



ADVICE ON RECORDING NO RETURNS

When a player submits a no return it is important that they still record their gross scores on all completed holes. The computer will calculate an adjusted gross score using the 'nett double bogie adjustment'. This may result in a player having scored within their buffer zone or even a handicap reduction, especially if the CSS goes up. In no circumstances should 'no score' (i.e. zero) be entered for every hole.

In practice, handicapping software will allow a zero to be entered against every hole after a competition, with players sometimes using this as either a lazy way of returning a bad score, or as a way to disguise just how bad the score was.

In most Qualifying Strokeplay competitions there will be a few players who will not hole out on every hole. Whilst disqualified from the competition, their scores are still valid for handicapping purposes. The software calculates a nett double bogey gross score for any such holes omitted. In some circumstances, handicap reductions or playing within the Buffer Zone can occur. In Stableford and Bogey competitions players are not disqualified when they pick up on a hole; indeed that is encouraged once the outcome of the hole has been decided. Nevertheless it is just as important that all completed holes are properly recorded so that the correct gross differential is calculated by the software.

For a bad score, however, while the practice of entering a zero against all holes has no impact on the CONGU handicap calculation, under the averaging approach of the World Handicap System ("WHS") such a practice may have an adverse impact on the calculation of the new Handicap Index.

Consider the following scenario: A player of handicap 10 had 10 net bogeys, 6 net pars and picked up on two holes (neither of which he received a stroke) for which the computer records an NDB. The CSS was 68 so he scored a gross 90 (Gross Differential of 22) for handicap purposes. If, however, "no score" were entered for each hole the resulting gross score would be 104 (Gross Differential of 36)..

In both cases the increases to a CONGU Handicap would be 0.1.

However, the WHS will use the best 8 out of the last 20 calculated Gross Differentials. For the player in the example above, a Gross Differential of 22 could be within the best 8 of the last 20 scores but it is highly likely that the Gross Differential of 36 will be one of the discarded scores. The calculated handicap may therefore be directly affected.

Transition from the CONGU [®] Handicapping System to WHS will use scores returned by players in 2019 (and possibly earlier for some players) so **it is important that players take action now** to eradicate this practice and educate themselves on the significance of ensuring that scores are entered accurately into the computer.