are not in a position to make this calculation.

G5.6/1 (2) Inclusion of 9-hole Scores in the PCC Calculation

In contrast to the CSS calculation, 9-hole scores are included in the PCC calculation; the 9-hole scores being doubled (not scaled up) to get equivalent values for 18 holes. The resulting PCC adjustment is, however, halved when applied to the adjusted gross differential calculation for the 9-hole score (see G-5.1b/1).

Scores returned when 10 to 17 holes have been played are scaled up for the purposes of the handicap index calculation and are subject to any PCC, however these scores are not themselves included in the PCC calculation.

G5.6/1 (3) Overseas Scores in the PCC Calculation

The PCC calculation in GB&I will include only scores played in formats that are authorized in GB&I (see Rule 2.1). General Play scores from overseas players will only be included in the PCC calculation if the players have played in a format authorized in GB&I and all other conditions for an acceptable score in GB&I have been met.

RULE**6**

Course Handicap and Playing Handicap Calculation

G6.2a Playing Handicap Calculation.

For some National Associations, it is recommended for practical application that the Course Handicap used in the Playing Handicap calculation is the rounded integer value and not the full calculated CH value, as this is not accessible to the player without access to the complete calculation. This application will be consistent across all competition formats including 9-hole and multi-tee events. Compared to using the full calculated CH value, this recommendation will only affect the outcome of the competition results, having no effect on the outcome of the calculation of the players handicap.

For other National Associations, the Course Handicap used in the Playing Handicap calculation will be the full calculated CH value, as it is expected that the player will always have ready access to an App or other software to generate the Course Handicap rather than be expected to perform the Playing Handicap calculation themselves.

Committees and players should follow the advice of their National Association in the use of the integer or full calculated Course Handicap in the calculation of the Playing Handicap. **For GB&I, England, Wales and Ireland will be using the Rounded Course Handicap, whilst Scotland will be using the full calculated Course Handicap.**

G6.2b Calculation When Multiple Tees Are Used in a Competition

When calculating mixed tee stroke allowances for a Stableford or Par/Bogey competition, the term 'Playing to Handicap' refers to the rounded Course Handicap.



Committee Actions

G7.2a Permitting Players to Play From a Lower Handicap Than Their Entitlement When a Handicap Limit on Entry is in Place

Though contrary to the spirit of handicapping and not recommended, this practice is permitted. However, the full Course Handicap must be used for handicapping purposes and the restricted handicap is simply for competition result purposes.

G7.2b Dealing with Poor Playing Conditions

Rule 7.2b empowers a Committee, subject to the agreement of the National Association, to suspend the submission of scores for handicapping purposes if it considers course conditions to be exceptionally poor. There are Local Rules that can be implemented in mitigation to enable the posting of Acceptable Scores to continue and these are detailed in Appendix H.

APPENDIX
A-G

Appendices in the Rules of Handicapping

GA (Appendix A) Club Responsibility re Acceptable Scores

Clubs are strongly encouraged to ensure that, whenever possible, competitions run in an authorized format are considered as pre-registered for use as an Acceptable Score for handicapping purposes.

GB (1) (Appendix B) Peer Review

In this context the term 'peer' refers to other golfers and club members. Peers may, if they have cause, raise concerns with the Handicap Committee about a posted score of another player or about the ability of a player compared with his/her allocated Handicap Index. Such concerns must be raised directly with the Handicap Committee of the player concerned and it is then the responsibility of Committee to investigate and identify if any further action is required. Note that the full handicap record of a fellow club member will be available for all members to review, otherwise a short version of the record will be available.

GB (2) (Appendix B) 5. Score Type Designations

The codes used in GB&I in the full version of the Handicap Record to identify the score type and format of play are:

Type:	C – Competition, G – General Play, N – 9-hole score
Format:	S – Stroke play, M – Match play
Location:	H – Home, A – Away
Other Score type:	I- Incomplete round, E – Exceptional score, P – Penalty Score, A – Handicap Adjustment

GC (Appendix C) Handicap Allowances

The WHS Handicap Index calculation, by design, provides equity for singles match play. The 95% allowance is needed to provide equity for singles stroke play, as this must also take into account the probability of a steady golfer gaining a leader board position.

The National Associations within CONGU® have determined that allowances set out in the table in Appendix C are **mandatory**.

GC/1 (Appendix C/1) Handicap Allowance for Small Fields

The recommendation to increase the allowance to 100% for field sizes of fewer than 30 players is **not** being adopted in GB&I. The allowance for single stroke play events is 95% regardless of the field size.

GE (Appendix E) Stroke Index Allocation

The WHS has established a new process for the designation of stroke indices. Clubs are not required to change their current SI allocation.

As the values needed to carry out the calculation are not publicly available, Clubs should contact their National Association for information and guidance when considering changes to their SI allocation in the future.

GG (Appendix G) The Golf Course, Course Rating and Slope Rating

As a consequence of the Course Rating process holes 1-9 and holes 10-18 are measured courses in their own right, in addition to any other CONGU® Designated 9-hole courses.



Local Rules for Adverse Weather Conditions

This section contains guidance for clubs in GB&I on the Local Rules that may be required, particularly during the winter months, to enable Acceptable Scores to be returned when course conditions are not ideal.

The use of preferred lies promotes fair play for players when fairway surfaces are patchy, wet without standing water, or muddy, whilst the use of fairway mats and artificially surfaced teeing areas helps to protect natural surfaces from damage or be rested.

Clubs are encouraged to use these provisions to enable players to return scores for competitions and for handicapping purposes, whenever practicable, during the Preferred Lie period.

Each National Association in GB&I defines the preferred lie period for its jurisdiction, this being the months of the year during which clubs may implement Local Rules for the use of preferred lies and fairway mats without specific permission (subject to G-App H/1 and G-App H/2 below). Clubs which consider that such Local Rules are warranted outside of this preferred lie period must seek specific permission as detailed by their own National Association.

GH/1 Preferred Lies

When a club determines that conditions warrant the implementation of preferred lies within the preferred lie period it must refer to the Rules of Golf Model Local Rule E-3 of the Committee Procedures.

Scores returned when preferred lies are in operation will be valid as Acceptable Scores only when a Local Rule has been made and published in accordance with Rules of Golf Model Local Rule E-3 of the Committee Procedures as follows:

“When a player’s ball lies in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less [or identify a specific area such as ‘on the fairway of the 6th hole’], the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this *relief area*:

Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.

Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: **6 inches** from the reference point, but with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
- Must be in the general area.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b (2) and 14.2e.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a; if a player incurs the general penalty for a breach of this Local Rule, no additional penalty under the Local Rule is applied.”

Note: In GB&I Acceptable Scores may be returned only when the specified area is within six inches (15cms).

