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EXCEPTIONAL SCORE REDUCTION (ESR)

This **mandatory** adjustment to handicaps was revised by CONGU in 2016 as part of the rule review process at that time, applying to England, Wales & Ireland but not Scotland.

It is intended to act as an accelerator to handicap reduction when players are returning scores well below their allocated handicap over a fairly short period of time.

ESR adjustments are applied in addition to the usual amendments to handicap made following closure of any qualifying competition.

Generally an ESR is applied when a player has registered two scores in qualifying competitions **four shots below** playing handicap in any calendar year- (being 4 shots below CSS less handicap)

The amount of the reduction is dependent on the actual 'below CSS score' and the number of rounds between each of the two identified occurrences.

Normally a player can expect that the ESR will be half of one full shot effective on top of the applicable below CSS adjustment that applies to the second recorded qualifying score. The total adjustment could therefore be more than one full shot (There is a laid down formula to follow when calculating the handicap reduction amount)

ESR does not apply to category 1 players.

I hope this adequately explains the ESR concept, but if you require more information the CONGU manual is available on line by visiting the England Golf Website and clicking on the link shown. (ESR is covered by pages 52 & 53 in the manual).