



### **When a Hole is not Played**

The previous “*WHS: Know the Score*” article explained about what makes a score acceptable for handicap purposes.

Scores can be also be accepted for handicap purposes when a round is not fully completed and some holes are not played.

### **Why a Hole is not Played**

**There are various valid reasons that may result in a round not being completed, for example due to:**

- Fading light or bad weather
- Player injury or illness
- A hole being declared out of play for maintenance or reconstruction.
- A competition may have been arranged over less than 18 holes.

**Invalid reasons for a hole not being played include:**

- Not playing a particular hole because the player knows it usually causes them difficulty and they are likely to return a high hole score.
- Not playing the final holes in order to avoid submitting a high or low score.

In either case the Handicap Committee could add a penalty score to the player’s Scoring Record, if it is determined that the player’s actions were for the purpose of gaining an unfair scoring advantage.

If there is a valid reason for not playing a hole or holes, the score can still count for handicap purposes: -

## 9 hole rounds

In a 9 hole round, all holes must be played for a 9 hole score to be submitted for handicap purposes.

## 18 hole rounds

In an 18 hole round, a score may be submitted for handicap purposes if at least 10 holes have been played.

- If 14 or more holes have been played, the player will be given a score of Net Par for the holes not played.
- If 10, 11 or 12 holes have been played, the player will be given Net par + 1 on the first hole not played and Net Par for the remaining holes. This is similar to the treatment of 9 hole scores in the current system.

This is not meant to be a 'get out of jail free card' to avoid playing holes you don't like! Penalties would be applied for such behaviour. It does however, mean that when singles competitions are played over (say) 12, 14 or 16 holes, the scores can be a score in your Record.

### Adjustments to Hole Scores

- By Net Double Bogey for a high hole score.
- Or
- If a hole isn't played, a Net Par is recorded  
**(for handicap purposes only)**

**Exception:** if less than 14 holes of an 18 hole round have been played, net par + 1 stroke must be added to the first hole not played and net par to the remaining unplayed holes

These adjustments are made using the **Course Handicap** and will be applied by the computer.



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM  
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## Coming Next:

The next "*WHS: Know the Score*" article will cover Handicap allowances and Playing Handicaps - the number of strokes that you will receive depending on the format being played.