Such a Local Rule may be applied to the course or to specific part(s) of the course and the Local Rule should be withdrawn as soon as conditions allow. The Local Rule should not be implemented or withdrawn once play has commenced on any given day as not all players would gain the same benefit from its use.

The use of this Local Rule outside the fairway in the general area is not recommended as it may result in a player receiving free relief from areas where a ball might otherwise be unplayable (such as in areas of bushes or trees). Scores returned under such a provision would not be Acceptable Scores for handicapping purposes.

When a club considers that adverse conditions warrant an extension of the preferred lie period to all, or part, of the course, representations should be made by the Club to the National Association in accordance with its guidelines.

To ensure a consistent judgement in regard to extension of the preferred lie period it is desirable that an official of the appropriate National Association should conduct an on-course inspection, where practicable, before authorization is granted.

GH/2 Local Rule Requiring Compulsory Use Of Fairway Mats

Acceptable Scores may be returned in Competitions and in General Play when there is a Local Rule requiring the compulsory use of fairway mats provided:

- their use is restricted to the preferred lie period (period as directed by the National Association);
- all other requirements for an Acceptable Score (Rule 2.1) have been satisfied;
- a Local Rule for the use of fairway mats has been set out in the Terms of Competition;
- the mat is not to be used for strokes made with a putter.

The suggested wording is:

“When a player’s ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less and a putter is not being used for the stroke, the ball must be lifted, placed on and played from an Astroturf, or similar type of, mat. The mat must be placed as near as possible to where the ball originally lay, and the ball must be placed on the mat. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

If a ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed. If the player accidentally causes the ball on the mat to move before a stroke is made, there is no penalty and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

If a tee is used to secure the mat into the ground, the ball must not be placed on the tee.”

GH/3 Artificially Surfaced Tees

Acceptable Scores may be returned when artificially surfaced tees are in use provided:

- the artificial tees are located at positions that relate to a Measured Course or the altered course has been allocated a Course Rating and Slope by the National Association or Regional Association if so delegated; and
- all other requirements for an Acceptable Score (Rule 2.1) have been satisfied.

Although artificially surfaced tees do not generally satisfy the two club-lengths in depth requirement in the Rules of Golf definition of a teeing ground, in such circumstances it is considered that the spirit of the Rule is being honored and that Acceptable Scores can be returned both in competitions and general play.

GH/4 Local Rule for Lift, Clean and Replace

Acceptable Scores are permitted when the Local Rule (Model Local Rule E2) allowing cleaning of the ball in the General Area is in place.

GH/5 Local Rule Requiring A Ball To Be Lifted From The Fairway And Dropped or Placed In The Semi-Rough

The introduction of a Local Rule permitting lifting the ball from the fairway and dropping or placing into the semi-rough (first cut), in order to protect the fairway, is not acceptable for handicap purposes. Such a procedure is not within the Rules of Golf. An alternative solution for fairway protection is required for an Acceptable Score such as the use of preferred lies or fairway mats.

Examples of Calculations within WHS

The main aim of this Appendix is to give those involved in administering handicaps and running competitions in GB&I some examples of the calculations that they may encounter as they implement WHS. For the most part these calculations will be performed by computer software and players will accept the outcome without the need (or inclination) to understand the underlying mathematics. Nevertheless, there will be occasions when players question an outcome and will seek answers from Committee members. Also some players may have a genuine interest in a deeper understanding of the underlying calculations. Note that the examples use the Rounded Course Handicap approach being used in England, Wales and Ireland. For Scotland the full Course Handicap will be used, but is not shown in the examples.

The Appendix is divided into four main parts:

- I. The Handicap Index
- II. The Course Handicap and its use in Calculating Score Differentials for Handicapping Purposes
- III. The Playing Handicap and its use in Stroke Allowances for Competition Purposes – Individual Formats of Play
- IV. The Playing Handicap and its use in Stroke Allowances for Competition Purposes – Team Formats of Play

I The Handicap Index

A. Initial Handicap Index Calculation

- To obtain a WHS Handicap Index for the first time a player must submit acceptable scores (Rule 2.1) from a minimum of 54 holes (Rule 4.5). In practice this may be any combination of 9-hole and 18-hole rounds and the scores must be submitted as hole-by-hole gross scores (Rule 4.1b).
- The gross score for any hole that is more than Par+5 strokes is adjusted to a maximum of Par + 5 strokes (Rule 3.1a). The result is the Adjusted Gross Score.
- The Score Differential that will be placed in the player's handicap record is calculated for an 18-hole round as set out in Rule 5.1a.
- For a 9-hole score, the 9-hole Score Differential is calculated as in Rule 5.1b (the Rule for scaling up 9-hole scores); and the Course Rating and Slope Rating used are those for the 9-hole course played. However, the resulting 9-hole Score Differential for an initial handicap cannot be used on its own or scaled up, but must be combined with the next 9-hole Score Differential to create an 18-hole Score Differential (G-2.2/1). This is the only

time 9-hole scores are combined: once a player has gained a Handicap Index any subsequent 9-hole scores are immediately scaled up to an 18-hole score.

- The Initial Handicap Index is calculated as set out in the table in Rule 5.2., based on the 54 holes played. It will be the lowest Score Differential minus 2 strokes.

Example

John has joined a golf club for the first time. His club has two measured 18-hole courses – the North and the South. The 9th and 10th holes of each are close to the clubhouse and so there are four measured 9-holes courses starting from the 1st and 10th holes of both the North and the South courses. John’s first 54 holes are:

Round	Course	Tee	9 or 18 holes	CR/Slope	Adjusted Gross Score	Daily PCC
1	South	White	Front 9	36.2 / 144	50	+1
2	South	Yellow	18 holes	71.5 / 138	101	-1
3	North	White	Front 9	34.7 / 129	49	+2
4	North	White	Front 9	34.7 / 129	45	0
5	South	Yellow	Back 9	36.2 / 135	58	+2

Calculating the Score Differentials:

Round 1

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Score Differential} &= (113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - (0.5 \times \text{PCC})) \\ &= (113 \div 144) \times (50 - 36.2 - (0.5 \times 1)) \\ &= 10.4 \end{aligned}$$

Round 2

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Score Differential} &= (113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - \text{PCC}) \\ &= (113 \div 138) \times (101 - 71.5 - (-1)) \\ &= 25.0 \end{aligned}$$

Round 3

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Score Differential} &= (113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - (0.5 \times \text{PCC})) \\ &= (113 \div 129) \times (49 - 34.7 - (0.5 \times 2)) \\ &= 11.7 \end{aligned}$$

Round 4

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Score Differential} &= (113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - (0.5 \times \text{PCC})) \\ &= (113 \div 129) \times (45 - 34.7 - (0.5 \times 0)) \\ &= 9.0 \end{aligned}$$

Round 5

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Score Differential} &= (113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - (0.5 \times \text{PCC})) \\ &= (113 \div 135) \times (58 - 36.2 - (0.5 \times 2)) \\ &= 17.4 \end{aligned}$$

The Score Differentials from rounds 1 and 3 and those from rounds 4 and 5 are combined to give the following 18-hole values:

$$\text{Rounds 1\&3 } 10.4 + 11.7 = 22.1$$

$$\text{Round 2 } 25.0$$

$$\text{Rounds 4 \& 5 } 9.0 + 17.4 = 26.4$$

Rule 5.2a contains the table that is used to determine the Handicap Index when there are fewer than 20 scores in the handicap record. John has three scores in his record and his initial handicap index will be his lowest Score Differential minus a 2 stroke adjustment i.e. $22.1 - 2.0 = 20.1$.

