

## CONGU CLUB HANDICAPS (CCHs) - SOME Q&A'S

### Q What are CONGU Club Handicaps?

**A** In 2016 a second type of handicap was introduced by England Golf. The purpose of a *CONGU® Club Handicap* is to enable players whose golfing ability does not currently justify the award of the maximum CONGU® Handicap of 28.0 or lower to have a higher handicap up to a maximum of 54.0.

Such handicaps enable:

- beginners to have a handicap commensurate with their ability at an early stage of their involvement in the game of golf;
- developing players to have a yardstick against which to measure their progress;
- players of declining ability who hold the maximum handicap of 28.0 but who can no longer play to this maximum to elect to hold a higher handicap albeit that this may restrict their entry to some competitions but give them a more realistic handicap for social and club golf.

### Q. Do Golf Clubs have to adopt CONGU Club Handicaps?

**A.** No. In 2016 adoption was encouraged by **England Golf** but it was not mandatory. England Golf have not yet surveyed clubs to determine the % take-up nor what difficulties/challenges clubs have been encountered. Portal GC adopted a "wait & see" approach in 2016 but the Council, on a recommendation from the Competition/Handicaps Committee who support the rationale for the change, have decided in 2017 to have an initial 12 month trial. Take-up/impact of the change will be reviewed at the end of the 2017 season against various criteria.

### Q. Will initial handicaps up to 54 be allocated?

**A.** No. Portal GC has in 2017 decided to limit any handicap to a maximum of 36

### Q. What will happen to current members on a 28 h/cap?

As at December 2016 we have 17 members who play off a competitive 28 handicap. These members will have their handicap record reviewed and a proposed revised handicap calculated. This will ensure they are not at a disadvantage compared to a new member who could be given a h/cap > 28. These existing members will be contacted and asked whether they wish to adopt a CONGU Club Handicap at their new proposed value which will be at least 28.5. The value at which an individual's CONGU Club h/cap is proposed will be set by the Handicap Committee along the same lines as the monthly Continuous h/cap review. However, unlike the monthly Continuous handicap review process members will have the option to remain on their current H/cap (28) i.e. reject the change or move to their new handicap.

### Q. What are the implications of transferring to a CONGU Club H/cap?

**A.** Currently only members with a 'c' i.e. Competition h/cap can enter Club competitions. CONGU Club h/caps do not have a 'c' status so ALL Club competitions will have this restriction removed so that members with h/caps > 28 can enter and be eligible for prizes. For certain competitions there can be specific entry conditions, e.g. age, membership category, etc. and these will remain.

**Q. How do differentiate between the two types of Members who have a non 'c' handicap?**

**A.** Members who have a h/cap below 28 but have not played 3 rounds to maintain their 'c' status have in the past been able to enter competitions, to regain their h/cap, but could not win a prize. With the advent of CONGU Club h/caps this latter category will be allowed to enter competitions but WILL be eligible for a prize. Unfortunately, at present the ClubV1 software cannot currently automatically allow for this distinction and Competition Organisers will have to manually only allow prize winners to come from the 'c' and CONGU Club h/cap categories. This shortcoming has been raised with Club Systems.

**Q. Will we have some Comps that CONGU Club h/caps cannot enter?**

**A.** Yes as now specific entry criteria may be applied to certain Competitions e.g. Scratch etc.

**Q. How will this affect Inter Club matches?**

**A.** All Inter – Club matches are 'social' golf events. Portal GC has contacted all Clubs we play against to determine their approach to CONGU Club H/caps. We are still awaiting some replies. Those that have replied have in the main stated that Portal Players with a CONGU Club H/cap would have to play with a 28 h/cap (before any 4BBB type reduction is made) ie as now. However one club would be happy to play against our players at their CONGU Club h/cap level. Match Organisers would have to discuss the playing arrangements with each individual opposition Club

NO ONE will be 'deselected' because of handicap

**Q. Are CONGU Club H/caps allowed in Open Days?**

**A.** NO CONGU Club h/caps to be allowed ONLY a maximum 28 'Competition' handicap. This may need to be reviewed in the future in case the maximum allowable 'Competition' handicap is increased beyond 28.

**Q. How are PGC Seniors Competitions affected?**

**A.** In 'non qualifying' and 'fun' competitions, the Seniors' Section may make their own decisions on handicap limits. However, for 'qualifiers', they must fall in line with 'CLUB' rules and regulations, e.g. use CCHs if the Club are using them.

**Q. How do CONGU Club h/caps get adjusted?**

**A.** For golfers with a *CONGU® Club Handicap* of 29 to 54 returns of 1 - 6 strokes below the SSS will result in handicap reductions of 0.5 of a stroke for each stroke below the SSS. Each additional stroke below the SSS will result in a further reduction of handicap of 1 stroke,

e.g. A golfer with a *CONGU® Club Handicap* of 36 returning a nett score of 64 over a course with an SSS of 72 will be reduced as follows:  $36 - (6 \times 0.5) - (2 \times 1) = 31$

If a golfer with a *CONGU® Club Handicap* returns a score with a *Nett Differential* above his *Buffer Zone*, or records a 'No Return', his *Exact Handicap* is increased by 0.1. The *Buffer Zone* for *CONGU® Club Handicaps* shall be 0 to +5

The handicaps of players holding CONGU® Club Handicaps are adjusted against the SSS of the course even when such players compete in a club Qualifying Competitions ie the CSS is not used.