B. Handicap Index Calculations When Handicap Record Contains 4 to 19 Scores

Once a player has a WHS Handicap Index, subsequent Score Differentials are used in the Handicap Index calculation as set out in the table in Rule 5.2a.

Example

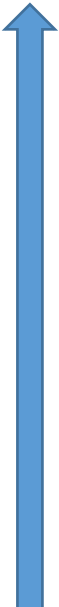
John's next return results in a Score Differential of 22.0 so his four Score Differentials are now 22.1, 25.0, 26.4 and 22.0. Although his new Score Differential of 22.0 is lower than his earlier lowest (22.1), John's Handicap Index will increase from 20.1 to 21.0 as the formula in the table for a player with 4 scores now calculates the index as the lowest Score Differential minus 1 stroke.

John's next 5 Score Differentials are 24.0, 21.7, 21.2, 22.0 and 19.4

From Table in Rule 5.2a		John's results			
No of Scores	Score Differentials & Adjustment used	Score Differential returned	Score Differential to count	Calculation	Handicap Index
3	Lowest 1 SD Adjustment -2.0	22.1, 25.0 & 26.4	22.1	$HI = 22.1 - 2.0$	20.1
4	Lowest 1 SD Adjustment -1.0	22.0	22.0	$HI = 22.0 - 1.0$	21.0
5	Lowest 1 SD Adjustment zero	24.0	22.0	$HI = 22.0$	22.0
6	Avg of lowest 2 SDs Adjustment -1.0	21.7	22.0 & 21.7	$HI = (22.0+21.7)/2 - 1.0$	20.9
7	Avg of lowest 2 SDs Adjustment zero	21.2	21.7 & 21.2	$HI = (21.7+21.2)/2$	21.5
8	Avg of lowest 2 SDs Adjustment zero	22.0	21.7 & 21.2	$HI = (21.7+21.2)/2$	21.5
9	Avg of lowest 3 SDs Adjustment zero	19.4	21.7, 21.2 & 19.4	$HI = (21.7+21.2 + 19.4)/3$	20.8

Although John's Score Differentials are generally improving, his handicap index can be seen to be volatile in its initial stages.

C. Handicap Index Calculation For a Full Scoring Record of 20 or More Scores

Score No	Date	Score Differential	Used in HI calculation	Score No	Score Differential	Used in HI calculation
1	Most recent	18.5		1	11.8	11.8
2		19.4		2	18.5	
3		25.8		3	19.4	
4		16.7		4	25.8	
5		18.4		5	16.7	
6		12.8	12.8	6	18.4	
7		24.0		7	12.8	12.8
8		15.8	15.8	8	24.0	
9		13.5	13.5	9	15.8	15.8
10		24.0		10	13.5	13.5
11		15.6	15.6	11	24.0	
12		11.0	11.0	12	15.6	15.6
13		10.4	10.4	13	11.0	11.0
14		21.2		14	10.4	10.4
15		18.3		15	21.2	
16		24.0		16	18.3	
17		13.1	13.1	17	24.0	
18		20.3		18	13.1	13.1
19		21.2		19	20.3	
20		Oldest	10.1	10.1	20	21.2
Total			102.3	21	10.1	104.0

The basic calculation for a full scoring record is the best 8 from the last 20 Score Differentials. The table above shows the calculation and the effect of the addition of a new score.

In the first set of Score Differentials, the best 8 scores total 102.3: the average of these is $102.3 / 8$ which equates to a Handicap Index of **12.8**.

The second set of Score Differentials shows the effect of a new Score Differential of 11.8 in position 1. The 20th Score Differential of 10.1 is displaced from the set entirely, and as the new Score Differential is one of the best 8 it is included in the calculation. The total for the best 8 Score Differentials is now 104.0 which equates to a Handicap Index of **13.0**.

It can be seen that the new Handicap Index is not only potentially affected by the new score, but also by the oldest score being displaced. For this reason, the apparently good Score Differential (11.8) resulted in an increase in Handicap Index (from 12.8 to 13.0). This is something that players may find counter-intuitive.

The best 8 from 20 forms the core of the Handicap Index calculation. However, there are other factors that can play a part. These are set out in the Rules:

- The Low Handicap Index and its interaction with the Soft and Hard Caps (Rules 5.7 & 5.8)
- Exceptional Scores (Rule 5.9)
- Adjustments to the handicap record by the Handicap Committee (Rule 7.1).

II The Course Handicap and its Use in Calculating Score Differentials for Handicapping Purposes

Scores can be posted from both General Play and Competition rounds. The processing of the scores for handicapping is the same as both use the Course Handicap and Adjusted Gross Score within the handicap calculation.

Note. For examples of the use of the Playing Handicap and actual competition scores, see Section III.

A. 18 Hole Rounds

The following tees will be used in this section:

	CR	Slope	PAR
Men	67.2	113	71
Women	72.0	129	71

Calculation of the Course Handicap (CH)

The basic Course Handicap (CH) = HI x (Slope ÷ 113) rounded to an integer. (Rule 6.1a) In general, to simplify calculations for the player, this rounding will take place prior to any further adjustments (e.g. 95% for individual competition rounds, course rating – par for 9-hole rounds etc.).

Norman and Norma both have a Handicap Index of 15.0.

Norman's CH = $15.0 \times (113 \div 113) = 15$ (for determining where gross scores may be adjusted in the Handicap Index calculation)

Norma's CH = $15.0 \times (129 \div 113) = 17$ (for determining where gross scores may be adjusted in the Handicap Index calculation)

The rounded integer Course Handicap is the handicap that must, under the Rules of Golf, be entered by the player on his/her scorecard both for General Play and for Competitions. CONGU® recommend that (whilst not mandatory) the scorecard should also have designated space for both the Handicap Index and Playing Handicap (strokes received).

Adjusted Gross Score – Net Double Bogey

For acceptable scores a Net Double Bogey (NDB) adjustment is applied to the gross score for each hole at which the player scores more than a Net Par+2 or does not complete the hole. (Rule 3.1b) The full, unrestricted Course Handicap and the Stroke Index of each hole determines where any adjustment might apply even if, for the purposes of the competition, the Committee have applied a handicap limit which reduces the Course Handicap and thus Playing Handicap.

Example

Both Norman and Norma take 89 strokes to complete their rounds.

Norma plays very steadily but is undone by a cavernous bunker on the Par 5, 17th hole, SI 16 which she completes in 9 strokes. Her NDB adjusted score for handicap purposes on this hole is:

$$5 \text{ strokes (Par for the hole)} + 2 \text{ strokes} + 1 \text{ (handicap stroke)} = 8 \text{ strokes}$$

Her Adjusted Gross Score for the round is $89 - 1 = 88$

Norman is not so steady. He puts two balls out of bounds on the Par 4, 10th hole, SI 6 where he records a 9. He follows this with another 9 on the Par 3, 11th hole, SI 12 where he has arguments with the ditch, a bunker and his putting. He also takes 9 on the Par 5, 17th hole, SI 16.

Norman's Adjusted Gross Score:

Hole 10	4 (Par) + 2 + 1 (handicap stroke) = 7	2 stroke adjustment
Hole 11	3 (Par) + 2 + 1 (handicap stroke) = 6	3 stroke adjustment
Hole 17	5 (Par) + 2 + 0 (handicap stroke) = 7	2 strokes adjustment

Unlike Norma, Norman does not receive a stroke on the 17th hole. His gross score of 89 is reduced by 7 strokes to an Adjusted Gross Score of 82.

Calculation of the Score Differentials

Score Differential = $(113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - \text{PCC})$

The daily PCC is calculated to be +1.

$$\text{Norma's Score Differential} = (113 \div 129) \times (88 - 72.0 - 1) = 13.1$$

$$\text{Norman's Score Differential} = (113 \div 113) \times (82 - 67.2 - 1) = 13.8$$

Adjusted Gross Score - Holes Not Played

When a player fails to hole out on any hole, for handicapping purposes WHS will calculate the Adjusted Gross Score using the NDB adjustment as detailed above. There are times, however, when a player may omit to play a hole or holes completely. In such situations, if the reason for the omission of the hole(s) is deemed acceptable to the Committee, a gross score is recorded which is equivalent to a Net Par for the hole(s), calculated using the full, unrestricted Course Handicap and the Stroke Index of each hole.

When fewer than 14 holes are completed for an 18-hole round, the score for the first hole not played is recorded as a Net Par + 1 stroke. Omitted holes need not be consecutive and may occur at any point in the round.

Note: The Holes Not Played adjustment is only relevant for 18-hole rounds. For a 9-hole round to be acceptable for handicapping in GB&I all 9 holes must be played and a NDB adjustment would be applied to any holes started but not completed.

Example:

The Soggy Bottom Golf Club has an 18-hole course. Holes 8, 9, 10 and 11 are Par 4 holes located in low-lying ground at the far end of the course adjacent to a tidal river. They are prone to flooding after periods of heavy rain or when the tide is running very high and may be closed by the course manager at short notice. Mary has registered for a General Play score. When she gets to the 8th tee she discovers that holes 8 to 11 have been closed. She would normally receive a stroke on each of these holes with her Course Handicap of 17. She and her playing companion walk to the 12th tee and play the remaining 7 holes.

Mary’s marker records a No Play on her scorecard for each of the four affected holes and Mary enters this in the manner prescribed by her club’s software when posting her score. The software will calculate a 5 for each of these holes when it generates her Adjusted Gross Score.

B. 9 Hole Rounds

The following tees will be used in this section:

	Front 9 holes			Back 9 holes			18 Holes		
	CR	Slope	PAR	CR	Slope	PAR	CR	Slope	PAR
Men	36.2	144	36	36.9	138	36	73.1	141	72
Women	36.3	136	37	38.0	142	36	74.3	139	73

Calculation of the Course Handicap for the Front 9 holes

$$CH = \text{rounded}((HI \div 2) \times (9\text{-hole Slope} \div 113)) + (9\text{-hole CR} - 9\text{-hole Par})$$

Colette (HI= 20.4) and Colin (HI = 22.0) are playing in a 9-hole singles event over the front 9 holes. The PCC for the day is -1.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Colette's CH} &= \text{rounded}((20.4 \div 2) \times (136 \div 113)) + (36.3 - 37) \\ &= 12 - 0.7 \\ &= 11.3 \text{ rounded to 11 (for determining Adjusted Gross Scores)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Colin's CH} &= \text{rounded}((22.0 \div 2) \times (144 \div 113)) + (36.2 - 36) \\ &= 14 + 0.2 \\ &= 14.2 \text{ rounded to 14 (for determining Adjusted Gross Scores)} \end{aligned}$$

Adjusted Gross Score – Net Double Bogey

Colette picked up (P in the chart below) on the Par 4, 1st hole, SI 3 and on the Par 5, 4th hole, SI 4; her adjusted scores for these holes being 7 & 8 strokes respectively. She holed out on the other holes giving her an Adjusted Gross Score of 52 strokes.

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	4	5	4	5	4	3	4	5	3	37
SI (women)	5	1	10	7	14	17	12	3	18	
SI rationalised	3	1✓	5	4	7	8	6	2✓	9	
Gross score	P	6	4	P	6	4	5	7	5	
Adjusted GS	7	6	4	8	6	4	5	7	5	52

✓ Holes at which Collette gets 2 shots

Colin starts very well but finishes badly, picking up on the last two holes. He could have tapped in on the last hole for a gross 6 but just knocked the putt away in disgust. His Adjusted Gross Scores for the last two holes are 8 and 7 respectively, giving him an Adjusted Gross Score of 52 strokes.

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	36
SI (men)	6	3	13	1	15	17	7	11	9	
SI rationalised	3✓	2✓	7	1✓	8	9	4✓	6	5✓	
Gross score	6	6	5	5	5	4	6	P	P	
Adjusted GS	6	6	5	5	5	4	6	8	7	52

✓ Holes at which Colin gets 2 shots

Calculation of the Score Differentials

Score Differential = $(113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - (0.5 \times \text{PCC}))$

(The daily PCC -1)

Where:

- The Slope is the rating for the 9 holes played.
- The CR used is the CR for the nine holes played, doubled (it is not the CR for the 18-hole course even if one were available).
- The Adjusted Gross Score is calculated by scaling the 9-holes played using Net Pars for the second nine holes plus one additional stroke (Rule 5.1b and Diagram 5.1b/1). The 18-hole CH used for this part of the calculation is itself derived from scaling of the CH for the 9 holes played. It is not the CH that the player uses for an 18-hole round (Rule 6.1a). It is calculated as:

$$\text{CH} = \text{rounded}((\text{HI} \times (9\text{-hole Slope} \div 113))) + ((2 \times 9\text{-hole CR}) - (2 \times 9\text{-hole Par}))$$

For Colette:

- The Slope for the 9 holes played is 136.
- The CR for the nine holes played is 36.3 so CR used is $36.3 \times 2 = 72.6$
- CH used to calculate the Adjusted Gross Score for the second nine is

Rounded $(20.4 \times 136 \div 113) + (72.6 - 74) = 23.6$ rounded to 24. As Colette received 11 strokes on the 9 holes played she receives 13 strokes on the scaled-up second nine.

Her Adjusted Gross Score for the 2nd nine holes is therefore calculated (as set out in Diagram 5.1b/1):

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	4	5	4	5	4	3	4	5	3	37
SI (women)	5	1	10	7	14	17	12	3	18	
SI rationalised	3✓	1✓	5	4✓	7	8	6	2✓	9	
Adjusted GS	7✓✓	7	5	7	5	4	5	7	4	51

✓ Holes at which Colette gets 2 shots.

✓✓ Hole at which the scaled up score is Net Par + 1

Colette's Score Differential (the PCC is -1):

Adjusted Gross Score is 103 (52 for the 9 holes played plus 51 for the second nine scaling).

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Score Differential} &= (113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - (0.5 \times \text{PCC})) \\
 &= (113 \div 136) \times (103 - 72.6 - (-0.5)) \\
 &= 25.67 \\
 &= \mathbf{25.7}
 \end{aligned}$$

For Colin:

- The Slope for the 9 holes played is 144.
- The CR for the nine holes played is 36.2 so CR used is $36.2 \times 2 = 72.4$
- CH used to calculate the Adjusted Gross Score for the second nine is

$22 \times (144 \div 113) + (72.4 - 72) = 28.43539$ rounded to 28. As Colin received 14 strokes on the 9 holes played he receives 14 strokes on the scaled-up second nine.

His Adjusted Gross Score for the 2nd nine holes is therefore calculated (as set out in Diagram 5.1b/1):

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	36
SI (men)	6	3	13	1	15	17	7	11	9	
SI rationalised	3✓	2✓	7	1✓	8	9	4✓	6	5✓	
Adjusted GS	7✓✓	7	5	6	5	4	6	6	5	51

✓ Holes at which Colin gets 2 shots

✓✓ Hole at which the scaled up score is Net Par + 1

Colin's Score Differential (the PCC is -1):

Adjusted Gross Score is 103 (52 for the 9 holes played plus 51 for the second nine scaling).

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Score Differential} &= (113 \div \text{Slope}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{CR} - (0.5 \times \text{PCC})) \\
 &= (113 \div 144) \times (103 - 72.4 - (-0.5)) \\
 &= 24.41 \\
 &= \mathbf{24.4}
 \end{aligned}$$

III The Playing Handicap and its use in Stroke Allowances for Competition Purposes – Individual Formats of Play

The Playing Handicap only has relevance when determining who wins net score competitions or for calculating strokes received in match play. It plays no part in Handicap Index calculations. For individual formats of play over a single set of tees the calculation of the Playing Handicap is straightforward and is outlined in Appendix C. This section will focus on scenarios that involve more than one set of tees – be they mixed gender competitions and/or events where a single gender plays from different sets of tees (the term 'mixed/multi-tee' is used to encompass both scenarios).

Note: Appendix C/1 recommends that for individual stroke play formats where the field size consists of fewer than 30 players, the handicap allowance be increased to 100%. This recommendation is not applicable within GB&I.

A. 18-hole Singles Competitions

The following mixed/multi-tees will be used in this section:

	CR	Slope	PAR
Men	67.2	113	71
Women	72.0	129	71

Norman and Norma both have a Handicap Index of 15.0.

Their Course Handicaps are 15 and 17 respectively.

Note: Playing Handicap calculations may use either the rounded integer CH, or the full value of the CH at machine precision, in GB&I England, Wales and Ireland direct that the rounded Course Handicap be used, whilst Scotland direct that the full value of the Course Handicap be used. The examples that follow will use the rounded Course Handicap.

Stroke Play Competitions: Medal; Gross Score (Scratch); Maximum Score;

Medal:

For singles stroke play the stroke allowance is 95% of the Course Handicap. In addition, because the players are playing from tees with different Course Ratings, the competitor playing over the higher rated course receives the difference in the CR values added to the Course Handicap after the application of the stroke allowance.

(Note: as an alternative, if the majority of the field are playing from the tees with the highest CR then players competing from tees with a lower CR may be allocated less strokes for the round).

In this case Norma receives an upward adjustment of 4.8 strokes (72.0 – 67.2) after the stroke allowance is applied (Rule 6.2b (i)).

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Norman's Playing Handicap} &= \text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance} \\ &= 15 \times 0.95 \\ &= 14.25 \text{ rounded to } 14\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Norma's Playing Handicap} &= (\text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Allowance}) + \text{Difference in CR} \\ &= (17 \times 0.95) + 4.8 \\ &= 20.95 \text{ rounded to } 21\end{aligned}$$

Both players returned gross scores of 89 strokes.

For placing in the mixed/multi-tee Medal competition:

$$\text{Norman's net score is } 89 - 14 = 75$$

$$\text{Norma's net score is } 89 - 21 = 68$$

Gross Score (Scratch):

It is often incorrectly assumed that handicap is irrelevant in a mixed/multi-tee scratch event. This is not the case and, instead, such an event can be considered as one in which the players' Course Handicaps are all 0.0 so that the Playing Handicap calculation becomes:

Playing Handicap = Difference in Course Ratings

In the case of Norman and Norma above the CR for men was 67.2 and for women 72.0. For a scratch competition Norma would receive 5 strokes, reducing her gross score from 89 to 84.

Maximum Score:

Had the competition been a Maximum Score competition with the maximum set at 8 strokes per hole, then Norma's gross score would have been 88 (she had a 9 on the Par 5, 17th hole, SI 16) and Norman's would have been 86 (he scored 9 on the 10th, 11th and 17th holes).

Norman's net score would then be $86 - 14 = 72$

Norma's net score would then be $88 - 21 = 67$

In this example, because the maximum score was set at 8 strokes per hole, their Adjusted Gross Scores for handicap purposes would have been unchanged from a Medal format. This may not always be the case - Note 2 to Rule 3.3 explains that in a maximum score format there may be times when the player reaches the maximum gross score on a hole in the competition, but has not reached his/her NDB score as used for handicapping purposes. Consider the following example:

Nigel plays the same course in a maximum score format event with the maximum set at 8 strokes. He has a Course Handicap of 34 which results in a Playing Handicap of 32 strokes. He also struggles on the Par 5, 17th hole, SI 16 - he takes 7 strokes to reach the green and then picks up before attempting any putts, recording the maximum score of 8 strokes for the hole. However, as his NDB score for the hole would be 9 strokes (Par 5 + 2 + 2 handicap strokes) he should instead record 9 strokes on his card after not completing the hole (Rule 3.3 Note 2). In fact, if he had attempted a putt, he could have completed the hole in 8 strokes and thereby reduced his score for *handicap purposes* by 1 stroke.

This example demonstrates that in such circumstances Nigel should not pick up until he has exhausted his strokes. Should he hole the putt for a gross 8 then this would be entered on the scorecard but should he miss he could then pick up and either enter 9 (his NDB score for the hole) or leave the hole blank (or enter a zero) to indicate he did not hole out, in which case the software would give him 9 for handicapping purposes and 8 for the competition.

This highlights an important consideration for Committees. Many players will not fully appreciate the importance of continuing beyond the maximum hole score to reach their NDB score on a given hole. It is recommended that when setting the maximum score it should be at least equal to the value of the highest NDB Adjusted Gross Score for the field.

Stroke Play Competitions: Stableford & Par/Bogey

As the format is singles stroke play, the stroke allowance is 95% of the Course Handicap. In addition, as both Stableford and Par/Bogey formats are scored against the Par of the course, rather than the Course Rating, the Playing Handicap calculation includes an adjustment to reflect the difference to 'play to handicap' between the mixed/multi-tee courses. (Rule 6.2b (ii)).

Number of points to 'play to handicap' for a given set of tees = $36 - (CR - Par)$:

For Norman this is $36 - (67.2 - 71) = 39.8$ rounded to 40

For Norma this is $36 - (72.0 - 71) = 35.0$ rounded to 35

The players playing to the lower points target receive the difference in the number of points. So Norma receives 5 additional strokes on her Playing Handicap, for competition purposes.

It is perhaps worth pointing out that with a 95% stroke allowance there may be players who receive fewer strokes for competition purposes (PH) than they do for handicap purposes (CH). This could range from a single stroke (integer Course Handicap of 11) to 3 or even 4 strokes fewer. As with Maximum Score, players should not pick up too soon in Stableford or Par/Bogey formats - they should play with reference to their **Course Handicaps** in such events and let the software deal with the competition outcome.

Stroke Play Competitions: Where More Than Two Tees Are Used

The previous examples are all based on two tees. Increasingly, clubs are running stroke play competitions that give players a choice over which set of tees they play from on any given day. The Course Rating or Par differences between all of the tees in play, depending on the format of play, will impact the calculation for the strokes received for a player that day. The following example highlights how strokes received can vary:

If the players were given the option of playing from the Yellow, White or Blue tees then the Playing Handicap adjustments would be calculated as follows:

Tee	Slope	CR	Par	Medal, Scratch, Maximum Score	Stableford, Par/Bogey	
				Difference in CR Adjustment (a)	Points to 'Play to Handicap' (b)	Stroke Adjustment
Yellow	118	69.4	69	0.0	36	0
White	125	71.1	70	1.7	35	+1
Blue	131	72.8	71	3.4	34	+2

(a) for Medal, Scratch and Maximum Score competitions the adjustment is the difference in CR compared to the lowest rated set of tees (the Yellow tees)

(b) for Stableford and Par/Bogey events the points to 'Play to Handicap' = $36 - (CR - Par)$ rounded to an integer and players receive additional strokes relative to the player requiring the highest number of points

The following week the Club adds the choice of playing from the Green tees, and as a consequence the Playing Handicap calculation for all players is affected:

Tee	Slope	CR	Par	Medal, Scratch, Maximum Score	Stableford, Par/Bogey	
				Difference in CR Adjustment (a)	Points to 'Play to Handicap' (b)	Stroke Adjustment
Green	113	68.2	69	0.0	37	0
Yellow	118	69.4	69	1.2	36	+1
White	125	71.1	70	2.9	35	+2
Blue	131	72.8	71	4.6	34	+3

(a) for Medal, Scratch and Maximum Score competitions the adjustment is the difference in CR compared to the lowest rated set of tees (the Green tees)

(b) for Stableford and Par/Bogey events the points to 'Play to Handicap' = 36 – (CR-Par) rounded to an integer and players receive additional strokes relative to the player requiring the highest number of points

B. 9-hole Singles Competitions

The following tees will be used in this section:

	Front 9 holes			Back 9 holes			18 Holes		
	CR	Slope	PAR	CR	Slope	PAR	CR	Slope	PAR
Men	36.2	144	36	36.9	138	36	73.1	141	72
Women	36.3	136	37	38.0	142	36	74.3	139	73

Colin has a Handicap Index of 22.0 and Colette has a Handicap Index of 20.4. Their 9-hole Course Handicaps for the Front 9 are 14 and 12 respectively.

Note: Playing Handicap calculations may use either the rounded integer CH, or the full value of the CH at machine precision, as determined by the appropriate National Association. The difference in Playing Handicap can be a stroke higher or lower. The examples that follow will use the rounded value of the Course Handicap.

Stroke Play Competitions: Medal; Gross Score (Scratch); Maximum Score

For a mixed/multi-tee competition an adjustment is made within the Playing Handicap calculation to account for any difference between the Pars of the tees being used (Rule 6.2b(i)). The adjustment is applied to the player playing from the set of tees with the higher Par:

Playing Handicap = (Course Handicap x handicap allowance) + Difference in Pars

Colin's Playing Handicap = (9-Hole Course Handicap x handicap allowance)
 = 14 x 95%
 = 13.3 rounded to 13 strokes

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Colette's Playing Handicap} &= (9\text{-Hole Course Handicap} \times \text{handicap allowance}) + (37 - 36) \\
&= (12 \times 95\%) + 1 \\
&= 12.4 \text{ rounded to 12 strokes}
\end{aligned}$$

Stroke Play Competitions: Stableford & Par/Bogey

As the calculation for the 9-hole Course Handicap has already included an adjustment for CR-Par, the Stableford points or Par/Bogey result for each player is directly comparable against that of every other player, regardless of the tees used. So for competition purposes the standard Playing Handicap calculation in Rule 6.2a is applicable:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Colin's Playing Handicap} &= 9\text{-Hole Course Handicap} \times \text{handicap allowance} \\
&= 14 \times 95\% \\
&= 13.3 \text{ rounded to 13 strokes}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Colette's Playing Handicap} &= 12 \times 95\% \\
&= 11.4 \text{ rounded to 11 strokes}
\end{aligned}$$

C. Singles Matchplay Competitions

18-Hole Matchplay

	CR	Slope	PAR
Men	67.2	113	71
Women	72.0	129	71

Norman and Norma both have a Handicap Index of 15.0. Their Course Handicaps are 15 and 17 respectively.

For singles match play the stroke allowance is 100% of the Course Handicap. In addition, because the players are playing from tees with different Course Ratings, the competitor playing over the higher rated course receives the difference in the CR values added to the Course Handicap after the application of the stroke allowance.

In this case Norma receives an upward adjustment of 4.8 strokes (72.0 – 67.2) after the stroke allowance is applied (Rule 6.2b (i)).

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Norman's Playing Handicap} &= \text{Course Handicap} \\
&= 15
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Norma's Playing Handicap} &= \text{Course Handicap} + \text{Difference in CR} \\
&= 17 + 4.8 \\
&= 21.8 \text{ rounded to 22}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore Norma receives 7 strokes for the match.

9-Hole Matchplay

	Front 9 holes			Back 9 holes			18 Holes		
	CR	Slope	PAR	CR	Slope	PAR	CR	Slope	PAR
Men	36.2	144	36	36.9	138	36	73.1	141	72
Women	36.3	136	37	38.0	142	36	74.3	139	73

Colin has a Handicap Index of 22.0 and Colette has a Handicap Index of 20.4.

Their 9-hole Course Handicaps for the Front 9 are 14 and 12 respectively.

For singles match play the stroke allowance is 100% of the Course Handicap. In addition, there is an adjustment for any difference in Par between the different tees (Rule 6.2b (i)).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Colin's Playing Handicap} &= \text{Course Handicap} \\ &= 14 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Colette's Playing Handicap} &= \text{Course Handicap} + \text{Difference in Par} \\ &= 12 + (37 - 36) \\ &= 13 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore Colin receives 1 stroke for the match.

IV The Playing Handicap and its use in Stroke Allowances for Competition Purposes – Team Formats of Play

Four Ball Better Ball

The calculation of the Playing Handicap for each participant is as for individual stroke play, using the appropriate handicap allowance. Interpretation C/3 shows the stroke allowance calculation for single tee competitions. In mixed/multi-tee competitions an adjustment is required to allow for differences in CR or Par.

Example:

A Club is running a 4BBB competition which is open to all members; adult male members must play from the white tees, women and girls from the red tees and male juniors from the yellow tees. There is no restriction on the composition of each team. Liam (HI 9.3) partners his young son Luke (HI 25.6). They are drawn to play alongside Megan (HI -1.2) and Morag (HI 2.3). The respective Playing Handicaps of each member of the group are calculated below:

$$\text{Playing Handicap} = (\text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance}) + \text{Adjustment}$$

Medal:

	HI	Slope	CR	PAR	CH	85% CH	CR Adjust	PH
Liam	9.3	125	71.1	70	10	8.5	1.7	10
Luke	25.8	118	69.4	69	27	22.95	0.0	23
Megan	-1.2	129	72.0	72	-1	-0.85	2.6	2
Morag	2.3	129	72.0	72	3	2.55	2.6	5

Each player will then receive their full Playing Handicap for the competition

Stableford:

	HI	Slope	CR	PAR	85% CH	Points to 'play to handicap'	PAR Adjust	PH
Liam	9.3	125	71.1	70	8.5	$36 - (71.1-70) = 35$	+1	10
Luke	25.8	118	69.4	69	22.95	$36 - (69.4- 69) = 36$	0.0	23
Megan	-1.2	129	72.0	72	-0.85	$36 - (72.0-72) = 36$	0	-1
Morag	2.3	129	72.0	72	2.55	$36 - (72.0-72) = 36$	0	3

Each player will then receive their full Playing Handicap for the competition

For a Par/Bogey format the Playing Handicap is calculated as above, using a Handicap Allowance of 90%.

Match Play:

	HI	Slope	CR	PAR	CH	90% CH	CR Adjust	PH
Liam	9.3	125	71.1	70	10	9.0	1.7	11
Luke	25.8	118	69.4	69	27	24.3	0.0	24
Megan	-1.2	129	72.0	72	-1	-0.9	2.6	2
Morag	2.3	129	72.0	72	3	2.7	2.6	5

Strokes are taken relative to the player with the lowest PH (Megan). Megan will play off zero strokes.

In 4BBB format players score using the card and SI appropriate for the tee they are playing from.

Foursomes

Playing Handicaps for each side in Foursomes are 50% of the combined Course Handicaps of the two players concerned. In traditional mixed Foursomes events, where each team comprises a man and a woman, there is no need to make any adjustments for a difference in CR or Par as the adjustment is equal for all sides. The Handicap Allowance is then simply half the combined Course Handicaps of each side.

If, however, the gender composition can consist of any combination of men and women, then an adjustment for any difference in the CR or Par is required.

The first step is to calculate the allowance as 50% of the combined Course Handicaps and then to apply any adjustments. To achieve equity any adjustment is half the combined adjustments for each side.

Example (Match Play, Medal):

	HI	Slope	CR	PAR	CH	50% CH Combined	50% CR Adjust	PH
Liam	9.3	125	71.1	70	10	18.5	0.85	19
Luke	25.8	118	69.4	69	27			
Megan	-1.2	129	72.0	72	-1	1	2.6	4
Morag	2.3	129	72.0	72	3			

Example (Stableford, Par/Bogey):

	HI	Slope	CR	PAR	50% CH Combined	Points to 'play to handicap'	50% PAR Adjust	PH
Liam	9.3	125	71.1	70	18.5	$36 - (71.1 - 70) = 35$	0.5	19
Luke	25.8	118	69.4	69		$36 - (69.4 - 69) = 36$		
Megan	-1.2	129	72.0	72	1	$36 - (72.0 - 72) = 36$	0	1
Morag	2.3	129	72.0	72		$36 - (72.0 - 72) = 36$		

For Foursomes competitions involving mixed/multi-tee pairings, the committee must specify in the Terms of Competition which single set of tees will determine the Pars and SI that are to be used.

Greensomes

Similar principles are used in determining the Playing Handicaps for Greensomes as for Foursomes, using 60% of the lower handicap plus 40% of the higher handicap in the team, rather than 50% combined. To achieve equity any CR/Par adjustment is half the combined adjustments for each side.

As an example, the Playing Handicap for Liam and Luke in a Greensomes Medal would be:

$$(0.6 \times 10) + (0.4 \times 27) + 0.85 = 16.8 + 0.85 = 17.65 \text{ rounded to } 18$$

whilst the Playing Handicap for Megan and Morag would be:

$$(0.6 \times -1) + (0.4 \times 3) + 2.6 = 0.6 + 2.6 = 3.2 \text{ rounded to } 3$$

For Greensomes competitions involving mixed/multi-tee pairings, the committee must specify in the Terms of Competition which single set of tees will determine the Pars and SI that are to be used.

Texas Scramble

The formula for a 4-player team scramble allowance is 25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest Course Handicap. For a 2-player team it is 35%/15%. For a 3-player team CONGU recommends 30%/20%/10%.

For a single tee event:

Player	Course Handicap	%	Stroke contribution
Abdul	-2	25	-0.5
Alex	12	20	2.4
Antonio	26	15	3.9
Archie	42	10	4.2
Total Playing Handicap			10.0

If the competition is mixed/multi-tee then an adjustment for differences in CR is required. To achieve equity any adjustment is 25% of the combined CR adjustments for each side. For the team consisting Liam, Luke, Megan and Morag the Playing Handicap will be:

Player	Course Handicap	%age	Stroke allowance	25% Adjustment	Stroke contribution
Liam	10	15	1.5	0.43	1.93
Luke	27	10	2.7	0.00	2.7
Megan	-1	25	-0.26	0.65	0.39
Morag	3	20	0.6	0.65	1.25
Total Playing Handicap					6.3

Team Formats of Play: Best of 3

The WHS recommended stroke allowances does not cover advice on 'Best of' 3-ball teams.

The following stroke allowances should be used:

Best 1 of 3	Best 2 of 3	All 3 of 3
70%	85%	100%

If the competition is mixed/multi-tee then an adjustment for differences in CR or Par (depending on the format) is required within the Playing Handicap calculation. Each player will receive their full adjustment.

Team Formats of Play: 9 Holes

The same principles apply to team competitions played over 9 holes. Remember that, as for stroke allowance calculations in 9-hole singles competitions, the Playing Handicap Adjustment is based on either differences in Par (for Medal and Match Play formats) or will have already been accounted for in the Playing Handicap calculation (for Stableford).



Disqualified Scores for Handicapping

Appendix B note 10 of rules of handicapping provides that a players scoring record must include any end of process adjustments by the handicap committee including disqualified scores which, when corrected , may be acceptable for handicap purposes.

Disqualified scores must be verified as a correct score according to rule 2.1b of the Rules of Handicapping.

When a Disqualified Score has been so accepted as an Acceptable Score before the last card has been returned to the Committee, the corrected score must be posted before the end of the day in order that is included for the PCC calculation.

The following are examples where scores shall be corrected for handicap purposes following disqualification from a competition by the Committee in charge:

Rule No.	Nature of Breach	Action for Handicap Purposes	Note
3.3(b)	Course Handicap on card too high	Adjust handicap to provide an Acceptable Score	
3.3(b)	No handicap included on card	Score acceptable	
3.3(b)	Card not signed by player or marker	Score acceptable unless marker had a valid reason not to sign card	2
3.3(b)	Undue delay in returning scorecard	Score acceptable	
3.3(b)	Score entered on card on a hole is lower than actual score	Accept adjusted score unless breach premeditated	2
3.3(c)	Failure to hole out in stroke play	Adjust using NDB to produce an acceptable score	1
6.1	Play from outside of teeing area not corrected (not Max Score, Stableford or Par/Bogey)	Adjust using NDB to produce an acceptable score	1
6.3	Play of wrong ball not corrected	Adjust using NDB to produce an acceptable score	1
14.7	Serious breach of ball played from wrong place not corrected (Not Max Score, Stableford or Par/Bogey)	Adjust using NDB to produce an acceptable score	1

20.1(c)	Doubt as to procedure – failure to inform Committee of procedure adopted	If correct score can be ascertained – Adjust using NDB to produce an acceptable score	
20.1(c)	Play of second ball not reported to the Committee	If correct score can be ascertained – accept for handicap purposes, failing which adjust using NDB to produce an acceptable score	

Note 1 As a general principle, if a score would have been acceptable under Stableford or Maximum Score conditions it should, whenever possible, be acceptable for handicap purposes in Stroke Play following adjustment for any hole where the player has either failed to hole out, or failed to produce a score that satisfied the *Rules of Golf*.

Note 2 If the offence has any possible premeditated element or, could have adversely affected the play of a fellow competitor, the score should normally be regarded as a 'No Return'. (2.1b (3) of Rules Of Handicapping)

The following are situations where the player has been disqualified under the Rules of Golf or where a score has not been regarded as an acceptable score under 2.2a and 2.2b of the Rules of Handicapping:

Rule No.	Nature of Breach	Action for Handicap Purposes
1.3b	Players deliberately agree to ignore a Rule or penalty they know applies.	Not acceptable
4.1	Making a stroke with a non-conforming club (excludes those clubs which have become non-conforming by damage, however inflicted)	Not acceptable
4.1(c)	Excess club not declared out of play	Not acceptable
4.2	Golf ball not on conforming list (when required in the Terms of competition)	Not acceptable
4.2	Playing characteristics of ball changed	Not acceptable
4.3	Use of artificial device, unusual equipment or unusual use of equipment.	Not acceptable. (See Note 3 below)
5.3	Player failing to start within 5 minutes of the correct starting time and returning a score	Not acceptable

5.6	Undue delay (repeated offence)	Not acceptable
5.7	Discontinuance of play, unless reason for discontinuance acceptable to Committee (see 7.1b of Rules of Handicapping)	Not acceptable
5.2	Practice before round, unless authorised by the Committee	Not acceptable
6.2	Use of non-conforming tee	Not acceptable
6.1	Playing from the wrong teeing area (not corrected and resulting in the round not being played) (Not applicable to Max Score, Stableford or Par/Bogey)	Not acceptable
10.3	Employing more than one caddie	Not acceptable, where the competitor fails to report his breach to the Committee and a penalty of DQ is consequently applied
15.3	Ball assisting play (if Committee determines competitor has agreed not to lift a ball that might assist another player)	Not acceptable
CP 6C (12)	Where match play and stroke play formats are played in the same round without Committee Permission	Not acceptable
20.2(e)	Disqualification penalty imposed by Committee	Not acceptable
Model Local Rule E-5	Use of Alternative to Stroke and Distance used in organized competition	Not acceptable

Note 3 The first time a banned function of a DMD is used, the penalty is 2 shots on the hole it was observed. A subsequent use results in disqualification. To be an acceptable score for handicap, the 2 shot penalty must be recorded on the players' score.

Rules of Handicapping 2.1b (3) A disqualified score must be entered into the players scoring record. For no returns see Rules of Handicapping 7.1b